

# National Current Affairs

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## **Bharat Ke Veer anthem launched in New Delhi**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched official anthem for “Bharat Ke Veer” sung and composed by singer Kailash Kher.

- Bharat Ke Veer is an initiative with corpus fund to help the families of paramilitary troopers killed in the line of duty.
- So far, it has raised Rs. 12.93 crore for kin of paramilitary personnel killed in the line of duty.
- Bharat ke Veer is web portal and mobile application launched by MHA.
- It is IT based platform to enable willing donors to contribute towards family of braveheart who sacrificed his life in line of duty. The portal is supported by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and powered by State Bank of India.
- The amount so donated through it will be credited to the account of ‘Next of Kin’ of those Central Armed Police Force or Central Para Military Force soldiers.
- To ensure maximum coverage, a cap of Rs. 15 lakh is imposed on donation and donors will be alerted if amount exceeds, so they can choose to divert part of the donation to another account or the corpus.
- Bharat Ke Veer corpus will be managed by committee made up of eminent persons of repute and senior Government officials.
- The committee will decide to disbursement of fund equitably to braveheart’s family on need basis.

## **Government launches Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities**

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the ‘Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities’ in Goa.

It has been developed under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban for rating cities on 7-star rating system based on multiple cleanliness indicators for solid waste management.

- It provides stakeholders with single metric to rate a city’s cleanliness, rather than separately evaluating multiple factors which contribute to city’s overall cleanliness and garbage free status. It will assess many cities for having higher stars as compared to only one city being “Cleanest city” under Swachh Survekshan.
- Indicators: These include Door to Door garbage Collection, source segregation, sweeping, scientific processing of waste, bulk generator compliance, scientific land filling, construction and demolition management, plastic waste management, dump remediation & citizen grievance redressal system etc.

- Rating: Cities will be rated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 star based on their compliance with protocol conditions specified for each of rating.... City will be given rating of 3 star or above only after it is declared ODF (Open Defecation Free).

### **Maharashtra to launch weather advisory system for farmers**

The Maharashtra government is all set to introduce a system to issue daily district-wise weather advisory to farmers across the state.

- The system has a capacity to generate weather alerts for every ten minutes, if required.
- The state is taking a step forward to explore the possibility of issuing weather advisory for farmers to minimise their crop losses due to adverse weather conditions.
- The agriculture commissionerate conceived the proposal a few years back and it has completed setting up of weather stations at 2,050 sites across Maharashtra.
- The first automatic weather station (AWS) in Maharashtra became operational on May 1 last year.

### **Manipur Government launches health assurance scheme for poor & disabled people**

Manipur Government has launched the Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT), a health assurance scheme for the poor and disabled people. It was launched by Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

- The CMHT scheme will provide cashless treatment to poor at government hospitals, health centres and other empanelled selected private hospitals.
- The scheme will provide insurance cover up to Rs 2 lakh per eligible family in treatment of seven critical identified critical ailments – cardiovascular diseases, neurological conditions, kidney ailments, liver ailments, cancer, neo-natal diseases and burns per year.
- The beneficiaries will be identified from Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC).
- They may get themselves enrolled for scheme with help of ASHA workers at kiosks opened in nearby PHCs, CHCs and District Hospitals.
- The CMHT Scheme will have convergence with Government of India programme like PMs Jana Aushadhi Programme and Free Diagnostic Programme.
- It will be truly IT platform driven scheme. Along with Chief Minister-gi Sotharabashing gi Tengbang (CMST) scheme, state government is able to provide two most noble social security schemes to its people.

### **Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu inaugurates World War II Memorial Museum**

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday inaugurated the World War II Memorial Museum here in the state's Changlang district bordering Myanmar.

- Built by the Union Culture Ministry, the Rs 2.25 crore museum in memory of those who laid down their lives in World War II is located adjacent to the historic Stilwell Road and is expected to boost international and domestic tourist inflow especially from Southeast Asian countries.
- Khandu visited the war memorial where remnants of the war, personal belongings of the soldiers and others involved were preserved.

### **India's 1st Garbage Festival Organised In Chhattisgarh**

The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh organised the three-day 'Kachra Mahotsav 2018'. It is India's first Garbage Festival.

- The festival aimed to increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively, and to showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labelled as garbage.
- The three-day festival will be filled with workshops, talks, performances and also some interesting installations.

### **India's automated ocean pollution system to begin this year**

India is all set to have its own automated ocean pollution observation system this year which will help keep a tab on ocean pollution levels apart from offering insights on how the marine system is changing.

