

# Today's current affairs



With MCQ's and daily answer writing practice question

For upsc exams, ias prelims 2018

State pcs exams, ssc, banking, defence etc

*Winners don't do different things*

*They do things differently....*

# Anna hazare

- Hazare is back with an indefinite fast that began on March 23
- greater compensation and pension for farmers, implementation of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and the use of ballot paper in elections and totaliser machines for counting of votes.

# Antarctica expedition

- National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) , the nodal agency for the annual expedition under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- 37th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. Indian research station Maitri
- India created history in 1982, when a team of 21 members landed on the frozen continent to carry out scientific experiments in Geology, Geophysics, Meteorology, Geomagnetism, Oceanography and Biology at the then Base Camp. The expedition stayed for a short period of 10 days to mark the beginning of Indian Polar Sciences. Two years later, a permanent station was established on the ice shelf, called Dakshin Gangotri. Further inroads were made into the continent and another station, called Maitri was established nearly 90 km away from Dakshin Gangotri Station on a rocky terrain, called Schirmarcher Oasis. This area is free of ice and consists of a number of fresh water lakes, recharged by melting snow during the short summer period. Since then, 29 expeditions have been sent to Antarctica to explore the continent in the quest of science and to gather more information for the betterment of mankind. The 30th expedition is set to sail towards the end of this year. The Dakshin Gangotri Station was manned throughout the year till 1989. The station had to be abandoned for safety reasons as it got buried under snow. The Maitri Station is in operation at present and manned throughout the year.

# Bill to ban hookah bars

- Three months after a fire at Kamala Mills claimed 14 lives, the Maharashtra government passed a Bill in the both the Houses of the State Legislature to ban hookah parlours in the state.
- The proposed amendment to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply, and Distribution) Act was passed on the last day of the budget session
- The Bill defines hookah bars as establishments where people gather to smoke tobacco from a community hookah or a narghile provided individually.
- The Bill borrows from provisions in neighbouring Gujarat, where a person found running hookah bars illegally or in contravention of norms can be imprisoned for up to three years, and face a minimum penalty of Rs 50,000.
- The Punjab Assembly passed The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Amendment), Bill 2018 to ban hookah bars in the state. (ENS)

# Bridge course provision omitted from NMC Bill,

- The health ministry has "omitted" the contentious provision of a bridge course, proposed in the National Medical Commission Bill, which allows practitioners of alternative medicines to pursue allopathy
- The ministry has also amended a section to provide for a uniform NEET and counselling at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- a parliamentary standing committee had recommended that the examination be integrated with the final year MBBS examination and be conducted "at the state level".
- The ministry, however, has not accepted the panel's recommendation about the examination being conducted at the state level.
- "In order to ensure uniformity in the quality of medical education, it would not be desirable for the National Exit Test to be conducted at the state level,

# continue

- Observing the need to act strictly against unqualified practitioners, the cabinet also approved an amendment to make the punishment for any unauthorised practice of medicine “severe” by including a provision for imprisonment of up to one year along with a fine extending to up to Rs 5 lakh
- the final MBBS examination would be held as a common examination throughout the country and would serve as an exit test, to be called the National Exit Test (NEXT) Students would not have to appear in a separate exam after MBBS to get a licence to practice. NEXT would also serve as the screening test for doctors with foreign medical qualifications in order to practice in India
- If approved, NEXT would become the common exit examination on lines of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, which is a common entrance examination for students who wish to study any graduate medical course (MBBS), dental course (BDS) or postgraduate course (MD / MS) in government or private medical colleges in India.
- The Bill also proposes to replace the Medical Council of India (MCI) with National Medical Commission (NMC) as the apex medical education regulator in the country.
- The “bridge course” for AYUSH practitioners to practice modern medicine, which has been removed after the amendments, was the most controversial aspect of the Bill.

# GSLV -F08 / GSAT-6A Mission'

- The 27-hour countdown for the launch of Indian rocket **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**, which will be carrying the communication satellite GSAT-6A, confirmed the Indian space agency. According to the Indian Space Research Organisation, the Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) and the Mission Readiness Review (MRR) committee cleared the 27-hour countdown
- , with an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 800 crore, is cheaper than the whole production budget of a Hollywood movie named 'Interstellar' (which had a budget of Rs. 1,062 crores). **Chandrayaan-2** will be ISRO's very first inter-planetary mission which will land a rover on any celestial body.

