

10th August Review

International Affairs

Today (9th August) is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

- This day is observed every year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.
- 2016 Theme : Indigenous Peoples' Right to Education

Bhutan is the world's first carbon negative country, meaning that the country's forests absorb more carbon dioxide each year than it produces.

- Around 72% of its land is under forest cover due to Bhutan's strong environment protection policies.
- Important Note : Bhutan is also the world's only country to use gross national happiness to measure its growth.

National Affairs

Today is Kranti Diwas (Quit India Day).

- This day observes the 74th anniversary of the Quit India movement.
- On this occasion, the Maharashtra government has launched a fortnight-long movement called 'Quit India 2 - from Swaraaj to Suraaj'.
- The movement aims at freedom from illiteracy, farmer suicides, water wastage, addiction, and corruption.

'Motorcycle ambulance' is an initiative currently functional in Chhattisgarh, which helps save lives in remote regions in India where four-wheelers can't reach.

- The concept is known to be effective in saving lives where people die due to lack of medical attention on time.

- The initiative by NGO Saathi is supported by UNICEF and the Chhattisgarh Health Department.

Human rights activist Irom Chanu Sharmila (44) today ended her 16-year-long fast against Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and was granted bail by an Imphal court on ₹10,000 personal bond.

- Popularly known as the "Iron Lady of Manipur," Sharmila demanded the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Manipur.
- Important Note : Her 16-year long fast, which had started in 2000, is the longest hunger strike in the world.

The Mental Health Care Bill, 2013, seeking to provide better health care for people suffering from mental illnesses was unanimously passed by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha today.

- The Bill, providing for protection and promotion of rights of persons with such illnesses, had 134 official amendments.
- This bill decriminalises suicide bid.
- As per the bill, a person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to be suffering from mental illness at the time of attempting suicide.
- Note : As of now, suicide bid is considered an offence under IPC section 309.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a theme song for Tiranga Yatra.

- The theme song 70 Saal Azadi Yaad Karo Kurban has been composed by Dr. Ghazal Srinivas.
- About Tiranga Yatra :
- This yatra is going to be organised from 16 to 23 August 2016 across the country to mark 70 years of Independence Day.

Business & Economy

Amsterdam-based human resource consulting firm Randstad Holdings today announced that it is going to acquire job portal Monster Worldwide for \$429 million in cash.

- Note : After this acquisition, Monster will keep its brand name and will operate as a separate entity.

Awards & Honors

Nita Ambani, India's first female member of the International Olympic Committee, became the country's first woman to award medals at an Olympic prize distribution ceremony.

- Ambani gave away medals to winners of the women's 400-metre freestyle swimming event today.
- Note : Ambani was elected to the IOC on August 4, and will remain a member till she turns 70.

Business & Economy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today announced bi-monthly monetary policy review.

- In this review, the RBI kept the rates unchanged.
- Important Note : This is outgoing Governor Raghuram Rajan's last monetary policy review meeting.

Mumbai-born Chetna Gala Sinha, an economist-turned-farmer, had founded India's first rural financial institution for women, called the 'Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank' in 1997.

- The bank offers financial assistance to women, invests in developing rural infrastructure and asset-building, floats projects to rejuvenate local traditional skills, and offers training for skill upgradation.

The Uttar Pradesh government today increased the House Rent Allowances (HRA) of government employees by 20%.

- The move will reportedly benefit over 14.5 lakh employees and create an additional annual burden of ₹500 crore on the state exchequer.
- The state government also made it compulsory for all government departments and institutions to purchase khadi fabric from Gandhi Ashram.

The board of HDFC today approved the merger of Max Life and Max Financial Services with its insurance arm HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company.

- This move will create the largest private sector life insurer in India.
- With assets under management of over ₹1 lakh crore, the merged entity's relative valuation is expected to be over ₹65,000 crore, as per reports.

Places in News

Mumbai has been named the most expensive city in India for travellers but the second least expensive city in the world after Hanoi in Vietnam by TripAdvisor.

- Mumbai costs ₹38,444 for a three-night stay between June and September while New York City, ranked the most expensive city in the world, costs ₹1,24,201.

India's first tiger cell will be set up in Dehradun to aid the tiger conservation efforts.

- A collaboration between the Wildlife Institute of India and the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the cell will have a database of tigers with DNA samples from 50 Indian tiger reserves.
- It will also keep track of poaching incidents and regularly update tiger numbers.

Deaths

Former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Kalikho Pul (47) was found dead at his residence today.

- He allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself.
- The Congress leader had become the acting CM of the state in February this year.
- Later in July, Pul had been removed from the CM's post after the Supreme Court reinstated the Nabam Tuki-led Congress government in Arunachal Pradesh.

The 82-year-old Irish Catholic cleric Edward Daly, who became a symbol of world peace after the 'Bloody Sunday' massacre in Ireland, died battling cancer today.

- Note : Images of Daly waving a bloodied white handkerchief as protesters tried to carry a wounded man to safety were circulated around the world in 1972 when 14 protestors were shot dead by British soldiers

General Knowledge

The youngest confirmed Olympic medalist was Greek gymnast Dimitrios Loundras, who won a bronze medal in the inaugural modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens.

- The gymnast was 10 years 218 days old at that time.
- The novel 'Gadsby' does not contain the letter 'e' in over 50,000 words that make up the book.
- The author Ernest Vincent Wright is known to have tied down the letter on his typewriter to avoid using it.

Sports

Indian archer Atanu Das qualified for the Round of 32 in the men's individual archery recurve event in Rio de Janeiro today.

- India wins the Men's Hockey match against Argentina in the men's hockey at Rio Olympics by 2-1.

Australian women became the first ever Olympic champions in the women's rugby sevens after they defeated New Zealand 24-17 in the gold medal match today.

- Brazilian judoka Rafaela Silva won gold in women's judo at the 2016 Rio Games, claiming the first Olympic gold medal for the host country at the ongoing Games.

French midfielder Paul Pogba became the most expensive footballer after Manchester United agreed to sign him from Juventus for a world record fee of around \$116 million (approximately ₹777 crore).