

# COMPETITION POWER

Your Guide to Government Jobs & All other Competitive Exams

## CENTRE PROPOSES TO

Merge Bank Of Baroda,  
Vijaya Bank And Dena Bank

## GOVERNMENT APPOINTS

New MD & CEOs at 10 PSBs

AND THE 2018 EMMY  
Awards goes to

# IPPB

India's  
Largest Payments Bank  
Launched

## NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2018 ANNOUNCED

Complete List Of Winners

### This Edition Includes:

SSC CGL TIER-I : Practice Set  
SSC GD (Constable) : Practice Set  
IBPS Clerk Prelims : Practice Set  
SBI Clerk Mains 2018 Memory Based : Memory Based  
RBI Group 'D' Mains : Memory Based Mock

## From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

The inculcation of passion for government job examinations amongst the students is one of the major objectives set by Adda247. **Competition Power** has been a step towards it & it has served as a great platform to provide the students with the best of the study material for all sorts of government jobs & encourage them to make enhancements in their preparations for government jobs through the best ways possible.

The new edition of **Competition Power Magazine** is now your hands. The issue brings the highlights of the Current Affairs of August & September 2018 in detail under the name, "Newsmakers of the Month". This is followed by the one-liners of **August 2018** under the title, **"Current Affairs Zinger"**.

Bearing in mind the exorbitantly changing pattern of the competitive examinations, this magazine assembles the exhaustive study material for the upcoming government job examinations that provide the information of great interest to our varied readership.

In this issue, we also carry the practice sets of SSC CGL TIER-I, SSC GD, IBPS Clerk Prelims, & Memory Based Mocks of SBI Clerk Mains & RRB Group 'D' so as our readers can make a headway in their career with the government jobs they are interested in, by thoroughly practicing the papers that simulate the real examinations. Next, we have some important topics of Reasoning, English, GA & Reasoning so that you have them all grasped for the upcoming competitive examinations.

As the editor of Competition Power, I anticipate that this issue would be of immense value & will be definitely useful to our readers who aspire to be a government job employee in a short run. I would also like to thank the contributors for their efforts & our readers continue to have faith in us.

Your support & presence are indicative of the fact that we have made steps in the right direction. I will be looking forward to your valuable feedback & suggestions.

With Best Wishes & Season's Greetings,

**Team Competition Power !!**

## Motivational : When you're about to Quit, Remember why you Started

Dear Students,

### "Dare to Be

When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully.  
When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light.  
When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway.  
When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back.  
When you're feeling tired, dare to keep going.  
Dare to be the best you can –  
**At all times, Dare to be!"**

As a Government Job aspirant, the biggest thing that you require is patience alongwith determination. They both are different words but keeping them together is not an easy job. Staying determined for your goal and waiting for success patiently takes a lot of Guts. But you have to dare to do it if you aspire to achieve something big in your life.

Many exams like SBI PO, SBI Clerk, IBPS RRB PO and Clerk, Bank of Baroda etc have already been conducted. Many of you would have made it to the Mains and Interview. But there are many who could not make it in these exams. Now, this is the time when you have to decide which way you want to go. If you are about to quit, remember why you started. The past cannot be changed but the future is yet in your power. **You still have the biggest exams IBPS PO and Clerk with you and you have to dare to get over your failures and get through these exams with your determination and hard work. The pain you will feel today will become your strength for tomorrow.** So do not fear pain and give your best

You have to stop giving excuses now that this is not right, that is not right. If you want to achieve it, target it and arise, awake, stop not and do whatever possible till your goal is achieved. Thinking about goals that you have not achieved will always demotivate you and pull you down. Use your failures positively. You are no less than anyone in the competition. If they can, then you can. **Analyse your weaknesses and work upon them. You need to burn the candles at both ends if you really need to get over the exams. But in the end all your hard work and patience will pay you well.**

So now its time to set the ball rolling and start your preparations if you want to see yourself in a Government job next year.  
**Arise, Awake and Sop not, till the Goal is Reached!!!**

## Success Sotry : Believe in yourself!

***“Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers, you cannot be successful or happy”.***

I am **Bhavya Adlakha** from **Gurugram, Haryana** and I have completed my graduation in the year 2016. Now I am selected as **SBI Clerk 2018-2019 batch**.

