

16 August 2024

Odisha announces policy of one-day paid menstrual leave



Key Points:

- ❖ In a significant step for women's wellbeing, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida on Thursday announced a one-day paid menstrual leave policy during the 78th Independence Day celebrations in Cuttack.
- ❖ The policy is aimed at supporting the health and well-being of the menstruating people and will be extended to both public and private sectors.
- ❖ The leave can be availed on either the first or the second day of periods, Parida said.
- ❖ With this Odisha becomes the third state after Bihar and Kerala to implement a policy in this regard.
- ❖ While Bihar has had a menstrual leave policy for working women since 1992, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced a menstrual leave policy for the female students across all state universities under the Department of Higher Education.

- ❖ The concerns come as many women have often complained about facing discriminatory behaviour at the workplace due to their pregnancy.

Why is Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida resigning?



Key Points:

- ❖ Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced on Wednesday (August 14) that he will be stepping down from the post next month, and will not contest in the upcoming vote to elect a new chief for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- ❖ Fumio Kishida comes from Hiroshima, and the prime minister, who was born 12 years after the city was destroyed by the first nuclear weapon, lost several members of his family in the bombing.
- ❖ He has always supported nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. He belongs to a political family, and his father and grandfather served in the House of Representatives, the lower house of Japan's parliament (Diet).
- ❖ Kishida himself worked with the erstwhile Long-Term Credit Bank of

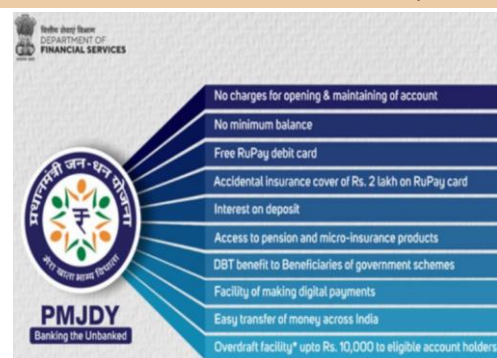
Japan (now known as Shinsei Bank) for about five years before making his foray into politics.

- ❖ He was elected to the lower house in 1993, and served in several capacities before being appointed minister for foreign affairs in the cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2012. He remained in the post until 2017, becoming Japan's longest serving foreign minister.
- ❖ In September 2021, Kishida became president of the LDP after defeating Taro Kono in a runoff vote to replace the outgoing leader and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. He became prime minister and formed his first cabinet the following month.
- ❖ The prime minister told a press conference on Wednesday that "Politics cannot function without public trust," a reference to a slush funds scandal that has unfolded over the past year, and severely tarnished the government's image
- ❖ **CORRUPTION SCANDAL:** In December 2023, allegations surfaced about lawmakers from the LDP's Seiwa Seisaku Kenyūkai, Shisuikai, and Kōchikai factions having failed to report more than 600 million yen in campaign cash that had been stowed away in illegal slush funds. Voters who were already struggling with rising living costs, did not take the revelations kindly, and handed

Kishida's party a sobering defeat in all three parliamentary by-elections held in April.

- ❖ **CHURCH SCANDAL:** Kishida's problems were compounded by revelations about his party's relationship with the controversial Unification Church, regarded locally as a cult, and alleged to have links with the assassination of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in July 2022. Kishida's approval ratings were battered by speculation that the Church had influenced public policy, following reports of party members benefiting from the Church's funding or attending its events.
- ❖ **ECONOMIC POLICY:** As PM, Kishida batted for a "new capitalism" to combat decades of slow growth rates and deflation. "During my three years as prime minister and party president, I put an end to the deflationary economy and revived the 'animal spirits' of raising wages and promoting investment," he said.

PMJDY reaches 53 crore beneficiaries and ₹2.28 lakh crore in deposits



Key Points:

- ❖ The flagship financial inclusion scheme of the Centre, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which will be completing a decade on August 15, has 52.99 crore total beneficiaries (account-holders) across the States with total balance in PMJDY accounts at ₹2,28,362 crore, as on 31 July 2024.
- ❖ The scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2014, now has become the largest financial inclusion scheme in the world.
- ❖ PMJDY reaches 53 crore beneficiaries and ₹2.28 lakh crore in deposits. It has largely been women-centric with 29.48 crore women beneficiaries while 35.27 crore of total accounts are from rural and semi-urban branches, as per the latest data. Nearly 36 crore RuPay Debit cards have been issued.

