

## **February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **Bermuda abolished Same-Sex Marriage**

Bermuda becomes the first country to legalize and then repeal same-sex marriage. Bermuda's governor John Rankin approved a bill reversing the right of gay couples to marry, despite a supreme court ruling last year authorizing same-sex marriage.

### **National:**

#### **Committee for modernization of Army**

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has constituted a 13-member advisory committee to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernisation of the armed forces. The committee will undertake an independent review and check the status of ongoing critical projects worth more than 500 crore rupees. The panel will suggest measures to improve the capital acquisition process. The committee, headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi, will have to present an initial status report on identified projects to the Defence Minister by March 31

#### **Google and NCERT agreed To Teach Students Digital Safety**

Google and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed a pact to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology curriculum. It was signed on the occasion of Safer Internet Day (06th February). The curriculum developed by NCERT in collaboration with Google will be used to train students from class I - class XII across 1.4 million schools in India where they will learn how to become good and responsible digital citizens. The curriculum is spread into four themes - being smart, being safe, being a digital citizen and being future ready.

#### **11 States & UTs declared ODF**

Union government on 8<sup>th</sup> February informed the Lok Sabha that 11 states and union territories have been declared open defecation free (ODF) so far under the Centre's flagship programme, Swachh Bharat Mission. The states and union territories declared ODF till date are Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya.

#### **UP and UNICEF Launches DASTAK Campaign**

Uttar Pradesh State government in association with UNICEF launched massive door to door campaign DASTAK to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease in the state. The war cry of DASTAK is 'Darwaja Khatkhatoo, AES aur JE ko bhagao'. In DASTAK campaign, whole state machinery with the help of UNICEF will now literally go door to door in 38 JES and AE affected districts which mostly fall in the Tarai region.

## **Economy:**

### **Cabinet approves implementation of PMRF scheme**

Union Cabinet has approved implementation of Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme at a total cost of 1,650 crore rupees for a period of seven years beginning 2018-19. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget for 2018-19.

Under this scheme, the best students who have completed or are in the final year of B. Tech or Integrated M.Tech or M.Sc. in Science and Technology streams from IISc or IITs or NITs or IISERs or IIITs will be offered direct admission in PhD programme in the IITs or IISc.

Such students, who fulfill the eligibility criteria, and are shortlisted through a selection process, as laid down in the PMRF Guidelines, will be offered a fellowship of 70 thousand rupees per month for the first two years, 75 thousand rupees per month for the 3rd year and 80 thousand rupees per month in the 4th and 5th years.

Apart from this, a research grant of 2 lakh rupees will be provided to each of the Fellows for a period of 5 years to cover their foreign travel expenses for presenting research papers in international conferences and seminars. A maximum of 3000 Fellows will be selected in a three year period beginning 2018-19.

### **Mumbai Airport Becomes Worlds Busiest Single-Runway Airport**

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport of Mumbai sets record with 980 flights in 24 hours or almost one flight every minute. With this, the Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport bettered its own feat of 974 flights in 24 hours, recorded in December 2017. While Gatwick, the U.K.'s second-largest airport, remains the most efficient single-runway airport in the world.

## **Science and Technology:**

### **HAL Develops First Hawk-I Flight**

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited developed the first flight of Hawk-i with indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS). Hawk-i is the first indigenous RTOS developed in India from scratch and certified by Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC). The RTOS is the system software which provides a standard run-time environment for real-time applications execution in a safe and reliable manner.

## **Sports:**

### **Jhulan Goswami 1st Woman In The World To Take 200 ODI Wickets**

Indian women's cricket team pacer Jhulan Goswami become the first woman in the world to take 200 wickets in ODI cricket. Goswami achieved the feat playing in her 166th ODI against South Africa.

Goswami had become the leading wicket-taker in women's ODI in May 2017, overtaking former Australian pacer Cathryn Fitzpatrick's record of 180 wickets.