

October 18th news:

International issues:

- European Union Ministers Approve New Sanctions on North Korea

The European Union imposed fresh sanctions on North Korea on 17th October as part of international efforts to punish the regime for its nuclear and ballistic weapons programmes. Foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg signed off on a new package of measures, including a ban on investments in North Korea and on EU exports of oil to Pyongyang. They added the Korean People's Army and Pyongyang's armed forces ministry to the sanctions blacklist, meaning any assets they hold in the EU will be frozen. They also tightened curbs on North Korean workers in the EU to try and stop money being sent home that could be used for the weapons programmes.

What is EU?

The European Union is a Political and Economic union comprising of 28 states that are primarily located in European continent with an internal single market for movement of goods, services and people.

The EU has a single currency called Euro and has common defence and security relations with foreign nations along with diplomatic mission, being part of organisations like the U.N, W.T.O, G7, G20.

Why sanctions?

A sanction is a penalty levied on another country, or on individual citizens of another country.

It is an instrument of foreign **policy** and **economic** pressure that can be described as a sort of carrot-and-stick approach to dealing with international trade and politics.

What will be the impact?

Many scholars and practitioners say that sanctions, particularly targeted sanctions, can be at least partly successful and should remain in the tool kits of foreign policy makers

It makes businesses in sanctioned country difficult to trade and do business with the outside world because of sanctioned restrictions.

National issues:

- PM Modi inaugurates AIIMS-like institute for Ayurveda in Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17th October inaugurated the first ever 200-bed ayurveda hospital on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi

The AIIA, which will function under the ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy or AYUSH, aims to offer quality patient care and become a research hub in generating scientific information about quality, safety, and efficacy of ayurvedic products.

Briefly about Ayurveda

Ayurveda is a system of medicine with historical roots in the Indian subcontinent. "AYURVEDA" is made up of two words-Ayuh and Veda. Ayuh means life and Veda means knowledge or science. Thus "AYURVEDA" in totality means 'Science of life'.

It incorporates all aspects of life whether physical, psychological, spiritual or social. What is beneficial and what is harmful to life, what is happy life and what is sorrowful life; all these four questions and life span allied issues are elaborately and emphatically discussed in Ayurveda.

It believes the existence of soul before birth and after death too.

About AYUSH

The **Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy**, abbreviated as **AYUSH**, is a governmental body in India purposed with developing, education and research in Ayurveda (Indian traditional medicine), yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha, homoeopathy, Sowa-rigpa (Traditional Tibetan medicine), and other Indigenous Medicine systems

Bilateral issues:

- India signs pact to send interns to Japan for training

India has signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with Japan to send youngsters there as technical interns for on-the-job training for a period of three to five years.

The MoC on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) was signed by Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Japanese Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare with Katsunobu Kato at Tokyo on the 17th October.

India is the third country with which Japan has signed the M o C. As per the Japan's official data for 2016-end, approximately 2.3 Lakh technical intern trainees from multiple countries are on training in the island nation.

Economy issues:

- Arunachal tribals oppose 10,000-MW hydro-electric dam on Siang River

Three weeks after NITI Aayog had come out with a proposal to construct a single multi-purpose river valley project on the Siang river in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, the Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum (SIFF) has opposed it and asked the government to stop it in the larger interest of the tribal communities of the area.

According to Tasik Pangkam, general secretary of the SIFF s...

The proposed single multi-purpose dam project that would replace the proposed Siang I and Siang II hydel projects would not only submerge villages and displace the tribals, but also “wipe out” a civilization.

The NITI Aayog had on September 26 made a presentation before Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu and several of his senior cabinet colleagues in New Delhi on the Siang single multi-purpose river valley project which would replace the earlier proposed Siang Stage I and Stage II projects.

To be constructed at the proposed Siang Stage II location as a single storage project instead of two separate projects as earlier scheduled, it would submerge over 300 tribal villages and produce 10,000 MW of hydro-electric power.

Here I need.....

How Projects impact local people

Hydro-Electric projects lead to displacement of local population due to submergence of their villages and farmland.

They lose their livelihood because of these hydro-electric projects and most of the time either receive little or no compensation for the loss of land.

Most of these displaced people are never resettled in a proper habitation in which they can restart their lives.

This is one of the major issues especially in forested, hilly and tribal regions of eastern and north-eastern India

Sport issues:

- HC restores life ban imposed on Sreesanth by BCCI

A division bench of the Kerala High Court on 17th October restored the life ban imposed on cricketer S Sreesanth by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the wake of the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal. The bench, comprising Chief Justice Navaniti Prasad Singh and Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan, gave the verdict on a petition filed by the BCCI against a single-judge bench's order, lifting the life ban imposed on Sreesanth

The single-judge bench of Justice A Muhamed Mustaque had on August 7 lifted the life ban imposed on him by the BCCI. Justice Mustaque had also set aside all proceedings against Sreesanth initiated by the board.

Sreesanth and all the 35 other accused in the spot-fixing case were let off by a Patiala House court in July, 2015. The BCCI, however, had refused to alter its disciplinary decision even after the verdict. Following which Sreesanth had challenged the life ban against him in Kerala High Court