



Current Affairs - February to July 2018

Month Type





- 44 Current Affairs were found in **Last Six Months** for Type - **Committees and Schemes**

Committees

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ A 30 member parliamentary panel headed by Murali Manohar Joshi will study recovery of black money & performance of public sector banks.
3. ▶ A Committee headed by Justice Rajesh Bindal (Judge in Chandigarh High Court), submitted its report today on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children. Stressing upon need for mediation as the first step, Committee recommended establishing an 'Inter Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority'.
4. ▶ A Task Force headed by Preeti Saran on *Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)* submitted its report to Home Minister Rajnath Singh. It includes Business case for coalition, Analysis of best practices of international partnerships in disaster risk and other thematic areas lead by India, Preliminary design of coalition AND Roll – out plan.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) constituted 5-member working group (committee) to examine taxation aspects related to High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) who are migrating abroad to other jurisdictions. It will be headed by Pragya Sahay Saksena.
7. ▶ Central Government constituted an Inter- ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Women and Child Development to tackle menace of trafficking.
8. ▶ 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
9. ▶ Finance Ministry constituted a Steering Committee under Chairmanship of Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs (Subhash Chandra Garg), to consider issues related to development of Fintech space in India.
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. ▶ GST panel under Sushil Kumar Modi (*Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister*) recommended that there shall be no additional tax incentives for digital transactions for a year, claiming that it is not an appropriate moment to incentivise digital payments as it will have revenue implications.
12. ▶ Government constituted a Task Force under chairmanship of Jayant Sinha (Minister of State for Civil Aviation) for fast-tracking roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
13. ▶ Government constituted a committee headed by Home Secretary (Currently Rajiv Gauba), to check incidents of Mob lynching in country after some recent violent incidents.
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 formed committee headed by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar to study Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and neighbouring states.
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 Convener. 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. ▶ Government has set up an executive committee under PM Narendra Modi to *spread M K Gandhi's legacy* among people at national & international level.
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 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.
26. ▶ Maharashtra government has set up a committee to study issues related to development of a 1,000-MW floating solar power plant at Ujani dam in Solapur district, headed by Satish Chavan.
27. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) constituted 12-member committee to review enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under Companies Act 2013. It will be headed by Manmohan Juneja.
28. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) constituted a 10 Member Committee headed by Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Injeti Srinivas), for review of penal provisions in Companies Act, 2013.
29. ▶ Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Production) constituted a 17 member task force headed by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran to study use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military.
30. ▶ Ministry of Defence (MoD) constituted 13-member Raksha Mantri Advisory Committee on Ministry of Defence Capital Projects (RMCOMP), to be headed by former secretary Vinay Sheel Oberoi. It will monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for modernisation of armed forces and bolster armed forces preparedness.
31. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a committee under Chairmanship of Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama to Suggest Way to Make Mathematics study easier for students.
32. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a Committee to examine entire system of conducting Class X and Class XII examination conducted by CBSE with a view to prevent leakages, to be headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi.

33. ▶ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) constituted 10-member committee to regulate online portals, including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ Odisha government has set up ministerial committee headed by Finance Minister Sashi Bhusan Behera to draft policies for development of Odia film industry, known as Ollywood.
36. ▶ RBI constituted an inter-departmental group to provide guidance on feasibility to introduce fiat digital currency backed by it.
 Fiat Digital Currency (Central bank digital currency) is digital form of fiat money which is currency established as money by government regulation. As opposed to private digital tokens, fiat digital currency will be issued by central bank. Fiat Digital Currency will constitute liability of central bank, and will be in circulation in addition to widely used paper and metallic currency.
37. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted an expert committee to look into issues relating to classification of bad loans, effectiveness of audits and rising incidents of frauds. It will be headed by Y H Malegam.
38. ▶ Scientists discovered largest dinosaur foot ever, with a width of around 1 metre, supposedly belonging to a Brachiosaurus, that inhabited North America 150 million years ago. This is largest dinosaur foot discovered till now. The footmarks were spotted in a Wyoming (USA) in 1998, identified 20 years Later.
39. ▶ 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 Punchhi Commission made 273 recommendations in its seven volume report that was presented to Government on March 30, 2010.
40. ▶ To resolve issued of Stressed Thermal Power Assets, Government has set up a High Level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary (Pradeep Kumar Sinha). It would look into the various issues with a view to resolve them and maximise efficiency of investment in sector.
41. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted a four-member Empowered Expert Committee headed by Former Chief Election Commissioner N Gopalaswami, for conducting appraisal of applications for shortlisting 20 Institutions of Eminence (IoE).
42. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) formed constituted a committee under M.M. Salunkhe, to look into matters related to examination reforms.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.

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