After completing my graduation, I tried for GATE, but later I realized that I was leading the wrong path so I decided to quit it and then I made up my mind and started preparing for government exam. My goal was fixed after that, by hook or by crook I need to crack banking exam so that I can make my family proud. I did it, not for me but for my loved ones who always supported me in my bad times, who were always there to cheer me up and to guide me whenever I needed someone to show me the right path. And when we are doing something not for us but for our loved ones, we do it with more confidence and hard work.

***Lines which keep me motivated are:***

***धैर्य धर्म मित्र अरुणारी  
आपत काले परखी चारी***

I knew a dream doesn't become reality through magic, it takes sweat, determination, persistence and hard work. I never believed in luck I just believed in myself and today I am something.

Here is my journey from **2017-2018**.

**SBI PO Prelims 2017 (cleared)** missed mains few marks

**NIACL AO (Prelims) 2017** missed by 0.75 marks.

**IBPS RRB Office Assistant 2017** again missed by 0.75 marks

**IBPS RRB Officer Scale-I 2017**, missed by 0.5 marks

**IBPS PO 2017 (Prelims)** not qualified

**IBPS Clerk 2017** mains missed in GA

**I was in deep sorrow when I missed IBPS clerk mains** exam with a small margin, I cried, got angry with myself but I never let myself break down into tears for long. I analyzed things again and gathered confidence. All I wanted is to see the smile which will come after becoming something on my parent's face. So, I was back to square one. Though it took a lot to start again but yes, I did it. When we decide that we can achieve our goals, we are halfway there. I applied for **SBI PO, SBI Clerk, RRB PO, RRB Clerk in the year 2018**.

I gave my best for all the exams. I missed to clear SBI PO PRE by a thin line, Fortunately, I cleared IBPS RRB PO, IBPS RRB Clerk and finally SBI Clerk mains (2018). It was just the fruitful result of my hard work that I will be working in SBI as an employee. It's just like a dream that has come true. But this is not the final destination for me. I have to chase my dreams. I don't want myself to be satisfied here, I am still trying and continuing my preparation for **SSC CGL and SBI PO**. I am sure, one day I will be writing my success story as an Officer.

Like all the students, I never gather a lot of study material. I just keep practicing every subject with the best of my efforts and no doubt, **ADDA247 was the saviour in this battle**. I used to practice from **Adda's daily quizzes**, and watch online videos. I never joined coaching classes as I knew my ability and I was never afraid of doing smart work. Thanks to **Neeraj sir (Content**

**developer, ADDA247)** for guiding me. The only thing that helped me get to the place where I am today, is that I never postponed my work, I just do it on the same day with a great enthusiasm as nothing great can ever be achieved without it.

I thank every person who stood beside me in my harsh times and a special thanks to ADDA247 for helping me out to refine my abilities. Today I have realized that, if you can dream something, surely you can achieve it. Just keep your dreams alive, all they demand is patience and hard work as there is no substitute for it. The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.




**I wish all the aspirants good luck in their journey.**

*Thanks Bhavya for sharing your Success Story with us. Adda247 wishes you a good luck for the bright future ahead.*



## News Makers of the Month : July- August 2018

### National Sports Awards 2018 Announced: Complete List Of Winners

-  **National Sports Awards** are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.
-  **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year, **Arjuna Award** is given for consistency outstanding performance for four years, **Dronacharya Award** for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events, **Dhyan Chand Award** for life time contribution to sports development and **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
-  Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

