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## Daily Current Affairs 15th July, 2018

### National News

- **India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years** (from July 2018 to June 2020). The underlying Theme of the Inaugural Ceremony is “**Customs – Fostering Trade Facilitation**”.
- **NOTE**
  - The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions.
  - World Customs Organization Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
  - Kunio Mikuriya (Japan) is the Secretary-General of WCO.
- The government has set up a **high-level task force** under the chairmanship of **Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha** to identify various items and policy interventions to **reduce dependence on import**.
- **The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** launches the **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018)** in the Delhi.
  - The objective of SSG 2018 is to undertake a ranking of states and districts on the basis of their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative SBM-G parameters.
- The Haryana Education Department has launched ‘**I am not afraid of English**’ **initiative to promote English language right from Class 1 in the state’s primary schools**.
  - The initiative is aimed at capacity building of teachers to enable them to help the students to learn, read, write and speak English.

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone for the **state's first cultural university at Majuli** to be built at an estimated cost of Rs 300 crore.
  - “The Cultural University would be a great place for learning about the state’s vivid culture,” he said.
- With the launch of cost-effective innovative water project, Bihar will soon provide the cheapest drinking water in the world. The first of such a water project was launched in **Bihar’s Darbhanga district, by Sulabh International**, an organisation that introduced the concept of ‘Sulabh Sauchalya’ in the country.
  - The **‘Sulabh Jal’ project** converts contaminated pond and river water into safe drinking water.

### International News

- A new integrated state-of-the-art integrated **Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC)** was jointly inaugurated by **Home Minister Rajnath Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan** at Dhaka's Jamuna Future Park.

### Appointments

- Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki has been given the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh by President Ram Nath Kovind.

### Awards

- India’s Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project has won the World Bank’s internal award for exceptional performance in achieving many development goals.
  - The ICZM project is among the eight projects awarded, selected out of 42 final nominations received from the World Bank Task Teams in the South Asian Countries.

### Sports

- **Former world number one Angelique Kerber** defeated **seven-time champion Serena Williams** in the women's singles final to clinch her **first-ever Wimbledon title**. Angelique Kerber hails from Germany.