

<b>PIB Summary (October 2018) - Index</b>	
<b>Gram Panchayat Development Plan</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SATAT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>UN Champions of the Earth Award</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>GI Tag for Alphonso Mango</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MoU between AIM and SIRIUS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ZIKA Virus</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 151A of Representation of Peoples Act, 1951</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Merger of NCVT and NSDA</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BBNL - Bharat Broadband Network Limited</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Goa Maritime Symposium 2018</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Main Nahi Hum Portal</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Indian Institute of Skills</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appellate Tribunals under Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>National Monitoring Framework on SDGs</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>DARPG wins CAPAM Award</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>India's largest DRY Dock at Cochin</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>First Container movement on Inland Waterways</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>India's Ease of Doing Business Ranking improved</b>	<b>9</b>

## **Gram Panchayat Development Plan**

The People's Plan Campaign will be rolled out as '**Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas**' from 2nd October to 31st December 2018.

### Details -

- During the campaign ,structured Gram Sabha meetings will be held for preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan for the next financial year 2019-2020.
- Monitoring of People's Plan Campaign would involve geotagged visuals of GS meetings, report of facilitators in standard format, Planplus uploading of GDPD for all 29 sectors, visit to Gram Sabhas for every district /state /central level official of concerned departments and NLM(national level monitors) visits to random Gram Sabhas.
- The campaign is being undertaken on a large scale, given the number of Gram Panchayats in the country. Special efforts have been made to ensure maximum participation of vulnerable sections of society like SC/ST/Women etc.

### Objective -

- The Gram Panchayat Development Plan aims to strengthen the role of 31 lakh elected Panchayat leaders and 2.5 crore SHG Women under DAY-NRLM in effective gram sabha.
- There will be a Public Information Campaign of all programmes in Gram Panchayat office and on Gram Samvad App.
- The structured Gram Sabha meetings will be spread over 2nd October -31st December, with physical presence and presentation by frontline workers/supervisors on 29 sectors – Agriculture, Land improvement, Minor irrigation, Animal husbandry, Fisheries, Social Forestry, Minor forest produce, Small scale industries, Khadi, village and cottage industry, Rural housing, Drinking water, Fuel and fodder, Roads, Rural electrification, Non-conventional energy, Poverty alleviation programme, Education, Vocational education, Adult and informal education, libraries, Cultural activities, Markets and fairs, Health and sanitation, Family welfare, Women and child development, Social welfare , Welfare of weaker sections, Public distribution system and Maintenance of community assets.

### Need -

- Panchayats have a significant role to play in effective and efficient implementation of flagship schemes for transformation of rural India.
- The GDPD will be an intensive and structured exercise for planning at Gram Sabha level through convergence between Panchayati Raj institutions and concerned departments of the State.
- As part of this Campaign, it is also proposed to complete the exercise of Mission Antyodaya (MA) data collection in respect of all Gram Panchayats.

## **SATAT**

SATAT, the initiative is aimed at providing a **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation** as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

### What is it about?

- This initiative holds great promise for efficient municipal solid waste management and in tackling the problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions.

- Use of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) will also help bring down dependency on crude oil imports and in realising the Prime Minister's vision of enhancing farmers' income, rural employment and entrepreneurship.

#### **Biogas -**

- Bio-gas is produced naturally through a process of anaerobic decomposition from waste/ bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc.
- After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has pure methane content of over 95%.
- Compressed Bio-Gas is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential.
- With calorific value (~52,000 KJ/kg) and other properties similar to CNG, Compressed Bio-Gas can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel. Given the abundance of biomass in the country, Compressed Bio-Gas has the potential to replace CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial uses in the coming years.

#### **Benefits -**

There are multiple benefits from converting agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste into CBG on a commercial scale:

- Responsible waste management, reduction in carbon emissions and pollution.
- Additional revenue source for farmers.
- Boost to entrepreneurship, rural economy and employment.
- Support to national commitments in achieving climate change goals.
- Reduction in import of natural gas and crude oil.
- Buffer against crude oil/gas price fluctuations

## **UN Champions of the Earth Award**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of France Emmanuel Macron have been awarded UN Champions of the Earth Award for providing leadership to global efforts to combat climate change and environment protection.

