

# STUDY NOTES



# GENERAL AWARENESS

It always seems impossible until it's done.



## BANK



## NEWS HEADLINES

### ECONOMICS NEWS

- Q1 Karnataka Bank has launched 'Cash@PoS' facility to withdraw cash from PoS terminals.
- Q1 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 503-million lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar.
- Q1 Rajasthan government and Software Company Microsoft has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide digital training to 9,500 college students of Rajasthan.
- Q1 India and China have agreed to reduce tariffs on Chinese imports of Indian medicines.
- Q1 South Asia's largest hotel chain OYO has acquired Mumbai-based Internet of Things (IoT) technology company AblePlus.
- Q1 The market capitalisation of the listed firms of Deepak Parekh-led financial services conglomerate HDFC group crossed Rs 10 lakh crore mark. It is only the second Indian business group to achieve this feat after Tata Group.
- Q1 India has formally become the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Q1 Public sector lender Bank of Baroda has inked an agreement with South Korea's KB Financial Group to set-up financing corridor and development of digital payment ecosystem.
- Q1 India's largest electricity generating company, NTPC has signed a term loan agreement with HDFC Bank for availing a loan of Rs 1,500 crore.
- Q1 Indian Army and SBI have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Defence Salary Package.
- Q1 Reserve Bank makes it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on the

face of demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments to prevent money laundering.

Q1 The Life Insurance Corporation, LIC board gave approval to the acquisition of up to 51 per cent stake in debt-ridden IDBI Bank.

Q1 The Inflation, based on wholesale prices, shot up to 5.77 per cent in June.

Q1 According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate is expected to 7.3 % in the Financial Year 2018-1

Q1 Jana Small Finance Bank officially launched its commercial banking operations.

Q1 RBI to Issue New Design □ 100 Denomination Banknote. The color of this note will be lavender and it will have a motif of Rani ki vav, a stepwell located on the banks of Saraswati river in Gujarat's Patan.

Q1 SBI has Organised Kisan Mela to Educate Farmers on Financial Literacy.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Q1 Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the 17th World Sanskrit Conference at Vancouver, Canada.

Q1 India's latest frontline warship INS Trikand has reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit.

Q1 Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in inaugurated Samsung India's new mobile phone manufacturing facility in Noida. This is the world's largest mobile factory.

Q1 According to the latest study "Diplomacy" by communications

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firm Burson Cohn & Wolfe (BCW), US President Donald Trump is the most followed world leader on Twitter while Pope Francis is second and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on third place.

US President Donald Trump nominated Foreign Service officer David Hale as the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. He is currently the US Ambassador to Pakistan.

Indian naval ship INS Sumitra became the first-ever warship to enter port of Sabang in Indonesia.

The Minister of State (I/C) MSME Giriraj Singh and Minister of SMEs and Start-ups of Republic of Korea, Hong Jong-hak, inaugurated the India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre in New Delhi.

India and the United Kingdom signed an agreement on exchange of experience by legal professionals and government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has established a first-of-its-kind panel on digital cooperation aimed at addressing concerns of cybersecurity threats and rise in hate speech and named senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill as the executive director of the panel's secretariat.

Ishwar Sharma, 8 Year Old Indian Boy has been named as 'British Indian of the Year.

India became Vice-Chair or regional head of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for two years.

Militaries Of India And Pakistan to Participate in A Mega Anti-Terror

Drill In Russia Named ' Peace Mission'.

US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin hold their first summit at Helsinki, Finland.

Peru has declared a 60-day state of emergency on its border with Colombia.

India became Vice-Chair or regional head of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos becomes the richest person in modern history.

Austin Fernando, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena's former secretary, has been named Sri Lanka's next High Commissioner to India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a five day visit to Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa from 23rd July.

### NATIONAL NEWS

Law Commission recommends regulating betting.

International Round Table Conference on "Data for New India" has been started in New Delhi.

Human Resource Development Ministry granted Institution of eminence status to IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IISc Bangalore.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the country's first Drone Application Research Laboratory and Cyber Security centre in Dehradun.

According to Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018, China broke into the world's top 20 most-innovative economies. Switzerland has topped

## GENERAL AWARENESS STUDY NOTES FOR BANK EXAM

this list while India is at 57th place in the list. This annual ranking has been published by Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The first "India Tourism Mart (ITM)" will be organized in New Delhi from 16th to 18th September 2018.

