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JULY 2018

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

MONTHLY CAPSULE

JULY 2018

Blueprint released of Deep Ocean Mission

- The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences recently **released the blueprint of 'Deep Ocean Mission'** which aims at deep-sea mining, ocean climate monitoring and advisory, underwater automobiles and robotics.
- India has regained the status of Pioneer Investor in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration and technology development for polymetallic nodule mining.
- Indian authorities have been allotted site of 1,50,000 sq.km. in CIOB with exclusive rights under the UN Law of the sea.
- The prime objective is desalination plant powered by tidal energy and submersible vehicle that can explore depths of at least 6,000 metres.

National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme

- The World Hepatitis Day is observed on July 28th every year to raise the awareness of hepatitis among people.
- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare made an announcement regarding National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme to prevent and control Viral Hepatitis B & C with World Health Organization (WHO).
- As per this scheme, people would be accessible to the antiviral medicare treatment for Hepatitis B and C, free of cost at all government hospitals.
- The government aims to eliminate viral Hepatitis by 2030.

Mission Satyanishtha by Indian Railways

- The Indian Railways launched the Mission Satyanishtha on July 27, 2018, at National Rail Museum.
- All the 13 lakh employees of the Indian Railways will take turns to **swear an oath publicly to "bring about integrity" and "eradicate corruption"**.
- The program will involve railwaymen understand the need and value of ethics in Personal and Public life.
- Also, Railway Board members and all senior officers of the ministry will swear the oath of ethics and integrity.

Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme

- The PMRF scheme was launched in the Budget declaration for the year 2018-19.
- Earlier, the eligibility criteria required the students to be from Science and Technology streams from IEST/IISc/IITs/NITs/IISERs and centrally funded IITs only.
- But as per the recent announcement, the PMRF scheme will now be inviting applications from students of all the universities of India.
- Such students will be offered a fellowship of Rs.70,000/- per month in the initial two years.

"Innovate India Platform" launched

- The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with MyGov, has launched a new citizen-centric platform called **"#InnovateIndia"**.
- Innovate India aims to provide a single point access to all the innovations happening across the country.
- With the launch of the platform Indians will be able to upload and rate their/organizations innovation on the platform.

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National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyan)

- The second meeting of **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** was organized in New Delhi, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India on July 24, 2018.
- The aim of POSHAN Abhiyaan, launched in March 2018, is to provide holistic development and proper nutrition for mothers, children and pregnant women.
- National Council gave the approval for 32 new districts that can be facilitated under POSHAN Abhiyaan in this year.
- The month of September will be celebrated as National Nutrition Month every year.

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

- The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana was launched in January 2015 originally as a small saving scheme for girls under the domain of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign.
- The aim of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is to encourage the parents to open an account for their girl child, in her name, for her welfare and meeting the financial need for her education and marriage.
- This account can be opened for girl child upto 10 years of age.
- Recently, the union government reduced the amount of minimum annual deposit from Rs.1,000 to Rs.250 with effect from July 5th, 2018.

Student Police Cadet Programme

- Student Police Cadet Programme was launched on July 21, 2018, by the Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh in Gurugram, Haryana.
- The SPC programme majorly focuses on the students studying in grades 8th and 9th to build a bridge between the Police and the larger community.
- This programme will cover the two essential topics Crime prevention and control & Values and ethics.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has recently given an approval to fund 25% of the ₹15,325 crore irrigation projects planned for Maharashtra in drought-prone areas of Vidarbha and Marathwada regions under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana Scheme.
- While Maharashtra government will raise the remaining 75% fund from the Nabard as debt.
- There will be 83 minor and eight medium to big projects.

Special Remission Scheme for Prisoners

- On this occasion of 150s birth anniversary of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Union Cabinet recently launched Special Remission Scheme for Prisoners.
- Prisoners will be released in three phases on October 2nd, 2018, April 10th, 2019 marking the anniversary of Champaran satyagraha, and on October 2, 2019.
- However, those convicted of heinous crimes like dowry death, rape, trafficking or under POTA, UAPA, TADA, and FEMA will not be covered under this scheme.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen

- Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 was launched recently by Union Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation (MDWS) in New Delhi.
- Swachh Survekshan Grameen is essentially a survey for cleanliness in rural areas where 6,980 villages in 698 districts will be ranked through an independent survey agency.
- The parameters of assessment will be availability of toilets, usage of toilets, hygiene of toilets and status of littering among others.

Meghalaya Milk Mission

- The Meghalaya government launched 'Meghalaya Milk Mission' and First Meghalaya Bull Fair on 28th July, 2018.
- The Mission aims to plug the demand and supply gap in the availability of per capita milk, to generate alternative livelihoods for the rural people through the dairy sector and to create and revive dairy co-operatives.
- The Mission will benefit 2,000 farmers in the next 4 years.

State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017

- The Parliament has passed the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017 with the Lok Sabha approving the amendments sent by the Rajya Sabha.
- Under it, the 5 associate banks that were merged are State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of

Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.

- The merger of these banks is in effect from 1st April, 2018.

"e-Aksharayan"

- The IT ministry launched a desktop software "e-Aksharayan" to enable editing of text printed on scanned documents.
- The software can be downloaded for free from its website.
- The software supports editing in seven Indian languages - Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese.

