

6 June 2018

1) In a bid to make Indian cities more sustainable, the NITI Aayog has launched a new course on 'Urban Analytics – Evaluating and Measuring Sustainability of Cities' at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. ***The course was launched under Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN)***. The course will provide an understanding and analysis on the urbanisation and its impacts that would help in evaluating the conditions of sustainability in Indian cities.

Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education was launched in 2015. It is a program of Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

2) The Centre has decided not to file any "**counter-affidavit**" on **Article 35A**, which has been challenged in the Supreme Court through a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition. The Supreme Court has scheduled further hearing for August 6.

Article 35A is a provision in the Constitution that empowers the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define permanent residents of the state. It was added through the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, issued under Article 370.

Jammu and Kashmir Assembly defined Permanent Resident as a person who was a state subject on May 14, 1954 or who had been a resident of the state for 10 years and has "lawfully acquired immovable property in the state."

3) **The Eleventh edition of GeoIntelligence Asia 2018 is being held in New Delhi**. It is organised by GeoSpatial Media and Communication with Directorate General of Information System as Knowledge Partners and Military Survey as Co-organisers.

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4) **2018 IBSA Ministerial meet was recently held in Pretoria, South Africa.** The outcome of this meeting was a document titled IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation. This document calls for contribution of each of the member of IBSA forum to contribute to greater understanding of development cooperation as a common endeavour of the global south.

The establishment of IBSA was formalised by ***the Brasilia Declaration*** of 6 June 2003. IBSA is a coordinating mechanism amongst three emerging countries, three multi ethnic and multicultural democracies, which are determined to:

- Contribute to the construction of a new international architecture.
- Bring their voice together on global issues.
- Deepen their ties in various areas.

5) ***What is Rice Fortification?***

Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health. Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice.

6) The NITI Aayog is working on a roadmap for full-scale **implementation of methanol economy** in the country in near future, which would not only curb pollution, but reduce India's dependence on oil imports as well.

Methanol is a promising fuel as it is clean, cheaper than fossil fuels and a good substitute for heavy fuels. India imports methanol from Saudi Arabia and Iran at present. Across the world, methanol is emerging as a clean, sustainable transportation fuel of the future.