State-run telecom company BSNL has unveiled the country's first internet telephony service. Now BSNL customers will be able to make calls using the company's mobile app "Wings" to any phone number in the country.

Indian Batsman Mohammad Kaif, who was one of the best fielders of the Indian cricket team, announced his retirement from competitive cricket.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched the first consolidated Bridge Management System of Railways, a web-enabled IT application to store data on its one lakh 50 thousand bridges.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launches the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 in New Delhi.

Himachal Pradesh's Kagra district has introduced a new rule at its petrol pumps – 'No helmet, no petrol'.

The Odisha government has constituted a 'Heritage Cabinet,' headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Union minister for electronics, IT and law & justice Ravi Shankar Prasad unveiled the Goa IT Policy 201

The Telecom Commission has approved the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) net neutrality recommendations.

First edition of the Pondicherry International Film Festival (PIFF) will begin on September.

The BBC World Service has launched its first Gujarati language television news bulletin.

10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DD X) has been started in New Delhi.

Bihar Government has decided to give reservation in promotions to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes personnel in its services.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has initiated the process of introducing QR code in their textbooks.

734 youngsters shortlisted for complete scholarship under the KHELO INDIA TALENT DEVELOPMENT Scheme.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the Student Police Cadet (SPC) programme for nationwide implementation in Gurugram.

### EVENT NEWS

The 6th edition of the biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore.

The Ministry of Mines organized the 4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. First one-on-one summit between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin was held at Helsinki, capital of Finland.

7th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting between India and the US delegation was held in New Delhi.

First India-US '2+2 dialogue' will be held in New Delhi.

Fourth BIMSTEC Summit will be held in Kathmandu.

8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting was held at Durban, South Africa.

**REPORT NEWS**

Andhra Pradesh has topped the ease of doing annual business ranking of states and Union Territories by the World Bank and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Telangana and Haryana are at the second and third positions, respectively in the rankings.

According to property consultant CBRE, New Delhi's Connaught Place has moved one position higher to become ninth most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of \$153 (Rs 10, 512 approx.) per sq. ft.

According to Forbes Magazine, Indian-origin technology executives Jayshree Ullal and Neerja Sethi have made it to the list of America's 60 richest women. Jayshree is ranked 18th in the list of 60 self-made women, having a net worth of 1.3 billion dollars while Sethi is ranked 21st with a net worth of a billion dollars.

According to World Bank figures for 2017, India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has been featured among the top 100 in the Times Higher Education Golden Age University Rankings and top 50 in the Emerging University Rankings.

According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani has become Asia's richest person.

According to the report of property consultant CBRE, New Delhi's Connaught Place is the 9th most expensive office location in the world.

According to Asian Development Bank (ADB), India's Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate is expected to 7.3 % in the Financial Year 2018-19.

**AGREEMENTS NEWS**

The University of Houston has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) to build scientific and technical knowledge through joint research.

An agreement was signed between IIT Delhi and the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) to give "scientific validation" to the ancient medical science and integrate it with technology.

Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) amongst BRICS Nations on the Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation.

The Cabinet has approved a MOU between India and Indonesia on cooperation in the field of pharmaceutical products, pharmaceutical substances, biological product and cosmetics regulatory functions.

Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between India and Cuba on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

CSIR- National Physical Laboratory (NPL) has signed a MoU with HPCL for indigenous development of petroleum certified reference materials (CRMs) under trade name of Bhartiya Niredeshak Dravyas.

Five central oil PSUs - IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and NRL - signed a joint venture agreement for executing the

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North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid.

Power Grid Corporation of India signed a MoU with Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation (UPPCL) for energy efficiency and Agricultural Demand Side Management Programme (AGDSM).

Information Technology Company Wipro has signed an agreement with US-based Alight Solutions to acquire its subsidiary, Alight HR Services India, for \$117 million.

India and Ghana have signed two agreements on Cultural Exchange Programme and on cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards and Ghana Standards Authority.

The AIIMS has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, for institutional collaboration in education, research outreach programme and medical services.

identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on import.

Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki has been given the additional charge of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh during the absence Acharya Devvrat.

