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# MAXIMUM

**November 2018**

**Current Affairs**

## 2018 ASIAN GAMES

### In this Edition

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Coffee Connect app, Coffee KrishiTharanga

India successfully test fires short-range Prahaar missile

Global TB Report 2018

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**PRESENT'S**

**SPECIAL BOOKLET FOR THE STUDENT'S  
PREPARING FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

# **MAXIMUM**

**Current Affairs November 2018**



**R. K. VERMA (RKV Sir)**  
**Managing Director**  
B. Tech. (IIT-Madras, 1994)  
Founder & Managing  
Director, Head-Academics,  
Sr. Faculty (Physics)

**"You must either modify your dreams or magnify your skills"**

**-Jim Rohn**

Dear Aspirant,

Let me congratulate you for taking the decision to be a part of competition and carve a position for yourself. Competition is very important to deliver the best performance with a zeal to win. It has become the driving force for all to get up daily and perform, to perform more and continue to perform. Competition is the greatest source of inspiration for those with right knowledge, attitude, skills and preparation.

India is the nation of youth and we have the enormous potential to become a supreme power working for progress of humankind. In India, 62% of population is in the working age group (15-59 years) and more than 54% of the total population is below 25 years of age. Governments emphasising on skill development of India. In recent years major reforms have been made in the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Skills need to be an integral part of employment and economic growth strategies to spur employability and productivity. We need to shape our energy, empower our intellect and develop the right set of skills.

We have been serving the education industry from last 18 years preparing students to get admitted in India's best engineering and medical institutions. In these years we have focussed and successfully built team, academic curriculum, course pedagogy, techniques and testing system required for cracking any competitive examinations. Being well versed with requirements of success in competitive examinations, Resonance has started ResoMEx division for preparation of job oriented competitive examinations. Resonance Multiple Examination division (ResoMEx) is a dedicated academic division with an amalgamation of academic courseware with skill development. The motto of ResoMEx says 'Be Skilled, Be Employed'. As this division is focussed on job oriented competitions, it is very important to develop students having knowledge and skills.

Today, when every individual is focussing on self-development we also enriched our academic deliverables with the power of Skill development and contribute in developing a great work force for government.

I, welcome you all in ResoMEx division and believe that you shall outlearn the subjects and lessons for life.

**With Best Wishes,**  
**R. K. Verma,**  
**Managing Director,**  
**Resonance Eduventures Limited**





**Manoj Sharma**

**Executive Director**

PGPMAX (Executive MBA) from ISB, Hyderabad, B.Tech. (DT), MBA, M.S., MSW, MID, MA, MDPM & IR, Advance Diploma in Management & Ph.D. (Pursuing)

Dear Student,

Welcome to Resonance.

Resonance is the place where dreams are turned into reality with hard work, sincerity, and commitment. Since 2001, we have been an important participant in the success journey of thousands of students appearing and going through the rigorous of various competitive examinations.

In the current scenario, every year around 3 million students finish their graduation & post-graduation. The government recruitment examinations are getting tougher and a major reason behind it is the aspirant to seat/vacancy ratio. In addition to the written examination, interview round is the second barrier to most of these examinations. Even after getting success in written students face difficulty in interview as many of them miss or are weak in required skills. These together have led to a tremendous increase in unemployment over the last years.

Resonance, being a sincere, responsible and committed institution devoted towards with a motto '**Educating for better tomorrow**' has started ResoMEx Division (Resonance's Multiple Examinations' Division). ResoMEx Division is our full-fledged education vertical dedicated for preparation of multiple career & job-oriented Government/Private Competitive examinations. Our result oriented pedagogy, comprehensively designed course curriculum, experienced and qualified faculty team and the customized testing system will surely catalyse a candidate's success rate.

With the ResoMEx division, we are introducing "**MAXIMUM**" current affairs magazine to relate the students from day to day activities and events around us. The growing importance of Current Affairs poses the question on the utility of exerting energy on updating oneself with the news. For students and aspirants who wish to crack important examinations, current affairs are essential because questions related to currents affairs are compulsory asked in every competitive exam, whether it is an examination of IAS, bank PO/clerks, PSUs, SSCs or any other recruitment exams.

We, once again wish you a best for your future & you accomplish your career goals.