Assam to Implement Pranam Scheme

- Assam government has decided to implement PRANAM (Parent Responsibility & Norms for Accountability and Monitoring) Scheme that aims to ensure that government staff take care of their parents & physically challenged siblings.
- It mandates deduction of 10-15% of the gross salary of employees who do not take care of their parents & disabled siblings.
- It will come into force from October 2, 2018.

Sanchar Kranti Yojana

- President Ram Nath Kovind will launch Chhattisgarh government's Sanchar Kranti Yojna at Jagdalpur in the Naxal-affected Bastar region.
- Under the scheme, 50 lakh smartphones will be distributed free of cost to the people.
- To aim is to reduce the digital divide which stands at 29 per cent in Chhattisgarh, the lowest in the country.

WCD Ministry launches '#Childline1098' Contest

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a contest, #Childline1098, inviting people to share images of the Childline 1098 logo that they spot at unique locations and send it with a tagline.
- The contest has been organised to mark 'World Day against Trafficking in Persons' on July 30.
- The Childline has been operating at 450 locations across the country.

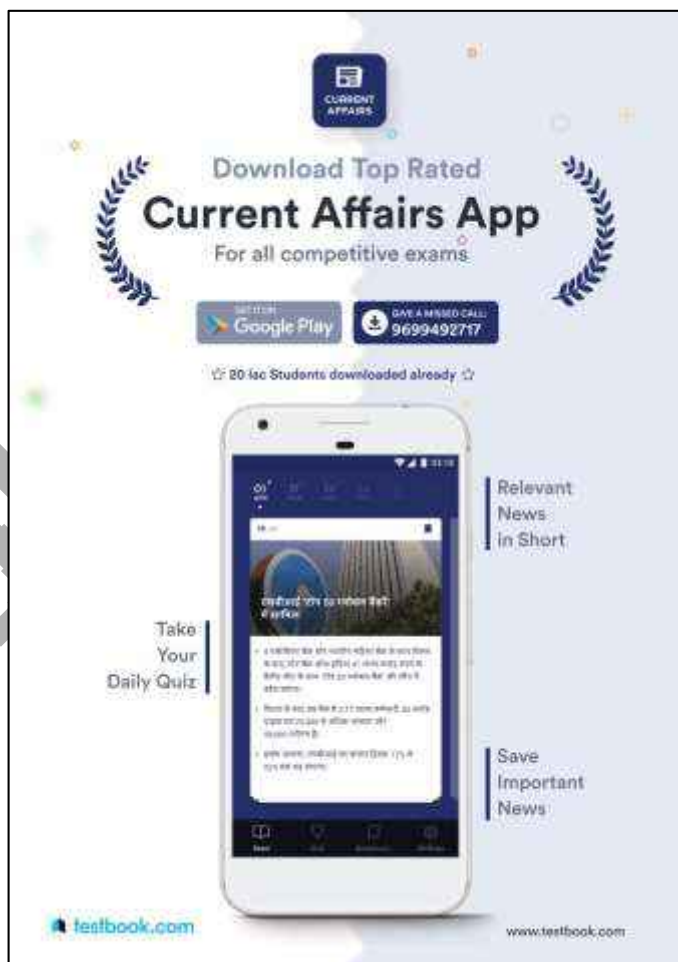
Assam's Anti-Witch Hunting Bill

- President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015, converting it to an Act.
- The bill has been converted into an Act after almost three years it was passed by Assam's state assembly on August 13, 2015.

It imposes imprisonment of up to seven years, along with a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh, for branding someone as witch.

'Paudhagiri' campaign launched in Haryana

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Paudhagiri' campaign, aimed at increasing the green cover in the state.
- Under this campaign, 22 lakh students from class 6 to 12 of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling each during three months of monsoon.
- The student will get Rs 300 per year for 3 years for looking after a sapling planted by him or her.



Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

- The Mission Olympic Cell of Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has included Men's Hockey team under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- The 18 team members will be provided with a monthly allowance of Rs. 50,000 each.
- TOPS was launched in 2015 by Ministry of Sports with National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) with the aim supporting potential medal prospects for Olympics.

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SUBSCRIBE TODAY**'CITIIS' Challenge Announced by MoHUA**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced a new 'Cities Investment To Innovate, Integrate and Sustain' (CITIIS) challenge to identify top projects in 15 of the 100 selected smart cities.
- The projects will receive an additional funding of approximately ₹80 crore each.
- **The new funding will be financed by a €100 million loan from the French government**

Govt to deliver 11 Crore Ayushman Cards

- The government will be printing and delivering 11 crore Ayushman Bharat 'family cards' by organizing public contact programme called 'Ayushman Pakhwaras'.
- The CEO of Ayushman Bharat- National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) is Indu Bhushan.
- The scheme was announced by Union Minister Arun Jaitley in his budget 2018 and is expected to be the **world's** largest health coverage scheme.

'One farmer one transformer' scheme

- In order to reduce electricity losses, the Maharashtra government will launch a new scheme allocating one transformer per farmer.
- The scheme, "one farmer one transformer", will be unveiled on August 15.
- Two lakh farmers will be given electricity connection for high voltage distribution line which will ensure uninterrupted power supply