#### Complete List of Winners of National Sports Awards 2018:

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2018		
	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Ms. S. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
2.	Shri Virat Kohli	Cricket
Dronacharya Awards 2018		
	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa	Boxing
2.	Shri Vijay Sharma	Weightlifting
3.	Shri A. Srinivasa Rao	Table Tennis
4.	Shri Sukhdev Singh Pannu	Athletics
5.	Shri Clarence Lobo	Hockey (Life Time)
6.	Shri Tarak Sinha	Cricket (Life Time)
7.	Shri Jiwan Kumar Sharma	Judo (Life Time)
8.	Shri V.R. Beedu	Athletics (Life Time)
Arjuna Awards 2018		
	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
2.	Naib Subedar Jinson Johnson	Athletics
3.	Ms. Hima Das	Athletics
4.	Ms. Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy	Badminton
5.	Subedar Satish Kumar	Boxing
6.	Ms. Smriti Mandhana	Cricket
7.	Shri Shubhankar Sharma	Golf
8.	Shri Manpreet Singh	Hockey
9.	Ms. Savita	Hockey

10.	Col. Ravi Rathore	Polo
11.	Ms. Rahi Sarnobat	Shooting
12.	Shri Ankur Mittal	Shooting
13.	Ms. Shreyasi Singh	Shooting
14.	Ms. Manika Batra	Table Tennis
15.	Shri G. Sathiyan	Table Tennis
16.	Shri Rohan Bopanna	Tennis
17.	Shri Sumit	Wrestling
18.	Ms. Pooja Kadian	Wushu
19.	Shri Ankur Dhama	Para-Athletics
20.	Shri Manoj Sarkar	Para-Badminton
<b>Dhyan Chand Award 2018</b>		
	<b>Name of the Sportsperson</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
1.	Shri Satyadev Prasad	Archery
2.	Shri Bharat Kumar Chetri	Hockey
3.	Ms. Bobby Aloysius	Athletics
4.	Shri Chougale Dadu Dattatray	Wrestling
<b>Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2018</b>		
	<b>Category</b>	<b>Name of the entity</b>
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding & Young Talent	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
2.	Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	JSW Sports
3.	Sports for Development	Isha Outreach
<b>Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2017-18</b>		
1.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	

## Government Appoints New MD & CEOs at 10 PSBs

- ✚ Government of India cleared the appointment of Chief Executive Officers and Managing Directors (CEOs and MDs) at 10 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- ✚ They are part of the 15 names recommended by the Bank Boards Bureau for elevation.
- ✚ Of those named, five are currently the deputy managing directors of State Bank of India (SBI) while the other five are executive directors (EDs) at different government-owned banks.
- ✚ The list of people appointed as MD and CEO at various PSBs:
  1. Padmaja Chundru - Indian Bank.
  2. Mrutyunjay Mahapatra - Syndicate Bank.
  3. Pallav Mohapatra - Central Bank of India.
  4. Packirisamy - Andhra Bank.
  5. Karnam Sekar - Dena Bank. Note: **\*All of the above people are currently deputy MDs at SBI.**
  6. SS Mallikarajuna Rao - Allahabad Bank - He is currently the ED of Syndicate Bank.

7. AS Rajeev - Bank of Maharashtra - He is currently the ED of Indian Bank.
8. Atul Kumar Goel - UCO Bank - He is currently the ED at Union Bank of India.
9. S Harisankar - Punjab & Sind Bank. He is currently the Executive Director of Allahabad Bank.
10. Ashok Kumar Pradhan - United Bank of India - He is currently the ED of United Bank of India.

## Centre Proposes To Merge Bank Of Baroda, Vijaya Bank And Dena Bank

The government has proposed **amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, and Dena Bank** to create **India's 3rd largest globally competitive Bank**.

- ✚ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that the amalgamation will increase the banking operations and no employee will face any service condition adverse to present conditions.
- ✚ Government had announced in the budget that consolidation of banks was also in the agenda of the government. Earlier, the government had merged five subsidiaries of SBI into State Bank of India.

