

Current Affairs Of August 2018

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National

Mughalsarai Junction Renamed As Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction

i. The iconic Mughalsarai Railway Junction in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station**. BJP National President Amit Shah inaugurated the renamed station. A goods train with an all-woman crew was also flagged off.

ii. A smart yard project was also launched on the occasion. The bi-weekly Ekatmata Express, train connecting Lucknow and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction was also flagged off.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Piyush Goyal is the present Railways Minister of India.

GST Council Announces Cashback For Digital Transactions

i. In the 29th meeting, GST council approves cash incentives to promote Digital transactions. Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announces 20% Cashback upto Rs 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupay or USSD mode.

ii. The meeting was held in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Finance Minister Piyush Goyal. It was focused on the concerns and suggestions of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. In the meeting, it was decided to create a sub-committee headed by **MoS Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla** for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Achieves 5 Core Mark

i. Loksabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan handed over 5 crore LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana



(PMUY) to Smt Takirdiran of Delhi in the Parliament House. The 5 crore feat has been achieved in the time period of over 2 years.

ii. PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) on 1st May 2016 and it is implemented by **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** through its Oil Marketing Companies. In the

current year, considering the huge success of the Scheme, target was revised to 8 crores with budgetary allocation of Rs 12,800 crore.

iii. Uttar Pradesh has got the maximum number of LPG connections (87 lakh) followed by West Bengal (67 lakh) and Bihar (61 lakh).

India Elected President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

i. AIBD India has been elected as the **President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development**



(AIBD) for a period of two years. India got elected against Iran during voting which took place at the **44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

ii. Director General of All India Radio F. Sheheryar was re-elected as chair of the executive board while Sri Lanka was elected as vice-chair. Broadcasters from 26 countries in the region including India are full members of the organization.

Important Takeways from above news-

- AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation and is mandated to achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development.

Supreme Court To Get 3 Serving Women Judges For 1st Time

i. The Supreme Court will have three serving women judges for the first time, after the Centre cleared the elevation of **Madras High Court Chief Justice Indira Banerjee.**



ii. The other two judges are **R Banumathi**, appointed in August 2014, and **Indu Malhotra**, appointed in **April 2018.** Notably, SC will have a total of 22 male judges including two new male appointees.

Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD Successfully Flight Tested

i. Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the successful test of the Ballistic



Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The endo-atmospheric missile, **capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms** was launched against multiple simulated targets of 1500 km class ballistic missile.

ii. All the mission objectives were successfully met. **Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa**, witnessed the flight test along with other senior officials.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Sanjay Mitra (Present Defence Secretary) is the present Chairman of DRDO.
- DRDO Headquarters in New Delhi.

Logo and Tagline For Geographical Indications Launched

i. **Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu** launched a logo and tagline for **Geographical Indications (GI)** to increase awareness about intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the country. The slogan for the GI tag is- **'Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India'**.

ii. A GI product is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.



World's 1st Hindi-Speaking Robot 'Rashmi'

i. **Ranchi-based software developer Ranjit Srivastava** is developing the **world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot**, claimed to cost just Rs50,000 so far.



ii. **Named Rashmi**, the AI-powered robot can also speak Bhojpuri, Marathi, and English, and is equipped with facial expressions and recognition systems. He was inspired to create Rashmi after seeing Hong Kong-made humanoid 'Sophia' in 2016.

Fortune 500 List of World's Largest Companies Released

i. Seven Indian companies have been listed in **Fortune's 500 list 2018 of world biggest**

corporations. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is the highest ranked company from India followed by RIL which jumped 55 places. The US-based retail company, **Walmart has topped the list.**

ii. **IOC ranked 137th in 2018** with a significant jump from 168th position from 2017. **RIL is the top private sector company in India. It ranked 148th in 2018** from 203rd from 2017. **ONGC ranked 197th in 2018** which not even featured in 2017. SBI got 216th rank 1 place higher than 217th in 2017.

iii. **The Top 3 companies on the list are:**

1. Walmart (the USA),
2. State Grid (China),
3. Sinopec Group (China).

Rajasthan 1st State to Implement Biofuel Policy

i. **Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels** unveiled by the Centre this year. The desert State will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.

ii. The policy on biofuels seeks to help farmers dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Rajasthan CM- Vasundhara Raje, Governor- Kalyan Singh.**

Global Innovation Index, GII- 2018 Launched In India

i. **The Global Innovation Index 2018** was launched in New Delhi by **Ratan P Watal**, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog & Member Secretary of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. ii. The event was organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** – one of the founding partners of GII along with the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, in collaboration with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

iii. India's rank on the Global Innovation Index (GII) has improved from 60 in 2017 to 57 in 2018. India has been consistently climbing the GII ranking for the past two years.

Google Launches Video Q&A App Cameos Aimed At Celebrities

i. Google has launched a new video-based Q&A app called 'Cameos' on the App Store, which allows people to answer questions about themselves, then share those answers directly on Google.

ii. The app is aimed at celebrities and other public figures, who are often the subject of people's Google searches.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Google CEO-** Sundar Pichai, **Parent organization-** Alphabet Inc., **Headquarters-** the USA.

Khangchendzonga Becomes 11th Biosphere Reserve To be Included in WNBR

i. The **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (in Sikkim)** has become the **11th Biosphere Reserve from India** that has



been included in the **UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)**.

ii. The decision to include Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in WNBR was taken at the 30th Session of International Coordinating Council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at **Palembang, Indonesia**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The core zone – Khangchendzonga National Park was designated a World Heritage Site in 2016 under the 'mixed' category.
- Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1, 220 metres above sea-level.

Goa Tourism's App-Based Taxi Service Flagged Off

i. **Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar** and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called '**GOAMILES**' in **Panaji**.

ii. It would ensure that commuters are not cheated as there would be transparency in fares for the customers.

It will also ensure the increase in earnings of taxi drivers by "two to three" times.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Mridula Sinha is the present Governor of Goa.

World's 1st Thermal Battery Plant Inaugurated In Andhra Pradesh

i. The world's first-ever thermal battery plant was unveiled in **Andhra Pradesh** by the state's Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu**.



ii. Manufactured by the **Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST)**, the first-of-its-kind batteries will aim to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Andhra Pradesh CM-** Chandrababu Naidu, **Governor-** ESL Narasimhan.

Parliament Passes Bill To Grant Constitutional Status To NCBC

i. The **123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill** giving constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** has got Parliamentary



assent. It will give the institution all powers to safeguard the rights of the socially and educationally backward classes and fulfils a long pending commitment of the central govt to the OBCs.

ii. **123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill Explained:**

1. It seeks to establish the NCBC under the constitution with authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding OBCs,
2. NCBC will have a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and 3 other members of which at least one will be a woman,
3. NCBC will work as an autonomous institution with powers of a civil court.

India To Launch 2nd Lunar Mission 'Chandrayaan-2' on January 3, 2019

i. India will launch its second lunar mission “Chandrayaan-2” on January 3, 2019, to land on the moon with a lander and rover.



According to Indian Space

Research Organisation Chairman K. Sivan, ISRO is aiming to launch the mission but the window to land on the lunar surface is open till March 2019.

ii. The 800-crore rupees is the cost of lunar mission named “Chandrayaan-2”. The 3,890-kg Chandrayaan-2, which will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-3, will orbit around the moon and study its lunar conditions to collect data on its topography, mineralogy and exosphere.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Dr K Sivan** is Chairman of ISRO.
- ISRO stands for **Indian Space Research Organization**.
- Headquarters of ISRO- **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

Nasa Launches Parker Solar Probe To ‘Touch Sun’

i. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) blasted off a \$1.5 billion spacecraft toward the Sun on a historic mission to protect the Earth by unveiling the mysteries of dangerous solar storms.

All You Need To Know About The ‘Parker Solar Probe’

i. NASA’s ‘Parker Solar Probe’ has become the first-ever mission to “touch” the Sun. The spacecraft, about the size of a small car, will travel directly into the Sun’s atmosphere about 4 million miles from the surface.

ii. Parker Solar Probe launched aboard a Delta IV-Heavy rocket from Cape Canaveral, the USA.

