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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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TOP STORY
2017

**9th
BRICS Summit**
held in Xiamen, China

Ram Nath Kovind
Sworn-In as
14th
President of India



NITI Aayog's Three Year action plan launched



Jan Dhan Scheme, Aadhar and Mobile numbers to be linked soon



Himachal Pradesh launched country's first electric bus

CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY TO SEPTEMBER
2017



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17th Feb

CHAPTER

1

Polity Governance and Social Issues

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2017

- ❖ India got its 14th President on July 20th, 2017. Ram Nath Kovind, NDA nominee has won with a comfortable majority in the presidential elections.
- ❖ Shri Ram Nath Kovind defeated opposition's Meira Kumar, a former Lok Sabha Speaker.



ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

- ❖ Article 52 states that there shall be a President of India. The executive powers of the Union shall be vested in the President. He, as the head of a state, symbolises the nation.
- ❖ In some democratic systems, the head of the state is also the head of the government and, therefore, he will also be the head of the political executive. The US Presidency represents this form.
- ❖ In Britain, the monarch is the symbolic head, representing the British nation. The powers of the Government are vested in the political office of the Prime Minister.
- ❖ In Indian Parliamentary democracy we have adopted the latter form.

- ❖ The President of India is the first citizen and represents the Indian nation and does not, therefore, belong to any particular political party. He is elected by the representatives of the people through an Electoral College.

❖ **Article 54 of the constitution says:**

“The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of -

- (a) The elected members of both Houses of Parliament and
- (b) The elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States (including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry vide the Constitution 70th amendment Act, 1992).”

Note :

- ❖ *Thus in the election of the President the citizens play no direct part and he is elected indirectly by the representatives or the people, like the American President.*
- ❖ *The election of the President of India is conducted by the system of proportional representation, by the single transferable vote, as provided by Article 55(3) of the Constitution, while the American President is elected by the straight vote system.*

DIKSHA PORTAL FOR TEACHERS

- ❖ Diksha Portal will act as a **National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers** where all teachers across the nation will be equipped with advanced digital technology.

- ❖ It has been launched by the **Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development**.
- ❖ Under this initiative, private institutes and NGO's are also allowed to participate.

Benefits

- ❖ It will enable, accelerate and amplify solutions in realm of teacher education which boost their teaching skills.
- ❖ It will aid teachers to learn and train themselves for which assessment resources will be available.
- ❖ It will record complete work and accomplishment of teachers in educational institutes from start to end point till their retirement.
- ❖ It will cover entire life cycle of teacher– from time they were enrolled as student teachers in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) till they retire as teachers.

UJALA SCHEME IN MALAYSIA

- ❖ UJALA scheme which is **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All**, was launched in **Melaka State of Malaysia** by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) (Union Ministry of Power).
- ❖ Under this scheme, each household in Melaka state will get 10 high quality 9-watt LED bulbs, at almost half the price offered in market.
- ❖ Logistical assistance and facilitation support is provided by **Green Growth Asia**, which is a non-profit organisation in Malaysia.
- ❖ About **1 million 9W LED bulbs** will be distributed by EESL which will replace 18W CFLs.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)

It is promoted by Ministry of Power, Government of India as a Joint Venture company of four Central Power Sector undertakings viz. NTPC Ltd, PFC, REC, and Power Grid. EESL was set up to create and sustain markets for energy efficiency in the country.

Benefits of UJALA

- ❖ It will promote efficient lighting in Melaka state.
- ❖ It will also conserve the resources, money and environment by reducing 19,000 tones carbon emissions per year.

Ujala Scheme in India

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All was launched by Government of India, replacing the "Bachat Lamp Yojana".

The main objective is to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.

Note : *Indian High Commission and Vedanta group have adopted UJALA scheme in UK.*

HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, 2018

- ❖ These rankings have been released by the **Times of top 1,000 universities** in the world.