## Internal Ombudsman Scheme 2018 introduced for SCBs

- ✚ **The Reserve Bank of India** had, in May 2015, advised **all public-sector and selected private and foreign banks to appoint Internal Ombudsman (IO)** as an independent authority to review complaints that were partially or wholly rejected by the respective banks.
- ✚ The IO mechanism was set up with a view to strengthen the internal grievance redressal system of banks and to ensure that the complaints of the customers are redressed at the level of the bank itself by an authority placed at the highest level of bank's grievance redressal mechanism so as to minimize the need for the customers to approach other fora for redressal.
- ✚ As a part of this customer-centric approach, to enhance the independence of the IO while simultaneously strengthening the monitoring system over the functioning of the IO mechanism, RBI has reviewed the arrangement and issued revised directions **under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** in the form of '**Internal Ombudsman Scheme, 2018**'. The Scheme covers, inter-alia, appointment/tenure, roles and responsibilities, procedural guidelines and oversight mechanism for the IO.
- ✚ **All Scheduled Commercial Banks in India having more than ten banking outlets (excluding Regional Rural Banks)**, are required to appoint IO in their banks. The IO shall, inter alia, examine customer complaints which are in the nature of deficiency in service on the part of the bank, (including those on the grounds of complaints listed in Clause 8 of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006) that are partly or wholly rejected by the bank. The implementation of IO Scheme, 2018 will be monitored by the bank's internal audit mechanism apart from regulatory oversight by RBI.

## And the 2018 Emmy Awards goes to

The **70th annual primetime Emmy honors** handed out at the **Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles**. **Michael Che and Colin Hanks** hosted the show.

### Complete list of Winners of EMMY AWARDS 2018

Category	Winner
Best Comedy	The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
Best Drama	Game of Thrones
Best Actress, Comedy	Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"
Best Actor, Comedy	Bill Hader, "Barry"
Best Actress, Drama	Claire Foy, "The Crown"
Best Actor, Drama	Matthew Rhys, "The Americans"
Best Actress, Limited Series or TV Movie	Regina King, "Seven Seconds"
Best Actor, Limited Series or TV Movie	Darren Criss, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"



Writing for a Comedy Series	Amy Sherman-Palladino, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" ("Pilot")
Writing for a Drama Series	Joel Fields and Joe Weisberg, "The Americans" ("Start")
Writing for a Limited Series, Movie or Drama	William Bridges and Charlie Brooker, "Black Mirror: USS Callister"
Directing for a Comedy Series	Amy Sherman-Palladino, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" ("Pilot")
Directing for a Drama Series	Stephen Daldry, "The Crown" ("Paterfamilias")
Directing for a Limited Series	Ryan Murphy, "The Assassination Of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"

## IPPB, India's Largest Payments Bank Launched: All You Need To Know

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. IPPB is the **largest payments bank in the country** by network size. The launch of India Post Payments Bank marks another significant milestone in the government's endeavour to take the benefits of a rapidly developing India to the remotest corners of the country.

Now, **IPPB has 650 Branches and 3250 Access Points** spread across the country. All the 1.55 lakh post offices in the country have been linked to the IPPB system by December 31, 2018.

### What is a Payments Bank?

A payments bank is a new category of banks **conceptualized by the Reserve Bank of India**, which operates at a smaller scale than an actual bank and **doesn't involve any credit risk**. It can carry out most banking operations but **can't advance loans or issue credit cards**. These banks operate digitally (on mobile phones and other devices using internet) rather than through physical branches.

### How do payments banks operate?

A payment bank is not a commercial bank but a registered public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013 which has also obtained a license under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and a special permit by RBI to operate as a payments bank.

