



### Current Affairs - May to october2018

Month  Type




- [58 Current Affairs were found in Last Six Months for Type - Committees and Schemes](#)

(Showing **36** Important Ones)

#### Committees

- ▶ 15th Fifteenth Finance Commission constituted a high level group consisting of eminent experts from across country in Health Sector. Randeep Guleria (Director of AIIMS Delhi) will be its Convenor (Chairman). It will evaluate existing regulatory framework in Health sector and examine its strength and weaknesses for enabling a balanced yet faster expansion of health sector. It will also examine best international practices for health sector and seek to benchmark our frameworks to these practices for optimizing benefits.
- ▶ 5G steering committee chaired by Stanford University's Professor AJ Paulraj submitted its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT). It was set up by Government in September 2017 to suggest a road map for adoption of 5G. Recommendations Include -
  - ▶ It expects commercial rollout of 5G in India by 2020 and advance to full range of services by 2024.
  - ▶ Deployment of 5G in India should be classified into three phases based on technologies and use cases.
  - ▶ Early adoption will likely make equipment needed for 5G roll out more expensive and it will also be glitchy as needed for cost maturing. However, early adoption will fast track India's embrace of 5G's benefits and increase opportunities.
  - ▶ After entry of 5G into Indian telecom sector, earlier generation mobile technologies – 2G, 3G and 4G, will take over 10 years to phase out.
- ▶ 9-member group has been constituted with Shivaji B Zaware as convener, to enquire and list ongoing issues with Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS).
- ▶ A parliamentary panel has been formed to examine functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears. It will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya.
- ▶ BN Srikrishna Committee submitted its report on data protection law, applicable for processing of personal data within India. Provisions -
  - ▶ Critical personal data of Indian citizens shall be processed in centres located within country. It leaves it to Central Government to notify categories of personal data that will be considered as critical.
  - ▶ Some personal data can be transferred outside India with some riders, with 1 copy stored in India.
  - ▶ Recommends setting up of a Data Protection Authority (DPA) to prevent misuse of personal information and also provides for setting up an Appellate Tribunal.
  - ▶ It suggests a penalty of Rs 15 crore or 4 % of total worldwide turnover of any data collection entity for violating provisions.
  - ▶ Failure to take prompt action on a data security breach can attract up to Rs 5 crore or 2 percent of turnover as a penalty.
- ▶ Committee on review of penal provisions of Company Act 2013 submitted its report to Finance Ministry. It was constituted in July 2018 to review framework for dealing with offences under Companies Act 2013 and make recommendations to promote better corporate compliance. It was headed by Injeti Srinivas (Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs). Main recommendations Include -
  - ▶ Restructuring of Corporate Offences to relieve Special Courts from adjudicating routine offences - Re-categorization of 16 out of the 81 compoundable offences by shifting them from the jurisdiction of special courts to an in-house E-adjudication framework
  - ▶ De-clogging NCLT by -
    - ▶ Enlarging jurisdiction of Regional Director with enhanced pecuniary limits for compounding of offences.
    - ▶ Vesting in Central Government the power to approve alteration in financial year of a company.
  - ▶ Recommendations related to corporate compliance and corporate governance