Metals and mining giant Vedanta Ltd has re-appointed Navin Agarwal as the Whole Time Director of the company.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs constituted 10 Member Committee to review Companies Act 2013.

Swati B Baruah Became the 1st Transgender Judge in Assam.

Former Indian off-spinner Ramesh Powar has been named as the interim coach of the Indian women's cricket team.

Kaptan Singh Solanki took additional charge of Himachal Pradesh.

T.V. Narendran has been appointed as the chairman and non-executive additional director of Bhushan Steel Ltd.

Anil Kaul has been appointed as the Managing Director of Tata Capital Housing Finance.

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh was officially appointed as the Chef de Mission (CDM) of the Indian contingent for the upcoming 18th Asian Games to be held in twin cities of Jakarta and Palembang from August 18 to September 2.

Rajendra Menon will take over as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

Vice President of India and Chancellor of Panjab University, M. Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Prof. Raj Kumar as the next Vice Chancellor of Panjab University.

### APPOINTMENT NEWS

Grammy Award-winning Italian singer Laura Pausini has become Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Sandeep Sancheti has taken charge as the 97th President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

UK Prime Minister Theresa May has appointed Jeremy Hunt as foreign secretary.

The Vice President of India and the President of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), M. Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan as the Director General of ICWA.

Government has set up a high-level task force under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha to

identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on import.

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The Institute of Cost Accountants of India has appointed Amit Anand Apte as its President.

### AWARDS NEWS

Tapan Kumar Chand has received Knowledge Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain.

Sri Lanka-born Canadian writer Michael Ondaatje's book 'The English Patient' has won the Golden Man Booker Prize. This book has been awarded to mark the 50th anniversary of the prestigious literary award.

Famous folk artist Dr. Mahendra Bhanawat will be honored with the Kanhaiyalal Sethia Award for his outstanding contribution in the field of literature, culture and art.

Aruna Sairam Has Been Selected For Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2018.

Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated Raising towards Excellence – A two day Conference of Heads of AYUSH National Institutes organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at New Delhi.

Vivek Srivastava, Co – Founder & CEO, Healthcare at HOME (HCAH) has won the prestigious "Entrepreneur of the year Award" for healthcare services at 8th Annual Entrepreneur India award.

### OBITUARY NEWS

Veteran journalist J N Sadhu has passed away recently. He was 94.

Famous Kumaoni folk singer Kabutari Devi has passed away recently. She was 70.

Former Meghalaya Governor M M Jacob has passed away recently. He was 90.

India & South Korea signed five MoUs in field of Science and Technology.

Eminent Indian-origin broadcaster and journalist Mahendra Kaul died. He was 95.

Chief of Sadhu Vaswani Mission and Spiritual leader Dada Vaswani passed away. He was 99.

Doyen of Indian Psychiatry N N Wig died. He was 88.

Former Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Kanu Gohain died. He was 68.

Veteran journalist and Dainik Bhaskar Group Editor Kalpesh Yagnik passed away. He was 55.

Veteran actor Rita Bhaduri has passed. She was 62.

Famous Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away. He was 93.

Ramchandra Singhdeo, former and first Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh, passed away. He was 88.

Japanese screenwriter and Film director Shinobu Hashimoto died. He was 100.

### SPORTS NEWS

Dipa Karmakar has won Gold Medal at FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup in Mersin, Turkey.

Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel has won the British Grand Prix title.

Bajrang Punia has won Gold medal At Tbilisi Grand Prix.

Satyarup Siddhanta has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world.

Jhili Dalabehera has won the bronze medal in the 2018 IWF Junior World

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Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Indian sprinter Hima Das scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold in the women's 400m final race at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships.

France Defeated Croatia, Won FIFA World Cup after 20 years.

Vinesh Phogat has won Gold Medal at the Spanish Grand Prix Wrestling Tournament.

The Indian team won four silver medals and five bronzes (total 9 medals) at the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships in Brasilia, Brazil.

Indian boxers has won seven Gold medals to claim the overall top spot at the Golden Glove of Vojvodina youth tournament at Subotica in Serbia.

Greco Roman wrestler Viresh Kunder has won a Bronze medal in Asian Junior Championships in New Delhi.

India's Greco Roman wrestler Sajjan has won the gold medal in 77kg category in Junior Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi.

