

## **October 11<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **National issues**

#### **- IIT Kharagpur partners with Samsung for Digital Academy**

IIT-Kharagpur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung India for the setting up of a digital academy on the institutes campus.

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the institute would host the Samsung Innovation Lab and train students on the Internet of Things (IoT) through Tizen-based operating systems, commonly used by the company for its mobile phones and home appliances.

IoT is a network of computing devices embedded in objects of everyday use for storage and exchange of information. The training would help students acquire industry-relevant skills

The academy was a part of the companys corporate social initiative that aims at bridging the digital divide in the country by imparting skills to students on cutting-edge technology

Through this partnership with IIT-KGP, the academy planned to train over 100 students in the next three years. The course would be taught over 14 weeks through classroom lectures, assignments, lab room sessions, self-study and mini projects.

### **Bilateral issues:**

#### **- Indian, German Railways sign declaration**

India and Germany on 10<sup>th</sup> October signed joint declaration of intent for carrying out feasibility study on existing Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways for increasing the speed trains to 200 kolo-meter per hour.

The joint declaration signed between Indian and German Railways in New Delhi is intended to deepen the cooperation in the priority area of Semi High Speed Rail, upgrading of current passenger services to Semi High Speed.

The cost of the feasibility study will be shared on 50.50 basis by the two countries. The total length of the Chennai-Kazipet Junction is 643 km and the entire corridor is electrified.

### **Economy issues:**

#### **IMF lowers India's growth projection to 6.7% in 2017 due to note ban, GST**

The IMF on 10<sup>th</sup> October lowered India's growth projection to 6.7 per cent in 2017, 0.5 percentage points less than its previous two forecasts in April and July, attributing it to demonetisation and introduction of the GST.

It also lowered the country's growth for 2018 to 7.4 per cent, 0.3 percentage points less than its previous two projections in July and April.

India's growth rate in 2016 was 7.1 per cent, which saw an upward revision of 0.3 percentage points from its April report.

The latest report, released ahead of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank here this week, puts China slightly ahead of India in terms of growth rate for the year 2017.

China is projected to grow at 6.8 per cent in 2017, which is 0.1 percentage more than its two previous projections in April and July.

However, India is likely to regain the tag of the fastest growth emerging economies of the world in 2018, with China projected to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2018

The GST, which promises the unification of India's vast domestic market, is among several key structural reforms under implementation that are expected to help push growth above eight per cent in the medium term

Between 1999 and 2008, India on an average grew at a rate of 6.9 per cent, IMF said adding that for the next three years its growth rates were 8.5 per cent in 2009, 10.3 in 2010 and 6.6 in 2011. In the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 it grew at a rate of 5.5 percentage, 6.4 and 7.5 respectively.

In 2015, India clocked a growth rate of 8 percentage points.

For the year 2022, the IMF has projected a growth rate of 8.2 per cent, as against its growth projection of 6.7 in 2017 and 7.4 in 2018.

## **Awards**

### **- Award for founder of Sulabh Souchalay:**

President Ram Nath Kovind presented Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management to noted social reformer and founder of Sulabh International Bindeshwar Pathak for his immense contribution towards getting rid of manual scavenging.