**With Best Wishes,**

**Manoj Sharma**

**Executive Director,**

**Resonance Eduventures Limited**

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## From Editor Desk.....



### Dear Student

Most of us want to be successful, to get noticed for the right reasons and also to sparkle in life and leave a mark wherever we belong. Just the craving to be successful would not reach you anywhere. What matters the most are the path and speed. It is not like yester years. Time is scarce and momentum is being doubled every moment. The name of the game is now "Beating the Best".

How do we go about being the best and then beating the best ? The answer lies in getting ready to challenge the changes for this competitive edge during testing times. It is utmost required to hold what you believe in. While on the fast track of bettering the best, we should not forget his or her elements. One has to also innovate to inspire oneself and others to achieve beyond limits set by others. And above all one has to celebrate success and be ready to enjoy what life to has to offer.

Presence of experienced and calibered faculties of **ResoMEx Division** will always ready to guide you in a right direction. Current Affairs Magazine "**MAXIMUM**" is one of the best example of it. It will definitely help you to keep yourself updated with latest news and events.

So dear buddies don't get "upset", Get UP to SET the things.

**Editor –**

**Kamal Singh Chauhan**

**Head of Department**

**(Multiple Examination, Division)**

# MAXIMUM

Current Affairs

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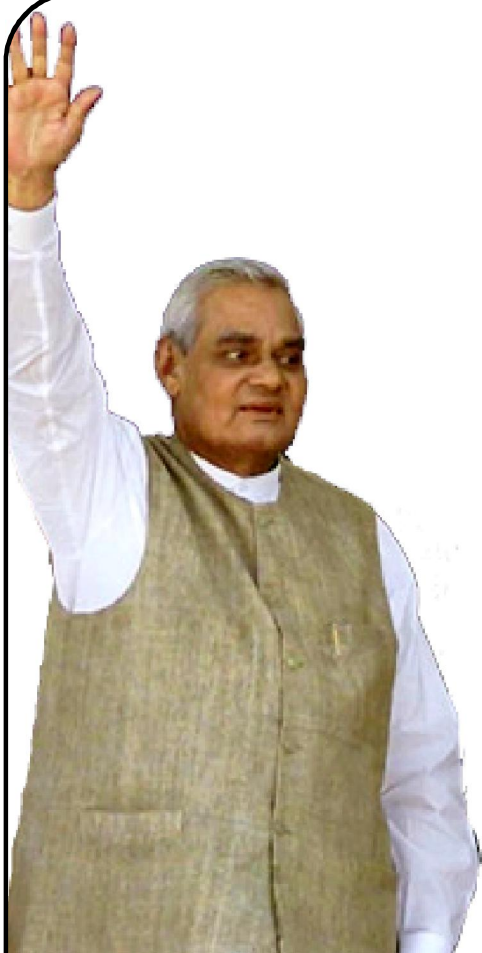
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"Everything that  
is excellent  
will come when  
this sleeping  
soul is  
aroused to  
self conscious  
activity"

Cover Story.....

## Late. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee



**A**tal Bihari Vajpayee is a personality who has left an indelible impression in the history of Indian politics. Parliamentary politics of 50 years, usually the number of people who give birth to themselves in politics. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been politics for years.

Creating a party, reaching the figures of the party from 2 to 200, saving itself from the security of the democratic system, saving the government that is scattered and taking support of the public, it is not easy to bring the party back to the sky. But Vajpayee ji himself has written the story of his victory over the frontal democracy.

### Atal Bihari Vajpayee Biography

- Vajpayee was **born on 25 December 1924** in **Gwalior**.
- His father's name was **Krishna Bihari Vajpayee** and mother's name was **Krishna Devi**. His father Krishna Bihari Vajpayee was a great poet and a School Teacher of his village.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had studied at Government Hireshendree School of Gorkhi village of Gauri in Gorkhi village. Later, he went to Gwalior Victoria College (now Laxmi Bai College) to get education and passed distinction in Hindi, English and Sanskrit. He completed his post graduation MA in Political Science from Dayanand Anglo-Vaidik College, Kanpur. For this, he was also awarded first class degree.
- From Gwalior's Arya Kumar Sabha, he started doing political work, he was considered to be the youth power of the Arya Samaj at that time and in 1944 he also became his General Secretary.
- 1939, he joined the National Volunteer's Union (RSS). Impressed by Babasaheb Apte, he trained at Dramian RSS training camp in 1940-44 and became a full time worker of RSS in 1947.

