

2'May'2018

1)The Supreme Court has issued a slew of directions to all high courts of the country regarding trial in sexual assault cases involving children.High courts should instruct the trial courts not to grant unnecessary adjournments during trial of cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (**POCSO**) Act.The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) 2012 was formulated in order to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.

2)The draft National Digital Communications Policy 2018 has been released by the Department of Telecom (DoT).The policy has outlined goals such as providing broadband for all, creating 4 million additional jobs in the digital communications sector, apart from enhancing the contribution of the digital communications sector to 8% of India's gross domestic product (GDP) from less than 6% in 2017.n the wake of the Facebook-Cambridge Analytics data scandal, the government aims to now establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals and facilitates India's participation in the global digital economy.

3)The government has clarified that all the remaining households in the country including located in the habitations/hamlets/Dhanis/Majras/Tolas associated with the Census villages and households attached to urban settlements would be covered under 'Saubhagya'.Under the '**Saubhagya**' scheme, launched in September, 2017, all willing households in rural areas and poor families in urban areas are given free electricity connections. There are around 4 Crore un-electrified households in the country and they are targeted for providing electricity connections by December 2018.Rural Electrification

Corporation Limited (REC) is the Nodal Agency for the operationalization of the scheme throughout the country.

4)WHO recently released global air pollution database in Geneva. WHO monitored 4,300 world cities for their air pollution levels in terms of PM 2.5 levels in the year 2016. The PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health. As per the database, 14 out of 15 most polluted cities in the world are from India and the top 14 cities are from India only. **Kanpur** is the most polluted city which came on top with PM 2.5 concentration of 173 micrograms per cubic metre

5)The WHO report has made a special mention of Prime Minister Modi's '**Ujjwala**' scheme to provide LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. The report said, "While the latest data shows ambient air pollution levels are still dangerously high in most parts of the world, countries also show some positive progress." To combat air pollution, the government in March this year finalised a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP), "specifically" for Delhi-NCR. The plan has a number of measures including actions to reduce vehicular emissions and control dust from constructions.

6)Formations of South Western Command are carrying out Exercise **VIJAY PRAHAR** in the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges close to Suratgarh in Rajasthan. The month-long exercise is essentially to practice the troops in penetrative manoeuvres across the obstacle ridden terrain under a nuclear umbrella.