### Payments Banks cannot carry out lending activities like:

1. Advancing loans
2. Issuance of credit cards, etc.

### Ten Things You Must Know About India Post Payments Bank:

1. IPPB has been set up under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, with 100% equity owned by Government of India.
2. It started operations on 30 January 2017, by opening two pilot branches, **one at Raipur and the other at Ranchi**.
3. IPPB will offer **4% interest rate** on savings accounts.
4. Payments banks **can accept deposits of up to Rs 1 lakh per account** from individuals and small businesses, but do not have the mandate to extend loans.
5. But IPPB will, in alliance with other financial service providers, offer third-party products. For example, in case of loans, IPPB will work as an agent of PNB.
6. IPPB will offer a range of products such as savings and current accounts, money transfer, direct benefit transfers, bill and utility payments, and enterprise and merchant payments.
7. These products and services will be offered across multiple channels (counter services, micro-ATM, mobile banking app, SMS and IVR), using the IPPB's technology platform.
8. IPPB has been **allowed to link around 17 crore postal savings bank (PSB) accounts** with its accounts.
9. IPPB will leverage the vast network of the Department of Posts, which covers every corner of the country with more than 300,000 postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks.
10. The Cabinet has approved an 80% increase in spending for IPPB to Rs 1,435 crore.

## Interest Rates On PPF, NSC, Other Small Savings Schemes Raised

The government has raised interest rates on Small Savings Schemes (SSS), including National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF) by up to 0.4% for the October-December quarter, in line with rising deposit rates in the banks. Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.

Interest rate for the different deposits and schemes are as follows:

Instrument	Rate of interest (01.07.2018 to 30.09.2018)	Rate of interest (01.10.2018 to 31.12.2018)	Compounding frequency
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0	Annually
1 Year Time Deposit	6.6	6.9	Quarterly
2 Year Time Deposit	6.7	7.0	Quarterly
3 Year Time Deposit	6.9	7.2	Quarterly
5 Year Time Deposit	7.4	7.8	Quarterly
5 Year Recurring Deposit	6.9	7.3	Quarterly
5 Year Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.3	8.7	Quarterly and paid
5 Year Monthly Income Account	7.3	7.7	Monthly and paid
5 Year National Savings Certificate	7.6	8.0	Annually
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.6	8.0	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.3 (will mature in 118 months)	7.7 (will mature in 112 months)	Annually
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.1	8.5	Annually

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : 21<sup>st</sup> August till 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### INDIA IN NEWS

#### **NOTA Option Not Applicable For Rajya Sabha Elections: Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court ruled that the 'None of The Above' (NOTA) option will not be applicable for voting in the Rajya Sabha elections. The ruling was made by a bench of Justices comprising CJI Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud.

#### **India's Largest Business Incubator Bhamashah Techno Hub Launched In Jaipur**

In a big step forward to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Rajasthan, the Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched India's largest business incubator the Bhamashah Techno Hub in Jaipur.

#### **India's 1st Biofuel-Powered Flight Lands In Delhi**

In a Historic day for the country's aviation and energy sector, India's first biofuel-powered flight landed in Delhi, covering the distance between Dehradun & Delhi. The biofuel is developed by Indian Institute of Petroleum. The flight test was successfully completed by SpiceJet. The flight was powered with a blend of 75% air turbine fuel (ATF) and 25% biojet fuel.

#### **3rd Edition Of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model 'Smart India Hackathon- 2019' Launched**

The third edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - Smart India Hackathon 2019 - was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. MHRD, AICTE, Persistent Systems and i4c have joined hands to make a hat trick with their highly popular and innovative Smart India Hackathon initiative (SIH).

#### **ISRO To Outsource Production Of PSLVs And SSLVs To Private Industries**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will outsource the production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private Industries. The Indian Space agency Chairman K Sivan informed that private industries will play a major role in capacity building.

#### **IWAI Makes India's 1st Standardised Modern Ship Design For Ganga A Reality**

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1). The Government is implementing Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on NW-1 (Varanasi-Haldia stretch) at a cost of Rs 5369.18 crore with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank.

