

30/5/18

1) Former Supreme Court judge Justice R K Agrawal has been appointed the President of the **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)**.

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), India is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

2) PRAAPTI app

In a bid to rein in errant distribution companies that delay payments to power generation companies, the Power Ministry has launched the Praapti web portal, that aims at bringing transparency in power sector of India.

PRAAPTI, Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators, will contain all details related to payments.

3) **TRAI proposes use of blockchain technology:** Telecom regulator Trai has issued new draft norms to curb pesky calls and SMSes by using blockchain technology. When implemented, Trai will become first organisation to implement this kind of regulation. The new technology aims to ensure that telemarketing messages are sent only to those who have subscribed to them, and that too by authorized entities. The draft proposes to check misuse of repeated unsolicited calls being made even to those subscribers who have given consent.

Blockchain is the digital and decentralized ledger that records transactions without the need for a financial intermediary, which in most cases is a bank. A blockchain is an anonymous online ledger that uses data structure to simplify the way we transact.

4) A platinum-group chemical element called **ruthenium** (Ru) is the fourth single element to have unique ferromagnetic properties at room temperature.

Ruthenium is a chemical element with symbol Ru and **atomic number 44**. It is a rare transition metal belonging to the platinum group of the periodic table. Like the other metals of the platinum group, ruthenium is inert to most other chemicals.

5) **The Chau mask of Purulia**, the wooden mask of Kushmandi, the Patachitra, the Dokras of Bengal, and Madhurkathi (a kind of mat) have been presented with the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by the Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

6) A plea seeking a stay on the construction of a link road linking Kotdwar to Ramnagar through the **Corbett Tiger Reserve** has led the **National Green Tribunal** to seek responses from the Uttarakhand government and the Centre.

The petition alleges that the construction of the road through the park was in violation of previous Supreme Court orders that prohibited the construction of any road through the Corbett Tiger Reserve.

7) **Braille-enabled signboards to be used during Maheshtala bypoll:**

Election Commission of India for the first time will start the use of Braille-enabled signboards for visually challenged voters in the upcoming Maheshtala Assembly by-election in West Bengal.

The initiative of Braille-enabled signboards was part of the drive to make elections more accessible to persons with disabilities (**PWD**).