

24/5/2018

1) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD-Divyangjan Shashaktikaran Vibhag), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** for the Financial Year 2018-19. It covers major developments to be achieved in this year for the Empowerment of Divyangjan of the country. **ALIMCO is a "Not For Profit"** Central Public Sector Undertaking working under the administrative control of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

2) The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance to set up the **country's first national sports university in Manipur**. A bill to set up the university in Imphal is already pending in parliament. The ordinance will be on the lines of the bill introduced in Lok Sabha in August, 2017.

3) The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has validated **Nepal** for having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem – a milestone, as the country becomes the first in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in the 1980s. In 2002, the Government of Nepal stepped up efforts to eliminate the disease with the establishment of a national trachoma programme.

4) The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, recently chaired his twenty-sixth interaction through **PRAGATI – the ICT-based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**.

The 25 PRAGATI meetings so far have seen a cumulative review of 227 projects with a total investment of over Rs. 10 lakh crore. Resolution of Public Grievances has also been reviewed across a range of sectors.

PRAGATI is a unique integrating and interactive platform. The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

5) India is hosting the **ASEAN India Film Festival**. The Film Festival will be a platform for people of the film industry of member countries to explore areas of cooperation in the domain of "cinema and cultural cooperation.

The Film Festival will be non-competitive. The tagline of the Festival is proposed to be '**Friendship through Films**'.

6) The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the "**Universal Service Obligation Fund [USOF]**" supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 tower locations identified by MHA in inhabited uncovered areas affected by Left Wing Extremism [LWE] of 96 districts in 10 States for Phase-II project.

Districts which span 10 States — Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are described as those affected by **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and constitute the 'Red Corridor.'**

7) **Man Booker Prize:**

An English translation of **Olga Tokarczuk's** Polish novel Flights, which combines tales about travel with explorations of the human body, has been named as the winner of the prestigious Man Booker International Prize 2018.