

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Recent Approvals by Central government – July 2017

- Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval for amendment of the **Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1954**
- Cabinet apprised of the MoU signed between India and **Palestine on cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports**
- Cabinet apprised of the Joint Declaration of Intent between India and **Germany on Indo German-Centre for Sustainability**
- Cabinet approves revision of cost of **Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011**
- Union Cabinet cleared a new **Minimum Wage Code Bill** that will integrate four different wage legislations.

Mumbai Metro launches India's first mobile ticketing system

- **Mumbai Metro One Private Limited** has announced the launch of **India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo'**
- It will **help commuters to buy their tickets on their mobile phones**.
- Commuters will also be able to book tickets for future journeys up to seven days in advance using the system.
- The system is currently at an advanced stage of testing and is set to be launched by mid-August.
- Through '**OnGo**', **commuters can purchase tickets on the Mumbai Metro App** and other partner apps.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Punjab National Bank ties up with Bajaj Allianz General for distribution

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** have **signed an agreement for the distribution of insurance products**
- Under this agreement, **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer Personal lines of insurance and Commercial line of insurance products to the banks customers**.
- **Personal Line of Insurance** includes health, personal accident, home motor and travel insurance.
- **Commercial Line of Insurance** includes Property, marine and engineering insurance.
- The insurance company will also offer wide range of rural insurance products.
- Such type of insurance tie-ups leads 100 million customers to various products under one roof.

BSE inks Cooperation Pact with Egyptian Exchange

- **BSE** has joined hands with **Egyptian Exchange (EGX)** for cooperation in exchange of information across business areas.

- The exchange aim is to cross list and trade securities and It would provide new investment alternatives to investors in both markets.
- The **MoU** between **BSE and EGX** represents an important step in integrating both the exchanges to build capital market flows.
- Through this **MoU** a range of opportunities has been explored for the development of their businesses, products and markets to share knowledge and strengthen international connectivity.
- This MoU **further complements EGXs strategy to cooperate with global exchanges beyond its traditional markets in Africa, the Middle East and Europe.**
- **EGX and BSE** both boast a long history of being in existence and business over 100 years.
- The MoU between BSE and EGX represents a significant step in integrating both the exchanges to build capital market flows.

Codex Alimentarius Commission adopts Codex norms for three spices

- Global food standard-setting body **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** adopted three Codex standards for **black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme** paving the way for a universal agreement on identifying quality spices in various countries.
- These three Codex standards were adopted at **CAC's recent meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- The Codex Alimentarius or **"Food Code"** is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Australia sends its first uranium shipment to India

- **Australia** has sent its **first uranium shipment to India for testing purposes** ahead of possible commercial sales.
- It comes after India and Australia signed an agreement for civil nuclear cooperation in **2014** to meet India's growing energy needs.
- Australian uranium has played a reliable long-term role in supplying India's growing energy needs.

Axis Bank to buy FreeCharge from Snapdeal for Rs 385 crore

- **Axis Bank** has **announced** that it has agreed to **buy mobile payments wallet provider FreeCharge** from **e-commerce company Snapdeal for Rs 385 crore.**
- By acquiring Freecharges business would give Axis Bank access to about 52 million mobile wallet holders of Freecharge as well as about **150 to 200 professionals.**
- The acquisition will double the customer base of the bank. Freecharge presently has revenue of about **Rs 80 crore.**
- Axis Bank offers key payment modes — mobile banking, credit cards, debit cards, forex cards and UPI payments.
- The bank has been driving digital acceptance and has established the second largest merchant network with over 4,33,000 PoS (point of sale) machines.
- Axis Bank has been actively participating in market leading payment innovations through partnerships with Samsung Pay, Kochi Metro and BMTC.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

JDU President Nitish Kumar sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for 6th time

- **Janata Dal (United) President, Nitish Kumar took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar for 6th time.**
- Ending the grand alliance between his party, Congress and Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Nitish Kumar will now form the new government with the support of BJP-led NDA.
- Senior Bihar BJP leader **Sushil Kumar Modi also took oath as Deputy Chief Minister.**

Axis Bank approves re-appointment of Shikha Sharma as CEO

- **Axis Bank has re-appointed Shikha Sharma as MD&CEO of Axis Bank for three-year term from June 2018.**
- Sharma began her career with the infra lender ICICI Ltd in **1980** and played a key role in setting up the group's investment banking business.
- She joined the bank in 2009 with a five-year mandate which was subsequently extended.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA will chase total solar eclipse in jets to make it last longer

- During the eclipse, **the moon will pass between the Sun and Earth, blocking the face of the sun** and leaving only its outer atmosphere, or corona, visible in the sky.
- **NASA will fly "eclipse jets" to make totality** when the moon blocks out the sun last nearly three times as long.'
- **The jets will use telescopes to study the sun's corona, or outer atmosphere.**
- A partial eclipse will be visible in every state, a total eclipse will be visible only across 14 states in the continental US along a 112-kilometer-wide swath of the country.

DNA of human embryos edited for 1st time in US

- **Scientists in the US for the first time have successfully used gene-editing tools on human embryos to correct defective DNA that cause inherited diseases.**
- **It involved changing the DNA of a large number of one-cell embryos with the controversial gene-editing technique CRISPR.**
- Scientists wanted to show that they can eradicate or correct genes that cause inherited disease, like thalassemia.
- The genetically modified child would then pass the changes on to subsequent generations.

'India Quake' – An App for Earthquake Parameter Dissemination

- **National Centre for Seismology (NCS) operates national seismological network with 84 stations.**

- These stations are connected to NCS headquarter through VSAT for real time data communication.
- To overcome this, a Mobile App has been developed by the NCS for automatic dissemination of earthquake parameter (location, time and magnitude) after the occurrence of earthquakes.
- The App **will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients.**
- Any citizen can download this App and get the real time earthquake location information on his/her mobile.
- There are two categories of events such as scrutinized and unscrutinized.
- Unscrutinized events are the earthquake whose parameters have been estimated automatically by the software using the incoming waveform data from remote stations.
- These solutions are scrutinized and confirmed by the NCS, which form the category of scrutinized events.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Uttarakhand records second highest tiger count in India

- Around 535 cameras installed in Corbett Tiger Reserve played a key role in collecting the recent data.
- **Uttarakhand** is the **second state** in terms of **tiger count** behind **Karnataka**, which has **400 big cats**.
- According to the latest statistics, **at least 208 tigers have been identified in Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, up from last year's 163.** Also six cubs were identified there.
- **At least 34 tigers have been identified in Rajaji Tiger Reserve in 2016-17**, up from previous year's 16. Five cubs were also found there.
- 562 cameras were put at strategic locations in core areas of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve in collaboration with the Indian Wildlife Institute and World Nature Fund (WWF).

Glow-in-the-dark shark discovered in the Pacific

- Scientists have discovered a **new species** of **glow-in-the-dark shark in the Pacific Ocean**.
- They are not easily visible or accessible like so many other sharks.
- It lives 1,000 feet below the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- The **new species**, a member of the lantern shark family, has been **named Etmopterus lailae**.
- These **creatures are living in a deep sea environment with almost no light so they need to have a big sniffer to find food.**
- It has other distinctive features like flank markings that go forward and backward on their bellies and a naked patch without scales on the underside of its snout.

SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

Indonesia to host AFC U-19 championship

- Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Competition Committee has awarded **Indonesia the hosting of the AFC Under-19 championship 2018.**
- The AFC U-19 championship is scheduled to be held from **18 October to 4 November 2018.**