**POLICY WATCH Vol Issue 6.\_\_**

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# **HEADLINE OF THE WEEK**

 **SECTION 1: ECONOMY**

 **SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE**

**Terrorism and graft-free India in 5 years PM Modi’s target: Jitendra Singh**

***The Indian Express*, 20 August 2017**

Union Minister Jitendra Singh compared the years of Quit India Movement leading upto Independence with 5 years of Modi rule where he plans to eradicate corruption, poverty and terrorism. The youth of the country, according to him, was responsible for “cleaning the mess”. He also spoke on Article 35 A which empowers the Jammu and Kashmir government to define “permanent residents” and entitle them to benefits and was of the opinion that this was an attempt by the opposition in ratcheting a sensitive issue to create unrest.

Read more:<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/terrorism-graft-free-india-in-5-years-pm-narendra-modis-target-jitendra-singh-4805333/>

Date Accessed: 20.08.2017

**LG Anil Baijal approves pay hike for Delhi anganwadi workers**

**(PTI, *The Indian Express*, August 17, 2017)**

Following protests of anganwadi workers and helpers who had demanded an increase in honorarium, health insurance, pension after retirement, etc., the Delhi cabinet’s decision to double their allowances finally received Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal’s approval. The workers, who receive Rs. 5000 per month, would now be paid Rs. 10,170; and helpers, who receive Rs. 2,500 per month would now be paid Rs. 5,089.

Read more: http://indianexpress.com/article/india/lg-approves-pay-hike-for-delhi-anganwadi-workers-4801735/

Date Accessed: 19.8.2017

**DEVELOPMENT**

**GOVERNMENT**

**PANCHAYATI RAJ**

**SECURITY**

**Social and Economic Exclusion**

**CONNECTIVITY**

**EDUCATION**

**Agency to fund higher education set to take off**

**Vikas Pathak, *The Hindu*, 19 August 2017**

The Higher Education Financing Agency set up to fund higher education institutions and boost infrastructure and approved by the cabinet last September will soon begin to accept project proposals for funding. The Ministry of Human Resource dEvelopment has stated that an institution is entitled to 10 times the funds it escrows in the first year. This Agency which has been set up as a Special Purpose Vehicle will be jointly funded by Canara Bank and MHRD with a government equity of Rs 1000 crores and will be providing assistance on a basis of 10 year loans.

Read More:<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/hrd-ministry-invites-project-proposals-for-hefa-funding/article19525079.ece>

Date Accessed: 21.08.2017

**HEALTH**

**Parliamentary committee reopens the surrogacy debate, says commercial surrogacy should be allowed**

**(Priyanka Vora, *Scroll.in*, August 17, 2017)**

A report prepared by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016, argues in favour of commercial surrogacy, noting that ‘altruistic surrogacy’ can amount to “forced labour.” The Parliamentary Standing Committee also criticised the government for not basing its proposal for ‘altruistic surrogacy’ on any “scientific criteria,” noting that “all kinds of value judgments have been injected into it [the Bill] in a paternalistic manner.”

Read more:<https://scroll.in/pulse/847458/parliamentary-committee-reopens-the-surrogacy-debate-says-commercial-surrogacy-should-be-allowed>

Date Accessed: 19.8.2017

**On rural India’s health systems: The health checklist**

***The Hindu*, 17 August 2017**

The tragedy in BRD Medical College and Hospital in Gorakhpur has put the entire institution of health under severe scrutiny. The CAG audit on the NRHM’s mission on reproductive and child health revealed several loopholes like inadequacy of staff, inability to efficiently utilise funds and lack of primary health centres. Even though an upgraded machinery has long been prepared and Indian Public Health Standards were issued in 2007 and 2012, continuous assessment and investment will be required to ensure that rural areas have access to health acre within a 3km radius. As pointed out in the NITI Aayog report, a shift to single- payer system with cost controls is imperative to enable equity in distribution of medicines.

Read more:<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-health-checklist/article19504473.ece>

Date Accessed: 18.08.2017

**URBAN**

**TRANSPORT**

**ENERGY**

**TECHNOLOGY**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Kochi chosen to implement biodiversity project**

**KS Sudhi, *The Hindu*, 21 August 2017**

A conservation project supported by Germany to assist the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans has chosen Kochi, Mangalore and Panaji as the implementors of its project. The main focus of this project to achieve the goals outlined in Aichi Target 2 which was adopted at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya in 2010. It is a four year project and will attempt to integrate biodiversity conservation at all levels of government for effective eco system management.

Read more:<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/kochi-chosen-to-implement-biodiversity-programme/article19530533.ece>

Date Accessed: 21.08.2017

**GLOBALIZATION**

**AGRICULTURE**

**BJP MP flays Maharashtra government over loan waiver scheme for farmers**

***The Indian Express*, 18 August 2017**

BJP MP Nana Patole has expressed his disappointment over the disorganised implantation of the loan waiver scheme in Maharashtra and its failure in reaching and impacting the lives of farmers. He accused the government of being insensitive towards the plight of farmers and pointed out that Rs 34000 crores waiver which was termed as historic have been ineffective when it came to compiling and collecting data on farmer loans. These comments came in the light of 34 farmer suicides in 10 days in eight districts of Maharashtra.

Read more:<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/bjp-mp-flays-maha-govt-over-loan-waiver-scheme-for-farmers-4802335/>

Date Accessed: 18.08.201

**LAW AND JUSTICE**

**DEFENCE**

 **SECTION 3: SOCIETY**

**CASTEISM**

**COMMUNALISM**

**GENDER**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**DEMOGRAPHY**

**REGIONALISM**

**LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

**DISABLED**

**ELDERLY**

**HISTORY**

**SOCIAL CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE**

 **SECTION 4: INDIA AND WORLD**

**1. INDIA IN THE WORLD**

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**2. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

 **3. SOUTH ASIA**

**4. EAST AND SOUTH EAST ASIA**

**5. MIDDLE-EAST**

**6. AFRICA**

**7. EUROPE**

**8. AMERICAS**

 **SECTION 5: OPINIONS/BOOKS**

**OPINIONS**

**Naming a right**

**(Ujwala Uppaluri, *The Hindu*, August 17, 2017)**

In the context of increasing intrusiveness of governments and technologies into the personal lives of people, the author highlights the importance of declaring the right to privacy as a fundamental right. Commenting on the government’s argument that the right to privacy is incapable of being defined, the author argues that the Supreme Court has historically recognised unenumerated rights as fundamental rights and has thereby acknowledged the need for constitutional protections against the contemporary challenges of changing times.

Read more: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/naming-a-right/article19505839.ece

Date Accessed: 20.8.2017

**The Behaviour Puzzle**

**(Sunita Narain, *Down to Earth*, August 15, 2017)**

Owing to the ambitious targets required to make India open-defecation-free, many state governments have resorted to name-and-shame strategies – blowing whistles at and clicking photographs of people defecating in the open – to bring about a “behavioural change” in terms of toilet usage. Such strategies are not only shameful, but also ineffective. The author argues for the importance of increased government investment in building awareness about the health impacts of poor sanitation – something that can act as an effective social pressure against open defecation.

Read more:<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/the-behaviour-puzzle-58349>

Date Accessed: 19.8.2017

**BOOKS**