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Your Dreams, Our Mission!

C.A Dated On 9th July 2018

General Studies -1

World Sanskrit Conference

Why in News?

Human Resource Development Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar will inaugurate the 17th World Sanskrit Conference to be held at Vancouver, Canada from 9th July to 13th July, 2018.

Highlights of Conference:

There will be a special panel discussion on over a dozen topics like;

History & Education of Women in Vedic Literature;

Sanskrit Buddhist Manuscripts;

Mimamsa Beyond the Yagasala;

The Yuktidipika Forging a Place for Sankhya; Introducing Bhagavata Purana Commentaries; Research on the Gargiyajyotisa.

Over 500 papers on various themes are likely to be presented during the 5-day conference.

About WSC

The World Sanskrit Conference is being held in various countries across the globe once in every three years and so far it has been held thrice in India.

The purpose of this conference is to promote, preserve and practice the Sanskrit language all over the world by the people.

General Studies-2

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

Why in News?



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Progress data for scheme released by Govt.

Under PMAY (U) so far more than 51 Lakhs dwelling units have been sanctioned against the validated demand of 1 crore in last 3 years of implementation.

This is a huge jump in comparison to erstwhile housing scheme wherein only 12.4 Lakh houses were approved in around 9 years of its implementation. Out of over 51 lakh sanctioned houses, over 28 lakhs have already been grounded and are in various stages of construction.

Further over 8 lakh houses have already been completed and nearly 8 lakh houses have been occupied by the beneficiaries.

Other Innovative Steps Taken:

Global Housing construction technology challenge has been proposed to use the opportunity of large scale construction under PMAY-U to attract the best available global construction technologies which could ensure delivery of houses at a minimum cost, in minimum time while ensuring maximum number of houses in a given area.

This will help in technology transfer to our country so that ultimately these globally best available construction technologies and designs get adopted in the country benefiting the construction industry at large.

The Global Housing Construction Technology Challenge (GHTC-I) may help to adopt those technologies to suit local conditions and requirements.

It is win-win situation for all stakeholders which would help in fast transition of new global construction technologies in India giving a fillip to building affordable houses in India in a cost effective and sustainable manner.

GoI has been insisting States/UTs to issue technology-agnostic tenders for construction of large scale housing.

Progress of the houses on the ground are being monitored through geo-tagging using space technology.

Objective of Scheme:



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The Government of India is committed to provide "Housing for All" by the end of the Mission period-2022.

A National Urban Housing Fund for Rs. 60,000 crores has been set up for raising Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) in phases, for the rapid implementation of PMAY (U).

Keeping the ethos of cooperative federalism, the States/UTs are implementing the scheme with considerable zeal and initiatives.

National Testing Agency

Why in News?

National Testing Agency (NTA) has started its work and will be conducting various entrance examinations for higher educational Institutions from next academic sessions onwards.

Advantages of NTA:

NTA will bring qualitative difference in the examination process by its focus on research and scientific test design using services of Experts, Researchers, Statisticians, Psychometricians, Test Item Writers and Education Specialists.

The item writers would be trained to ensure that the quality of questions is as per the test design.

The experts, statisticians and item writers/subject matter experts are already identified for being inducted into NTA.

The new system will be student friendly, fair , transparent and flexible, the Minister added.

About NTA:

National Testing Agency (NTA) was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2017 as an Autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational Institutions.



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General Studies-3

International Round Table Conference on "Data for New India"

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is organising a two-day International Round Table Conference at New Delhi during 9-10th July, 2018.

Purpose of RTC

To identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in India, taking cue from the best practices followed in advanced countries like Canada, UK and Australia.

Such a Conference is being organized in India for the first time.

In the Conference, the experts from National and International agencies would deliberate on key statistical issues, such as data governance structure and capabilities, organizational issues, managing data systems in a federal structure and resource mobilization for ensuring quality statistical products to be produced.

The conference is expected to suggest measures paving way for initiating the reform process in the Indian Statistical System.

Fight Against Black Money:

New Step By Govt.

In a move aimed at widening the crackdown on black money and following the money trail flowing in and out of thousands of shell companies, the Centre is planning to set up an information technology (IT)-based mechanism to keep a tab on all non-cash financial transactions in the country.

Highly-placed government sources involved in devising the initiative said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had been asked to develop the IT infrastructure for this purpose.

How will It Work?

Currently, the idea is to make the RBI the sole repository of such information, which will not be made available to other agencies such as the income tax department and the enforcement directorate as a default.



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Such agencies may be required to make specific requests to the central bank if they want information on a particular set of entities.

Although the data will be captured for all transactions irrespective of the size of the transactions, the large ones would be relevant for enforcement purposes.

Mechanism Already in Place

Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, banks and financial institutions are already required to alert the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), under the Finance Ministry, to any suspicious transactions, cash or otherwise.

Cash transactions of more than Rs. 10 lakh (including a series of transactions integrally connected to each other and exceeding Rs. 10 lakh in a month), need to be reported to the FIU.

All suspicious transactions need to be reported to the unit within seven days after it is concluded that those are suspicious in nature.

The move to track all financial transactions is the latest in a series to curb black money and identify shell companies.

