



CURRENT  
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26<sup>rd</sup>  
FEB2018

### **Government Launches Swajal Programme and Gangotri Swachh Iconic Place Project**

- ❖ Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti, launched the Bagori Ganga Gram project, New Swajal Project at Bagori and Gangotri Iconic Place in Uttarakhand. The projects aim at cleanliness, providing basic amenities to the people of Ganga bank villages and generating employment. People were urged to plant trees on the river bank is also the responsibility of people. More than 1.5 lac saplings are ready to be planted in Ganga Catchment area in Uttarkashi this year. Swajal Project is a community-owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.

### **Light Transport Aircraft "Saras" Completes Second Test Flight Successfully**

- ❖ India's indigenously built light transport aircraft Saras completed its second test flight successfully in Bengaluru. Wing Commander U P Singh, Group Captain R V Panicker and Group Captain K P Bhat of the Indian Air Force commanded the test flight from HAL airport. This test flight is second of the 20 test flights planned for Saras PT1N before being frozen for production. It is designed and developed by the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories and will be 20-25% cheaper than the other imported aircraft in the same category. The seating capacity will be for 19 persons and it will cost around 40 to 45 crore. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will produce the military versions of Saras while the civil version will be produced by identified private industries.

### **6 New Features In E-NAM Platform**

- ❖ Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched six new features in the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform to make it more user-friendly. The six new features of e-NAM platform includes Management Information System dashboard for better analysis. BHIM payment facility for traders. Mobile payment facility for traders. Enhanced features on mobile app such as gate entry and payment through mobile. Integration of farmer's database. e-Learning module for better understanding.

### **India ranks 81 in global corruption perception index**

- ❖ The 2017 corruption perception index, released by anti-graft watchdog Transparency International, has ranked India at 81 among 180 countries and territories. India's score in 2017 is 40 — the same as 2016, and an increase since 2015, when it was 38. The index says New Zealand and Denmark are the least corrupt countries, while Syria, Sudan and Somalia figure are ranked the most corrupt. Among BRICS nations, South Africa has been ranked the least corrupt (71), while Russia (135) is the most corrupt.

## Projects worth nearly Rs. 4,000 crore approved in 9th executive committee meeting of NMCG

- ❖ In the 9th Executive Committee meeting of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), projects worth nearly Rs 4,000 crore were approved including a 20 MLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) for tannery cluster at Jajmau in Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. This 3-phased project at an estimated cost of Rs. 629 crore includes pre-treatment unit in 380 individual tannery units, a 20 CETP with physical, biological and tertiary treatment, installation of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)-based pilot plant of 200 KLD capacity among other components. The central share of this project is Rs. 472 crore. This is a major step forward in arresting the pollution in Ganga emanating from the crucial industrial town of Kanpur. The project will be executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) – Jajmau Tannery Effluent Treatment Association.

## Indian scientists develop next generation technology loop to generate clean Energy

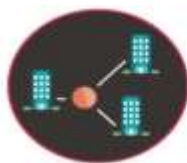
- ❖ Indian scientists have developed a super critical carbon dioxide Brayton test loop facility that would help generate clean energy from future power plants including solar thermal. This next generation technology loop was developed indigenously by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. This is India's first test-bed for next generation, efficient, compact, waterless super critical carbon dioxide Brayton cycle test loop for power generation. The technology is perhaps the first test loop coupled with solar heat source in the world.

## India signs MoU with Canada's International Development Research Centre

- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to usher the "programme based research support" in addressing current and future global and local developmental challenges, was signed on 22 February, 2018. Since 1972, IDRC has funded 551 research activities worth CA\$159 million in India through institutions, researchers and NGOs. During the last five years (2012-17), 96 research projects worth CA\$ 51 million were funded by the IDRC in India.

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