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee never married, he remained a bachelor for the rest of his life. But Vajpayee adopted a girl named Namita. Namita is very much interested in Indian dance and music. Namita also has a lot of love for nature.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Death - At the age of **93**, on **August 16, 2018**, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji left this world.

### Atal Bihari Vajpayee Political Career

- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a bright star of independent India's politics. Who has illuminated every round of politics.
- Had a round. When Vajpayee ji used to speak. Then Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister, used to be enchanted. There was a time when Vajpayee became the Foreign Minister of India, the BJP had almost lost his existence in the Parliament. Then under the leadership of Vajpayee waved the BJP flag on the throne of the country.
- Who can forget. Despite the failed efforts to save the 13-day government, Vajpayee's powerful strategy Atal's memories are still fresh in the walls of the Parliament. Atal Bihari Vajpayee is not just a leader of Indian politics. He is not just a Prime Minister of Indian democracy but is not the only person of Atal Indian rule. Are those who have written an indelible story in the history of politics. Vajpayee is a legacy .. A legacy around which the whole of Indian politics is around The breakfast.
- 1957 ... when they first knocked in the Indian Parliament.
- In the Morarji Desai cabinet, he has also been the Minister of External Affairs (External Affairs / Dispute).
- During this period of Atlaji, India became a **nuclear power-rich** nation.

- He made several attempts to resolve the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan, to promote mutual trade and brotherhood. But after the 13-month stint, their government came in a minority with just one vote due to political conspiracies.
- ... after which Atal Bihari gave a resignation letter to the President and said in his speech that **"Those governments who have to take unconstitutional steps to save, they will not like touching the tongs"**
- After that, as a caretaker Prime Minister before the 1999 general election, in response to his nefarious activities in Kargil, India won in the Kargil war. In time, the elections were held and Atalji formed the government with the support of the people. In the form of Prime Minister, he gave a huge boost to his ability.

## A look at the political journey of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

### Jan Sangh and BJP

- In 1951, Atal ji was elected as a founding member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- From 1968 to 1973 he was the President of the Jana Sangh. Like their other colleagues from opposition parties, they were also sent to jail during the Emergency.
- In 1977, he was made Foreign Minister in the Janata Party government. During this time he gave a speech in Hindi at the United Nations Convention and he described it as the best moment of his life so far.
- In 1980 he was the founding member of BJP. He was the BJP president from 1980 to 1986 and during this time he was also the leader of the BJP Parliamentary Party.

### Prime minister from parliament

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been elected to the Lok Sabha nine times so far.
- He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1962 to 1967 and 1986.
- He became the Prime Minister for the first time on May 16, 1996, but due to his lack of proven majority in the Lok Sabha, he had to resign on 31 May 1996. His government lasted only 13 days.
- After this he remained leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha till 1998.
- In the 1998 general elections, he proved his majority in the Lok Sabha along with the allies and thus became the Prime Minister again, after the withdrawal of support from the alliance by AIDMK, his government fell, and once again the general elections were held.
- The elections held in 1999 were fought on the joint declaration of the National Democratic Alliance and in Vajpayee's leadership a major issue was made in these elections. The coalition won the majority and Vajpayee once again took over as the Prime Minister.
- This government of Atalji successfully completed his term and through this, he gave a new dimension to the coalition politics in the country. In these five years, the NDA government implemented many schemes for the poor, the farmers and the youth.
- The Atal Government introduced the Golden Quadrilateral project to connect the four corners of India with the road and connected the highways to Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai. Lok Sabha elections were held in the country in 2004 and the BJP-led NDA contested by giving a shining India slogan under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- None of the parties got majority in these elections. With the backing of the Left parties, the Congress formed the central government under the leadership of Manmohan Singh and the BJP had to sit in opposition.
- After this, due to continuous unhealthy, Atal Bihari Vajpayee retired from politics. Atal ji established the dimension of Indian politics. Which will always be remembered ...
- Atal ji has been awarded many awards in the country and abroad so far.
- In the President's office on **25 December 2014**, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji was given India's highest award **"Bharat Ratna"** (announced). Giving him respect, President of India, Pranab Mukherjee himself, had given him the award on 27 March 2015 in his house.
- His birthday is celebrated on December 25 as **"Good Governance Day"**.

