

1) **Atal Pension Yojana** has added over 1 crore subscribers since its launch in May 2015, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) said recently.

Under the scheme, a subscriber would receive a **minimum guaranteed pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month**, depending upon his contribution, from the age of 60 years.

The same pension would be paid to the spouse of the subscriber and on the demise of both the subscriber and the spouse, the accumulated pension wealth is returned to the nominee.

2) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's (IIMA's) centre for innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched '**Bharat Inclusion Initiative**'.

The Bharat Inclusion Initiative aims to provide a continuum of solutions to inclusion-focused tech entrepreneurs across the pre-incubation, seed and scale-up stage and help them jump to the next orbit.

The fund will look at **start-ups** in areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education, agriculture, and health.

3) India has pitched for inclusion of the **trade facilitation pact on services in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)** saying it would help promote growth of the global economy.

On the lines of the trade facilitation pact in goods, India has submitted a detailed proposal to the WTO to negotiate a trade facilitation agreement in services (TFS).

4) **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)** has asked the developer of GM Mustard to undertake "**field demonstration**" to generate additional data to check whether the transgenic oilseed affects honey bees and other pollinators and also whether it negatively impacts soil health.

GEAC had last year given its nod to this indigenously developed transgenic oilseed and recommended it to the environment ministry for final clearance.

Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants of the Delhi University will now have to undertake field demonstrations on GM mustard in an area of five acres at two or three different locations to generate relevant data before approaching the regulator again for its consideration of commercial release.

5) **30 States and Union Territories** have participated in the **State Startup Ranking Framework 2018 launched by DIPP**.

The participating States and UTs shall now be evaluated on a score of 100, against 38 action points categorized into 7 areas of intervention such as Startup Policy and implementation, Incubation support, Seed Funding, Angel and Venture Funding, Simplification of Regulations, Easing Public Procurement and Awareness & Outreach. DIPP has appointed seven dedicated evaluation committees involving members from all relevant departments and reputed players in the ecosystem, for evaluating States' responses in each area of intervention.

6) The **192nd Post Office Passport Seva Kendra, opened recently in Phagwara in Punjab, will be the first in the country to have all-women staff.**

7) **Indian Army Women Officers' Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Bhagirathi-II (6512 metres)** consisting of nine women officers, was recently flagged off. Mt. Bhagirathi-II is located in the Garhwal Himalayas in Gangotri National Park. The peak rises right above the Gangotri glacier which sets new challenges for the climbers.

8) **National Dengue Day** is observed on **May 16** in order to create

awareness regarding the viral disease. It is contagious and can easily be spread from one person to another. The disease is mainly caused by 1 of the 4 closely related dengue viruses. The fever is transmitted when **Aedes mosquito** infected with dengue virus bites a person.



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