'One India-One Ticket' initiative: Indian Railways, NCRTC collaborate to simplify ticket booking



Key Points:

- ❖ Indian Railways and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have joined forces to advance the 'One India – One Ticket' initiative, aimed at enhancing the passenger experience for those traveling on mainline railways and Nammo Bharat trains.
- ❖ This partnership seeks to streamline travel by allowing passengers to book and travel seamlessly using both Indian Railways and RRTS services.
- ❖ How does One India-One Ticket initiative work?
- ❖ After purchasing an IRCTC train e-ticket, users can now also book Nammo Bharat train tickets for up to eight travellers in a single transaction.
- ❖ The option to book RRTS tickets will be available on the PNR confirmation page and through the user's booking history. How to book One India-One Ticket?
- ❖ Tickets can be booked up to 120 days in advance, in line with the current railway reservation window. After successfully booking Nammo Bharat tickets, users will receive confirmation via SMS and email, with QR code details sent to their registered contact points.
- ❖ The fare for Nammo Bharat tickets will be collected alongside the IRCTC convenience fee (Rs 5 + taxes) via online payment methods on the IRCTC platform.

Jakson Engineers Limited signs MoU with SBI to promote solar projects



Key Points:

- ❖ Jakson Engineering Limited has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) to set up solar projects to a wide range of consumers across commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.
- ❖ This partnership comes under the Surya Shakti Solar Finance initiative. It will combine SBI's banking experience and Jakson's solar technology expertise.
- ❖ This initiative will promote energy sustainability and lower power costs. The Surya Shakti Solar Finance initiative aims to provide financial assistance to consumers and help them adopt solar energy.
- ❖ SBI is offering loans worth Rs 100 million to commercial and industrial users for the same.

Bihar government mandates Registration of Temples, Mutts, And Trusts



Key Points:

- ❖ The Bihar government mandated registration of temples, mutts and trusts, and directed all District Magistrates in the State to ensure that the bodies are registered and details of their immovable assets are submitted to the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (BSBRT) soon.
- ❖ The BSBRT operates under the State's Law Department and its records say there are about 2,512 unregistered temples and mutts across the State owning 4,321.64 acres of land. According to the Bihar Hindu Religious Trusts Act, 1950 all public temples, mutts, Dharmashalas and trusts must be registered with the BSBRT.
- ❖ According to BSBRT records, Bihar has 2,512 unregistered temples and mutts owning 4,321.64 acres of land and 2,499 registered temples with 18,456 acres of land.

India's Pramod Bhagat suspended from Paris Paralympics Over Breach of Anti-Doping Regulations



Key Points:

- ❖ India's Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medal winner Pramod Bhagat, Badminton, has been suspended for a period of 18 months for breaching the anti-doping regulations.
- ❖ As a result of the suspension, Pramod will miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.
- ❖ On 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months.

Gol declared August 23rd as National Space Day



Key Points:

- ❖ The Government of India has declared August 23rd as "National Space Day" to celebrate the remarkable success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, which

accomplished safe and soft landing of the Vikram Lander and deployed the Pragyaan rover on the lunar surface near the South Pole.

- ❖ This historic achievement places India among an elite group of space faring nations, making India the fourth country to land on the Moon and the first to do so near the south pole of the Moon.
- ❖ This achievement is being celebrated across the country during July and August 2024, with the goal of engaging and inspiring the younger generation in the field of Space Science and Technology.

Vandalism At Kolkata Hospital Where Doctor Was Raped



Key Points:

- ❖ A mob has vandalised a government hospital in Kolkata during a midnight protest by doctors against the recent rape and murder of a colleague.
- ❖ The emergency ward in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital has been completely destroyed, said a police official.
- ❖ Cops fired tear gas shells and used lathi-charge as the protest turned violent late last night.

Calcutta High Court orders CBI probe into doctor rape-murder case



Key Points:

- ❖ The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged rape and murder of a 31-year-old woman doctor at R G Kar Medical College Hospital.
- ❖ The court also asked the West Bengal Police to hand over the case diary and other related documents to the CBI by 10 am on Wednesday.
- ❖ The postgraduate student was found dead in the seminar hall at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital on Friday, setting off massive protests by doctors across the state initially and later in several cities in other states, too.
- ❖ The Kolkata police set up a special investigation team, which has so far

arrested Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer attached to its force.

- ❖ NMC asks medical colleges to ensure safe workplace, send report within 48 hrs of each incident The country's apex medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission (NMC), has issued a notice to all medical colleges and institutions to ensure a safe working environment.
- ❖ Measures such as installing CCTV cameras in sensitive areas and availability of adequate security staff have been suggested.
- ❖ The NMC notice states: "All medical colleges are requested to develop a policy for a safe work environment within the college and hospital campus for all the staff members including faculty, medical students, and resident doctors.
- ❖ The policy should ensure adequate safety measures at OPD, wards, casualty, hostels and other open areas in the campus and residential quarters.



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