

9 June 2018

1) Sanitation coverage in rural India, under the Swachh Bharat Mission, has now risen to 85%. As per the data released by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, through mobilisation of rural communities, 7.4 crore toilets were built across rural India, and as an outcome, over 3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).

2) Ministry of Rural Development recently conferred National Awards on Best Performing Self Help Groups under DAY – National Rural Livelihood Mission. Conferring awards to best performing SHG and Village Organizations was initiated by DAY-NRLM in 2016-17. The National Awards to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are intended to provide public recognition to the outstanding performance of the community institutions and incorporate a sense of pride among the poor community members.

- ***SARAS Aajeevika Mela*** is an annual event of DAY-NRLM and it aims to provide a platform to the rural artisans to showcase their skills and products and also develop market linkages for their products.
- ***Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana***, under DAY- NRLM, aims to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of SHGs by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas, as identified by the States. It also aims to provide safe, affordable and community

3) The UN General Assembly has elected **Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa** to serve as non-permanent members on the Security Council for two years starting in January.

The five new members will replace Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Sweden on the council.

4) 44th annual **G7** Summit is being held in Quebec, Canada.

G7 Summit is an event conducted annually where world leaders from seven powerful economies of the world, US, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy come together to discuss burning issues happening around the globe. They, by mutual understanding, also form policies or figure out remedies for the concerned issue.

5) Scientists have found widespread uranium contamination in groundwater from aquifers across 16 states in India, much above the WHO provisional standard for the country. The main source of **uranium contamination** was "natural," but human factors such as groundwater table decline and nitrate pollution could be worsening the problem. The WHO has set a provisional safe drinking water standard of **30 micrograms of uranium** per litre, a level that is consistent with the U.S. EPA standards.

6) **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy:**

With a view to rationalize and simplify the selection of top performing university in sports for award of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has approved the revised guidelines for MAKA Trophy.

7) **Deocha-Pachami coal block:**

The Centre has handed over the Deocha-Pachami coal mines to the West Bengal government.

- It is said to be second largest coal block in the world.
- The coal block is located in Birbhum district in West Bengal.

8) **World Ocean Day** is celebrated every year on June 8th.

Action focus for 2018 was preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean.