

June – 25

NATIONAL

Paper setters to receive training from NTA

- ❖ Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has announced that National Testing Agency (NTA) will train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers.
- ❖ NTA was set up to relieve Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other educational regulator bodies from the burden of conducting multiple examinations.
- ❖ It will take over all examinations from the CBSE (except the 10th and 12th board examinations) from 2019 in a phased manner.
- ❖ It will be also conducting prestigious
 - Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and
 - National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) - except AIIMS and JIPMER, Puducherry.

National Testing Agency (NTA)

- ❖ NTA was approved by Union cabinet in November 2017 as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions in India.
- ❖ It is registered as a society under Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ It mandates is to conduct entrance tests entrusted to it by any department or ministry and put in place a robust system for conducting of examinations.
- ❖ It is chaired by eminent educationist appointed by Ministry of HRD. Its CEO will be Director General (DG) appointed by Government.
- ❖ Besides, it has Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.

Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty

- ❖ Indian Army is observing the year 2018 as “Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty” to honor soldiers who have been disabled in the line of duty.



- ❖ The primary focus of this initiative is to alleviate sufferings of these soldiers, who have done their duty with utmost dedication to the nation and have been disabled for the life.

IRDAI constitutes Suresh Mathur committee

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has set up a 10-member committee to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in the country.
- ❖ The committee is headed by Suresh Mathur, Executive Director (insurance marketing firms), IRDAI.
- ❖ The committee has been asked to revisit IRDAI (Registration of Insurance Marketing Firms) Regulations, 2015.
- ❖ IMF's new distribution channel was introduced by IRDAI in 2015, with the objective of increasing insurance penetration through area-wise registration approach.
- ❖ The channel has now been in operation for three years.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)

- ❖ IRDA is an apex statutory body that regulates and develops the insurance industry in India.
- ❖ It was constituted as per provisions of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. It is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana.

INDRA 2018

- ❖ The tri-service joint military exercise Indra-2018 between India and Russia will take place at Indian military base in second half of 2018.
- ❖ In this edition of exercise, combined military units of Russian Eastern Military District will participate in military drills.
- ❖ INDRA military exercise was launched in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between India and Russia to boost cooperation and interoperability between navies of two countries.
- ❖ The name of the exercise INDRA has been derived from INDia and RussiA.
- ❖ This exercise was transformed into a tri-services military exercise in 2017 and was for the first time held successfully in October 2017 at Vladivostok, Russia.
- ❖ It was India's first joint tri-services exercise and also first between Russia and India.
- ❖ It was also the first time Russia has hosted tri-services military exercise on its soil.

ENVIRONMENT

National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project.
- ❖ It is country's first ever healthcare establishment census to collect data from all public and private healthcare establishments.
- ❖ NHRR Project aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizen and provider-centric services by creating robust, standardized and secured IT-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.
- ❖ The census will be conducted under Collection of Statistics Act 2008.

STATES

Chief Ministers Subgroup

- ❖ The Union Government has constituted Chief Ministers Subgroup to coordinate policy approaches for the agriculture sector and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- ❖ Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be its convener and CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim along with Member NITI Aayog, Ramesh Chand as its members.
- ❖ It will suggest a wider choice of State-specific interventions both for pre-sowing and post-harvest to improve thrust on incomes, waste to wealth and water conservation.

7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme

- ❖ Haryana Government has launched 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme to give star rankings to its panchayats on the basis of seven social parameters.
- ❖ Ambala has topped star ranking followed by Gurugram and Karnal.
- ❖ Gram panchayats scoring maximum in all parameters will be recognized as Indradhanush Gram Panchayats.
- ❖ Villages winning six stars will be entitled to get additional developmental works worth Rs 20 lakh. Villages with 5 stars rating will get additional developmental works worth Rs. 15 lakhs.
- ❖ Villages with 4 stars will get additional developmental works worth Rs 10 lakh.

Pink star	❖ It will be awarded to those panchayats that make an outstanding performance in improving sex ratio.
Green star	❖ It is for protection of the environment
White Star	❖ Cleanliness
Saffron star	❖ It is for crime-free villages.
Sky color star	❖ It will be awarded to the village that will have no dropout.
Golden star	❖ It is for good governance.



Silver star	❖ It will be awarded for participation in the development of villages.
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- ❖ Villages for achieving each parameter will be rewarded Rs 1 lakh. Villages having equal or more girl population will be given Rs 50,000 as a bonus with their reward money.
- ❖ Similarly, villages which adopt Swachhta Mission will be given additional Rs 50,000 as reward.