#### **Champions of the Earth -**

Champions of the Earth is the highest UN honour in the field of environment. The award recognizes outstanding figures from public and private sector as well as civil society, whose actions have brought about a positive impact and a transformation on environment. The Champions of the Earth award was launched in 2005. The award is presented in five categories – Lifetime Achievement, Policy Leadership, Action and Inspiration, Entrepreneurial Vision and Science & Innovation. Since its inception thirteen years ago, the awards have recognized 84 laureates.

## **GI Tag for Alphonso Mango**

Alphonso from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra, is registered as Geographical Indication (GI).

#### **GI Tag -**

A Geographical Indication or a GI is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. Such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to its origin in

that defined geographical locality. Darjeeling Tea, Mahabaleshwar Strawberry, Blue Pottery of Jaipur, Banarasi Sarees and Tirupati Laddus are some of the GIs.

### **Benefits -**

GI products can benefit the rural economy in remote areas, by supplementing the incomes of artisans, farmers, weavers and craftsmen. Our rural artisans possess unique skills and knowledge of traditional practices and methods, passed down from generation to generation, which need to be protected and promoted.

## **MoU between AIM and SIRIUS**

To promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia, a Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged between India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation's SIRIUS Educational Foundation.

### **Details -**

The MoU hopes to remove cultural and language barriers between students of Russia and India, share the best practices in the promotion of educational, scientific, innovative achievements, promote innovative cooperation, and search and develop talented youth of both countries fostering a knowledge driven innovation ecosystem in both the countries.

### **About SIRIUS Educational Foundation -**

Fund "Talent and success" is an unitary, non-profit, non-standard educational organization. The activities of the Foundation are aimed to identify and support children and young people who have shown outstanding abilities. Providing assistance in obtaining general and additional education for such personalities, including education in the fields of arts, natural sciences, physical culture and sports.

## **ZIKA Virus**

Few cases of Zika virus disease have been reported in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The present outbreak in Jaipur, Rajasthan was detected through the ICMR surveillance system.

### **About ZIKA Virus -**

- Zika virus disease is an emerging disease currently being reported by 86 countries worldwide.
- Symptoms of Zika virus disease are similar to other **viral infections** such as dengue, and include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache.
- In India, the **first outbreak was reported in Ahmedabad** in January/February 2017 and second outbreak in July, 2017 from Krishnagiri District in Tamil Nadu. Both these outbreaks were successfully contained through intensive surveillance and vector management.
- The disease continues to be on disease surveillance radars of Union Health Ministry although it is **no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern** vide WHO notification since 18th November, 2016.

## **Section 151A of Representation of Peoples Act, 1951**

Some newspapers have reported that the Election Commission on the one hand announced the bye elections to fill the three casual vacancies in Lok Sabha from Karnataka while the bye elections to fill five vacancies in Lok Sabha from Andhra Pradesh have not been announced.

**What does Section 151A say?**

**Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** - *Time limit for filling vacancies referred to in sections 147, 149, 150 and 151.—Notwithstanding anything contained in section 147, section 149, section 150 and section 151, a bye-election for filling any vacancy referred to in any of the said sections shall be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy: Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply if— (a) the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year; or (b) the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government certifies that it is difficult to hold the bye-election within the said period.*

**Merger of NCVT and NSDA**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space - National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) into the **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)**.

**Details -**

NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities. The primary functions of NCVET will include -

- recognition and regulation of awarding bodies, assessment bodies and skill related information providers;
- approval of qualifications developed by awarding bodies and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs);
- indirect regulation of vocational training institutes through awarding bodies and assessment agencies;
- research and information dissemination;
- grievance redressal.

**Structure -**

The Council would be headed by a Chairperson and will have Executive and Non-Executive Members.

**Benefits -**

- This institutional reform will lead to improvement in quality and market relevance of skill development programs lending credibility to vocational education and training encouraging greater private investment and employer participation in the skills space.
- It will help achieve the twin objectives of enhancing aspirational value of vocational education and of increasing skilled manpower furthering the Prime Minister's agenda of making India the skill capital of the world.
- NCVET will have a positive impact on each individual who is a part of vocational education and training in the country.
- The idea of skill-based education will be seen in a more inspirational manner which would further encourage students to apply for skill-based educational courses.
- This is also expected to facilitate the ease of doing business by providing a steady supply of skilled workforce to the industry and services.

