



### Current Affairs - May to July 2018

Month  Type




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#### 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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).

10. ▶ 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.
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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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