

April-30

NATIONAL

Central Project Monitoring Unit: e-Vidhan

- ❖ The Government has launched Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project at Parliament.
- ❖ The new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for the e-Vidhan project of the Government was created as a part of Swachhata Pakhwada being observed by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from April 16th to 30th, 2018.
- ❖ e-Vidhan is a project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless.
- ❖ The Government expects the project to contribute to the cleanliness & environment by reducing the use of papers to a great extent.
- ❖ The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for the project.
- ❖ One of the key component of the strategy devised for implementation of the project is to create Project Monitoring Units both at Central as well as State levels.

e-Sanad

- ❖ Ministry of Human Resource Development integrated e-SANAD portal and National Academic Depository.
- ❖ e-Sanad is aimed at online verification of the documents with an objective to extend contactless, cashless and paperless document attestation/ apostille service to applicants in India as well as abroad.
- ❖ The programme aims to promote Indian education to 2 lakh international students by 2023. 55% of the total seats will be available, under fee waiver scheme on merit basis.
- ❖ The programme will however not affect the number of seats available for Indian students.
- ❖ Further, eSanad has been integrated with Non- Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP) successfully for cashless payment.

BCCI under RTI

- ❖ The Law Commission has recommended that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) along with its constituent member cricketing associations be covered under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
- ❖ The Commission, headed by Justice (retd) B S Chauhan, has held that BCCI exercises state-like powers affecting the fundamental rights of the stakeholders, guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Commission also noted that it falls under the definition of a public authority that has received substantial financing from governments.
- ❖ From 2007-2008 onwards, the registration of BCCI under section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as a charitable trust, was withdrawn.
- ❖ Hence, it has been recommended that BCCI be viewed as an agency or instrumentality of State.
- ❖ The Commission concluded that BCCI ought to be classified as “state” within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution.

Defense Planning

- ❖ The Centre has set up a Defence Planning Committee (DPC) chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) AjitDoval to facilitate "comprehensive" planning for the defence forces besides focusing on military doctrines to deal with emerging security challenges.
- ❖ Apart from the NSA, the committee will comprise the foreign secretary, chairman of chiefs of staff committee, the Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs and secretary (expenditure) in the Finance Ministry.
- ❖ The chairman of the DPC can co-opt experts into it depending on requirement.

Offline Aadhaar Verification

- ❖ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has brought an updated QR code on e-Aadhaar.
- ❖ This updated digitally signed 'QR code' will now contain the photograph of the Aadhaar user with other non-sensitive details like name, address and birth date.
- ❖ The new 'QR code' can be used for offline user verification without disclosing the 12-digit identification number.

INTERNATIONAL

Geneva Digital Convention

- ❖ Microsoft and 33 other companies have signed on to a four-point agreement that pledges they will protect their customers and will oppose state-sponsored attacks on users.
- ❖ The cybersecurity convention is also called as “Digital Geneva Convention”
- ❖ No companies based in countries that have been blamed for cyberattacks—including Russia, North Korea, Iran, and China—are on the list of signatories.
- ❖ Four Principles of Cybersecurity Tech Accord
 - To protect users and customers everywhere
 - To oppose cyberattacks on innocent citizens and enterprises
 - To empower users, customers and developers to strengthen cybersecurity
 - To partner with each other and like-minded groups to enhance cybersecurity.

U.N.’s Economic and Social Council Election – India

- ❖ India has won six elections to United Nations Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) bodies, five of them unanimously.
- ❖ In the polls, India won places on the executive boards of four UN bodies, three commissions and a committee.
- ❖ India topped the election to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations.
- ❖ India was also elected by acclamation to the Commission on Population and Development for a term beginning April 16, 2018 and expiring in 2021.
- ❖ The Council elected India and Kuwait (Asia-Pacific States) by acclamation to the Commission for Social Development.
- ❖ India was among the 17 members elected by acclamation to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
- ❖ India was among 14 nations elected by acclamation by the Council to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United

Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

- ❖ For the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Council elected by acclamation 16 members, including India, for a three-year term beginning January 2019.

Malaria Summit - London

- ❖ India failed to participate in the Malaria Summit in London.
- ❖ The summit was organized by non-profit organisation 'Malaria No More' in collaboration with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and supported by British Prime Minister Theresa May
- ❖ India has the third largest malaria cases in the world after Congo and Nigeria.
- ❖ One in seven Indians is at risk of contracting malaria.

ECONOMICS

BRICS credit rating agency

- ❖ India has pressed the BRICS nations to set up an independent rating agency of the five-member group.

- ❖ The first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings.

