

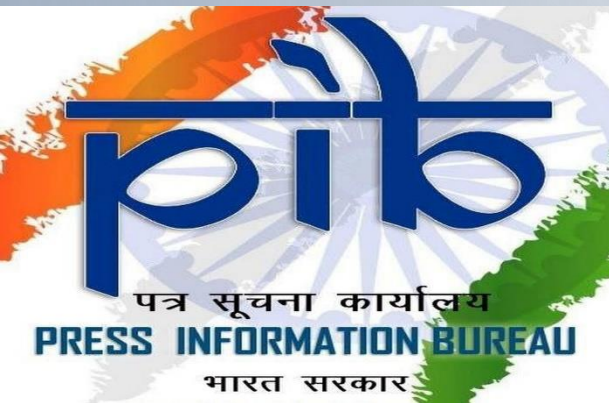


CURRENT AFFAIRS



WEEKLY ROUND-UP

- ✓ **PIB IN DETAIL**
- ✓ **AIR/RS/LSTV SUMMARIES**
- ✓ **NEWSPAPERS DAILY**



08TH JULY TO 14TH JULY, 2018

1. FSSAI: 'The Eat Right Movement'

- a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) unveiled 'The Eat Right Movement', built on two broad pillars of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'.
- b) The programme aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.
- c) Its aim is to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years

Do you know?

The draft Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations 2018 made labelling of salt mandatory, introduced a special red labelling for high in fat, sugar or salt (HFSS), introduced front of pack labelling among others.

Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (WGIA)

- i. **WGIA is an initiative of Government of Japan.**
- ii. **It is to improve the quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories of Asian countries by building capacities through training and exchange of experience.**
- iii. **Members of WGIA - 15 countries including Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.**
- iv. **India is hosting WGIA for the first time.**
- v. **Workshop has been organized by the Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan and is being hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in New Delhi.**
- vi. **GHG inventory experts from member countries participated along with representatives from UNFCCC, IPCC, FAO and other specialized agencies.**

3. Legal Entity for Animal Kingdom

- **The Uttarakhand High Court has declared the entire animal kingdom, including birds and aquatic animals, as a legal entity having rights of a “living person”.**
- **The court has invoked Article 21 of the Constitution - safeguarding the rights of humans, protects life. The court has clarified that the word ‘life’ includes animal world.**
- **According to the judgement, Legal Entity means “The entity acts like a natural person but only through a designated person, whose acts are processed within the ambit of law”.**
- **This means the animal kingdom could be represented by a custodian.**
- **It declared all citizens of Uttarakhand “persons in loco parentis” (in the place of a parent) giving them the responsibility to protect animals and ensure their welfare.**
- **The high court, last year accorded the status of “living entity” to the Ganga and Yamuna rivers , a decision subsequently stayed by the Supreme Court.**

4. Net Neutrality:

In news:

- Government has approved the principle of net neutrality.
- The move will ensure open and free Internet in India.
- Telecom and Internet service providers must treat all data on the Internet equally, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, site, platform, or application.
- They cannot engage in practices such as blocking, slowing down or granting preferential speeds to any content.

Do you know?

The Telecom Commission (TC) — which is the highest decision-making body in the Department of Telecom (DoT) — approved the recommendation made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) eight months ago. TRAI, in November 2017, batted in favour of Net neutrality.

The Telecom Commission is responsible for:

- Formulating the policy of Department of Telecommunications for approval of the Government;
- Preparing the budget for the Department of Telecommunications for each financial year and getting it approved by the Government;
- Implementation of Government's policy in all matters concerning telecommunication.

5. New Pigment in Mushroom

- i. Goa University has recently reported the discovery of a new pigment from local wild mushrooms.**
- ii. The mushrooms contain new sulphur-rich melanin bio-pigment of immense bio-industrial, biomedical (anti-cancer, anti-tumour) and biotechnological potential.**
- iii. It may be the world's first sulphur-rich edible melanin.**
- iv. A Ph.D student, who is a national scholar under Department of Science & Technology INSPIRE Project, cracked the problem in three years, which had eluded scientific community from 40 countries for the past 100 years.**

6. Best tourist spot

- i. Western Ghats has figured in Lonely Planet's top five "2018 Best in Asia" list, a collection of 10 of the best destinations to visit in the continent for the year.**
- ii. It came 4th in the list of the lonely Planet, which is considered a Bible by travellers worldwide.**
- iii. It is one of the Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots and UNESCO World Heritage site.**
- iv. It is older than the Himalayas and well known for its rich and unique flora and fauna.**
- v. Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), which has started blooming after 12 years in the famed hill station of Munnar has found mention in report.**
- vi. The Neelakurinji flower blooms only once every 12 years and is expected to boom from August to October 2018.**

7. Institutions of Eminence

The Government has shortlisted Six Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.

Public Sector - Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, IIT Bombay and IIT, Delhi.

Private Sector - Jio Institute (Reliance Foundation), Pune, Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani , Rajasthan; and Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka.

These institutes were selected based on the recommendations of Empowered committee set up for this purpose.

These institutions will get financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Crore over the period of five years under this scheme.

