



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 25 Aug 2018

General Studies- 2

PM expresses solidarity with the people of Kerala on Onam

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on the occasion of the auspicious festival of Onam, has expressed solidarity with the people of Kerala.

About Onam:

- **Onam** is an annual [Hindu](#) festival with origins in the state of [Kerala](#) in [India](#). It falls in the [Malayalam calendar](#) month of *Chingam*, which in Gregorian calendar overlaps with August–September.
- According to legends, the festival is celebrated to commemorate King [Mahabali](#), whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.
- Onam is a major annual event for Malayali people in and outside Kerala. It is a harvest festival, one of three major annual Hindu celebrations along with [Vishu](#) and [Thiruvathira](#), and it is observed with numerous festivities.
- It is the New Year day for Malayali Hindus

General Studies-2

SC Hearing to be livestreamed:

Context:

Technology has a flip-side but live-streaming of [Supreme Court](#) proceedings is a true representation of the “open courtroom” system where courts are accessible to one and all, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said on Friday.

Arguments Against:

- The live-streaming of court proceedings would be misused,
- and verbal comments made by judges in the course of a hearing would be twisted and converted to “fake news”.

Arguments in Favor:



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- The court proceedings are live-tweeted even now and there is no authentic record of the hearing to prove a tweet wrong.
- At least when the hearing is live-streamed, we will have an authentic record of what happened," the judge responded.
- The CJI said that, now, verbal comments of judges are read in words. "But people may want to see you speak, look into your eyes. Why should we feel shy about that?" the CJI asked.

The Chief Justice compared the situation to a poet who records himself as he reads his own poem, and said, "Had it been recorded on video, we could have seen him for ourselves and understood him better."

This step is taken under E-Court project.

What is e-Court Project?

- The e-Courts project is all about providing ICT enablement of courts to make justice delivery system affordable and cost-effective.
- The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project (Phase-I) is one of the national e-Governance projects being implemented in High Courts and district/subordinate Courts of the Country.
- The project has been conceptualized on the basis of the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary-2005" by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India.

Objectives of E-Court:

1. Computerization of more than 8000 new courts, legal service authority offices and state judicial academies with strengthened hardware.
2. Connecting all the Courts in the country to the National Judicial Data Grid through WAN and additional redundant connectivity to enable integration with the proposed interoperable criminal justice system.
3. Citizen centric facilities such as centralised filing centers and touch screen based kiosks be based at each Court complex.
4. Creating a robust Court management system through digitization, document management, Judicial knowledge management and learning management.



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5. Facilitating better performance in courts through change management and process re-engineering as well as improvement in process servicing through hand-held devices.
6. Enhance ICT enablement through e-filing, e-Payment and use of mobile application.

Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month)

Why in News?

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India had recently organized an orientation workshop for various stakeholders participating in the *Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month) being celebrated in the month of September.*

About Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month):

- The primary *objective of the celebration of Poshan Maah is to take the messages of POSHAN to the grass root level.*
- The programme- *an initiative of WCD Ministry and NITI Aayog is supported by 18 line Ministries/Departments/Government Organizations.*
- It seeks *to synergise all efforts by leveraging technology* and intends to take nutrition awareness to the level of Jan Andolan or People's Movement.
- The programme *focuses on 8 themes* – Antenatal Care, Optimal Breastfeeding (Early & Exclusive), Complementary Feeding, Anemia, Growth Monitoring, Girls-education, diet, right age of Marriage, Hygiene & Sanitation, Food Fortification.

About POSHAN Abhiyan:

POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched on 8th March, 2018.

Objectives:



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The programme through use of technology, a targeted approach and convergence strives to reduce the level of Stunting, Under-nutrition, Anemia and Low Birth Weight in Children, as also, focus on Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers, thus holistically addressing malnutrition.

Aims:

POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters over the next few years.

Coverage:

To ensure a holistic approach, all 36 States/UTs and 718 districts will be covered in a phased manner by the year 2020.

Rohingya Crisis:

In News?

Rohingya refugees on Saturday marked the anniversary of a deadly military crackdown in their Myanmar homeland that drove 700,000 of the persecuted minority into [Bangladesh](#), stateless and confronting a grim future.

What is the Issue?

- The Rohingya were stripped of their citizenship decades ago by Myanmar and have been hunted from the country in successive convulsions of violence.
- Access to healthcare and freedom of movement remains out of reach for the stateless people in Rakhine.
- And the Rohingya exodus from western Myanmar continues today, with refugees still trickling over the border throughout this year.

Why They are Fleeing?



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- Raids by Rohingya militants on August 25 last year across Myanmar's Rakhine state spurred an army crackdown which the United Nations has likened to "ethnic cleansing".
- Waves of Rohingya fled by foot or boat to Bangladesh in an exodus unprecedented in speed and scale.

Current Status:

- Buddhist-majority [Myanmar](#) says it is ready to take back those who fled.
- But it refuses to recognise the Rohingya as citizens, falsely labelling them "Bengali" illegal immigrants.
- A deal between Myanmar and Bangladesh to start sending them back has stalled. Fewer than 200 have been repatriated so far.

Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi this week said it was up to Bangladesh "to decide how quickly" repatriation can be done, while insisting the "terrorist threat" posed by Rohingya militants remains "real and present".

What is the Stalemate?

The Rohingya say they will not return without a guarantee of their safety, citizenship and compensation for homes and land torched.

The UN and international rights groups say conditions are not ready for them to go back.

International Response?:

- Calls have mounted for Myanmar's military to be held responsible for the campaign, with security forces accused of torture, rape and murder.
- The U.S. has sanctioned two army brigades and several commanders who oversaw the expulsion, in which thousands are estimated to have died.
- But Myanmar says it was simply defending itself and bristles at international calls for justice.
- Humanitarian agencies spearheading the relief effort in Bangladesh say just one third of the roughly USD 1 bn needed for the refugees until March has been raised.



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Telemedicine nodes by ISRO:

Why in News?

ISRO will establish 53 more nodes in the first phase over and above the existing 20, in various establishments of the Army, Navy and Air Force across the country.

What is Telemedicine Node?

- Telemedicine is one of the unique applications of Space Technology for societal benefit.
- ISRO Telemedicine programme started in 2001 has been connecting remote/rural/medical college hospitals and Mobile Units through the Indian satellites to major specialty hospitals in cities and towns.
- ISRO Telemedicine network covers various states/regions including Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands, North Eastern States and other mainland states.
- Many tribal districts of Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Rajasthan are covered under Telemedicine Programme.

Advantages of Nodes:

- During winter months, many of the remote posts are cut off for several months because of adverse terrain and extreme weather, making emergency evacuation near impossible.
- Communication through satellite-enabled telemedicine nodes will be a paradigm shift in the delivery of lifesaving health care till the weather clears up and movement is possible.
- This joint initiative by ISRO and the [Armed Forces](#) Medical Services will transform the reach of telemedicine to soldiers, airmen and sailors in remote and isolated posts, the official added.