- ❖ India had first mooted the idea of having such

an agency for the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping to solve impediments for the emerging market economies.

Breaking the Monopoly

BRICS NATIONS • Brazil • Russia • India • China • South Africa	» AIM To challenge western hegemony in the world of finance	» CURRENT SCENE Moody's, Fitch and Standard & Poor's – together account for 90% of the global ratings market
	» REASON To assess economic growth in Asia and in non-western countries	» COMPLAIN Western ratings firms are biased, optimistic on developed nations and pessimistic on the developing ones

» NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

- Headquarter to be based in Shanghai
- NDB Institute will be located in India

OTHER PLANS
BRICS Railway Research Institute & Agriculture Research Institute may be set up in India

ZAHID

- ❖ At present the dominated credit rating agency in emerging market economies are S&P, Moody's and Fitch.

Nokia tax dispute

- ❖ India and Finland have reached an accord on the tax dispute with Nokia under the Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP)
- ❖ Nokia factory in Sriperumbudur was issued Income Tax notice and asset freeze was imposed on the factory.
- ❖ Nokia India was issued a demand notice for ₹2,500 crores in 2013, which was thereafter reduced to ₹1,600 crores.
- ❖ The issue surrounding the alleged tax payable by Nokia “has been resolved”, paving the way for the company to sell its plant shuttered for long in Chennai
- ❖ Under MAP, settling a case with the other government essentially means closing all pending proceedings related to a tax matter.
- ❖ It is increasingly seen as the preferred mode for settling cross-border disputes.

Right Call

The resolution covers disputes pertaining to Nokia India and Nokia Corp

I-T dept had issued a tax notice of ₹2,500 CRORE to Nokia India in 2013	After rectification, tax amount came to ₹1,600 CRORE
ABOUT ₹10,000 CRORE TAX DEMAND ON NOKIA CORP DROPPED	Nokia India has paid this tax
	THE FIRST HIGH-PROFILE MNC TAX CASE TO BE RESOLVED

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

High Security Registration Plates

- ❖ From January 1, 2019, all classes of motor vehicles will come fitted with tamper-proof High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) that have a host of in-built security features.
- ❖ They are expected to offer increased protection against theft.

- ❖ The HSRPs will come with a 15-year guarantee. They will have in-built security features such as a self-destructive sticker with the engine and chassis number of the vehicle.
- ❖ The plates will be fitted on the front and rear of the vehicles and windscreens will have a number plate tag with hologram.
- ❖ Vehicle manufacturers can themselves produce the HSRP and obtain the Type approval certificate from the Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi, or any one of the six testing agencies authorised by the Centre.

NEW AGE NUMBER PLATES

'India' inscribed at a 45 degree angle

Chromium-based hologram

Unique identification number

Retro-reflective film

RTO Vehicle database

- Registration mark displayed on front, rear and on windshield of vehicles.
- The plate will be made of 1 mm aluminium with rounded edges.
- Plate contains Chromium-based chakra hologram and the acronym 'IND' inscribed in blue colour.
- It also features a 7 digit unique laser code, self-destructive windshield sticker and a non-removable snap lock.
- Any attempt to remove or replace the number plates breaks the snap lock making it impossible to install any other number plate.
- The new number plates would be fitted within the premises of RTOs.

Potent molecule to treat chikungunya

- ❖ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee have identified two small potent molecules Pep-I and Pep-II.
- ❖ These two molecules are very much useful in Chikungunya disease treatment because of its great inhibitory activity.
- ❖ The antiviral activity of these molecules was so high that their small amount was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in virus activity.
- ❖ Pep-I molecule was very efficient in killing the virus, 99% reduction in virus at 5 micro Molar.

Chikungunya

Chikungunya is transmitted through the bite of the **Aedes Aegypti** and the **Aedes Albopictus** Mosquito. The second is only found in Izabal

Aedes Aegypti

Aedes Albopictus

Symptoms

- just like dengue: body aches, but more intense in joints and tendons, can become chronic and cause blindness
- fever
- headaches
- tiredness
- depression
- nausea
- rash

symptoms will begin to appear three to seven days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

Prevention

- do not store water in open containers so that they do not become breeding sites for mosquitoes
- cover tanks or containers for water for domestic use
- do not accumulate trash, dispose of trash in your yard

- cut your grass regularly to destroy potential breeding or resting sites
- use mesh or screens on your windows and doors
- use repellent or long sleeves to avoid getting bitten



- ❖ It was found to effectively bind to protein of virus and prevent virus from replicating.
- ❖ Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne virus that causes a disease which is transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes.