### Important work of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- On **11th and 13th May 1998**, by **exploding five underground nuclear tests in Pokhran**, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji proclaimed India as a nuclear power-rich country.
- On 19th February, 1999, initiatives to improve good relations with Pakistan began with the service of bus from Delhi to Lahore in the name of **Sada-e-Sarhad**.
- **Golden Quadrilateral Project**
- Resolved the Kaveri water dispute, which was more than 100 years old.
- Big Working Group for Structural Framework, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for the development of electricity, Information and Technology Working Group for Software Development, etc. have been constituted.
- Developed all the airports and national highways in the country; Take steps like strengthening the infrastructure of infrastructure by introducing Konkan Railway and New Telecom Policy.
- The Economic Advisory Committee, the Trade and Industry Committee, the National Security Committee was also constituted. Due to which the work started to work very fast.
- Promoting housing construction by abolishing the Urban Ceiling Act.
- He also started the insurance scheme due to which rural employment generation and people of Indian origin (NRI) settled abroad benefited greatly.



### Atal Bihari Vajpayee Awards

- 1992: Padma Vibhushan
- 1993: D.Litt (Doctorate in Literature), Kanpur University
- 1994: Lokmanya Tilak Award
- 1994: Best Parliament Person's Award
- 1994: Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant Award
- 2015: Bharat Ratna
- 2015: Liberation War Award (Bangladesh Liberation Warranty)

### Atal Bihari Vajpayee Books

- Atal Bihari Vaj Mam Tina Dusa (1992)
- Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee: Selected Speech (2000)
- Value, Vision & Verses of Vajpayee: India Man of Destiny (2001)
- India's Foreign Policy: New Dimension (1977)
- Unusual Problem (1981)

### List-of *Important* Days

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| • National Mid-day milk Week   | – 1-7 September |
| • Teachers Day   | – 5 Septemeber  |
| • International Day of Charity   | – 5 September   |
| • International Literacy Day 2018  | – 8 September   |
| • National Hindi Divas   | – 14 September  |
| • International Day of Democracy<br>(The theme of the 2018 International Day of Democracy was 'Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World'.) | – 15 September  |
| • International Day of Peace   | – 21 September  |
| • World Car Free Day   | – 22 September  |
| • World Maritime Day, Social Justice Day   | – 25 September  |
| • International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons   | – 26 September  |
| • World Tourism Day  | – 27 September  |
| • World Rabies Day, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Birth anniversary Day   | – 28 September  |
| • First Monday of October: World Habitat Day   | – 1 October     |
| • International Day of Non-Violence  | – 2 October     |
| • World Mental Health Day  | – 10 October    |
| • International Day of the Girl Child  | – 11 October    |
| • International Day for Disaster Reduction   | – 13 October    |
| • International Rural Women's Day  | – 15 October    |
| • World Food Day   | – 16 October    |
| • International Day for the Eradication of Poverty   | – 17 October    |
| • United Nations Day   | – 24 October    |

### Announcement of the establishment of Asia's first Dolphin Research Center in Patna



Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi has recently announced that the Dolphin Research Center will be established in Patna. It will be Asia's first Dolphin Research Center, which is being built on such a large scale. Construction work of National Dolphin Research Center, which will be constructed at a cost of around 28 crore rupees, will be started soon. This center will be built on two acres of land in Patna University campus. Apart from this, an 'Observatory' is being constructed in Munger, from where dolphins can be seen. Arrangements will be made to see the dolphins going to the river Ganga soon.



## ❑ Ministry of Home Affairs, ISRO sign MoU to modernise Emergency Response

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on September 20, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up the state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The MoU was signed by Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Sanjeev Kumar Jindal on behalf of MHA and PVN Rao, Deputy Director, NRSC, ISRO.



### → Highlights of the agreement

- Under the MoU, the ISRO will render its technical expertise for setting up of proposed ICR-ER.
- The project will be executed under overall supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The proposed Control Room is expected to be established in next one-and-a-half year.
- The ICR-ER will cater to the requirement of Disaster Management as well as Internal Security.
- ICR-ER will address the requirement of receipt of information on near real-time basis.
- It will also address strategic level monitoring, situation awareness, command and control, preparedness and response in the diverse internal security situation and disaster related emergencies.
- Hence, it will aim to increase the operational effectiveness and will be helpful in rendering timely response during various emergency situations.

