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Daily Current Affairs 24th July, 2018

NATIONAL NEWS

- Considering the increasing incidents of mob lynching, **the Union Government constituted a High-Level Committee chaired by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba** to deliberate in the matter and make recommendations.
 - The government also decided to constitute a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to consider the committee's recommendations.
- **A Statement of Intent (SoI)** was signed between **NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation** to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme. The SoI was signed by **Yaduvendra Mathur, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog** and **Sita Ram Gupta, Executive Director, Lupin Foundation**.
 - As per the terms of the SoI, Lupin Foundation, with the NITI Aayog, **will work in three states - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan** to facilitate the creation of an ideal template to develop economic strength, technological viability and moral leadership across three districts in these states.
- **The Union Government** has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 250**. The minimum initial deposit to open the account has also been reduced to Rs 250.
 - The Sukanya Samriddhi scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, as a part of the **Union Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** campaign.
- **Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched development projects worth over **5400 crore rupees in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh**.
 - He addressed the gathering during Vikas Parv and farmers' convention in the district.
- The **Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry** is set to move a proposal

for enhanced punishment in cases of **sexual assault of male children.**

- The Law Ministry has cleared the proposal to amend the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**, for enhancing punishment in cases of sexual assault against young boys.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **India and Rwanda** signed **eight agreements** following delegation-level talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame** in Kigali. The two countries signed agreements **in the fields of Defence, Trade, Agriculture, Leather and allied products and Dairy.**
- **European Union (EU) and Japan** have signed **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**. It was signed at EU-Japan summit in Tokyo by **EU Presidents Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.**

ECONOMY

- The **Goods and Services Tax Council, at its 28th meeting** has reduced the rates on more than 50 products. **GST on sanitary pads** was cut from **12% to zero**, **rakhis** were exempted from the tax.
 - **Small televisions, washing machines, fridges and kitchen appliances** such as mixers and juicers have their tax rates slashed from **28% to 18%.**
- The **board of ONGC** has approved exiting **helicopter service provider Pawan Hans** by selling its entire **49 per cent stake.**
 - It aims to cut debt and consolidate resources in core oil and gas business.
 - Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) wants its interest to be clubbed with the 51 per cent government stake that is already on offer for sale.

SPORTS

- The **mascots of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020** greeted the Japanese public for the first time.
 - The **Tokyo 2020 Paralympic mascot's** name was revealed as **Someity**, (pronounced soh-may-tee) which comes from **someiyoshino**, a popular cherry blossom variety, and additionally echoes the English phrase "so mighty". It represents Paralympic athletes who overcome obstacles and redefine the boundaries of what is possible.
- **Rafael Nadal** remains in the **top** position of the **ATP tennis world rankings** as

per standings on 23rd July 2018.

- **ATP standings on 23rd July 2018:**

- 1 – Rafael Nadal (ESP)
- 2 – Roger Federer (SUI)
- 3 – Alexander Zverev (GER)