Key Facts

- ❖ Two universities from United Kingdom have occupied the first two positions. University of Oxford has retained the first position and University of Cambridge jumped to second position from fourth.
- ❖ California Institute of Technology and Stanford University are placed at joint third position. Both these universities are from United States.
- ❖ The United States occupied eight out of the top ten rankings.
- ❖ China is the only BRICS nation that has the fourth most-represented nation in the table, with 60 universities.
- ❖ China now has seven universities in the top 200 which is an increase from four universities last year.



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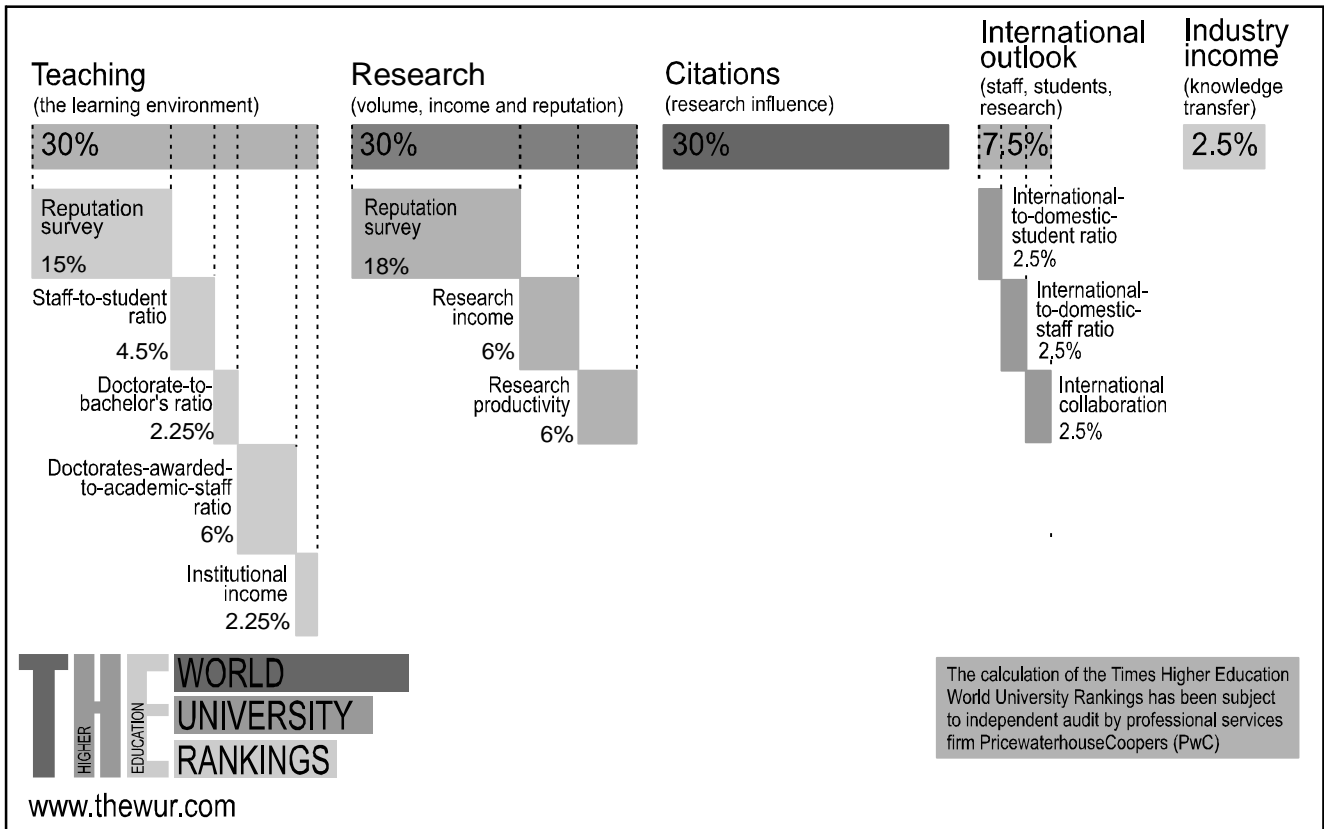
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Indian Context

- ❖ Premier Indian institutes such as IIT Delhi and IISc Bangalore have slide down in the rankings to lower bands. No Indian institute was able to make it to the top 100 list.
- ❖ In 2017, India's representation has also declined, from 31 institutions to 30.
- ❖ Eight of its universities have slipped to a lower band.