## ❑ President Ram Nath Kovind signs Ordinance banning Instant Triple Talaq practice



- President Ram Nath Kovind on September 19, 2018 signed the Ordinance banning the practice of Instant Triple Talaq. The ordinance was cleared

by the Union Cabinet earlier on the same day itself. The ordinance makes instant triple talaq a punishable offence.

- The ordinance has similar provisions as mentioned in original the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017, which was cleared by the Lok Sabha in December 2017. However, the bill was stuck in the Rajya Sabha.
- It faced a stiff resistance in the Rajya Sabha where several opposition lawmakers argued over the criminal provisions in the draft law.
- In view of the growing opposition, the Government on August 9, 2018 approved three amendments in the instant triple talaq bill, making it permissible for a magistrate to give bail for the offence.

## ❑ Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna launched for unemployed insured persons



- The Employee's State Insurance (ESI) has approved a scheme named 'Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna' for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
- The decision was taken by the ESI Corporation during its 175th meeting, which was held in New Delhi on September 18, 2018, under the Chairmanship of Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment (I/C).
- During the meeting, the ESI Corporation took some significant decisions towards the improvement of its services and benefits being provided to Insured Persons and their dependents. The decisions were taken considering the change in employment pattern and the current scenario of employment in India which has transformed from a long-term employment to fixed short-term engagement in the form of contract and temping.

### → Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna

- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to the bank account of insured persons in case of

unemployment and while they search for a new engagement.

- The detailed instructions of the scheme including the eligibility conditions and application format will be issued separately.

#### → Other Decisions

- The ESI approved the proposal for reimbursement of Rs 10 per person to the employers to encourage the seeding of Aadhar (UID) in ESIC database of their workers and their family members. The move will curtail the multiple registrations of same Insured Persons and thus enable them to avail the benefits requiring longer contributory conditions.
- The ESI Corporation also approved the proposal for relaxing the eligibility conditions for availing Super Specialty treatment from the earlier insurable employment of 2 years to 6 months with contribution requirement of only 78 days.
- The eligibility for availing Super Specialty treatment for dependents of Insured Person was also relaxed to the insurable employment of one year with 156 days of contributions. The move will help the Insured Persons and their beneficiaries to avail the Super Specialty treatment free of cost as per the revised eligibility.
- Further, the ESI approved the proposal for increasing the funeral expenses from existing Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 being paid on the death of Insured Person.

#### □ Union Cabinet approves benefit package for ASHAs, ASHA facilitators



- The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 19, 2018 approved ASHA Benefit Package with effect from October, 2018, which will be paid in November 2018.

#### → Key components of the benefit package:

- The eligible ASHAs and ASHA facilitators will be enrolled in the Union Government's social security schemes including the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- The amount of routine and recurring incentives under the National Health Mission (NHM) for ASHAs will also be increased from Rs1000 per month to Rs 2000 per month.
- The Union Government will be providing funds worth Rs 1224.97 crore for two years 2018-19 and 2019-20 for the implementation of the benefit package.

#### □ Government modifies operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana



- The Union Government on September 18, 2018 released the new operational guidelines for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

#### → New operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- The **farmers will be paid 12 percent interest by insurance companies** for the delay in settlement claims beyond two months of prescribed cut-off date.
- The **State Governments will have to pay 12 percent interest** for the delay in release of State share of subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut-off date submission by insurance companies.
- The guidelines detail a **Standard Operating Procedure for evaluation of insurance companies** and removes them from the scheme, if found ineffective in providing services.
- It includes **Perennial horticultural crops** on pilot basis under the ambit of PMFBY.
- It includes cloud burst and natural fire in **localised calamities** in addition to unseasonal and cyclonic rainfalls, hailstorm, landslide, and inundation in post harvest losses.
- It provides **add on coverage for crop loss** due to attack of wild animals on pilot basis with the additional financial liabilities to be borne by concerned state government.
- It incorporates **definition of major crops**, unseasonal rainfall and inundation for clarity and proper coverage.
- **Aadhaar number** will be mandatorily captured to avoid duplication of beneficiaries.
- To ensure that more non-loanee farmers are insured under the scheme, apart from various awareness activities being scheduled, the insurance companies are given a target of **enrolling 10 percent more non-loanee farmers** than the previous corresponding season.
- The insurance companies will have to **mandatorily spend 0.5 percent** of gross premium per company per season for publicity and awareness of the scheme.
- **Release of upfront premium subsidy** will be made at the beginning of the season based on 50 percent of 80 percent total share of subsidy of corresponding season of previous year as subsidy.
- Balance premium will be paid as a second instalment based on the specific approved business statistics on the portal for settlement of claims.