#### **Prime Minister Launches India Post Payments Bank**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a payments bank of the Department of Posts that will take banking to the doorstep of every citizen through an unmatched network of post offices and almost 3 lakh postmen and 'Grameen Dak Sewaks'. The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will be like any other banks but its operations will be on a smaller scale without involving any credit risk. It will carry out most banking operations like accepting deposits but won't advance loans or issue credit cards.

#### **India Along With 23 Other Nations Participates In Tsunami Mock Drill**

India along with 23 other nations participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill which will involve evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal states. The exercise, known as 'IOWave18', is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of December 2004 tsunami.

#### **India To Have 'One-Nation-One-Card' Policy For Transport Soon: NITI Aayog**

NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant announced that India will shortly unveil a One Nation-One Card policy for public transport that will entail connectivity between various modes of transport. The announcement was made at a function on Future Mobility Summit-2018 in New Delhi.

#### **September: National Nutrition Month Being Celebrated Across Country**

The National Nutrition Month (September) is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition. During this month, various programmes have been organized by the Women and Child Development Ministry to spread broad awareness on the

issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children.

#### **Government Approved Proposal To Increase Wages Of Artisans By Over 36%**

The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved a proposal by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the wages of artisans by over 36%. Out of this 30%, 40% goes to artisans as wage incentives and the remaining 60% goes to the Khadi institutions.

#### **Suresh Prabhu Launches Technology Initiatives For Coffee Stakeholders**

Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched Coffee Connect - India coffee field force app and Coffee KrishiTharanga - digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders at a function in New Delhi. The mobile app Coffee Connect has been developed to ease the work of field functionaries and to improve the work efficiency. The Coffee KrishiTharanga services are aimed at providing customized information and services to increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

#### **Homosexuality Not A Crime In India Anymore: SC Abolishes Section 377**

The Supreme Court abolished Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the 1862 law which criminalised homosexuality. The Delhi High Court had decriminalised homosexuality in 2009, but the decision was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2013. According to Section 377, consensual sexual acts are also considered unnatural and are punishable.

#### **NRTI, India's 1st Railway Varsity Starts Operations In Vadodara**

The first of its kind university in the country in the transport sector, the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), started operations. Currently, it is functioning out of the National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara.

#### **Health Ministry Implements HIV AIDS Act 2017**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced the implementation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017. According to the law, every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 has the right to live in a shared household and enjoy its facilities.

#### **1st Ever Bus Services Between Bihar And Nepal Flagged Off**

For the first time, bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started. The bus service was flagged off from Patna by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The bus services have been commissioned following the agreement between India and Nepal.

#### **PM Modi Announces Launch Of 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'**

To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'. The mission will take place across the length and breadth of the country and will continue till Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2.

#### **Government Approves 100% Electrification Of Railways By 2021-22**

The Union cabinet approved a proposal for the complete electrification of Indian Railways by 2021-22, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel and saving revenue for the national carrier. The move will cost the government Rs12,134 crore. The announcement was made by the Railways Minister, Mr Piyush Goyal.

#### **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) Releases HIV Estimations 2017**

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) released the report HIV Estimations 2017. The HIV Estimations 2017 is the 14th round in the series of HIV Estimations under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). NACO undertakes HIV estimations biennially in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS). As per the report, Maharashtra has the highest number of people living with HIV in India.

#### **PM Launches Swachhata Hi Seva Movement**

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Movement, to boost nationwide public participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and catalyse the fulfilment of Bapu's dream of a Clean India.

#### **India Gets Its 1st Ever Dedicated Dog Park In Hyderabad**

For the first time in India, dog owners will have a dedicated dog park to visit. Set up in Hyderabad, the park is spread across an area of 1.3 acres. The man behind the development of dog park is an IAS officer Harichandana, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Zonal Commissioner.

#### **PM Modi, Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina Jointly Launched Indo-Bangla Pipeline Project**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly launched the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project through video conferencing. The project will go a long way in strengthening the Indo-Bangla ties.

