

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Madhya Pradesh Announces Total Ban on Polythene Bags from May 1, 2017

- In **Madhya Pradesh** a complete ban on polythene carry bags from May 1, 2017 has been announced.
- The decision aims to conserve environment, promote cleanliness and protect cows that generally dies of eating plastic bags.

WCD Ministry releases National Action Plan for Children, 2016

- NPAC has been developed by the Ministry of Women & Child Development. Features of NPAC 2016.
- The Plan focuses on four key areas including survival; health & nutrition; education & development; protection & participation.
- Each priority areas has a set of clearly defined objectives, sub-objectives, strategies, action points and indicators for measuring the progress by the identified stakeholders.
- The plan has highlighted the new and emerging concerns for children such as online child abuse, children affected by natural and man-made disasters and climate change.
- Strategies and action plans are based on the existing programmes and schemes of various Ministries/Departments. Besides, new schemes would be set up as per requirement.
- The plan is formulated based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Head Post Offices to Offer Services of Passport Seva Kendras

- The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated India's first **Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK)** at Metagalli post office in **Mysuru**.
- The second POPSK simultaneously opened at Dahod in **Gujarat**.
- The POPSK has been launched to expand the passport services over a wide area and simplify the process to travel abroad.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** and the **Department of Posts (DOP)** made Joint Venture to implement the project of delivering passport-related services.
- Once the pilot project starts operating successfully, the POPSK would be opened in rest of the states in phased manner. In phase 1, 38 districts would be covered. India Post has around 800 head post offices.
- Thereafter, the head post offices of every district would offer passport related services, similar to those available at the passport seva kendra (PSK).
- The POPSK would function in the similar manner as the PSKs. Applicants who apply for their passports online through the passport portal, would be scheduled an appointment at the selected Post Office Passport Seva Kendra to complete the formalities.

Kerala CM Inaugurates e-Health Kerala scheme at Peroorkada Hospital

- The IT Project, e-Health Kerala which is named Jeevan Rekha launched at Peroorkada Model Government Hospital.
- The project has been developed by the Health Department in association with the state IT Mission launched in Thiruvananthapuram.
- It aims to create a centralized database that will have the complete healthcare records of all the citizens in the state through the digitization of government hospitals.
- The project will benefit the citizens to avail the medical benefits without the need go to the hospitals. They can use the unique IDs generated for each citizen
- Besides, the project will allow the state to closely monitor the health of its people and can take effective control measures over contagious diseases.

Arunachal launches 'Dulari Kanya' scheme to check infant mortality

- **Arunachal Pradesh** launched '**Dulari Kanya**', a special scheme to check infant mortality in the state.
- Under this scheme the government will deposit **Rs 20,000** in the bank account of a girl child, born in any government hospital.
It would be paid along with the accrued interest after she attains 18 years of her age.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Trump orders 2,000-mile wall to be built on Mexico border

- **Donald Trump** signed an executive order to enable construction of a **2,000-mile wall** along the southern US border with Mexico.
- The wall is aimed at stemming the flow of drugs, illegal immigration into the US.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

RBI Prohibits FDI in Non-Cooperative Countries

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has prohibited the Indian entities from making **direct overseas investments** in any entity that is located in 'non co-operative countries and territories', as identified by the inter-governmental body **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.
- The move aims to bring down the global terror financing and thus prevent, detect and prohibit money laundering.
- At present, there is no restriction on an Indian entity regarding the countries where it can undertake Overseas Direct Investment. The prohibition aims to align with the instructions under FEMA with the objectives of the FATF.

MakeMyTrip launches India's first social luxury travel magazine

- The mobile-only magazine is targeted at luxury travelers.
- It is released through innovative ad platforms like Facebook Canvas & Instagram-Stories.
- iv. 'Spa-cation', 'Heaven on Earth' & 'Heritage' were first few themes of the magazine.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

Trump appoints Indian-American attorney to key White House post

- **Donald Trump** has appointed prominent Indian-American attorney **Uttam Dhillon** to a key White House position.
- Dhillon, who served as chief oversight counsel for the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee.
- He has been appointed as special assistant to the **President** on **ethics and compliance matters**.

AWARDS

List of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2016

- The President of India approved the conferment of **Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2016** on **36 persons**.
- The Jeevan Raksha Padak includes 5 Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, 8 Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and 23 Jeevan Raksha Padak to 23 persons. Out of these 7 awards are posthumous.

- Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are conferred for meritorious act of humane nature in saving the life of a person.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Scientists Grow Mouse Transplant Organ in Rat

- Scientists from Stanford University are trying to find an innovative solution to deal with the shortage of human transplant organs like hearts, kidneys, livers, lungs and other organs.
- Thus they conducted a study wherein the scientists made an attempt to **grow mouse pancreases in rats** and then use them to **cure diabetes in mice**.
- The pancreatic tissue was transplanted in the mouse with five days treatment using Immunosuppressive drugs to stop their bodies rejecting the foreign matter.
- The study found that diabetic mice were able to normalise their blood glucose levels for over a year after transplantation.

SPORTS

Indian Ace Cueist Pankaj Advani wins 7th National Billiards Championship

- Top seeded Ace cue **Pankaj Advani** won his **seventh national title** in the finals of **Manisha National Billiards and Snooker Championship** at the PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Pune.
- He defeated **Rupesh Shah 5-1** in the final. Earlier Advani beat Brijesh Damani in the semifinals to enter the finals.

Japanese Sumo Wrestler Receives Highest Sports Honour in 2 Decade

- Sumo wrestler **Kisenosato** was promoted to the highest rank of the wrestling, **"Yokozuna"** after winning his first title at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament with a 14-1 record.
- The 30-year-old Kisenosato, whose real name is **Yutaka Hagiwara**, is the first Japanese born and bred wrestler to earn the coveted rank of "grand champion" since 1998.
- Usually wrestlers need to win two consecutive tournaments to be promoted. But 175 kg and 1.87 m tall Kisenosato was promoted with a win of only one title based on his consistent results in recent tournaments and the New Year title.

Usain Bolt Loses an Olympic Medal due to Positive Doping of Team-Mate Nesta Carter

- Jamaican sprinter, **Usain Bolt** will have to hand back one of his **nine Olympic gold medals** won in the **4x100m relay** event at the **2008 Beijing Olympics** due to his Jamaican team-mate **Nesta Carter** who was tested positive for a banned substance.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) retested the 454 selected doping samples in 2016. The committee on January 25, 2017 informed that Carter was found to have the banned stimulant methylhexanamine in his system.
- Carter and Bolt were teammates on the winning 4x100-meter relay team in Beijing in 2008, which also included Michael Frater and Asafa Powell. The team has been disqualified.
- Carter also made up Jamaica's record-breaking relay squad which won the same event at London 2012 and is one of the country's most successful ever athletes.