# MORE CROP ONE DROP

- **Har Khet ko Pani** “Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana”
- Government of India is committed to accord high priority to water conservation and its management. To this effect Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation ‘**Har Khet ko pani**’ and improving water use efficiency ‘**More crop per drop**’ in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Hon’ble Prime Minister has accorded approval of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in its meeting held on 1st July, 2015.
- PMKSY has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR,RD&GR), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC)

# CASSINI

- The *Cassini–Huygens* mission, commonly called *Cassini*, was a collaboration between [NASA](#), the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA), and the [Italian Space Agency](#) (ASI) to send a probe to study the planet [Saturn](#) and its system, including its [rings](#) and [natural satellites](#). The [Flagship](#)-class [robotic spacecraft](#) comprised both NASA's *Cassini* probe, and ESA's [Huygens lander](#) which landed on [Saturn's](#) largest moon, [Titan](#).<sup>[7]</sup> *Cassini* was the fourth [space probe](#) to visit [Saturn](#) and the first to enter its orbit. The craft were named after astronomers [Giovanni Cassini](#) and [Christiaan Huygens](#)

# CBSE LEAKAGE

- exam body thinks its unlikely that internal jeopardy would have caused the paper leak. The sources further said that they will try their best to keep the re-exam in a way they don't clash with the dates of other entrances.
- Congress says that without removing Union HRD minister Prakash Javadekar and CBSE chairperson Anita Karwal from their current positions, a fair and impartial investigation into the paper leak issue is impossible.
- Union ministers Prakash Javadekar and Ravi Shankar Prasad address media on the CBSE leaks. Javadekar defended CBSE's record and expressed faith in the police who are working on the case.
- Delhi Police has asked CBSE for the sequence of events. It has named a coaching institute founder as the main suspect.
- According to a report, a copy of the leaked Class 10 Maths paper that was scheduled for Wednesday was delivered to the CBSE office on Tuesday evening. Further, the leak has been traced to a coaching centre in West Delhi. According to the report, the owners of the coaching centre have denied any involvement, however, ANI tweeted out a copy of the complaint filed by CBSE against the coaching centre.
- The Delhi Police's crime branch has [begun investigating](#) the alleged leak of Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) Class XII economics and Class X mathematics papers after registering two separate cases in the matter, an official said. In the wake of reports claiming paper leaks, the CBSE today announced re-examination in the two papers.
- On Monday, panic had gripped students of Class XII following claims on social media that the economics paper had been leaked even though the Central Board of Secondary Education denied there was any slip up. Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) R P Upadhyay and Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Alok Kumar also held a meeting with Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik in the evening to discuss the future course of investigation.
- In a statement, the Delhi Police said that they have registered two cases. The first case in connection with the leak of economics paper was lodged yesterday while the case pertaining to mathematics paper was lodged today, following a complaint by the regional director of CBSE.
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# COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

- In a conclave, Union Law Minister recently clarified that the decision of court is supreme and there is no dispute between government and judiciary. Speaking on the collegium system formed for appointment of judges and rights of the government, he said the government has full right to give a rethink on the decision taken by collegiums and motive of both is same to bring transparency in appointment of judges

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## **What is the collegium system?**

- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four other senior-most judges of the court.
- A High Court collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior-most judges of that court.
- Names recommended for appointment by a High Court collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the Supreme Court collegium.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system—and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.
- The government's role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.
- It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges

# INDUS COMMISSION

- India and Pakistan went ahead with talks on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on Thursday despite an upsurge in tensions over LoC crossfire and allegations of harassment of diplomats in Delhi and Islamabad.
- On Wednesday, sources in the Ministry of External Affairs sources said, “According to the treaty provisions, the 114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) will take place in India on March 29-30, 2018 in New Delhi to hold technical deliberations on various issues.” The last PIC meeting was held in Islamabad in March 2017, a significant move at the time as it came after the “surgical strikes” by India across the Line of Control, and the government’s announcement that it would reconsider its position on the 1960 treaty with Pakistan after terrorist attacks in Uri. While the government kept its treaty commitments to meet, it has been exploring ways to utilise its share of the Indus waters more efficiently and to the maximum permissible.

# DEFICIT HITS 120%

- As per data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), fiscal deficit for April-February was 120 per cent of the revised estimates on account of increased expenditure and subdued revenue receipts.
- The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit. It is an indication of the total borrowings needed by the government. While calculating the total revenue, borrowings are not included.

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- TODAY'S ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE QUESTION:
- DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS IN IRRIGATION IN INDIA DESPITE THE NORMAL MONSOON YEAR
- TODAY'S MCQ'S
- (A) CASSINI IS A MISSION ON
- MOON
- JUPITER
- MARS
- NONE OF THESE

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- (b) COLLEGUIM, SYSTEM
- (c) KOTAK COMMITTEE SUBMITTED REPORT ON
  - ONE RANK ONE PENSION
  - CAUVERY ISSUE
  - DEMONETISATION
  - CORPORATE GOVERNANCE