**BBNL - Bharat Broadband Network Limited****About BharatNet -**

- **Phase I:** The target of completing 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under phase-I of BharatNet was achieved in December 2017.
- **Phase II:** BharatNet Phase-II is planned to connect the remaining 1,50,000 GPs, using an optimal mix of media, by 31 Mar, 2019. Phase II is being implemented through three models – state-led model, Central Public Sector Units (CPSU) model, and private sector model.
- Further, provision has been made for Last Mile Connectivity in all 2,50,000 GPs through viability gap funding. Every GP shall have on an average five WiFi Access Points (APs), including 3 APs (on average) for public institutions such as educational centres, health centres, post offices, police stations, etc.
- BharatNet is being utilized by BSNL, CSC SPV, TSPs and ISPs for delivery of services at Gram Panchayats.

## **Goa Maritime Symposium 2018**

The Goa Maritime Symposium – 2018, the second edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GSM) – a forum towards fostering friendly relations with the maritime neighbours - was inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba at INS Mandovi at Goa on 16th October 2018. The theme of the seminar, this year was “**Building Stronger Maritime Partnerships in IOR**”.

### **Background -**

The GSM was conceptualised and first held in Nov 2016 aimed at establishing academic excellence as well as sharing of ideas among India's maritime neighbors' by facilitating interaction between senior representatives of navies and maritime agencies in the IOR; and it plays a constructive role in bringing together stakeholders involved in evolving strategies, policies and implementation mechanisms in the maritime domain.

## **Main Nahin Hum Portal**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals across India on October 24, 2018, on the occasion of the launch of the “Main Nahin Hum” Portal and App.

### **About the Portal -**

- The portal, which works on the theme “Self4Society”, will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform.
- In doing so, the portal is expected to help catalyse greater collaboration towards the service of the weaker sections of society, especially by leveraging the benefits of technology.
- It is also expected to generate wider participation of interested people who are motivated to work for the benefit of society.

## **Indian Institute of Skills**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the for setting up of Indian Institute of Skills(IISs) at different locations across the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP), which will be explored for promotion of IIS at select locations based on demand and available infrastructure.

**Benefits -**

- The setting up of IISs shall augment the global competitiveness of key sectors of Indian economy by providing high quality skill training, applied research education and a direct and meaningful connection with industry.
- It will provide opportunity to aspiring youth across the country to have access to highly skilled training, and enhance the scope of accountability through its linkage with industry and global competitiveness across sectors.
- By leveraging advantages of private sector enterprise and public capital in terms of Government land, it would create new institutes of expertise, knowledge and competitiveness.

## **Appellate Tribunals under Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Adjudicating Authority and establishment of Appellate Tribunal under Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act(PBPT), 1988.

**Salient Features -**

- Appointment of an Adjudicating Authority, along with the three additional Benches and to establish the Appellate Tribunal under the PBPT Act;
- To provide the officers and employees to Adjudicating Authority, Benches of the Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal by diverting the existing posts at the same level/rank from the Income Tax Deptt./Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT);
- The Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal shall sit in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD). Benches of Adjudicating Authority may sit in Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, and the necessary notification in this regard shall be issued after making consultation with the Chairperson of the proposed Adjudicating Authority.

**Benefits -**

- The approval will result in effective and better administration of cases referred to the Adjudicating Authority and speedy disposal of appeals filed against the order of the Adjudicating Authority before the Appellate Tribunal.
- Appointment of the Adjudicating Authority would provide first stage review of administrative action under the PBPT Act. Establishment of the proposed Appellate Tribunal would provide an appellate mechanism for the order passed by the Adjudicating Authority under the PBPT Act.

## **National Monitoring Framework on SDGs**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the constitution of a High Level Steering Committee for periodically reviewing and refining the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with associated targets.

**Composition -**

- The High Level Steering Committee will be chaired by Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI),

- The Secretaries of data source Ministries and NITI Aayog members and Secretaries of other related Ministries as special invitees, with function of reviewing of National Indicator Framework including refinement of the indicators from time to time.