Bharti Axa Ties Up With Airtel Payments Bank To Offer Jeevan Jyoti Bima

i. Bharti Axa Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank entered into an alliance to offer the ‘Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana’ (PMJJBY), a government-backed life insurance scheme. The alliance will leverage Airtel Payments



Bank’s vast network to reach deep rural pockets and serve the under-insured. With this, Airtel Payments Bank also becomes the first payments bank in India to offer the Government of India-backed life insurance scheme.

ii. The product (PMJJBY) provided by Bharti Axa Life Insurance offers Rs 2 lakh life insurance cover for a nominal premium of Rs 330 per annum and can be purchased by all existing or new Airtel Payments Bank savings bank account holders between the ages of 18-50.

Important Takeways from above news-

- CEO of Airtel Payments Bank- **Anubrata Biswas**
- Headquarters of Airtel Payments Bank- **New Delhi**

Ease of Living Index 2018: Pune Tops, Rampur At Bottom

i. The Ease of Living Index 2018 was released by **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** with few most prominent cities failing to make a cut in the top 10. Of total **111 cities ranked under the index, Pune has been ranked first** while Navi Mumbai has surfaced as the second preferred spot in terms of 'liveability'.

ii. All the cities have been ranked on the basis of four parameters viz. institutional, social, economic and physical.

iii. Top 3 cities in the list are:

1. Pune,
2. Navi Mumbai,
3. Greater Mumbai.

iv. Bottom 3 Cities in The List are:

1. Rampur (111th),
2. Kohima (110th),
3. Patna (109th).

Chhattisgarh, 1st State To Provide Right To Skills’ Development To Youth

i. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh announced

that **Chhattisgarh is the first among the 28 other states in the country to provide Right to Skills’ Development to the youth.**



ii. The Chief Minister along with Union Minister of State for Skill Development Anant Kumar Hegde flagged off fifteen Skill Chariots to launch the government's project of 'Skills on Wheels' in the state.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Baleramji Dass Tandon is the present Governor of Chhattisgarh.

India's 1st Genetic Bank For Wildlife Conservation Inaugurated In Hyderabad

i. **National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank (NWGRB)** was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in **Hyderabad, Telangana.**



ii. It is India's first genetic resource bank where the genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.

India's 1st Women SWAT Team Inducted in Delhi Police

i. The **Delhi Police** inducted an all-woman **Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team**, consisting of 36 commandos – the first ever by any police force in India – for anti-terrorist operations. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced the team.

ii. The team will be deployed during the Independence Day celebrations. The elite women commandos, hailing from the north-eastern states, will be deployed at strategic locations for securing the Independence Day celebrations.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Anil Bajjal is the present Lt. Governor of Delhi.

Chandrayaan-2 Lander To Be Named 'Vikram' After Sarabhai

i. The lander on the Chandrayaan-2 mission, which is scheduled to be launched in January 2019 will be named '**Vikram**' after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian space programme.

ii. This mission, unlike Chandrayaan-1 which only orbited the Moon, involves a Lander soft-landing on

the lunar surface and unloading a Rover to study and take measurements from the Moon, while the orbiter will go around the Earth's satellite.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Dr K Sivan** is Chairman of ISRO.
- ISRO stands for **Indian Space Research Organization.**
- Headquarters of ISRO- **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

Santhali Becomes India's 1st Tribal Language To Get Own Wikipedia Edition

i. **Santhali (Santali)**, a tribal language primarily spoken in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, received global recognition when it got a **Wikipedia edition in its own script.** The language is been spoken by over 6.4 million people in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam.

ii. The initiative to get a Santhali edition for Wikipedia, began six years ago, in 2012. **Santhali, written in the Ol Chiki script** currently has content of about 70,000 words.

Piyush Goyal Released 3rd Party Survey Report On Station Cleanliness

i. **Minister of Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal** has released a report on **Station Cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI).**

ii. **A1 category stations (out of 75):**

1st: Jodhpur/North-Western Railway

2nd: Jaipur/North-Western Railway

3rd: Tirupati/South-Central Railway.

iii. **A category stations (out of a total of 332):**

1st: Marwar/North Western Railway

2nd: Phulera/North -Western Railway

3rd: Warangal/South-Central Railway.

iv. **Zonal Railway rankings are:**

1st: North Western Railway

2nd: South Central Railway

3rd: East Coast Railway.

Axis Bank Introduced 1st of Its Kind Iris Authentication for Aadhaar-Based Transactions

i. **Axis bank** has become the first bank in the country to introduce **Iris Scan Authentication**



feature for Aadhaar -based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.

ii. This is being run as a pilot project in 8 branches of rural Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Axis Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.
- Shikha Sharma is the present CEO and Managing director of Axis Bank.

Defence Industrial Corridor Launched in Aligarh, UP

i. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. The move is part of the government's efforts to develop specialised zones dedicated to defence production in the state.

ii. Six nodal points, Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi have been identified in state for the corridor. Another defence corridor was also launched in Tamil Nadu.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Sanjay Mitra (Present Defence Secretary) is the present Chairman of DRDO.
- DRDO Headquarters in New Delhi.

SBI Ranked As India's Most Patriotic Brand: Survey

i. Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, according to a survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov, followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.

ii. The survey, which covered 152 brands across 11 categories, is based on data collected online by YouGov Omnibus among 1,193 respondents in the country using its panel of an online representation of India.

Important Takeways from above news-

- SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 01st July 1955.

Ministry of Agriculture Proposes To UNFAO To Declare 2019 as 'International Year of Millets'

i. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh urged to Jose Graziano da Silva, the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) to declare the upcoming year as the 'International Year of Millets'.

ii. The adoption of this proposal by the FAO with the support of its Member Nations will enable it to be moved to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the declaration of an upcoming year as International Year of Millets.

Important Takeways from above news-

- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Biggest Ever Rescue Operation In Flood-Affected Kerala: Important Highlights

i. The NDRF has the biggest ever relief and rescue operation in flood-affected Kerala. A total of 58 teams have been deputed to work in the state out of which 55 are working on the ground. This is the highest ever deployment of NDRF in a single state since its raising in 2006.

ii. After the review, PM Modi announced a financial assistance of Rs 500 crore to the State. This is in addition to Rs. 100 Cr. announced by the Home Minister. PM also announced ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh per person to the next kin of the deceased and Rs. 50,000 to those seriously injured from PM's National Relief Funds.

Smitha V. Crishna Tops List of India's Wealthiest Women

i. Smitha

V. Crishna, a third-generation heir of the Godrej family, ranks first in the Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy

Women 2018 list with an estimated wealth of Rs37,570 crore. Ms. Smitha owns one-fifth of the Godrej Group.

ii. Roshni Nadar, CEO and executive director at HCL, ranks second in the list with an estimated wealth of Rs30,200 crore. She also heads the Shiv Nadar Foundation. The chairperson of the Times



Group, **Indu Jain, ranks third in the list.** Her wealth is estimated at Rs26,240 crore.

EIU Releases Global Liveability Index 2018: Vienna tops, Delhi Stands 112th

i. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index



2018, the ranking of 140 global cities based on their living conditions. The EIU is part of UK magazine 'The Economist' and provides forecasting and advisory services through research and analysis.

ii. Delhi was ranked at 112th position and Mumbai fetched 117th spot. Austria's capital Vienna has been ranked as the world's most liveable city, displacing Australian city of Melbourne.

iii. The Top three cities on the list are:

1. Vienna,
2. Melbourne,
3. Osaka.

NOTA Option Not Applicable For Rajya Sabha Elections: Supreme Court

i. The Supreme Court ruled that the 'None of The Above' (NOTA) option will not be applicable for voting in the Rajya Sabha elections. The ruling was made by a bench of Justices comprising CJI Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud.

ii. The bench held that the NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not for the polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

Chhattisgarh Announces Renaming Of Naya Raipur To Atal Nagar

i. In a tribute to the late former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Naya Raipur as



'Atal Nagar'. Chief Minister Raman Singh made the announcement after a Cabinet meeting.

ii. The Bilaspur University will be known as Atal Bihari Vajpayee University while the Narrow Gauge Line will be called Atal Path. The Central Park, which

is being constructed beside collectorate, will be named as Atal Park.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- Naya Raipur is the proposed administrative capital of Chhattisgarh.
- Anandiben Patel is the present Governor of Chhattisgarh.