Effects of Govt. Intervention:

Following the 2016 demonetisation exercise that rendered more than 86% of the currency in circulation invalid, it was found there had been a significant spurt in the operations of shell firms that typically have no assets or active businesses.

The Centre has shut down more than two lakh such entities.

In FY17, the FIU had received more than 15.9 million Cash Transaction Reports and 4.73 lakh Suspicious Transaction Reports.

Formalin found in Fishes:

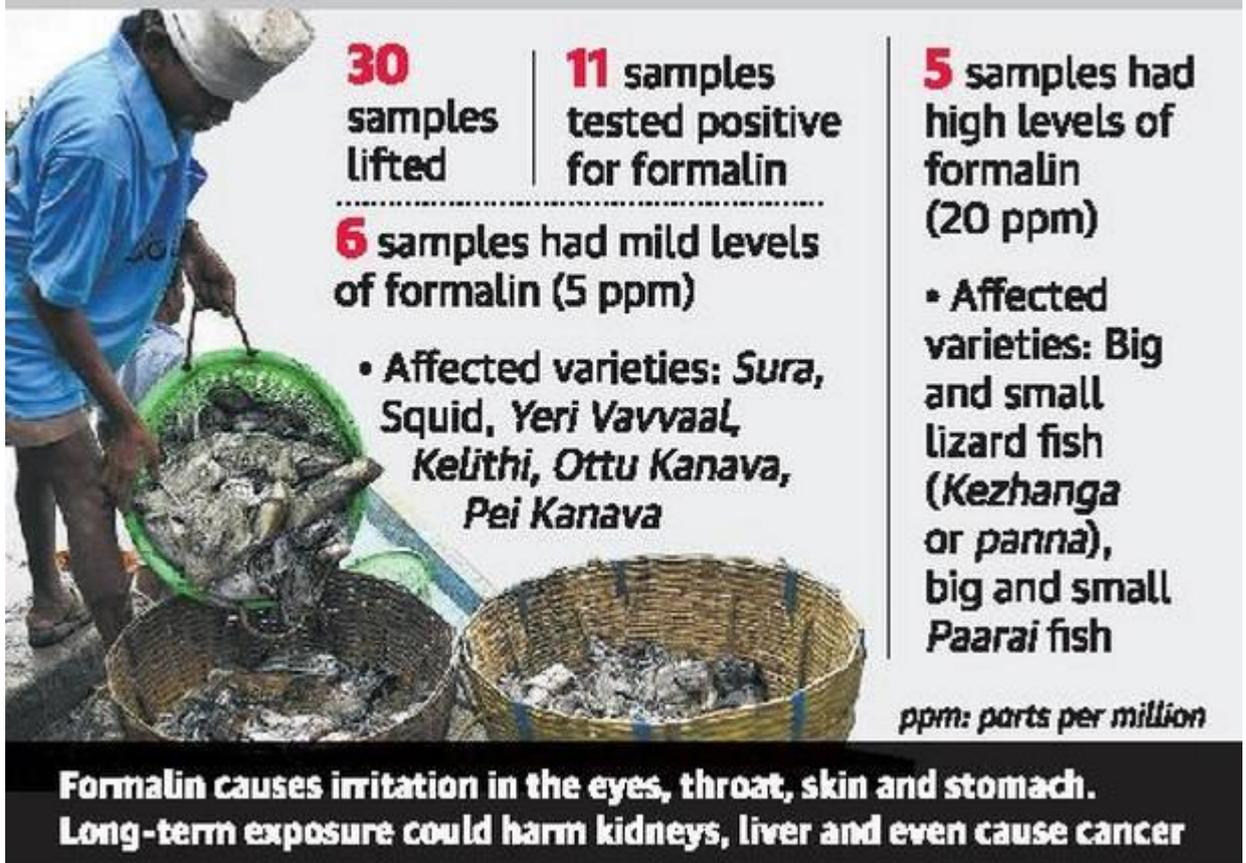


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As many as 11 out of 30 samples of fish species purchased from Chinthadripet and Kasimedu, the two major fish markets in [Chennai](#), on two different days, have tested positive for formalin, a cancer-inducing chemical used illegally to preserve fish.

A low-cost formalin detection kit developed by researchers of the State-run university was used to test the samples purchased by *The Hindu* for ascertaining if they contained the carcinogen that is used widely as a preservative and disinfectant.

Fishy business | What the tests revealed:



Side Effects Of Formalin:

Formalin causes irritation in the eyes, throat, skin and stomach. In the long run continued exposure causes harm to the kidneys, liver and can even cause cancers.



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This is the first time samples of fish in [Tamil Nadu](#) have tested positive for formalin.

Both big and small lizard fish or panna or kezhanganga and paarai (*Malabar trevally*) were found to have formalin content of above 20 ppm (parts per million).

Other varieties such as sura, octopus, eri vavvaal, ottu kanava, peikanava and kelithi had formalin of around 5 ppm.

Why is Formalin Used?

Fish industry experts said formalin or formaldehyde is sprayed on the fish or injected into the fish or the fish is dipped into the solution. T

his helps keep the fish fresh for a longer time.

Usually people who buy fish check the gills for freshness, if it is red it denotes freshness, when formalin is used the gills remain red for longer periods.

In some cases, fishermen also apply kumkum to retain redness.