

# Prelim Bits 18-03-2018

### Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE)

\n\n

∖n

- The President of India will soon inaugurate a Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.  $\n$
- He will also present Gandhian Young Technological Innovation awards instituted by Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions [SRISTI]. \n
- FINE is an initiative to recognize, respect, showcase, reward innovations and to foster a supportive ecosystem for innovators.  $\n$
- It is organized by Rashtrapati Bhavan in association with the Department of Science and Technology and the National Innovation Foundation-India.  $\n$
- It will provide a window to showcase creative and innovative solutions for social development through innovation emerging from grassroots, student ideas and other technologies.

\n\n

## **Regional New Years in India**

\n\n

∖n

- The Vice President of India has greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Ugadi, Gudi Padava, Chaitra Sukladi and Cheti Chand.  $\n$
- Ugadi, also known as Yugadi, is the Telugu and Kannada New Year festival.  $\n$
- Gudi Pudwa is celebrated in Maharashtra that will mark the first day of the Hindu luni-solar calendar which is celebrated by people of Maharashtra, Marathi and Konkanis across the world.

\n

• Chaitra Sukladi is the New Year in traditional Hindu calendar based on the

beginning of the new moon and marks the first day of the Chaitra Month.  $\n$ 

- Cheti Chand is celebrated by the Sindhi Hindus which marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year.  $\gamma_n$ 

\n\n

## Saakshar Bharath

\n\n

\n

- Saakshar Bharat is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development.
  - \n
- This program was formulated in 2009 with the objective of achieving 80% literacy level at national level, by focusing on adult women literacy.  $\n$
- It is being implemented in rural areas 26 States and one UT that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001.  $\n$
- It is seeking to reduce the gap between male and female literacy to not more than 10 percentage points.
  - ∖n
- It has four broader objectives,
- \n

\n\n

\n

- 1. To impart functional literacy and numeracy to non-literates  $\space{\space{1.5}n}$
- 2. To acquire equivalency to formal educational system  $\slash n$
- 3. To impart relevant skill development program n
- 4. To promote a learning society by providing opportunities for continuing education.

\n

\n\n

∖n

- The principal target of the program is 70 million non-literate adults in the age group of 15 years and beyond.  $\nlambda$ 

\n\n

#### **KUSUM Scheme**

\n\n

\n

- The Government of India is in the process of formulating a Scheme 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)'.  $\n$
- It's a farmer-oriented solar power scheme that will allow setting up grid-connected solar plants in rural areas and off-grid solar pumps.  $\n$
- Finance minister had announced the scheme in this year's budget that involves decentralized solar power production of up to 28,250 Megawatt (Mw) over five years. n
- It aims at boosting farmers' income by allowing them to sell additional power to the grid through solar plants set up on  $\n$
- It will also have provisions for solarization of tube wells and lift irrigation projects.

∖n

- The other benefits of the scheme include  $\nline{\nlinte{\nline{\nline{\nline{\nline{\nline{\nline{\nlin$ 

\n\n

∖n

1. reduction in transmission losses,

\n

- support the financial health of discoms by cutting the burden of agricultural subsidy;

   \n
- 3. supporting states in meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets;

∖n

4. promotion of energy efficiency; and providing water security to farmers.  $\ensuremath{\sc n}$ 

\n\n

## **Initiatives for Digitalization of Education**

\n\n

∖n

- Some of the Government taken  $% \mathcal{A}_{n}$  initiatives for digitalization of education are,  $\mathbf{n}_{n}$ 

\n\n

\n

- 1. E-Pathshala is a web portal designed to disseminate e-resources including e-books developed by NCERT, State Boards.  $\n$
- 2. Shagun portal is designed to showcase the innovative and successful models implemented by all States and UTs in diverse circumstances.  $\n$
- 3. The National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) is an initiative to bring together all digital and digitisable resources across all stages of school education and teacher education.  $_{n}$
- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform launched to offer various online courses for school education and higher education. \n
- 5. SWAYAM PRABHA DTH-TV program for utilization of satellite communication technologies for transmission of educational e-contents through 32 National Channels has been launched.

\n\n

\n

- Click <u>here</u> to know about initiatives to push education.  $\slash n$ 

\n\n

## World consumer Day

\n\n

∖n

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution launched integrated portal for consumer services (jagograhakjago.gov.in) on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day.
  - \n
- Every year March 15 is celebrated as the World Consumer Rights day.  $\slash n$
- This year theme is "Making Digital Markets Fairer".  $\slash n$
- The new Consumer Protection Bill is under government's consideration that would replace the 30 year old Consumer Protection Act (COPRA) of 1986 once enacted.
  - \n
- The Day on which the COPRA, 1986 act received the Presidents assent is celebrated as National Consumer Day in December which is different from

World Consumer Rights day.

∖n

- To safeguard the interest of consumers, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is in the process of adopting ISO Standard i.e. ISO 10008:2013 on Guidelines for business-to-consumer electronic commerce transactions.  $\n$ 

\n\n

\n\n

#### Source: PIB, The Hindu

∖n