President Kovind Inaugurates International Buddhist Conclave in New Delhi

i. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the International Buddhist Conclave in New Delhi. The theme of the conclave is '*Buddha Path – The Living Heritage*'.

ii. The Ministerial level delegation from ASEAN countries will participate in the conclave along with delegates from 29 countries including US, UK, Germany, France and Russia. This year Japan is the partnering country for the Buddhist conclave.

NGT Appoints Justice S J Vazifdar As Chairman Of Panel To Decide Vedanta's Plea

i. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice S J Vazifdar as head of a three-member committee to decide mining company Vedanta's plea challenging closure of its Sterlite copper plant at Tuticorin.

ii. A bench headed by chairperson A K Goel had stated a credible mechanism, through which rival contentions can be balanced and final view taken, has to be evolved.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- **NGT Chairman: A K Goel, Headquarters: New Delhi.**

Forbes' List Of World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018: George Clooney Tops, Akshay Kumar Ranks 7th

i. Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan have made it to the Forbes' list of World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018, which was topped by George Clooney. Akshay and Salman made it to spot seven and nine, respectively.

ii. The world's 10 highest-paid actors tallied a combined \$748.5 million between June 1, 2017, and



WORLD'S HIGHEST-PAID ACTORS 2018



June 1, 2018, before fees and taxes. The list this year was topped by George Clooney.

iii. Top 3 on Forbes' list of the world's best-paid male actors 2018:

1. George Clooney: \$239m
2. Dwayne Johnson: \$124m
3. Robert Downey Jr: \$81m.

Kempegowda International 2nd Fastest Growing Airport In The World

i. The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged as the second fastest growing airport in the world in the first half of 2018 in terms of



actual growth in the number of passengers. It has recorded 1,58,50,352 flyers during the six-month period.

ii. Only Tokyo's Haneda International has bettered KIA's growth. The report was published by RoutesOnline, a company focussing on the quality and standards of aviation globally. **New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is placed sixth.**

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Chairman of Airports Authority of India is **Guruprasad Mohapatra.**

RIL 1st Indian Company To Cross Rs 8 Trillion Market Capital

i. The Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs 8 trillion market capitalization after its shares surged nearly 37% in 2018.

ii. RIL share prices rose 1.31% to hit a record high of Ra1,262.50, pegging its market cap at Rs8.01 trillion after data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) showed Reliance Jio continued to add subscribers at a healthy pace.

India's Largest Business Incubator Bhamashah Techno Hub Launched In Jaipur

i. In a big step forward to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Rajasthan, the Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched India's largest business incubator the



Bhamashah Techno Hub in Jaipur.

ii. The incubator will provide end-to-end support to startups, ranging from infrastructure, technology, angel funding, access to venture capitalists, mentorship, exposure to national and international organisations and experts and much more.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Kalyan Singh is the present Governor of Rajasthan.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee Launches NETA App To Rate MPs and MLAs

i. Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched the National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application to rate Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

ii. 'Neta - Leaders' Report Card' App, the brainchild of 27-year-old entrepreneur Pratham Mittal, is a platform where voters can review and rate their elected representatives and hold them accountable as well.

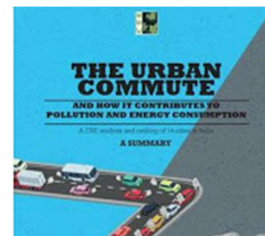
India's 1st Biofuel-Powered Flight Lands In Delhi

i. In a Historic day for the country's aviation and energy sector, India's first biofuel-powered flight landed in Delhi, covering the distance between Dehradun & Delhi. The biofuel is developed by CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun. The flight test was successfully completed by SpiceJet.

ii. The flight was powered with a blend of 75% air turbine fuel (ATF) and 25% biojet fuel. The advantage of using biojet fuel as compared to ATF is that it reduces carbon emissions and enhances fuel efficiency.

Kolkata, Bhopal Top Among Indian Cities in Clean Transport: CSE Survey

i. The Statistics from 14 cities across India have been analysed by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the New Delhi-based think tank, to check how some cities, which hold sizeable shares of India's urban population are positioned in the race for clean and low carbon mobility.



ii. **Bhopal tops for lowest overall emissions and energy use from urban commute.** The analysis titled *The Urban Commute* was released in Kolkata.

iii. **Top 3 in Overall emissions and energy consumption:**

1. Bhopal
2. Vijayawada
3. Chandigarh.

iv. **Top 3 in Per-travel trip emissions and energy consumption:**

1. Kolkata
2. Mumbai
3. Bhopal.

'Atal Ji Ne Kaha', A book On AB Vajpayee Launched

i. "Atal Ji Ne Kaha" is the latest of the books on the BJP patriarch and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched with a message by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



ii. **The book is Authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi.** Mr Rehi is noted Doordarshan producer, and senior journalist. The book has been published by Darpan Publication.

DBS Named World's Best Bank In Nod To Its Digital Innovation

i. **DBS Bank** has been named the **world's best bank by Global Finance magazine**, in a reflection of its ability to invest in digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers.

ii. **DBS is the first Asian bank to receive the accolade from the New York-based publication**, which last year gave the title to ING Bank.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Piyush Gupta is the chief executive officer of DBS.
- It headquarters in Singapore.

PNB Gets Top Rank In Digital Transaction

i. **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has announced that the **Department of Financial Services** report has rated it as **number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions.** The bank is also rated as the

sixth overall amongst all banks in India for digital performance.

ii. The bank is rated as 'Good' by the government with a score of 71 which is the highest category of performance.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Sunil Mehta is the CEO of Punjab National Bank.
- It headquarters in New Delhi.

Government Constitutes New Science And Technology Council To Advise PM

i. **The Union Government** has constituted a **21-member science and technology council to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on matters related to science, technology and innovations.

ii. **The council will be headed by K Vijay Raghavan**, the principal scientific adviser to the Union Government. The council has been named as **Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Committee (PM-STIAC).**

India's Economic Growth Rate To Grow At 7.4% in 2018-19: RBI

i. **The Reserve Bank of India** has released its annual report in Mumbai. It was mentioned in the report that due to the evolving economic conditions, **real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4%** from 6.7% in the previous year.

ii. The RBI stated that its monetary policy will continue to be guided by the objective of achieving medium-term target for retail inflation of 4%.

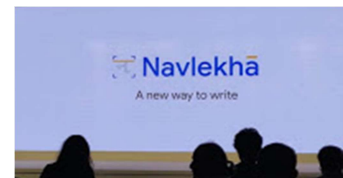
Important Takeways from above news-

- **Urjit Patel**- 24th Governor of RBI, **Headquarters-** Mumbai, **Established on-** 1st April 1935, in Kolkata.

Google Unveils New Platform Named 'Navlekha' For Indian Publishers

i. **Google announced Project Navlekha** at its **4th edition of Google for India Event** held in New Delhi.

Project Navlekha has been launched to enable Indian



publishers of regional languages to publish their content online, without facing the trouble of selling printed copies.

ii. The official website of Navlekha can be easily interpreted by users. Users can also obtain help from experts to set up their publication website.

HRD Ministry Introduces 'Atal Ranking' For Institutions

i. To promote a culture of innovation and research in higher education, the **human resource development (HRD) ministry** launched the *Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)*, Union minister Prakash Javadekar announced.

ii. Named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the ARIIA "will rank educational institutions for innovation output based on all major indicators and parameters used globally".

Idea Cellular Completes Merger With Vodafone

i. **Idea Cellular Ltd** has announced that it has **completed its merger with Vodafone India Ltd (VIL)** and Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd (VMSL) after getting approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

ii. Consequent to the merger of Vodafone Mobile Services with the company, the board has allotted 3,89,39,27,522 equity shares of Rs. 10 each to VIL (the shareholder of VMSL).

