



### **RISE Scheme: IITs to Get 25% of Government Loans**

- ❖ Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) scheme announced in this year's budget has been launched under which the Indian Institute of Technology will get 25% loans on offer under the new funding model. Under this scheme, 11 centrally-funded institutes (CFIs), including central universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs, can borrow from a Rs 1,00,000 crore corpus over the next four years to expand and build new infrastructure. A quarter of this amount — Rs 25,000 crore — will be set aside exclusively for the 23 IITs. 20,000 crore, will be secured for central universities. While the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) can borrow up to Rs 11,300 crore, the new IIMs will get Rs 4,500 crore, and five IISERs Rs 5,000 crore.

### **China Elected as Vice President of FATF**

- ❖ China has been elected as the vice-president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and India congratulated China for acquiring an important position in the global money-laundering watchdog. FATF had in its plenary session on 23 February decided to put Pakistan back on the “grey list”, subjecting it to direct monitoring and intense scrutiny by the International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) on terror financing, pending a further review in June.

### **Saudi Arabia allows women to join military**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia has for the very first time opened applications for women to enlist in the military as the kingdom continues to enact reforms granting females more access to a wide range of previously forbidden careers. Interested candidates can apply for positions with the rank of soldier in the provinces of Riyadh, Mecca, al-Qassim and Medina. A list of requirements says applicants must be Saudi citizens and aged between 25 and 35 with a high school diploma.

### **Govt sanctions Rs. 1200 cr to clear pollution in Delhi**

- ❖ In a move to provide Delhi residents relief from the burgeoning air pollution crisis in the city, the central government has sanctioned schemes worth Rs 1,200 crore to keep a check on alarming pollution levels in the capital. According to NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, on account of the air quality worsening in Delhi due to burning crop residue from October to December months, the schemes will help curb pollution.

### **National Science Day: 28 February**

- ❖ National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman on 28 February 1928. For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. The theme of the year 2018 is "Science and Technology for a sustainable future."

## Shri J P Nadda chairs 5th meeting of Mission Steering Group of NHM

- ❖ “The Health and Wellness Centers are expected to provide preventive, promotive, rehabilitative and curative care for a package of 12 services.” This was stated by Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare as he chaired the 5th meeting of the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission (NHM) in New Delhi. Shri Hardeep S Puri, Union Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Smt. Anupriya Patel, Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog were also present at the meeting.

## Karnataka beat Saurashtra to win Vijay Hazare Trophy

- ❖ Sensible batting from opener Mayank Agarwal (90) helped Karnataka outplay Saurashtra by 41 runs in the final match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 50-overs cricket tournament. Following the win, Karnataka pacer Sreenath Arvind also announced his retirement from first-class and list A cricket. This is the third title for Karnataka. Points to Remember The Vijay Hazare Trophy was started in 2002–03 as a limited-overs cricket domestic competition involving state teams from the Ranji Trophy plates. It is named after the famous Indian cricketer Vijay Haza

## Second India-Korea Business Summit Held

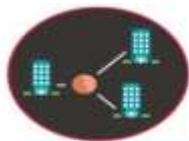
- ❖ Second India-Korea Business Summit organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in partnership with ChosunILbo, KOTRA, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Invest India, was held in New Delhi. Aim of the summit is to strengthen the economic relationship, boost trade relations and increase investments between India and Republic of Korea. The roundtable included delegates from both Governments and 25 CEOs from leading Korean companies with an estimated revenue of USD 575 billion.

## India Ranks 47th on Inclusive Internet Index

- ❖ India is ranked 47th out of 86 countries when it comes to inclusive Internet and connectivity for all, a Facebook report said. Facebook, which commissioned the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) to create a comprehensive “Inclusive Internet Index,” found India in the middle of Asian countries (12th out of 23) when it comes to connectivity.”

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