- ✎ Re-introduction of declaration of commencement of business provision to better tackle the menace of 'shell companies'.
  - ✎ Greater disclosures with respect to public deposits, particularly in respect of transactions exempted from the definition of public deposits.
7. ▶ Culture Ministry formed three high-powered panels that will work to set up a unique museum on Theme *Prime Ministers of India* in New Delhi. It will tell the story of all prime ministers of country. Formed Committees and their tasks are -
    - ✎ Content Committee and Project implementation committees headed by Shakti Sinha.
    - ✎ Swapan Dasgupta Committee - Will vet content for curation for museum
  8. ▶ During 30th Meeting of GST Council, 7-Member Group of Ministers (GoM) was tasked to examine proposal of Kerala Government for imposition of Cess on SGST for rehabilitation and flood affected works this issue in depth. Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar is Convenor of the GoM.
  9. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) constituted 3 member committee to look into draft food labelling and display regulations-Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2018, headed by B Sesikeran.
  10. ▶ GST Council constituted 2 Group of Ministers (GoM) -
    - ✎ First GoM - Will consider issues relating to incentivizing digital payments in GST regime, with Sushil Kumar Modi (Deputy CM of Bihar) as convenor.
    - ✎ Second GoM - Will consider issues relating to imposition of Cess on Sugar under GST. Himanta Biswa Sarma (Finance Minister of Assam) is its convenor.
  11. ▶ Government constituted Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu, to advise Prime Minister on whether to continue or withdraw from 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.
  12. ▶ Government constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review Competition Act, which was passed in 2002 and Competition Commission of India was set up. Commission started functioning from 2009. The committee is headed by Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Currently Injeti Srinivas).
  13. ▶ Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at workplace. It will be chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh. With 3 other Union Ministers as Members.
  14. ▶ Government constituted a group to study Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India (implemented from 01st April, 2000), to be headed by Bharat Forge Chairman Baba Kalyani. Group will evaluate SEZ policy, suggest measures to cater to needs of exporters in present economic scenario and make SEZ policy WTO compatible, suggest course correction in SEZ policy.
  15. ▶ Government constituted a high-level task force under Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha to identify measures to reduce dependence on imports. It will suggest ways to cut import of those items which can be manufactured or explored in country. India is heavily dependent on imports, as India's imports stand at around US \$450 billion per year.
  16. ▶ Government constituted new 21-member advisory panel on science, technology and innovation called Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). It will be headed by Principal Scientific Advisor to government K Vijay Raghavan.
  17. ▶ Government has set up a 13-member committee for Sub-National Accounts to be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia. Its aim is to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation.
  18. ▶ Government has set up a Chief Ministers Subgroup to Coordinate Policy Approaches for Agriculture and MGNREGS with CM of Madhya Pradesh (Currently Shivraj Singh Chouhan) as Convenor. Sub-Group will submit its report within 3 months.
  19. ▶ Government has set up a committee headed by former Chief Statistician of India TCA Anant to bring in transparency in jobs data calculation. It look into the limitations of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES).
  20. ▶ Government has set up a committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in country, to be headed by E Sreedharan (known as metro man of India), who is credited with creation of Konkan Railway and Delhi Metro.
  21. ▶ Government has set up a committee under Chairmanship of Anil Swarup, to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS). It will deal with on issues like expansion, strengthening training infrastructure, rationalizing resources, reducing manpower deficiency affecting NCC and NSS.
  22. ▶ Govt. constituted an eight-member search committee, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.
  23. ▶ Haryana government constituted an inter-district council, under chairmanship of CM Manohar Lal Khattar, to identify developmental priorities of Haryana. Also, State's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment announced a special campaign to control the menace of drugs.
  24. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has set up 10-member committee headed by Suresh Mathur (ED-IMF, IRDA), to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in country.

25. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) formed a panel to examine claims in installments, headed by Suresh Mathur. Panel look in to feasibility of proposal of general and health insurance companies for payment of claims in installments as against lump sum payments.
26. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) constituted a working group to update norms for insurance surveyors, to be headed by Yegna Priya Bharat. It will address areas pertaining to licensing, renewal and IIISLA membership in context of existing regulatory framework for surveyors and loss assessors.
27. ▶ Insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20. P.J. Joseph is appointed as Chairman of committee.
28. ▶ Justice Mukul Mudgal is named as Chairman of 11-member selection committee to pick this year's Dronacharya and Dhyana Chand awardees, given as part of National Sports Awards ceremony to be held on September 25.
29. ▶ Ministry of Commerce & Industry constituted a High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to address challenges in order to find a way forward in the contemporary global trade scenario, under chairmanship of Surjit S. Bhalla.
30. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has set up a committee to suggest changes to JEE (Advanced), after inadequate number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year. It committee will be headed by IIT-Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthy.
31. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) formed a committee to oversee the rejuvenation work of river Ganga, to be headed by a former Allahabad high court judge, who will be nominated by current chief justice of Allahabad high court (Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale currently). NGT also formed a committee to look into whether sub regional plans for protection of Natural Conservation Zones (NCZs).
32. ▶ National Green Tribunal formed a monitoring committee on cleaning of Yamuna River, to be headed by NGT Chairman Adarsh Kumar Goel. NGT asked state governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to assist committee on Yamuna rejuvenation.
33. ▶ Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC) headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh completed its deliberations on all 273 recommendations of Punchhi Commission, completing work on Punchhi Commission Report, which is pending for eight years.  
 Government constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under Chairmanship of former Chief Justice Madan Mohan Malaviya. Punchhi Commission made 273 recommendations in its seven volume report that was presented to Government on March 30, 2010.
34. ▶ Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee headed by its former judge Justice Amitava Roy to look into the aspect of jail reforms across country.
35. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government constituted a committee to listen to the demands of 'shiksha mitras' and suggest a suitable action plan, headed by Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma.
36. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu (also Chairman of Rajya Sabha) constituted a 2-member committee to review rules of procedure and conduct of business in Rajya Sabha, headed by V.K. Agnihotri and S.R. Dhaleta as other member.

**Top**

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