ISRO To Send 1st Indian Into Space By 2022

i. **India's first Indian human mission** will be launched by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** by 2022. This was stated by the **Union Minister of State (I/C)**



Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh.

ii. The programme will make India the fourth nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission. So far, only the **USA, Russia and China** have launched human spaceflight missions. PM Modi had earlier announced '*Gaganyaan — India's maiden human spaceflight programme*'.

International

Saudi Arabia Freezes Trade Ties With Canada

i. Saudi Arabia has announced that it is freezing all new trade and investment with Canada over its interference in its internal affairs.



ii. The Saudi foreign ministry expelled the Canadian ambassador and recalled its own envoy in Canada.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Saudi Arabia**
Capital: Riyadh, **Currency:** Saudi riyal.
- **Canada**
Capital: Ottawa, **Currency:** Canadian dollar.

UN E-Government Index: India Ranks 96th, Denmark Tops

i. India has jumped 22 places to 96th rank to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018. Denmark, with an index value of 0.9150, topped the 2018 E-Government Development Survey.

ii. The E-Government survey is released by the United Nations in every two years. The 2018 edition was titled as '*Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*'. India, which was ranked 118 in 2014, jumped 11 places to be ranked 96 in 2018.

Japan Pips China To Become World's 2nd Largest Stock Market

i. Japan has pipped China as the world's number two stock market, according to a Bloomberg report. At one of the time, the Chinese market was worth \$6.09 trillion next to Japan's \$6.17 trillion.



ii. Both markets are ranked after the US which is the world's largest at just over \$31 trillion. China lost to Japan after Chinese stocks and currency fell this year amid a trade spat with the US.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Japan Capital-** Tokyo, **Currency-** Japanese yen, **PM-** Shinzo Abe.

Google Releases 'Android 9



Pie'

i. Google's latest Android operating system update, *Android 9 Pie*, was officially released to customers following a beta testing period that started earlier this year.

ii. Android Pie introduces a new gesture-based system interface that's similar to the interface of the iPhone X, with iPhone-like swipes for navigating through the operating system.

Apple Becomes 1st US-Based Company With Market Value of \$1 trillion

i. Apple Inc. became the first US-based company with a market value of \$1 trillion, four decades after it was co-founded by Steve Jobs in a Silicon Valley garage. The consumer-technology giant briefly touched the milestone in New York, based on share count data the company disclosed in a recent regulatory filing.

ii. PetroChina Co. briefly crossed that valuation in late 2007 but slumped quickly as oil prices collapsed in the financial crisis.

NDA Act 2019 Passed, Capping US Aid To Pakistan To \$150 million

i. The United States Congress has passed the National Defense Authorisation Act-2019 (NDAA-19) which capped



its security-related aid to Pakistan to \$150 million, significantly below the historic level of more than \$ 1 billion to \$750 million per year.

ii. This year's defence legislation removes certain conditions like action against Haqqani network or

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as was the case in the past few years for disbursement of US aid to Pakistan.

BBC's 'Women Who Changed The World' List:

Marie Curie Tops, Mother Teresa 20th

i. BBC History Magazine conducted a reader's poll of *100 women who changed the world*. In this poll, **Marie Curie** has been voted the woman who made the most significant impact on world history. Women from several fields in areas like politics, science, sports, technology and literature were shortlisted.



ii. Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel prize in physics, first female professor at the University of Paris, and the **first person to win a second Nobel prize**.

iii. Top 3 from the BBC History Magazine's '100 Women Who Changed The World':

1. Marie Curie,
2. Rosa Parks,
3. Emmeline Pankhurst.

Eleventh World Hindi Conference underway in Mauritius

i. The 11th World Hindi Conference has started in **Port Louis the capital of Mauritius**. At the beginning of the conference, a two-minute silence was observed to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



ii. In the afternoon sessions, delegates from 20 countries including India will deliberate on **eight sub-topics related to "Hindi World and Indian Culture"**.

Historic Esala Maha Perehera Festival Begins in Sri Lanka

i. In Sri Lanka, the ten-day festival of the historic Esala Maha Perehera began in Kandy with a grand procession. The procession set off from the biggest Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka, Sri Dalada Maligawa at an



auspicious

time.

ii. The Esala Perahera is one of the oldest and grandest of all Buddhist festivals in Sri Lanka, featuring dancers, jugglers, musicians, fire-breathers and lavishly decorated elephants.

World Bank Launches World's 1st Blockchain Bond

i. The World Bank launched 'bond-i', the world's first bond to be created, allocated, transferred and managed by using distributed ledger technology. This two-year bond successfully raised 110 million Australian dollars (USD 80.48 million).

ii. This was the first time that investors supported the World Bank's development activities in a transaction that is fully managed using the blockchain technology from start to finish.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Bond-i is a Blockchain Operated New Debt Instrument.

Treasurer Scott Morrison Elected New Prime Minister of Australia

i. Treasurer Scott Morrison has been elected the **new Prime Minister of Australia** after winning an internal vote of 45-40 against former Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton.

ii. Morrison will take over the charge as PM from Malcolm Turnbull.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Australia Capital-** Canberra, **Currency-** Australian dollar.

VVS Laxman Pens Autobiography '281 And Beyond'

i. Veteran cricketer VVS Laxman, known for the suppleness of his wrists, has penned down his autobiography titled, *"281 and Beyond"*. The book will be released this year in November.

ii. The book will be released by the Westland Publications. The title has been borrowed from the Hyderabad stylist's fabulous series-turning innings of 281 against Australia at the Eden Gardens in 2001.

4th BIMSTEC Summit To Be Held in Kathmandu

i. The fourth Summit of Heads of State/Government

of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held at Kathmandu in Nepal on August 30 and 31.

ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the summit. During the two-day Summit, leaders of member states will review progress achieved so far in the areas of cooperation and provide guidance to the future work of the BIMSTEC.

Important Takeways from above news-

- BIMSTEC is a regional economic bloc comprising seven member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- The group was formed in 1997 and it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka Myanmar and Thailand.
- Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.

Warne's Autobiography 'No Spin' To Come Out In October

i. Spin legend Shane Warne will talk about his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography titled 'No Spin' which will be published in October 2018.



ii. "No Spin" is the true story behind the headlines, in Warne's own voice, and challenges some of the enduring myths and untruths that surround him.

4th Asian Electoral Stakeholders Forum Begins in Colombo

i. In Sri Lanka, the fourth Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV) begins in Colombo to discuss the state of elections and democracy in the region. The two-day forum is



being held for the first time in South Asia with support from the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the Asian network for free elections (ANFREL).

ii. The AESF will be attended by more than 250 delegates from 45 countries. The theme is, 'Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together'. India is being

represented by Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra Ashwini Kumar and an NGO.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Currency: Sri Lankan rupee, President: Maithripala Sirisena.

Asia Society To Honour PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi As 'Game Changer of The Year'

i. PepsiCo's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi will be honoured with the Game Changer of the Year award by a global cultural organisation Asia Society in recognition of her business achievements, humanitarian record and advocacy for women and girls around the world.

ii. The 2018 Asia Game Changer Awards will be given in October to individuals and institutions.

1st SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum Begins In Kathmandu

i. The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business



Forum has begun in Kathmandu, Nepal.

ii. The theme of three-day Forum is the 'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Secretary-General of SAARC is Amjad Hussain B. Sial.
- SAARC headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal.

4th BIMSTEC Summit 2018 Starts in Kathmandu

i. The 4th BIMSTEC Summit began in Kathmandu, Nepal. The two-day Summit will be held with the main focus on countering terrorism, enhancing regional connectivity and boosting trade.

ii. The theme of the summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks with leaders of BIMSTEC countries on the sidelines of the summit.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The group was formed in 1997 and it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

- The grouping accounts for 22 per cent of the global population.
- Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.