Brazil's Footballer Alisson Becker became the most expensive goalkeeper in the world by signing a contract with Liverpool

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## NEWS IN DETAIL

### PM inaugurates new ASI Headquarters in New Delhi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated Dharohar Bhawan - the new Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), - at Tilak Marg in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Archaeological Survey of India has performed significant work over the course of the last 150 years or so.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of taking pride in our history, and in our rich archaeological heritage. He said that people should take a lead in knowing about local history, and archaeology of their towns, cities and regions. He said lessons in local archaeology could form part of the school syllabus. In this context, he also mentioned the importance of well-trained local tourist guides, who are familiar with the history and heritage of their area.

He said each archaeological discovery, painstakingly made by archaeologists over long periods of time, has its own story to tell. In this context, he recalled how he and the then French President had travelled to Chandigarh a few years ago, for a first-hand view of archaeological discoveries made by a joint Indo-French team.

The Prime Minister said that India should showcase its great heritage with pride and confidence, to the world.

The new Headquarters building of ASI has been equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including energy efficient lighting and rainwater harvesting. It includes a Central Archaeological Library with a collection of about 1.5 lakh books and journals.

### MoU on Defence Salary Package signed between Indian Army and State Bank of India

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and SBI on the Defence Salary Package on 12 July 2018. The signing-in ceremony was chaired by the Adjutant General Lt Gen Ashwani Kumar and was attended by top officials of SBI headed by Shri PK Gupta, Managing Director (Retail and Development Banking), SBI.

The first MoU between SBI and the Indian Army was signed in 2011 and was renewed on 23 Feb 2015. The revised MoU is tailor made to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families. A number of additional facilities have been incorporated in the revised MoU which include free personal accident death cover, free permanent total disablement cover and other accidental benefits to the deceased soldier and family. This MoU will benefit a large number of serving and retired Army personnel who are having their accounts with SBI. The MoU will be valid till 03 Jan 2019 and continuation thereafter will be subject to review/renewal.

President nominates four members to Rajya Sabha

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 80 of the Constitution of India, and on the advice of the Prime Minister, the President of India is pleased to make the following four nominations to the Rajya Sabha:

**Shri Ram Shakal:** He is an eminent people's leader and public representative from Uttar Pradesh, who has devoted his life for the welfare and well-being of the Dalit community. A farmer leader, he is widely respected for championing the cause of farmers, labourers and migrants. He has also been a three-time Member of Parliament, representing Robertsganj constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

**Shri Rakesh Sinha:** A respected and widely read author, Shri Rakesh Sinha is the Founder and Honorary Director of the Delhi-based think-tank "India Policy Foundation." A Professor of Motilal Nehu College of Delhi University, he is also currently a member of the Indian Council of Social Science Research. He is a regular columnist in a range of newspapers.

**Shri Raghunath Mohapatra:** He is an internationally renowned authority on stone carving. Practicing since 1959, he has trained over 2000 students. He has contributed to the preservation of traditional sculpture and ancient monuments, and has worked on the beautification of the Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri. His famous works include a 6 feet high statue of the Sun God carved in grey sandstone, in the Central Hall of Parliament; and the Wooden Buddha, Buddha Temple, Paris.

**Smt Sonal Mansingh:** She is among India's foremost exponents of Indian Classical Dance. She has been performing Bharatnatyam and Odissi for over six decades. She is also a well-known choreographer, teacher, orator and social activist. She founded the Centre for Indian Classical Dances, in Delhi in 1977.

Steel CPSE Employees Pension Scheme Announced

Ministry of Steel has agreed to the proposal received from various CPSEs under its control to introduce the pension scheme with effect from 1st January 2007 in case of executives and 1st January 2012 in case of non-executives or from a subsequent date as decided by the company. The agreement was reached after detailed consultation with representatives of employees unions and officers associations belonging to SAIL, RINL, MSTC, FSNL, MECON and KIOCL. This was announced by the Union Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh in New Delhi.

During the meeting with the Minister, the representatives of employees unions and officers associations discussed various issues concerning them, including the introduction of pension scheme as part of the superannuation benefits, provident fund, gratuity and medical benefit. The Minister informed that medical benefits have already been extended to employees of CPSEs under the Ministry of Steel. NMDC and MOIL have also introduced the pension scheme to its employees

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as per the Second Pay Revision Committee recommendations. He said that there has been a long standing demand from the employees of other CPSEs for introduction of pension scheme.