Top Ten in India

Rank	2018	2017
1	IISc, Bengaluru (251-300)	IISc, Bengaluru (201-250)
2	IIT, Bombay (351-400)	IIT, Bombay (351-400)
3	IIT, Delhi (501-600)	IIT, Delhi (401-500)
4	IIT, Kanpur (501-600)	IIT, Kanpur (401-500)
5	IIT, Kharagpur (501-600)	IIT, Madras (401-500)
6	IIT, Roorkee (501-600)	IIT, Kharagpur (501-600)
7	AMU, Aligarh (601-800)	IIT, Roorkee (501-600)
8	BHU, Varanasi (601-800)	Jadavpur University, Kolkata (501-600)
9	University of Delhi (601-800)	AMU, Aligarh (601-800)
10	IIT, Guwahati (601-800)	BITS Pilani (601-800)

FoSCORIS

- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced a nationwide online platform.
- ❖ It will provide a common IT platform for all key stakeholders such as food businesses, food safety officers, state food safety commissioners etc.
- ❖ Data related to inspection, sampling and test result by all the officials on this platform.

Note: FoSCORIS Stands for Food Safety Compliance Through Register Inspection and Sampling.

Benefits

- Elimination of discrepancy and increase in accountability of food safety officers
- Verification of compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses according to the government norms
- Simplification of the process of sample collection
- Increase in transparency, traceability and control over the quality of compliances of the sample collection process.

**Food Safety and Standards
Authority of India**

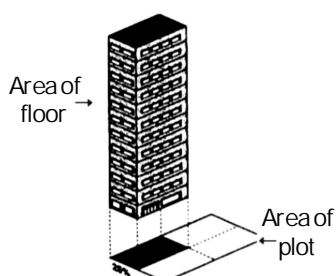
It is an organization under the control of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

It has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which is the law related to food safety and regulation in India.

FLOOR SPACE INDEX (FSI) AND FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR) NORMS REVIEWED IN MEGA CITIES

- ❖ The review of these norms will be time bound and will take place in 53 cities (population > 1 million).
- ❖ Another similar review for state capitals (population < million) will take place in due course of time.
- ❖ It will take place in consultation with States and cities to cover an assessment of the existing norms and to what extent it could be enhanced.

Floor Space Index (FSI)



It is the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the piece of the land on which it is built. In Indian cities, the value is approx. 1.50, which is on the lower side given the needs of rapid urbanization.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

- ❖ This bill will be introduced in the Winter Session of Parliament 2017.
- ❖ The main provision of the bill is that the parliamentarians should declare their assets within 90 days after their tenure ends.

- ❖ It will also create an environment of corruption-free status of Members of Parliament.
- ❖ At present, there are no such provisions for declaration of assets and liabilities after the expiry of the term.
- ❖ In this context, Supreme Court has also issued a notice to the Centre's attitude of not disclosing information on action taken by it against politicians, some of whose assets had seen a massive jump of up to 500% between two elections.

Private Member's Bill

It is a bill introduced by Members of Parliament other than ministers.

PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved introduction of the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament.
- ❖ It will amend Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and revise the ceiling for employees in private sectors too taking into consideration inflation and increase in wages.
- ❖ It will enhance the maximum limit of gratuity of employees, in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/ Autonomous Organizations under Government and in private sector who are not covered under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, at par with Central Government employees.

Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972

It is a social security law to provide social security to workmen after retirement due to the rules of superannuation, or physical disablement or impairment of vital body part. It applies to firms with 10 or more persons.

WOOD IS GOOD CAMPAIGN

- ❖ This campaign has been launched by **Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change under Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus)**.



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