Defence

Indo-Thailand Joint Exercise 'Maitree 2018' Begins in Thailand

i. Exercise 'Maitree' is a joint military exercise between the **Indian Army and Royal Thai Army** which is running on in **Thailand**. It is a platoon level exercise which comprises of infantry component.



ii. The exercise will emphasize to hone the tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter-terrorist operations in the rural and urban scenario under UN mandate.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Thailand**
Capital: Bangkok, Currency: Thai baht.

Defence Minister Launches Defence India Startup Challenge

i. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the **Defence India Startup Challenge** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.



ii. Recognising the first set of incubators for these challenges the ministry has also signed an MoU with 5 incubators. IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Mumbai, Forge IIT Madras, and T hub who will work in tandem to provide solutions for defence requirements in Airforce, Navy and for Army.

iii. Raksha Mantri also launched **SPARK (support for prototype and research Kickstart)** in defence, framework for IDEX partners, and promotion of start ups under Make II procedure.

2-Day Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting Begins in New Delhi

i. A two-day Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting began in New Delhi as a prelude to **2 plus 2 Dialogue between the two countries scheduled in September 2018**. The meeting was co-chaired by Lt Gen Satish Dua, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) and Lt Gen Bryan Fenton, Deputy Commander, Indo-Pacific Command.

ii. External Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would meet their US counterparts in 2 plus 2 meeting in September in New Delhi. A first such initiative between the two countries that will focus on strengthening defence and strategic ties.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for SBI PO/Clerk Exam 2018-

- Donald Trump is the 45th President of the USA.
- Washington DC is the capital city of USA.

IWAI Launches Dedicated Portal FOCAL For Cargo Owners And Shippers

i. The Inland Waterways Authority of India

(IWAI) has launched a dedicated portal to connect cargo owners and shippers with real-time data on the availability of vessels.



ii. The portal has been named as the **Forum of Cargo Owners and Logistics Operators (FOCAL)** and it will facilitate responses from the logistics operators against the requirement raised by cargo owners and vice-versa.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Nutan Guha Biswas is the chairperson of IWAI.

India Successfully Tests Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'

i. India successfully flight tested the **indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'** from **Pokhran in Rajasthan**. The weapon system tested for



its full range was released smoothly from the launch platform. The missile hit the target with high precision.

ii. The indigenously designed and developed guided bombs **Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** was also successfully flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer.

Important Takeways from above news-

- General Bipin Rawat is 27th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.

India-Thailand Conclude 'Maitree' Military Exercise

i. The Indian and Thailand's armed forces concluded a two-week long platoon level military exercise called '**Exercise Maitree 2018**' in Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar. The



exercise was an annual event designed to strengthen the partnership between armies of the two countries.

ii. The exercise comprised of cross-training period, which included familiarization between the two armies to evolve drills and procedures that help in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in varied terrains under the United Nations (UN) mandate.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Thailand**
Capital: Bangkok, **Currency:** Thai baht.

Iran Unveils 1st Domestic Fighter Jet 'Kowsar'

i. Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet named '**KOWSAR**' with President Hassan Rouhani.



ii. The new "Kowsar" is a fourth-generation fighter shown at the National Defence Industry exhibition in Tehran. It was "100-percent indigenously made" for the first time.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Iran Capital:** Tehran, **Currency:** Iranian rial, **President:** Hassan Rouhani.

1st Ever IAF-RMAF Joint Air Exercise Begins In Malaysia



i. The first-ever joint air exercise involving the **Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)** commenced at **Subang Air Base in Malaysia**.

ii. India has been eyeing a foothold at the strategically important Subang Air Base. The main aim of the exercise seeks to deepen defence and military ties between the two countries.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the present Chief of Air Staff.

DAC Approves Procurement for Services Amounting To Rs46,000 Crores

i. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman accorded approval for procurement for the Services amounting to approximately Rs. 46,000 crores.

ii. The DAC in a landmark decision approved procurement of 111 Utility Helicopters for the Indian Navy at a cost of over Rs. 21,000 crores.

iii. This is the first project under the MoD's prestigious Strategic Partnership (SP) Model that aims at providing the significant fillip to the Government's 'Make in India' programme.

Important Takeways from above news-

- General Bipin is the present Chief of Army Staff.
- Admiral Sunil Lanba is the Present chief of Naval Staff.
- Air Chief Marshal DS Dhanoa is the present chief of Airforce Staff.

INS Vikramaditya To Get Upgrade For Its Air Wing From Russia

i. For the first time, **India's only aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya** will be fitted



with a **marine hydraulic system** to boost the air

operations of the ship. Hydraulics technology uses fluid pressure to power machines.

ii. **Technodinamika, a subsidiary of Russia's Rostec State Corporation**, will install the system in the Indian Navy ship by May 2019. The GS-1MF

hydraulic system is used in helicopters, while GS-3 is used in aircraft.

Important Takeways from above news-

- INS Vikramaditya is 284 metres long and 60 metres high that's about as high as a 20-storeyed building.
- The ship weighs 40,000 tonnes and is the biggest and heaviest ship in the Indian Navy.

Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018 Started In Russia

i. Exercise Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, the latest in 'Peace Mission' series formally started at **Chebarkul, Russia**.



All the 8 member nations will participate in this exercise.

ii. The SCO Peace Mission Exercise is one of the major defence cooperation initiatives amongst SCO nations and will be a landmark event in the history of SCO defence cooperation.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001 by six countries, People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- SCO Headquarters in Beijing, China.
- The 8 member nations of SCO are China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.

Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri Reaches Australia For Exercise KAKADU 2018

i. **INS Sahyadri** entered the Port of **Darwin, Australia** to participate in **Exercise KAKADU 2018**.

ii. Exercise KAKADU, which started in 1993, is the premier multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

iii. The exercise is held biennially in Darwin and the Northern Australian Exercise Areas (NAXA). Exercise

KAKADU derives its name from Kakadu National Park, which is in Australia.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy.
- in the world and presents substantial trade and investments opportunities for India.
- ASEAN has emerged as the second largest trade partner of India in 2017-18 with bilateral trade valued at US\$ 81.33 billion, comprising 10.58% of India's total trade with the world.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

PepsiCo's Indra Nooyi To Step Down As CEO

i. PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi will step down in October after serving for 12 years as the top boss at the global beverage giant, PepsiCo.



Indian-origin Indra Nooyi was the first ever woman to be appointed the CEO at PepsiCo, in the year 2006.

ii. She will be succeeded by company President Ramon Laguarta, who has held the post since 2017. She will remain chairman till 2019.

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita Re-Elected Mali President

i. Malian President

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected for a five-year term after winning a landslide in a runoff ballot.



ii. Keita, 73, picked up 67.17% of the vote against 32.83% for opposition challenger and former finance minister Soumaila Cisse, 68, who also ran against Keita in 2013.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Mali Capital:** Bamako, **Currency:** West African CFA franc.

Mario Abdo Benitez Sworn In As New President Of Paraguay

i. Colorado Party's Mario Abdo Benitez was sworn in as the new **President of Paraguay** for a five-year term.



ii. Benitez clinched the top spot after defeating his closest

rival, **Efrain Alegre** from the liberal opposition alliance, by four percentage points in the nation's elections, which were held in April 2018.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Paraguay Capital:** Asuncion, **Currency:** Paraguayan guarani.

Imran Khan becomes the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan

i. Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan took oath as **Pakistan's new prime minister.**



ii. Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), secured 176 votes while his only rival and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief Sharif got 96 votes, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser announced.

Infosys CFO MD Ranganath Resigns

i. Infosys Chief Financial Officer MD Ranganath, a veteran of nearly two decades at India's second-largest software services company, has abruptly stepped down from his position, marking the second CFO departure at Infosys in three years.

Emmerson Mnangagwa Wins Zimbabwe's 1st Post-Mugabe Election

i. Zimbabwe President Emmerson

Mnangagwa narrowly won the country's landmark election in Zimbabwe. He is a former ally of Robert Mugabe.



ii. According to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), Mr Mnangagwa won 50.8% of the vote, ahead of Nelson Chamisa of the Opposition MDC party with 44.3%.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Zimbabwe got independence from Britain in 1980.
- Harare is the Capital city of Zimbabwe.