- Final instalment will be paid after reconciliation of entire coverage data on portal based on final business statistics. This will reduce the delay in settling the claims of farmers.
- It specifies **separate budget allocation for Administrative expenses** and district wise crop wise crop calendar to decide cutoff date for enrolment.
- It gives **72 hours time to insured farmer** to intimate individual claims through any stakeholders and directly on portal.
- It mentions **Detailed SOP** for dispute redressal regarding crop loss, claims estimation, failed sowing, post harvest loss, area correction factor and multi picking crops.

## ❑ Government organises All India Pension Adalat for pensioners' welfare



- The All India Pension Adalat was inaugurated on September 18, 2018 by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh in New Delhi.
- The Pension Adalat, being organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoP&PW), is one of the largest exercises for pensioners' welfare ever undertaken by the Government as part of good governance dedicated to central government pensioners.

## ❑ Supreme Court lifts ban on Saridon, 3 other FDCs



- The Supreme Court of India on September 17, 2018 allowed the sale of popular painkiller Saridon and three other banned fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) in medical stores across the country.
- The ruling was delivered by a bench of judges comprising Justices R F Nariman and Indu Malhotra. The bench was hearing a plea challenging the ban on the drugs following a recent notification by the Union Health Ministry. The bench also issued a notice to the centre and sought its reply on the plea filed by some drug makers and pharma associations.

## ❑ India's first 'smart fence' pilot project inaugurated



- India's first 'smart fence' pilot project was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along the India-Pakistan International Border in Ploura, Jammu and Kashmir on September 17, 2018.
- The Union Minister launched the project from the BSF Headquarters during his one-day visit to the state. The initiative has been taken up by the Border Security Force (BSF), as part of their comprehensive integrated border management system.

## ❑ National AIDS Control Organisation releases HIV Estimations 2017 Report



- The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) on September 14, 2018 released the HIV Estimations 2017 report.
- The HIV Estimations 2017 report is 14th in the series of HIV Estimations launched earlier under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). The first round of HIV estimation was done in 1998, while the latest round was done in 2015.
- NACO undertakes HIV estimations in every two years in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS).

## ❑ CCEA approves 100 percent electrification of Broad Gauge Routes of Indian Railways

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on September 12, 2018 approved the proposal for electrification of balance





un-electrified Broad Gauge Routes of Indian Railways.

- The Broad Gauge Routes comprise 108 sections covering 13675 route kilometers (16540 track kilometers) that will be electrified at a cost of Rs 12134.50 crore by 2021-22.
- The major trunk routes on IR network have already been electrified and are operational.

### ❑ 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA)



- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 12, 2018 approved a new umbrella scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA).
  - The scheme aims to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. It will give a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives of the Government. The Government had previously increased the MSP of Kharif crops by following the principle of 1.5 times the cost of production. The increase is expected to be translated to farmer's income by the way of robust procurement mechanism in coordination with the state governments.
- **The umbrella scheme 'PM-AASHA' comprises three sub-schemes:**
- Price Support Scheme (PSS)
  - Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
  - Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)

### ❑ Aadhaar not mandatory for booking International Parcel: Department of Posts

- The Department of Posts announced on September 10, 2018 that Aadhaar was not mandatory for booking an International Parcel.
- The department clarified that it is mandatory to produce a copy of an identity proof acceptable for important transactions like booking an International parcel or International EMS (Merchandise) for safety and security reasons.
- However, it said that Aadhaar was not a mandatory document to be produced at the time of booking, but just one of the accepted identity proofs along with others like driving license,

passport and voter ID.

### ❑ Open-ended scheme

- The Union Government on August 5, 2018 decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts.
- The flagship financial inclusion scheme was launched in August 2014 for a period of four years. Banking on its successful implementation, the government has decided to make the scheme open-ended with more incentives.