#### Details -

- NIF will help in outcome-based monitoring & reporting on progress on SDGs at National level.
- There is no direct financial implication on implementation of the National Indicator Framework. However, the respective Ministries will need to re-align and strengthen their data systems to facilitate monitoring of the SDG indicators.

## **DARPG wins CAPAM award**

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is an institutional member of Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM).

#### About CAPAM -

- It is a non-profit association representing an international network of over 1100 senior public servants, Heads of Government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth.
- The CAPAM Awards celebrate the spirit of innovation in the public service by recognizing organizations that have made significant contributions to improve governance and services in the public sector.

#### More Details -

- The initiative entitled “**Unnayan Banka- Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District**”, State of Bihar has been awarded under the Category “Innovation Incubation”.
- “**Unnayan Banka**” is an initiative which envisages “Quality education for all” especially for those at the bottom of the Pyramid, using latest technologies. It’s a holistic model of overall development of youths from Education to Employability.
- Another initiative entitled “**Unified Agriculture Markets**” of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka has also been selected under the Category ‘Innovation in Public Service Management’. This initiative has also been awarded the overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards, 2018.

## **India’s largest DRY Dock at Cochin**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently launched India’s largest dry dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala. The Dry Dock will give an impetus to “Make in India” initiative under Sagarmala and raise India’s share in global shipbuilding to 2 percent. India currently occupies 0.66 % share in global shipbuilding market.

#### About Dry Dock -

- The new Dry Dock is being constructed at a cost of Rs 1799 Crore. It will be 310 m long, 75m wide, with a depth of 13 m and draught of 9.5m.
- The dock will be designed to handle both ship building and repairs, and bear a load up to 600 T/m.
- It will be equipped with international safety standards.
- The dock will also have a water treatment plant and Green Belt Development.

- Equipped with this Dry Dock, Cochin Shipyard will be able to build specialized and technologically advanced large vessels like LNG Carriers, drill ships, jack up rigs, large dredgers, aircraft carriers for Indian Navy and high end research vessels.
- It will also help make Cochin a one stop maritime hub for all repair needs in South East Asia.
- It is scheduled to be completed by May 2021.

## First container movement on Inland Waterways

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has transported container cargo belonging to the food and beverage giant PepsiCo (India) from **Kolkata to Varanasi on river Ganga (National Waterway-1)** recently. This is the country's first container movement on inland vessel post-independence, and a milestone moment in the history of India's IWT sector.

### Details -

- Container cargo transport comes with several inherent advantages. Even as it reduces the handling cost, allows easier modal shift, reduces pilferages and damage, it also enables cargo owners to reduce their carbon footprints.
- The government is developing NW-1 (River Ganga) under JMVP from Haldia to Varanasi (1390 Km) with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank at an estimated cost of Rs 5369 crore. The project would enable commercial navigation of vessels with capacity of 1500-2,000 DWT.

## India's Ease of Doing Business Rankings improved

India has recorded a jump of 23 positions against its rank of 100 in 2017 to be placed now at 77th rank among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank. India's leap of 23 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business ranking is significant considering that last year India had improved its rank by 30 places, a rare feat for any large and diverse country of the size of India. As a result of continued efforts by the Government, India has improved its rank by 53 positions in last two years and 65 positions in last four years.

### Features -

The important features of India's performance this year are:

- The World Bank has recognized India as one of the top improvers for the year.
- This is the second consecutive year for which India has been recognized as one of the top improvers.
- India is the first BRICS and South Asian country to be recognized as top improvers in consecutive years.
- India has recorded the highest improvement in two years by any large country since 2011 in the Doing business assessment by improving its rank by 53 positions.
- As a result of continued performance, India is now placed at first position among South Asian countries as against 6th in 2014.

S. No.	Indicator	2017	2018	Change

1	Construction Permits	181	52	+129
2	Trading Across Borders	146	80	+66
3	Starting a Business	156	137	+19
4	Getting Credit	29	22	+7
5	Getting Electricity	29	24	+5
6	Enforcing Contracts	164	163	+1
<b>Overall rank</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>+23</b>