

CURRENT AFFAIRS

LEAP and ARPIT

Union Ministry of Human Resource Development launched two new initiatives namely, Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT) for higher education faculty.

Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) is 3 weeks flagship leadership development training programme for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions. The main objective is to prepare second tier academic heads who are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.

Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT) is unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty. It is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds). For implementing ARPIT, 75 discipline-specific institutions have been identified and notified as National Resource Centres (NRCs) in the first phase.

These institutions are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on latest developments in the discipline, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.

‘Sangwari’ polling booths in Chhattisgarh

The Election Commission of India set up ‘Sangwari’ polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh to encourage women voters to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections.

In Chhattisgarhi dialect, ‘Sangwari’ means friend. These women friendly booths will be manned by all-female staff including presiding officers, supervisors and security personnel. Chhattisgarh has about 1 crore 85 lakh electorates. Out of this, more than 92 lakh are females.

The state go for elections in two phases on 12th and 20th November 2018.

GSAT-29 launched

ISRO launched GSAT 29 successfully. ISRO’s heavy-lift rocket GSLV-MkIII-D2 successfully injected GSAT 29 into orbit, which is country’s latest communication satellite.

The satellite intended to meet the communication needs of people in remote areas in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir.

GSAT-29 is a multiband, multi-beam communication satellite, intended to serve as test bed for several new and critical technologies.

GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO. GSLV-MkIII rockets would be used for the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 and the country's manned space missions in future.

World Diabetes Day

World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign focusing on diabetes and observed on 14th November each year.

It was launched in 1991 in response to the rapid rise of diabetes around the world.

The theme for World Diabetes Day 2018 and 2019 is “The Family and Diabetes”. The two year theme timeframe has been chosen to raise awareness of the impact that diabetes has on the family and support network of those affected and promote role of family in management, care, prevention and education of diabetes.

East Asia Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 13th East Asia Summit in Singapore held between 14th - 15th November 2018. The summit discussed global and regional issues, including maritime cooperation.

In the summit, Modi reiterated India's vision of a peaceful, open and inclusive Indo Pacific region, strengthening maritime cooperation and commitment to a balanced partnership.

The East Asia Summit was formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity. East Asia summit is the group of 10 ASEAN nations plus 8 nations including India.

PM Modi interacted with leaders of other countries, including his Japanese counterpart and Vice President of USA before the East Asia Summit Retreat.

Leasing out Six airports

On 8th November 2018, Union Cabinet has given in-principle approval for leasing out six airports of AAI – Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for operation, management and development under Public Private Partnership (PPP) through Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC).

Currently, the airports being managed under the PPP model include Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin.

The move is expected to enhance the revenue to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and increased economic development in these areas in terms of job creation and related infrastructure.

PPP in infrastructure projects brings efficiency in service delivery, expertise, enterprise and professionalism apart from harnessing the needed investments in the public sector.

Global IT Challenge

The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018 was inaugurated on 9th November 2018 at New Delhi.

The objective of the event is to leverage IT skills among youth with disabilities and also to spread awareness about the application of Information and Computer Technology (ICT) in enhancing the quality of life of persons with disabilities especially in Asia-Pacific region.

This year around 100 youth with disabilities (visual disability, hearing disability, locomotor disability and intellectual disability/ developmental disorder) from 18 countries participated.

1 Crore loan in 59 minutes

Narendra Modi unveiled a dedicated digital platform to enable loans of upto Rs. 1 crore in just 59 minutes to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector on 5 November 2018.

The main intention behind this announcement is promoting automation, reducing the lengthy loan approval process and frequent visits to bank branches.

There is no mandatory requirement for collateral as the online portal is directly connected to the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme. www.psbloansin59minutes.com is initiated for this purpose and the rate of interest (RoI) starts from 8%. After the approval in principle of the application, the loan amount will be disbursed in 7-8 working days.

Rs.75 commemorative coin

On November 13rd, 2018, the union ministry of Finance decided to release Rs.75 commemorative coin on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the hoisting of Tricolour for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair, Andaman Nicobar Islands.

Features:

- The coin will bear the portrait of Subhash Chandra Bose saluting the flag on the background of cellular jail.
- A numeral 75th along with inscription “anniversary” will be depicted below the portrait.
- There will be inscription in both Devanagari script and English saying 'First Flag Hoisting Day'.
- The 35-gram coin will be composed of 50 percent silver, 40 percent copper and 5 percent each of nickel and zinc.

Earlier on October 21st, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the National Flag at Red Fort and unveiled the plaque to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government, formed by Bose.

Youth Ambassador

UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) appointed Asian Games gold-medalist sprinter Hima Das as the country's first ever youth ambassador.

In her role as a Youth Ambassador, she will be working towards raising awareness about the rights and needs of children. Hima Das is an Indian sprint runner from the state of Assam. She holds the current Indian national record in 400 metres with timing of 50.79 seconds that she clocked at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

She is the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal in a track event at the IAAF World U20 Championships.

Model Questions

1. Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) will be implemented through
NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) top ranked Indian Institutions
1) 10 2) 15 3) 20 4) 100
5) 50
2. In the field of open education, MOOC stands for.....
1) Monitor Open Online Course 2) Massive Odd Online Course
3) Massive Open Offline Course 4) Massive Open Online Course
5) Multi Open Online Course
3. Which sports person nicknamed as ‘Dhing Express’?
1) M.S.Dhoni 2) Mary com 3) Hima Das 4) Saina Nehwal
5) Virat Kohli
4. Who is the chief Election Commissioner of India?
1) Radha Krishna Mathur 2) K.K.Venu Gopal
3) Om Prakash Rawat 4) Tushar Mehatha
5) Rekha Sharma
5. East Asia Summit is a unique Leaders-led forum of how many nations of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace?
1) 10 2) 12 3) 24 4) 28
5) 18

6. ISRO successfully launches its heaviest satellite GSAT-29 from
- 1) Ahmedabad 2) Chennai 3) Balasore 4) Sriharikota
5) Pune
7. World Diabetes day observed on 14th November, the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered in 1922.
- 1) B Vitamin 2) Amoxicillin 3) Insulin 4) Paracetamol
5) Ibuprofen
8. Who is the present chairman of Airport Authority of India?
- 1) Rajesh Tripathi 2) Vaidyanathan K
3) Guruprasad Mohapatra 4) Raman Pole
5) Bunsy Raman
9. Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar elected from....
- 1) Faridabad, Haryana 2) Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
3) Raighad, Maharashtra 4) Sundergarh, Odisha
5) Purvi Champaran
10. Under 1 Crore loan in 59 minutes scheme, MSMEs will be able to apply for loans from SIDBI and 5 PSU Banks. The 5 PSU banks are SBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Vijaya Bank and
- 1) Indian Bank 2) Bank of India
3) Andhra Bank 4) Allahabad Bank
5) Canara Bank

KEY

1-2; 2-4; 3-3; 4-3; 5-5; 6-4; 7-3; 8-3; 9-1; 10-1.

Writer: Veeraswamy Amara