

July – 05

NATIONAL

Home Minister's Special Operation Medal

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved institution of Home Minister's Special Operation Medal.
- ❖ It also has instituted three more Medals- Antarik Suraksha Medal, Asadharan Aashuchan Padak, and Utkrisht & Ati-Utkrisht Seva Medal.
- ❖ HM's Special Operation Medal and Asadharan Aashuchan Padak will be awarded annually on Independence Day (15th August).
- ❖ Antarik Suraksha Medal and Utkrisht & Ati-Utkrisht Seva Medal will be announced on Republic Day (26th January).
- ❖ There will be no limit or quota for awarding HM's Special Operation Medal, Asadharan Aashuchan Padak and Antarik Suraksha Medal.
- ❖ There will be cap of 1% and 0.5% of sanctioned strength rank subject to the eligibility conditions for the Utkrisht and Ati-Utkrisht Seva Medal respectively.

India's First Global Mobility Summit

- ❖ NITI Aayog is going to organise 'MOVE: Global Mobility Summit' on September, 2018 collaboration with various ministries and industry partners.
- ❖ The summit will be held in New Delhi and will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ It will help to drive India's goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth, thus, speeding up India's transition to a clean energy economy.

Golden Globe Race (GGR)

- ❖ Naval officer Commander Abhilash Tomy of Indian Navy has participated in historic Golden Globe Race (GGR), which commenced from Les Sables d'Olonne harbour in western France.
- ❖ He will be representing India in indigenously built sailing vessel Thuriya, a replica of 1950s sailing vessel Suhaili.

- ❖ Tomy, one of India's prominent sailors and a recipient of the Kirti Chakra, is the only participant from Asia.
- ❖ There are 18 participants, including one-woman sailor, in the race. The race is expected to end at Les Sables d'Olonne in April 2019.
- ❖ Commander Abhilash Tomy is only Indian to complete solo, non-stop circumnavigation of globe in 2012-13, on-board Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Mhadei, and has covered 53,000 nautical miles under sail.

Golden Globe Race

- ❖ The Golden Globe Race is being conducted by Sir Robin Knox Johnston of the UK to commemorate 50 years of the world's first solo non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968 on board the Indian built boat, Suhaili.
- ❖ The uniqueness of the race is that boat designs and technology newer than 1968 are not permitted.
- ❖ Hence, the use of Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communication, navigational aids, etc are forbidden.

ECONOMY

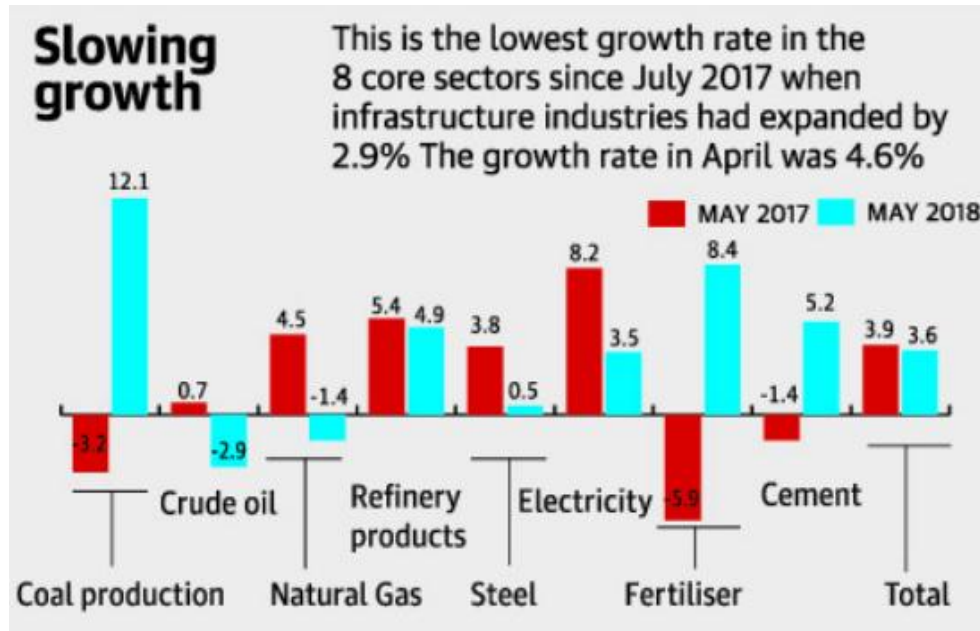
Tariff concessions to APTA members

- ❖ India has agreed to provide tariff concessions on 3,142 products to Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) members, from July 1, 2018.
- ❖ APTA is an initiative under United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of Asia Pacific Region.
- ❖ It is preferential trade agreement (PTA), under which basket of items as well as extent of tariff concessions are enlarged during trade negotiating rounds.

Index of Eight Core Industries

- ❖ According to Index of Eight Core Industries released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the growth of eight core infrastructure industries has dropped to 10-month low of 3.6% in May 2018.
- ❖ It is mainly due to decline in production of crude oil and natural gas.
- ❖ This is the lowest growth rate since July 2017 when eight core infrastructure industries had expanded by 2.9%.

- ❖ The growth rate recorded in April 2018 stood higher at 4.6%.



- ❖ Core industries can be defined as main or key industries of the economy.
- ❖ In India, there are eight core sectors comprising of coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.
- ❖ The eight infrastructure sectors, constitute 40.27% of the total index of industrial production (IIP).

Ravindra Dholakia committee

- ❖ The Union Government has constituted 13-member Committee for Sub-National Accounts to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level
- ❖ It has been formed in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or Gross Domestic Production (GDP) calculation.
- ❖ It will be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad.
- ❖ CSO had last updated base year for GDP calculation to 2011-12 from January 2015, replacing old series base year of 2004-05.
- ❖ MOSPI is planning to change base year to 2017-18 for calculation of GDP and Index Industrial Production (IIP) numbers from current 2011-12 with an aim to capture changes in the economy.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Head of UNMOGIP

- ❖ United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Major General Jose Eladio Alcain of Uruguayan Army as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
 - ❖ He will succeed Major General Per Gustaf Lodin of Sweden, who completed his two-year assignment.
 - ❖ UNMOGIP has been established by UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution and started its operations in 1949.
 - ❖ It has been tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ❖ UNMOGIP has 44 military observers, 25 international civilian personnel from 10 countries and 47 local civilian staff.
 - ❖ The group is financed by the United Nations regular budget.
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