#### **Cabinet Approves Ordinance Making Triple Talaq A Punishable Offence**

The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence. The Supreme Court had in a verdict in August last year declared it illegal and unconstitutional. It was cleared by the Lok Sabha but was stuck in the Rajya Sabha. Though the ordinance has been cleared, for now, it must be placed before the Parliament and the bill would still need to be passed.

#### **Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani Visited India**

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani was recently in India for visit. During a day-long visit, he reviewed and positively assessed the progress of the multi-faceted bilateral strategic partnership. The important Highlights of the Bilateral Meeting Held in New Delhi were:

1. Both leaders (Narendra Modi and Ashraf Ghani) expressed determination to strengthen connectivity, including through Chabahar port and Air-Freight Corridor.
2. Expressed satisfaction at the increase in bilateral trade that has crossed the one billion dollar mark.
3. Mr Modi reiterated India's support to an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled peace and reconciliation process.
4. Mr Modi also raised concern over abducted Indian nationals in Afghanistan with Mr Ghani during their meeting.
5. The Afghan President has assured that efforts are being made to ensure the safe release of the Indian nationals.

## **STATES IN NEWS**

#### **Chhattisgarh Announces Renaming Of Naya Raipur To Atal Nagar**

In a tribute to the late former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Naya Raipur as 'Atal Nagar'. Chief Minister Raman Singh made the announcement after a Cabinet meeting.

#### **PM Inaugurates Various Projects In Junagadh, Gujarat**

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated various projects in Junagadh district of Gujarat. These included the Government Civil Hospital, a milk processing plant and some buildings of the Junagadh Agriculture University. There were nine initiatives, worth over Rs 500 crore, which were either being dedicated, or their foundation stones were being laid.

#### **Tamil Nadu CM Lays Foundation Stone For Special Investment Region**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for setting up of a Special Investment Region (SIR) in northern Krishnagiri district to attract investments. The foundation stone for the Rs 2,420 crore project was laid through video conferencing from the State Secretariat.

#### **Rajasthan Government To Provide Free Mobile Phones To Women Of BPL Families**

In a bid to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Digital India' campaign, Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under the Bhamashah Yojana. Focused on women who fall under the Below Poverty Line (BPL), the scheme aims to transfer financial and non-financial benefits of government schemes in a transparent manner.

#### **Telangana Cabinet Passes Resolution To Dissolve Legislative Assembly**

The Telangana Cabinet passed a resolution calling for the dissolution of the Telangana Legislative Assembly. The state's Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy had convened the meeting of his Council of Ministers to dissolve the Legislative Assembly and seek fresh elections six months ahead of schedule.

#### **Andhra Launches E-Rythu To Boost Cashless Farm Ecosystem**

The government of Andhra Pradesh launched a mobile platform, e-Rythu (e-farmer in Telugu) which will enable small-scale farmers to market their produce at reasonable prices. The platform has been developed by global payments and technology company Mastercard and aims to digitize agriculture marketplaces, payments, workflows, and provide farmers an easy and secure way to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural products via their feature phones.

**Country's 1st Tribal Tourism Circuit Launched In Chhattisgarh**

Union minister K J Alphons, the Minister of State for Tourism, inaugurated the country's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh. This project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in February 2016 for Rs. 99.21 Crores. The project was implemented under the Tourism Ministry's Swadesh Darshan scheme.

**Festival Of Nuakhai Being Celebrated In Odisha**

The festival of Nuakhai is being celebrated in Odisha. During this harvest festival of western Odisha, new produce Nabannis offered to presiding deities. After offering the Nabann, people relish different types of delicacies prepared from the newly harvested crop.

**Rajnath Singh Inaugurates 2 CIBMS Pilot Projects In Jammu**

Union Minister of Home Affairs Rajnath Singh inaugurated two Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) pilot projects along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu region. The pilot project includes two 5.5 kilometre-stretches in Jammu, the performance of which will be monitored, and based on the feedback improvements will be made for the rest of the system.



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