Harivansh Narayan Singh Elected Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha

i. NDA candidate Harivansh Narayan Singh was elected the **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman with 125 votes**. The Opposition candidate BK Hariprasad managed to get 105 votes.

ii. Mr Singh is an MP from the Janata Dal (United) and a Parliamentarian from Bihar and a former journalist.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Venkaiah Naidu is the Chairperson of Rajya Sabha.

Ivan Duque Sworn In As Colombia's Next President

i. Ivan Duque was sworn in as the newly elected **President of Colombia**. He pledged to unite the country and improve economic growth.



ii. He pledged changes to tackle corruption and invigorate the economy and vowed to change the peace deal with the FARC rebel group.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Colombian Capital:** Bogota, **Currency:** Colombian peso.

Nikhil Nanda Appointed As Chairman And MD of Escorts

i. Farm and construction equipment maker Escorts appointed **Nikhil Nanda as the chairman and managing director (MD) of the company**.

ii. He succeeded his father Rajan Nanda who passed away earlier this week after a brief illness.

Ajay Data, 1st Indian To Become Member in ICANN

i. The nominating committee of **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)** has selected **Ajay Data, Founder & CEO of Data XGen Plus** and a global leader in email linguistic services, as a **new council member of Country Code Supporting Organisation (ccNSO)**.

ii. Ajay Data is the **first Indian to have been selected as a member of ccNSO** and will be representing India at a global level. He will be the custodian of Asia, Australia and Pacific Islands as a member of ccNSO.



Chile's Michelle Bachelet To Be Next UN Human Rights Chief

i. The United Nations announced that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen **former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to be the UN's new human rights chief**. Bachelet would be succeeding **Jordanian diplomat Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein**.

ii. Bachelet's name will now go forward for consideration and approval by the 193-member UN General Assembly.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Michelle Bachelet** has served as the President of Chile twice, from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018. Her second four-year term as President ended earlier this year.
- She was the first woman in her country to occupy the top position and is known to be a strong advocate for women's rights.

Rajendra Menon Sworn In As Chief Justice of Delhi HC

i. Justice Rajendra

Menon was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court by Lt Governor Anil Baijal at a ceremony held at the Raj Niwas in New Delhi.



ii. Justice Menon was earlier the Chief Justice of Patna High Court. He succeeded Justice Gita Mittal, who was elevated to head the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

U K Varma Appointed Assocham Secretary General

i. Industry chamber Assocham appointed former bureaucrat **Uday Kumar Varma** as its new Secretary General. **He succeeds DS Rawat** who held the position for nearly 14 years.

ii. Varma has extensive administrative experience at the highest levels of administration both in the state government (of Madhya Pradesh) and central government.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Sandeep Jajodia is the present President of Assocham.
- Its Headquarters in New Delhi.

Ram Nath Kovind Appoints 7 New Governors: All You Need To Know

i. President Ram Nath Kovind appointed governors for seven states **Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura.**

ii. The newly appointed Governors of 7 states are as follows-

1. **Satya Pal Malik** - Jammu & Kashmir (Replaced NN Vohra)
2. **Tathagata Roy** - Meghalaya (Replaced Ganga Prasad)
3. **Lalji Tandon** - Bihar (Replaced Satya Pal Malik)
4. **Ganga Prasad** - Sikkim (Replaced Shrinivas Patil)
5. **Kaptan Singh Solanki** - Tripura (Replaced Tathagata Roy)
6. **Satyadev Narayan Arya** - Haryana (Replaced Kaptan Singh Solanki)
7. **Baby Rani Maurya** - Uttarakhand (Replaced K K Paul).

Arun Jaitley Resumes Charge As Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister

i. Union Minister Arun Jaitley is back as the Finance Minister after a three-month interval to recuperate from a kidney transplant surgery.

ii. In Mr Jaitley's absence, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal was holding the additional charge of the Finance and Corporate Affairs portfolio.

G. Satheesh Reddy Appointed New DRDO Chairman

i. The Centre appointed renowned scientist, **Dr G Satheesh Reddy**, as **Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Secretary in Department of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D).**



ii. The topmost post of the DRDO was lying vacant when the then chief Dr S Christopher stepped down. Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra was then given additional charge of the organisation.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **DRDO Headquarters in:** New Delhi, **Founded in:** 1958.

Satya S Tripathi Appointed Assistant Secretary-General & Head of New York Office of UNEP

i. Veteran Indian development economist **Satya S Tripathi** has been appointed as the **Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** by UN Chief Antonio Guterres. He will replace **Elliott Harris.**

ii. Tripathi has worked for the United Nations since 1998 in Europe, Asia and Africa on strategic assignments in sustainable development, human rights, democratic governance and legal affairs.

Important Takeways from above news-

- UNEP was founded as a result of United Nations Conference on Human Environment in June 1972.
- It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

Balesh Sharma Appointed Vodafone Idea's 1st CEO

i. Balesh Sharma takes over as **Vodafone Idea's first CEO.** He was the Chief Operating Officer of Vodafone India and a member of its executive committee.

ii. Sharma holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering and MBA (Marketing and Finance) from the University of Rajasthan.

Honours/ Awards

Gopalkrishna Gandhi to Get 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award

i. Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for the **24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award** for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill. **Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former governor of West Bengal.**

ii. He will be presented with this award at an event on **20th August 2018 at Jawahar Bhawan in Delhi.** The award contains a citation and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh. The award is presented on the birthday anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.



President Gives Away Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards

i. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the **Outstanding Parliamentarian Award** for the years 2013-2017, in New Delhi. The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award was presented to the Best Parliamentarians from 2013 to 2017 for their remarkable contributions.

ii. Winners of the award are listed below:

- 1. Dr Najma Heptullah** (for year 2013),
- 2. Hukum Dev Narayan** (for year 2014),
- 3. Ghulam Nabi Azad** (for year 2015),
- 4. Dinesh Trivedi** (for year 2016),
- 5. Bhartruhari Mahtab** (for year 2017).



Ang Lee To Be Honoured By Directors Guild Of America

i. Oscar-winning director Ang Lee will be one of the recipients of the



annual **Directors Guild of America (DGA)** honours at its ceremony.

ii. Apart from the 63-year-old director, **Fox Searchlight chairman Nancy Utley, US Senator Amy Klobuchar, SAG-AFTRA senior adviser John McGuire and costume designer Ann Roth** will also be honoured at the ceremony.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Directors Guild of America is a labor organization that represents the creative and economic rights of directors and members of the directorial team working in film, television, commercials, documentaries, news, sports and new media.
- It was Founded in 1936.

Independence Day Gallantry Awards Announced: Complete List of Winners

i. The President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces has approved **131 Gallantry Awards to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces** which include one **Kirti Chakra, 20 Shaurya Chakras, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and three Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).**

S K Arora Awarded WHO World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award

i. Delhi government's additional director of health, **SK Arora was awarded prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award** for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.

ii. It is awarded every year by WHO to individuals or organisations alike in each of six WHO regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.

Important Takeways from above news-

- World No Tobacco Day is observed around the world every year on 31 May.

General Dalbir Singh Suhag Awarded US 'Legion of Merit' 2018

i. The United States government has awarded the **Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander)** to **General Dalbir Singh Suhag (Retired)**, of the Indian



Army, for exceptionally meritorious service as chief of the Army staff, Indian Army.

ii. The award was presented to General Suhag at Pentagon, Washington DC, in the presence of his family members and the Indian Military Attache to the United States of America.

Indian-Origin Mathematician Akshay Venkatesh Wins Prestigious Fields Medal

i. **Akshay Venkatesh**, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' **prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math**. New Delhi-born Venkatesh, 36, who is currently teaching at Stanford University, has won the Fields Medal for **his profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics**.

ii. Each winner receives a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize. The other three winners are: **Caucher Birkar**, a Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin; **Germany's Peter Scholze**, who teaches at the University of Bonn and **Alessio Figalli**, an Italian mathematician at ETH Zurich.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for SBI PO/Clerk Exam 2018-

- The Fields medals are awarded every four years to the most promising mathematicians under the age of 40.
- The prize was inaugurated in 1932 at the request of Canadian mathematician John Charles Fields, who ran the 1924 Mathematics Congress in Toronto.