Other Benefits - These Institutions shall be provided with greater autonomy

- i. To admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students;**
- ii. To recruit foreign faculty up to 25% of faculty strength;**
- iii. To offer online courses up to 20% of its programmes;**
- iv. To enter into academic collaboration with top 500 in the world ranking Institutions without permission of UGC;**
- v. Free to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction;**
- vi. Flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree;**
- vii. Complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, among others.**

These institutions are expected to make into top 500 world rankings in a decade.

8. GRACE-FO

- a) NASA has launched Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO) mission recently.**
- b) It will map changes in water and ice around the world by detecting variations in Earth's gravity.**
- c) It involves two identical spacecraft that will orbit the Earth in tandem.**
- d) It is a follow-on mission to the original GRACE mission, which mapped Earth's gravity field from 2002 to 2017.**
- e) Both missions are joint projects between NASA and the GFZ German Research.**
- f) To detect these gravitational changes, the twin spacecraft will fly about 220 km apart and send microwave signals back and forth.**
- g) When they pass over a region where gravity increases or decreases, the distance between the two spacecraft will change slightly, allowing the satellites to map Earth's gravity field.**

9. Food safety @Temples

- a) Now, temple prasadam to get validation of their safety and quality in the form of certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**
- b) Temples will be soon selling prasadam in food grade containers that will have 'best before' dates.**
- c) There would also be regular inspections from the Food Safety Department (FSD) to ensure quality and quantity in the prasadam being sold.**

10. Consumer Protection in India

- i. The Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 was introduced in the Lok Sabha earlier this year to replace Consumer Protection Act, 1986.**
- ii. The Bill enforces consumer rights and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defect in goods and deficiency in services.**
- iii. The Bill sets up a Central Consumer Protection Authority to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights as a class.**
- iv. The Bill establishes Consumer Protection Councils at the district, state and national levels to render advise on consumer protection.**
- v. If a consumer suffers an injury from a defect in a good or a deficiency in service, he may file a claim of product liability against the manufacturer, the seller, or the service provider.**
- vi. Consumers in India have been guaranteed rights by the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 of Parliament, namely:**
 - a) Right to Safety;**
 - b) Right to be informed;**
 - c) Right to choose;**
 - d) Right to be heard;**
 - e) Right to seek redressal;**
 - f) Right to consumer education.**

11. Tribe in news: Baiga tribe

- I. Baiga tribe : : Madhya Pradesh**
- II. Two tribal women from Baiga tribe were recently arrested for collecting edible mushrooms from Sarai trees inside Madhya Pradesh's Kanha National Park.**
- III. The two were found in prohibited area in the forest.**

12. Operation Sagar Rani – find Formalin in fishes

- a) Contaminated fishes preserved using formalin (formaldehyde) were seized in Kerala and also in Tamil Nadu.**
- b) Formalin, a cancer-inducing chemical, is used to prolong the shelf-life of fish.**
- c) Formalin causes irritation in the eyes, throat, skin and stomach. In the long run continued exposure causes harm to the kidneys, liver and can even cause cancers.**
- d) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) officials have been undertaking tests (under Operation Sagar Rani)**
- e) It ensures the safety of fish sold in the market and ensures that it was handled hygienically at the handling and distribution centres.**

13. Resolution 2427

- a) The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution 2427, which won unanimous approval of the 15 members of the council.**
- b) The resolution aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle.**
- c) It also condemns attacks against schools and hospitals and the denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict.**
- d) It demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to such practices and take special measures to protect children.**

14. Global Innovation Index (GII)

- a) The 11th edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57th most innovative nation in the world.**
- b) The GIi is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.**
- c) GIi ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators.**
- d) India has improved its ranking from 60th position in 2016 and 81st position in 2015.**
- e) China improved its ranking from 22 in 2017 to 17 this year.**
- f) Since 2011, Switzerland has been ranked at the top every year. This year, Netherlands follows at second place and Sweden at third.**

15. Longest Lunar Eclipse of the Century

- a) A total lunar eclipse will occur on July 27-28, 2018 with a totality duration of 1 hour 43 minutes which makes it the longest total lunar eclipse of this century (2001 AD to 2100 AD).**
- b) In this eclipse, the Moon will pass through the central part of the Earth's umbral shadow.**
- c) Longer eclipse – The moon will be at apogee, means at farthest from the Earth in its orbit and will be moving at a slower speed in its orbit.**
- d) This slower moving full Moon will take longer time and greater distance of Earth's umbral shadow cone to travel, making it the longest duration of total eclipse of this century.**
- e) Brighter Moon - On July 27, the red planet Mars, will also be at opposition, meaning that the Sun and Mars will lie opposite to each other, keeping the Earth in the middle.**
- f) This will result in Mars coming close to the Earth, causing it to appear brighter than normal.**

16. Swachh Survekshan Grameen

- a) Government has recently launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 2018.**
- b) It is a nationwide survey of rural India to rank the cleanest and dirtiest States and districts.**
- c) A random selection of 6, 980 villages across 698 districts will be surveyed.**
- d) This is the first comprehensive survey for rural India, which has been launched after three successful editions of a similar survey in urban India.**
- e) The ranking will be based on qualitative and quantitative evaluation.**
- f) The three basic parameters are,**
 - i. Direct observation of public places by independent surveyors,**
 - ii. Service-level progress using data from the Swachh Bharat Mission's information system and**
 - iii. Citizens' feedback.**