### ❑ Section 377 verdict: Supreme Court



- Five Judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on September 6, 2018 **decriminalised Section 377** of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) by partially striking down some of its provisions.
- The bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra; Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra ruled that Section 377, to the extent it criminalises sexual acts between consenting adults, whether homosexual or heterosexual, is **unconstitutional**.
- However, **bestiality** will continue as an offence. Any kind of sexual activity with animals shall remain penal offence under Section 377 of the IPC.
- The Judgement **overrules the Suresh Kaushal Judgement** pronounced in 2013 by the apex court. The judgement is based on the interpretation of **Article 14** (Right to Equality); **Article 15** (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth); **Article 19** (Freedom of Speech and Expression); and **Article 21** (Right to Life and Right to Privacy) of the Indian Constitution.

### ❑ Cabinet approves establishment of permanent campuses of seven new IIMs



- The Union Cabinet on September 5, 2018 approved the establishment and operationalisation of permanent campus of seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).
- These IIMs will be established at Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmour, Vishakhapatnam and Jammu with a total expenditure of Rs 3775.42 crore (Rs 2999.96 crore as Non-Recurring and Rs 775.46 Crore as Recurring Expenditure).
- These IIMs have already been established in the year 2015-16/2016-17. These institutes are presently functioning from transit campuses.
- Expenditure to be incurred on these 7 IIMs' campuses
- The total expenditure is assessed at Rs 3775.42 crore, out of which Rs 2804.09 crore will be spent for construction of permanent campuses of these institutes.

### ❑ Schools cannot deny admission for lack of Aadhaar: UIDAI

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on September 5, 2018 asserted that schools cannot refuse admission to students for lack of Aadhaar Card.
- The authority asserted that denial of admission on such grounds is "invalid" and is not permitted under the law.

### ❑ National Nutrition Month observed

- The National Nutrition Month is being celebrated across the country in September to mark the fight against malnutrition. During this month, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development will organise various programmes to spread broad awareness on issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children.



### ❑ PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate India's first Global Mobility Summit



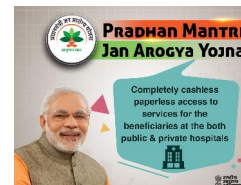
- India's first-ever Global Mobility Summit - 'MOVE' will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi in New Delhi on September 7, 2018. The two-day summit, organised by Niti Aayog, will deliberate on steps to promote electric vehicles and shared mobility.

- The main focus of the summit is to make Indian cities pollution free. It will be attended by Union Ministers including Arun Jaitley, Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal and Ravi Shankar Prasad.

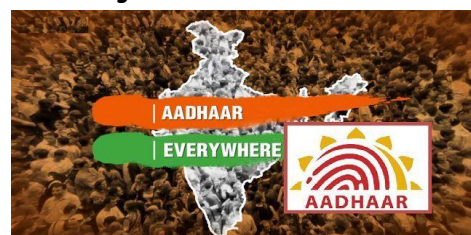
### ❑ PM Modi launches Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana: All you need to know

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23, 2018 launched the flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (PMJAY), also known as Ayushman Bharat or the National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM).



- While launching the healthcare scheme at Ranchi, Jharkhand, PM Modi said that "This is the world's largest health scheme which will serve a population that equals 27-28 European countries. The beneficiaries are almost equal to the population of Canada, Mexico and US put together."
- Beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat insurance programme in Jharkhand were sent a two-page personalised letter from PM Modi outlining the importance and benefits of the project. The government will send similar letters to 10.74 crore beneficiary families. The letters will have photograph of PM Modi.
- On the same occasion, the Prime Minister also launched a toll free number 14555 for people to get more information about Ayushma Bharat scheme.

### ❑ Aadhaar Verdict: Supreme Court upholds constitutional validity of Aadhaar Act



- The five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on September 26, 2018 upheld most of the provisions of the Aadhaar Act by 4:1 Majority while hearing the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other. Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.
- Of the five-judges, Chief Justice Dipak Misra, and Justices A.K. Sikri, A.M. Khanwilkar, Ashok

Bhushan validated the provisions of the Aadhaar with few restrictions, while Justice D.Y. Chandrachud held that the entire Aadhaar project is unconstitutional.

- The Aadhaar, issued by the UIDAI, seeks to establish a database of personal identity of every Indian resident, by assimilating their demographic and biometric information.

