

## President of India receives 2018 edition of the QS world University Rankings



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the 2018 edition of the QS World University Rankings brought out by the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) today (June 9, 2017) at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President urged EPSI to continue the efforts they are making in the education sector.
- He said that he was happy to find three Indian institutions IIT Delhi and IISc Bangalore, which were already in the top 200, and the latest entrant IIT Bombay securing ranks within the coveted top 200 and IISc Bangalore being now ranked 6th globally for Citations per Faculty.
- The President said that while in terms of infrastructure there has been considerable expansion in the higher education sector, quality of education in many institutes remains a matter of concern.
- In ancient times, we had renowned seats of higher learning Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramashila, Valabhi, Somapura and Odantapuri that dominated the world higher education system for eighteen hundred years beginning sixth century BC.
- Scholars from around the globe flocked to these centres of learning in search of knowledge.

## President of India launches mobile app 'Selfie with Daughter'



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee launched a mobile Application „Selfie with Daughter“ at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (June 9, 2017).

- Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated Shri Sunil Jaglan on the launch of the mobile-app „Selfie-with-Daughter“.
- He said that Shri Jaglan’s efforts in initiating this campaign in Haryana are praiseworthy. Selfie-with-Daughter has become a world-wide movement against female foeticide and sex selection.
- He hoped that this would eventually help in dealing with the problems arising out of gender imbalance.
- He stated that the App is an innovative concept and an act of gentle persuasion. He urged people to take photographs with their daughters and upload on the App to make the campaign a success.
- The „Selfie with Daughter“ campaign was started by Shri Sunil Jaglan in June 2015 in village Bibipur, Jind, Haryana.
- A former Sarpanch, Shri Jaglan has been working in the field of women empowerment and village development.

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- The aim of the campaign is to motivate society to feel proud to be parents of a girl child which will result in improving the child sex ratio.

## Second edition of National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga held in New Delhi



The second edition of National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik at National Media Centre in New Delhi today.

- The conference was organized by Ministry of AYUSH in association with the Press Information Bureau (PIB), M/o Information & Broadcasting; and Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (M/o AYUSH) as a part of celebrations of the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2017.
- The theme of this year's conference was "Yoga for Health and Harmony".
- Addressing the participants, Shri Shripad Naik said that the International Day of Yoga is perhaps the only occasion where people across the globe come together in such a large number and take active participation.
- The interest and zeal of participation in yoga is increasing considerably year by year due to which today yoga has become a household name in the real sense, the Minister added.
- Shri Shripad Naik said that the credit of increasing popularity of yoga also goes to media may it be print, electronic or social media.
- The AYUSH Minister stated that yoga has earned the global recognition in promoting positive health among people.
- Since treatments in the modern media hospitals are becoming expensive affairs for the people, yoga is gradually making new inroads into the health care system, he elaborated.
- The Minister further stated that yoga not only makes people healthy but also helps to reduce the burden on the health care delivery system of the country.

## GST Council constitutes 18 Sectoral Groups for smooth roll-out of GST



As decided in the 14th Meeting of the GST Council held on 18th-19th May, 2017 in Srinagar, J&K, 18 Sectoral Groups have been constituted representing various sectors of the economy in order to ensure smooth roll-out of GST.

- These 18 Sectoral Groups representing various sectors of the economy and containing Senior Officers of the Centre and the States are being set-up to ensure smooth implementation of GST by timely responding to the issues and problems of their respective Sector(s).
- In fact, they are being set up with the following objectives:
- Interact and examine representations received from trade and industry associations/bodies of their respective sector.
- Highlight specific issues for the smooth transition of the respective sector to the GST regime.

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- Prepare sector specific draft guidance.
- These Sectoral Working Groups consist of Senior Officers from the Centre and the States.

## **Sagarmala A Game Changer in Country's growth: First Workshop Held in Capital**



The Ministry of Shipping organized a workshop on its flagship programme titled, "Accelerating Sagarmala Implementation – Engaging with States" in New Delhi today.

- The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the engagement among Ministry of Shipping, other line ministries and various maritime states of India for Sagarmala Programme.
- The workshop was presided over by Sh. Rajive Kumar, Secretary (Shipping) and the key note address was delivered by Sh. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- Speaking on the occasion Sh. Kant said, that ports can act as the catalyst of growth and help in achieving 10% consistent growth rate for the country, hence making Sagarmala programme the game changer for the country's development.
- Exemplifying, the success stories of China, Korea, Japan and Singapore, where the ports have led the country's growth strategy, Shri Kant said that there is a need for conglomeration of all the stakeholders for proper execution and have an export focused strategy.
- For India to increase its current growth rate of 7.6%, it's essential to penetrate the global markets which only ports can drive.
- He pointed out that land is not a challenge and all what is required is optimum utilisation of available resources.

## **New Projects Inaugurated at Kamarajar Port in Tamil Nadu**



The Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has said that an investment of Rs 2 lakh 50000 crore is being made in Tamil Nadu under Sagarmala.

- Of this Rs.39,000 crore will be for port modernization, Rs.55,000 crore for port connectivity and Rs.1,50,000 crore for port led industrialization.
- The minister said this at Kamarajar Port in Chennai today, where he inaugurated several new projects.
- The projects include a New Container Terminal worth Rs.1270 crore, a new multi cargo terminal worth Rs.151 crores, Railway line to Container and Multi cargo terminal worth Rs. 60 crore, and RFID system worth Rs.11.82

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crore.

- Shri Gadkari said the work being done under Sagarmala is estimated to create about 2 lakh direct jobs in the state in the next two years.
- The Development of New Container Terminal project will provide more container handling facility for traders, it will also facilitate the new industries and ancillaries in the vicinity of the port, provide new job opportunities and will give boost to local economy.

### **Thaawarchand Gehlot Inaugurates ‘Eastern Regional Conference’ on issues relating to Empowerment of persons with Disabilities**



Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the “Eastern Regional Conference of Eastern Region States on issues relating to Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities” organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment here today.

- Representatives from the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal participated in the Conference.
- Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary, DEPwD and senior officers from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the participating States were present.
- In his inaugural address, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot said that the new Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 has expanded the horizon of the rights of persons with disabilities vis-a-vis the repealed PwD Act, 1995 and casts increased responsibilities on the States/UTs to ensure that the persons with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others.
- The State Governments are also required to take measures to provide institutional mechanism for registration of institutions working in the disability sector.
- It is needless to say that the new Act has penal provisions for violation of its provisions.

### **The Union Finance Minister to chair the 16th Meeting of the GST Council on Sunday, 11th June, 2017**



The Union Minister for Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs,

Shri Arun Jaitley will chair the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GST Council scheduled to be held on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan in the national capital.

- The one day Meeting will also be attended among others by the Finance Ministers of different States and UTs (having elected assembly) being the members of the GST Council.
- Main agenda items of the 16th GST Council Meeting include confirmation of the

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minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> GST Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017, approval of amendments to draft GST Rules and Rate Adjustment, if any, based on the representations received from different trade and industry and their associations.

- This meeting will be important in the sense that the GST Law is going to be rolled-out with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017.