- The system will become functional by April this year and the cost of the project is estimated to be at Rs 100 crore.
- The new ocean data acquisition system, called automated moorings, will do away with the present practice of collecting water samples from sea and studying their pollution levels thereafter.
- It will help in monitoring the pollution level of the ocean water and the impact of climate change
- It will also provide data that will help scientists to understand how the marine system is changing.

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## **International Current Affairs**

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### **World Bank signs USD 300m loan for Nepal quake reconstruction**

The World Bank today approved a USD 300 million loan for Nepal as the impoverished nation struggles to raise money to rebuild almost three years after an earthquake killed thousands and flattened homes.

- Nearly 9,000 people died when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck in April 2015, destroying more than half a million homes.
- Only one in ten of those homes has been rebuilt as the third anniversary of the disaster looms and Nepal faces a USD 1.2 billion shortfall in reconstruction funds.
- International donors pledged USD 4.1 billion for reconstruction after the quake -- the strongest to hit Nepal in 80 years -- and the World Bank approved a USD 200 million loan at the time.
- The deal also includes USD 80 million for a livestock project and another USD 60 million credit for vocational training.

### **India to become fastest growing large economy in 2018**

According to Sanctum Wealth Management report, India will overtake China to be the fastest growing large economy in 2018 and the country's equity market will become the fifth largest in the world.

- As per the report, when the rest of the world offers low growth and insufficient structural change, India, by contrast, is seen as a reforming economy with the prospect of strong long-term growth.
- At a time when developed economies are cheering 2-3 per cent growth, India is focused on breaching 7.5 per cent.
- Moreover, India also benefits from a favourable contrast to other emerging markets.

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## **Appointments & Resigns**

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### **CISF Chief O.P Singh IPS To Take Over As Uttar Pradesh DGP**

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Director General OP Singh is likely to take charge as Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police by 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

- Singh, a gallantry medal winner, has been heading the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) since September, 2016 and has been credited for ushering in some major changes in the work profile and operations of the force, especially in the aviation sector.

- As chief of police in Lucknow, he helped in settlement of long-standing Shia-Sunni disputes over religious processions for which he was honoured by the state government in 1998.
- As the Director General of the National Disaster Response Force, the official successfully handled major disasters like Jammu and Kashmir floods, the Nepal earthquake, cyclone Hudhud and Chennai floods

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## Science & Technology

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### **OPV Vijaya: Indian Coast Guard patrol vessel launched**

The second indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named Vijaya built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Shipyard for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard, Tamil Nadu. It is expected to be inducted into service by September 2018 after trials on the equipment.

- The OPV is 98 metre long and 14.8 metres wide with gross tonnage of 2,100 tonnes.
- It has endurance of 5,000 nautical miles with cruising speed of 12-14 knots which can be increased to 26 knots.
- The ship is fitted with two units of diesel driven engines of 9,000 kw each with low fuel consumption.
- It is equipped with state-of art radar, navigational and communication system.
- It will be utilised for day and night patrol and surveillance, anti-terrorist, anti-smuggling operations and coastal security.
- Its navigation and communication system are capable of operating in tropical conditions.
- It also has capacity to carry one integral twin engine helicopter which will further enhance operational, surveillance, search and rescue capability.
- It will be manned by 102 crew, including 14 officers.

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## Sports

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### **Hockey India Sub Junior (Women) National Championship 2018**

The Final match of the 8th Hockey India Sub Junior (Women) National Championship 2018 (A Division) took place here today with hosts Hockey Haryana emerging as the Champions after defeating Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy 6-1.

- Whereas, in the Bronze Medal match, it was Hockey Gangpur-Odisha who edged past Sports Authority of India 4-2 in a thrilling match.
- The Final match saw Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy and Hockey Haryana lock horns to be crowned as the Champions of the competition.
- Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy's only goal was scored by Priyanka Yadav in the 67th minute.

### **Mumbai Marathon Winners**

Ethiopian runners Solomon Deksis and Amane Gobena emerge first in Men's and Women's races

- It was a double triumph for Ethiopian runners as Solomon Deksis and Amane Gobena took top honours in the men's and women's categories respectively at the 2018 Mumbai Marathon.
- Deksis powered home in two hours, nine minutes and 34 seconds while Gobena clocked 2:25:49.
- India's Gopi Thonakal and fellow army man Nitendra Singh Rawat finished just outside the top 10 at 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> places respectively.