### → Key points of the judgment

- Majority of judges upheld the validity of Aadhaar, Justice Chandrachud dissented.
- Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, allowing private entities to use Aadhaar for verification purpose, struck down.
- Aadhaar - PAN Linkage mandatory.
- No need of Aadhaar for CBSE, NEET, UGC and school admissions.
- No need of Aadhaar for mobile connections and for opening bank accounts.

### □ Central Government constitutes Lokpal Search Committee

- On September 27, 2018, the Central Government constituted an eight-member search committee to recommend the names of members of the anti-corruption body and its members.

- This committee will seek the candidates of Lokpal and then send their names to the government. This committee will be chaired by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, former Judge of the Supreme Court.

- Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge had requested the government to amend the Lokpal Act so that the leader of the biggest opposition party in the Lok Sabha can be included in the selection committee and an ordinance should be brought in this regard.



### → Members of Lokpal Search Committee:

Arundhati Bhattacharya, former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), A Surya Prakash, president of Prasar Bharti, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chief AS Kiran Kumar, former judge of Allahabad High Court, Justice Sakhma Ram Singh Yadav, Gujarat Police Former chief Shabir Hussein S. Khandwala, retired IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre Lalit K Pawar and former solicitor general Ranjit Kumar.



## FORTHCOMING COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS, 2018

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| • Rajasthan Subordinate Service Selection Board Librarian Grade-III Exam, 2018                                   | (Sept.)                |
| • RPF/RPSF Constable and Sub-Inspector Computer Based Test, 2018   | (Sept.-Oct.)           |
| • Rajasthan Subordinate Service Selection Board Agriculture Supervisor Direct Recruitment Exam., 2018            | (Sept.-Oct.)           |
| • Rajasthan Jail Department Prahari Recruitment Exam., 2018  | (Sept.-Oct.)           |
| • Rajasthan S.S.C. Stenographer Recruitment Exam., 2018  | (Sept.-Oct.)           |
| • Indian Navy Sailors (Senior Secondary Recruit-SSR) Recruitment Exam.   | (Sept.-Oct.)           |
| • The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. Assistant (Main) Exam., 2018  | (6 Oct.)               |
| • LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Assistant, Associate and Assistant Manager Recruitment Online Exam.                   | (6-7 Oct.)             |
| • Regional Rural Banks Office Assistants Main Exam.  | (7 Oct.)               |
| • Rajasthan P.S.C. Sub-Inspector Police Recruitment Exam.  | (7 Oct.)               |
| • I.B.P.S. Bank PO/MTs (Pre.) Exam. 2018   | (13, 14, 20 & 21 Oct.) |
| • Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. Entrance Exam.  | (21 Oct.)              |
| • Chhattisgarh State Eligibility Test (CG SET), 2018 (Online Closing Date : 14 Sept.)                            | (21 Oct.)              |
| • Rajasthan SSC Pharmacist Direct Recruitment Exam, 2018 (Online Closing Date : 15 Sept. 2018)                   | (Oct.)                 |
| • Uttar Pradesh P.C.S. Government Degree College Lecturer (Screening) Exam., 2017                                | (28 Oct.)              |
| • Uttar Pradesh P.C.S. (Pre.) Exam., 2018  | (28 Oct.)              |
| • Netarhat Awasiya Vidyalaya for Entrance (Main) Exam., 2018-19 (Class VI)                                       | (28 Oct.)              |
| • State Level National Talent Search Exam. (Class X) and National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Exam. (Class VIII) | (4 Nov.)               |
| • I.B.P.S. Bank P.O./M.Ts. Main Exam.  | (18 Nov.)              |
| • Combined Defence Service Exam. (II), 2018  | (18 Nov.)              |
| • Rashtriya Military College, Dehradun Entrance Exam. (for Class VIII) (Closing Date : 30 Sept., 2018)           | (1-2 Dec.)             |
| • Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET), 2018  | (9 Dec.)               |
| • UGC National Eligibility Test (NET) Dec., 2018   | (9-23 Dec.)            |
| • Uttarakhand Teacher Eligibility Test (UTET & II), 2018 (Closing Date : 27 Sept., 2018)                         | (14. Dec.)             |
| • Karnataka State Eligibility Test (KSET), 2018 (Online Closing Date : 22 Sept., 2018)                           | (16 Dec.)              |

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