Chaudhary Birender Singh said that the pension scheme will benefit over 94,000 serving and 56,000 retired employees of CPSEs under the Ministry of Steel and put an additional financial burden of Rs. 45 crore per month. He said that the pension scheme will be subject to factors like affordability, capacity to pay and sustainability by the CPSEs. Government budgetary support will not be provided to operate these schemes. The rate of contribution will be decided by the respective boards of CPSEs each year depending upon the profit made and employee cost to the company subject to upper ceiling of 30% (Basic Pay plus DA) of superannuation benefits. The actual details of the pension scheme and road map of implementation will be worked out by the management of each CPSEs.

### Committee set up to synergies NCC and NSS

Government has decided to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Swarup, former Secretary, School Education, with suitable representations from NCC, M/o Youth Affairs and Ministry of HRD to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).

The Committee will deal with on issues like expansion, strengthening training infrastructure, rationalizing resources, reducing manpower deficiency affecting NCC and NSS. The Committee will also submit recommend for building synergies between these two institutions viz. NCC and NSS and further strengthen them for empowering the youth.

At present, there are 13.5 lakh cadets in NCC in the age group of 12 to 26 years with pan India presence in about 703 out of 716 districts. There are a large number of educational institutions in the country including as much as 8600 on waitlist in which NCC is yet to be extended. There is also an existing shortage in the NCC manpower across the categories ranging from 5% to 36%.

The NCC has an annual budget allocation of about Rs.2200 crore with Central Government share of about Rs.1600 crore. NCC, with this meagre resources, is not able to expand itself and to cover all the districts of the country and cater to the needs of waitlisted educational institutions.

A meeting was held recently in PMO to revamp the NCC and NSS. Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Human Resource Development and NCC through the Ministry of Defence participated in the discussion. The discussion was mainly focused on taking measures for strengthening NCC and NSS and how youth could be empowered through these institutions. NSS has been playing a very active role in the service of the nation, particularly in the Government's Programme such as Swachh Bharat Mission.

### Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant

Nuclear Power Park refers to a site with a number of large capacity reactors with a total capacity of 6000 MW or more. The Kudankulam site, presently has two reactors – KKNPP 1&2 (2X1000 MW) in operation and two reactors, KKNPP 3&4 (2X1000 MW) under construction. In addition, work for setting up two more units - KKNPP 5&6 (2X1000 MW) at this site has commenced. On progressive completion of Units 3 to 6, the Kudankulam site having a total capacity of 6000 MW will be a nuclear power park.

The total completion cost of the six units at Kudankulam is Rs 111932 crore. The units at the site are expected to be completed progressively by 2025-26.

This information was provided by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

### Observatory for Gravitational Waves study

The Government of India has given 'In-Principle' approval for Construction and Operation of Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory – India (LIGO) in India in collaboration with LIGO Laboratory, United States of America. This is the third observatory identical to the two LIGO observatories in USA. An MoU has been signed between DAE-DST of India and National Science Foundation of USA on 30.03.2016. LIGO-India Observatory is scheduled to be operational in 2024.

Of the various sites surveyed for this project, the site in Hingoli District of Maharashtra has been selected as the primary site and the process of acquiring land for the project is in advanced stage.

This information was provided by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

### Memorandum of Understanding amongst BRICS Nations

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) amongst BRICS Nations on the Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation viz. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

#### **Salient features:**

The objective is that BRICS countries would benefit from the establishing of an institutional framework to cooperate in the field of civil aviation. Among the areas of cooperation, following areas have been identified:

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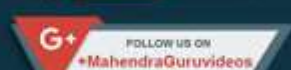
- Public Policies and best practices in regional services;
- Regional Airports;
- Airport infrastructure management and air navigation services;
- Technical cooperation between regulatory agencies;
- Innovation;
- Environment Sustainability; including deliberation of global initiatives;
- Qualification and Training;
- Other fields as mutually determined

### Impact:

The MoU signifies an important landmark in the civil aviation relations between India and other BRICS Member States and has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges amongst the BRICS Nations.

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