David Beckham To Receive 2018 UEFA President's Award

i. **Former England captain David Beckham** will receive the UEFA President's Award for his contribution to football and promoting the sport in "every corner of the planet".



ii. David Beckham will become the third Englishman to receive the UEFA President's Award. Sir Bobby Robson (2002) and Sir Bobby Charlton (2008) are the previous English winners.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- The UEFA Champions League is an annual continental club football competition organised by

the **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)**.

Reliance Power Unit Wins \$56-million International Arbitration Award

i. **Reliance Power** has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary **Reliance Power Netherlands BV** has won an international arbitration award of **\$56 million (Rs 390 crore)** against **Prestige Capital Holdings** (a Seychelles-based company) and **Kokos Jiang**.

ii. **Kokos Jiang** is the owner of **Sugico Group** in Indonesia, from whom **Reliance Power** had acquired the entire economic interest in three coal mining concessions in Indonesia in 2010.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- The Arbitration Tribunal was constituted under **Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)** rules in Singapore.

Sports

Dustin Johnson Won 2018 RBC Canadian Open Golf Title

i. Dustin Johnson won the 2018 RBC Canadian Open at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville in Canada. He is currently in world number one position.



ii. Now he has become the **first player after Tiger Woods (2005-09) with at least three wins in three consecutive seasons.** Dustin Johnson was awarded \$1,116,000 for the win.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Canada Currency:** Canadian dollar, **Capital:** Ottawa.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold Medal at Savo Games in Finland

i. Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in the Savo Games in Lapinlahti, Finland. Neeraj Chopra made a throw of 85.69 metres and won the gold medal.



ii. Chao-Tsun Cheng of Chinese Taipei made a throw of 82.52m and won a silver medal. **Chao-Tsun Cheng is the only Asian to have thrown the javelin to a distance more than 90m.**

Gaganjeet Bhullar Wins His Maiden European Tour Title

i. Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar grabbed his maiden European Tour title at the Fiji International in Natadola Bay. It was Bhullar's first win on the European Tour, ninth Asian Tour title and 10th crown overall.

ii. He now becomes the most successful Indian player on Asian Tour, overtaking the tally of eight tour wins by Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa.

Netherlands Wins Women's Hockey World Cup 2018

i. In Women's Hockey World Cup 2018, the Netherlands has been crowned the world champions for a record eighth time. The defending champions recorded a **stunning 6-0 victory over Ireland** in the summit clash at London, UK to extend their unbeaten run in all competitions to 32 matches.

ii. Kitty van Male, who was among the six different goal scorers, finished the tournament as the top scorer with eight goals. **Spain won the third-place match** by beating Australia to claim their first ever World Cup medal. **India finished the tournament at the 8th spot.**

Important Takeways from above news-

- **The Netherlands Capital-** Amsterdam, **Currency-** Euro and USD.

World Badminton Championships 2018 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

i. The 2018 BWF World Championships is a badminton tournament which was held at Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Sports Park Arena in Nanjing, China.

ii. Ace Indian shuttler P V Sindhu won the silver medal in a major tournament final as she went down tamely to **Carolina Marin** in the World Championships' women's singles title.

Lewis Hamilton Wins 6th Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix

i. Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the Hungarian Grand Prix for the 6th time, at the Hungaroring circuit, in Hungary. This is the 67th career victory for Lewis Hamilton.



ii. Daniel Ricciardo was named Driver of the Day by Formula One for finishing at fourth position after starting from the 12th position. Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished second in the race.

India Women Win Blitz Gold in Asian Nations Cup Chess Tourney

i. The Indian women chess team at the Asian Nations Cup 2018 clinched the gold in the Blitz event held in Iran. **It's India's first gold-medal finish at**



the event since 2014. They also won silver and bronze in the Rapid and Classical categories, respectively.

ii. While **India (1st)** finished with 21.5 points, Vietnam (2nd) settled for silver with 18.5 and China (3rd) bagged bronze with 17.5.

Germany's Mario Gomez Retires From International Football

i. **Veteran German striker Mario Gomez** announced his retirement from international football. The 33-year-old, who made his **debut for Germany in 2007**, scored 31 goals in 78 international appearances.

ii. The former Bayern Munich star represented his country at the FIFA World Cup in 2010 and 2018 and the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012.

Indian U-20 and U-16 Team Wins Titles in Football

i. **India's under-20 team won over Argentina under-20** in the final group stage match of the **COTIF Cup** held in Valencia's Els Arcs Stadium. India was playing in the tournament for the first time.

ii. Also, the **under-16 team of India defeated under-16 champions team of Iraq** by 1-0 in the West Asian Football Federation Cup in **Amman, Jordan**.

Neeraj Chopra India's Flag Bearer At Asian Games 2018 Opening Ceremony

i. **Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** will be the **flag bearer for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2018**.



The 20-year-old has won a gold medal in World Junior Championships, Asian Championships, South Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in his career so far.

ii. The Haryana athlete equalled the national record when he recorded a throw of 82.23m at the 2016 South Asian Games.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The 2018 Asian Games, officially known as the 18th Asian Games and also known as Jakarta Palembang 2018.
- It will be held in Indonesia.

Viraj Madappa Becomes Youngest Indian Golfer To Win Asian Tour Title

i. **Indian golfer Viraj Madappa became the youngest Indian** to win on the Asian Tour, as he won his first title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru. Viraj Madappa scored a total of 16-under 268 at the Asian Tour event. He is 20 years old.

ii. **Earlier this record was held by Gaganjeet Bhullar**, who won the Indonesia Invitational when he was 21 years and three months old.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Viraj Madappa is also the first rookie and youngest player to win on the continental Tour this season.

Nihal Sarin Becomes 53rd Chess Grandmaster From India

i. International Master Nihal Sarin became the 53rd Grandmaster of India despite losing his final round game to Richard Rapport of Hungary



in the ninth and final round of Abu Dhabi Masters.

ii. The 14-year-old Nihal tallied 5.5 points out of a possible nine and the final GM norm came the Kerala boy's way with one round to spare.

Vietnam Badminton Open 2018: Complete List of Winners

The **2018 Vietnam Open** officially known as **YONEX-SUNRISE Vietnam Open 2018**, was held at Nguyen Du Cultural Sports Club in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The tournament was organized by Hochiminh City Badminton Association. **Total prize money for the event was \$75,000.**



Here is the complete List of Winners of 2018 Vietnam Open:

S.No.	Event	Winner	Runner-up
1.	Men's Singles	Shesar Hiren Rhustavito (Indonesia)	Ajay Jayaram (India)
2.	Women's Singles	Yeo Jia Min (Singapore)	Han Yue (China)

Mitchell Johnson Announces Retirement From All Forms of Cricket

i. Australian cricketer Mitchell Johnson

Johnson announced the retirement from all forms of cricket almost three years after he stepped down from the international game.

ii. Johnson played 73 Tests in the Baggy Green, claiming 313 wickets, the fourth most for an Australian, and also 153 ODIs before retiring from international cricket in 2015.



Asian Games 2018: Wrestler Bajrang Punia Wins 1st Gold For India

i. It was a mixed day for India on Day two of the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia.

A dominating Bajrang Punia opened India's gold medal account by defeating Japan's Daichi Takatani in the final of Men's Freestyle 65 kg. category.

ii. India opened its medal account with a bronze by Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar in rifle mixed team shooting event.



Static/Current Takeaways Important for RRB PO/Clerk Exam 2018-

- **Bhin Bhin, Kaka, and Atung** are the mascots of the 2018 Asian Games.

India Wins SAFF U-15 Championship Defeating Bangladesh

i. India defeated Bangladesh in the final of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Championship in Thimpu, Bhutan. A solitary second-half strike by Sunita Munda helped the Indian U-15 team clinch the title.

ii. This is the second edition of the Championship. Bangladesh had won the inaugural edition last year, beating India, 1-0 in the final played at Dhaka.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for RRB PO/Clerk Exam 2018-

- **Bangladesh PM-** Sheikh Hasina, **Capital-** Dhaka, **Currency-** Bangladeshi Taka.

