

National Current Affairs

Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is clearly unconstitutional : SC

- The Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality with a prayer to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) community to forgive history for their “brutal” suppression.

President Kovind sets off on Europe tour

- President Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Cyprus on the first leg of his three-nation tour to continue India’s high-level engagements with European countries. He will also visit Bulgaria and the Czech Republic.

Bi-annual talks between Indian and Bangladesh

- The bi-annual talks between Indian and Bangladeshi border forces began in New Delhi aimed at increasing bilateral cooperation in checking trans-border crimes such as smuggling of drugs and narcotics, cattle lifting and gun running across the international border between the two countries.

Government approves proposal to increase wages of artisans by over 36 %

- The Government has approved a proposal to increase wages of artisans by over 36 per cent, from five rupees 50 paise per hank to seven rupees 50 paise.

Gandhijis Nai Talim – curriculum on Experiential Learning released

- Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar released the curriculum on Experiential Learning – Gandhijis Nai Talim in New Delhi. This curriculum was brought out simultaneously in 13 languages in consultation with the state councils of educational research and training along with the universities in the country.

“Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office” book – Venkaiah Naidu [to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu] released by PM Modi.

An array of initiatives towards strengthening the skills ecosystem launched

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced an array of initiatives towards strengthening the skills ecosystem in India.

India to soon deploy 1st ‘smart fence’ project along Pak, Bangladesh border

- The first ‘smart fence’ pilot project, which entails deploying laser fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug venerable gaps along India’s borders, is expected to be formally launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh

Universal helpline service for women in distress

- Goa government’s Women and Child Development Ministry launched a universal helpline service (by dialling 181) for women in distress in the coastal state.

All railway tracks to be electrified

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the proposal for electrification of the remaining 13,675 route km of railway tracks converting the entire railway network into electric.

New Domestic Terminal Building at Patna Airport

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the construction of New Domestic Terminal Building and other allied structures at Patna airport.

Haryana CM announces sharp reduction in power tariff

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced a sharp reduction in electricity tariff in the state.

Bihar government approves Rs. 1 lakh interim relief for mob violence victims

- Bihar government has approved a scheme for providing interim relief of Rs. one lakh to those affected by mob violence.

SC issues directions to Centre, states for rehabilitation of leprosy patients

- The Supreme Court directed the Centre to consider framing separate rules for granting disability certificates to leprosy patients for availing reservation and various welfare benefits.

Paryatan Parv

- The ‘Paryatan Parv’ by the Ministry of Tourism was inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh.

Space technology incubation centre in Tripura

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a space technology incubation centre in Tripura capital Agartala.

DAC Approves Procurement of Equipment Worth Rs 9,100 Crores

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded approval for the procurement of equipment for the Defence Forces valued at over Rs 9,100 crores.

Revised Cost Estimate of Dam rehabilitation and Improvement Project

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Revised Cost Estimate of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at the revised cost of Rs 3466 crore with the financial assistance of the World Bank to improve safety and operational performance of Dams.

Cabinet approves ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence

- Union cabinet approved an ordinance making instant triple talaq a punishable offence with a three-year jail term.

Ordinance banning the practice of instant triple talaq promulgated

- President Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated an Ordinance banning the practice of instant triple talaq.

‘Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha’ inaugurated

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Ayushman Bharat in Ranchi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana from Ranchi in Jharkhand.

PM inaugurates Jharsuguda Airport

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a new airport in Jharsuguda – also known as the powerhouse of Odisha. The Prime Minister also flagged off the UDAN flight on Jharsuguda-Raipur sector.

PM inaugurates Pakyong Airport in Sikkim

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim. This is the first airport in the Himalayan State, and the 100th airport in the country.

SC declares Aadhaar scheme as Constitutionally valid

- The Supreme Court declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid.

Cabinet approves National Digital Communication Policy

- The Cabinet has approved the National Digital Communication Policy 2018 which aims to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 MBPS to every citizen. It will also provide one Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.

Government increases customs duties on 19 items

- The government has increased Custom Duty on 19 items, including jet fuel, ACs and refrigerators to curb imports of non-essential goods.

Adultery no longer a criminal offence

- Supreme Court scrapped the pre-Independence provision of adultery in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which treats a married woman as a commodity owned by her husband.
- Section 497 (adultery) gives a husband the exclusive right to prosecute his wife's lover. If found guilty, the adulterer faces five years behind bars.

Inauguration of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi.

Country's first tribal tourism circuit inaugurated in Chhattisgarh

- The country's first tribal tourism circuit was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Tourism K J Alphons in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh. The tourism circuit is being developed under the Swadesh Darshan scheme. It covers 13 sites in Chhattisgarh.

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