Teen Cyclist Esow Alben Claimed India's 1st Ever Medal

i. Teen cyclist Esow Alben has created history by claiming India's first ever medal – a silver- at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland.

ii. The 17-year-old from Andaman and Nicobar finished just 0.017 seconds behind gold medallist Stastny in the thrilling photo-finish of a race.

Asian Games 2018 begin in Indonesia

i. This year's Asian Games, also known as **Jakarta Palembang 2018**, has started from 18th August to 02nd September in the Indonesian cities of **Jakarta and Palembang**. It is the second time when Jakarta is hosting the sports games after 1962.

ii. A total of **572 Indian athletes** will be participating in the event in **36 different** sports categories. The contingent will be led by Chef de Mission **Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh**.

Jhulan Goswami Announces Her Retirement From T20 Internationals

i. Indian women's team fast bowler **Jhulan Goswami** announced her retirement from T20 Cricket



Internationals. The veteran player played 68 T20 Internationals and took 56 wickets at an economy rate of 5.45.

ii. The 35-year-old will only play ODIs. In ODIs, she is the world's highest wicket-taker with 200 scalps from 169 games.

Saurabh Chaudhary Wins 10m Air Pistol Gold

i. 16-Year-Old Saurabh Chaudhary became only the fifth Indian shooter to claim a gold in the Asian Games history, beating a field of multiple world and Olympic



champions in the 10m air pistol finals in Indonesia

ii. Another Indian making his international debut, 29-year-old Abhishek Verma, shot 219.3 to secure bronze.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for RRB PO/Clerk Exam 2018-

- The Host cities for Asian Games 2018 are **Jakarta and Palembang**, Indonesia.

- **Bhin Bhin, Kaka, and Atung** are the mascots of the 2018 Asian Games.

Vinesh Phogat, 1st Indian Woman Wrestler To Bag Gold At Asian Games

i. India got its second Gold medal at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia when Vinesh Phogat defeated Japan's Yuki Irie in the final of freestyle 50 kg category in Women's Wrestling.



ii. With this victory, Vinesh created history as she is the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold in the Asian Games.

Rahi Sarnobat 1st Indian Female Shooter To Win Asiad Gold

i. Shooter Rahi

Sarnobat won the women's 25m Pistol event at Asian Games 2018 in Indonesia.



With this, she becomes the first ever Indian female shooter to win gold in the history of Asian Games.

ii. Manu Bhaker who had won gold at Commonwealth Games 2018, finished sixth in the event. India has now two gold medals in shooting at the Asiad 2018.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for RRB PO/Clerk Exam 2018-

- The Host cities for Asian Games 2018 are **Jakarta and Palembang**, Indonesia.
- **Bhin Bhin, Kaka, and Atung** are the mascots of the 2018 Asian Games.

India Wins 2nd Gold In Rowing In Asian Games History

i. Indian rowers **Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh** won the men's Quadruple Sculls to win India's fifth gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.



ii. The medal is only the second ever gold medal for India in the rowing competition in Asian Games history.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- The Host cities for Asian Games 2018 are **Jakarta and Palembang**, Indonesia.

- **Bhin Bhin, Kaka, and Atung** are the mascots of the 2018 Asian Games.

Bopanna, Sharan Win Tennis Maiden Doubles Gold

i. Top seeds **Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan** notched up their maiden men's tennis doubles gold medal at the Asian Games, in Palembang, Indonesia. Bopanna and Sharan defeated **Aleksander Bublik and Denis Yevseyev** of Kazakhstan.

ii. India have claimed the men's doubles gold on four occasions at the Games, the last pair being Somdev Devvarman and Sanam Singh in the 2010 Guangzhou edition.

Forbes Released List Of Highest Paid Female Athletes: Serena Williams Tops, PV Sindhu Ranks 7th

i. **Serena Williams** (with earnings of \$18.1 million) was the highest paid female athlete for a third consecutive year in 2018, according to "List Of Highest Paid Female Athletes 2018" published by Forbes.



ii. **Dane Caroline Wozniacki**, who captured her maiden grand slam title at Australian Open 2018, was second on the list with combined earnings of (\$13 million). Indian badminton player **P.V. Sindhu** was at seventh place with earnings of \$8.5 million.

iii. **The Top 3 Highest Paid Female Athletes On The List Are:**

1. **Serena Williams** (\$18.1 million),
2. **Dane Caroline Wozniacki** (\$13 million),
3. **Sloane Stephens** (\$11.2 million).

Important Takeaways from above news-

- **Forbes**- American Business Magazine, **Founded in-** 1917.
Headquarters- New York City, USA

Japan Wins 1st Ever Title at FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018

i. **The U-20 Japan Women's National Team** won against the U-20 Spain Women's National Team at the final of the **FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018**, taking down the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title for the first time in Japanese football history.

ii. **Takarada Saori** was named as the Player of the match with her goal and an assist. Takarada was also

awarded the **Adidas Bronze Boot** as well as the **Adidas Silver Ball**, while **Minami** was awarded the **Bronze Ball**.

iii. Japan received the Fair-play award as a team and the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018 has closed its curtains.

Tejender Pal Singh Toor Wins Historic Gold in Shot Put

i. **India's Tejinder Pal Singh Toor** wins the **Gold medal in Men's Shot Put final** at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia. He brought India its seventh gold medal with an **Asian Games record throw of 20.75 meters in Jakarta**.



ii. Tajinder is the first Indian to win the men's shot put gold at the Asian Games since Bahadur Singh Sagoo, who had thrown a best of 19.03m to win the gold in Busan in 2002. It's the eighth men's shot put gold for India in Asian Games history.

Hima, Anas & Dutee Win Athletics Silvers

i. **18-year-old Hima Das** won the **Silver medal in 400-meter race** in ongoing Asian Games 2018, Indonesia. Hima clocked 50.79 seconds to complete her race.

ii. **Dutee Chand** also bagged silver medal in women's **100 meter race**. Dutee clocked 11.32 seconds to complete her race. **Muhammed Anas** won Silver medal in **Men's 400m race**. Anas clocked 45.69 seconds to complete his race.

Asian Games 2018: Neeraj Chopra Wins India 1st Javelin Gold in Asiad History

i. **Neeraj Chopra** became the **first-ever Indian javelin thrower to win a gold medal** at the Asian Games. The 20-year-old junior world record holder



hurled the javelin to a distance of 88.06m to bag the Asiad gold.

ii. Notably, Neeraj had also become the first Indian to bag gold in the javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year.

Asian Games 2018: PV Sindhu Wins India's 1st Asian Games Silver In Badminton

i. **World number three PV Sindhu** lost to world number one **Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)** in the **women's singles final** to bag India's first-ever silver medal in badminton at Asian Games.

ii. Sindhu, playing in her fifth final of 2018, lost the match with a scoreline of 13-21, 16-21.

Asian Games 2018: Manjit Singh Wins Gold In 800m Race

i. **India's 28-year-old sprinter Manjit Singh** won the gold medal in the men's 800m event at the 2018 Asian Games, securing the **ninth gold for the country**.



ii. Another Indian sprinter **Jinson Johnson**, who is **ranked first in Asia**, won the silver at the event. Meanwhile, Dutee Chand secured herself a place in the women's 200m finals, while Hima Das was disqualified.

Arpinder Singh Wins Gold In Triple Jump

i. **Arpinder Singh** ended India's 48-year long wait for a gold in triple jump at the Asian Games with an effort of **16.77m**. India's last Asian Games gold medal in men's triple jump had come in 1970 from Mohinder Singh Gill.



ii. Arpinder, who has been without a medal in multi-sporting events since winning a bronze in the **2014 Commonwealth Games**, produced his best jump of 16.77m in his third attempt.

Swapna Barman, 1st Indian Heptathlete To Win Gold In Asian Games

i. **Swapna Barman** created history by becoming the **first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold in Indonesia**, a feat she achieved despite a toothache.



ii. The 21-year-old Barman logged 6026 points from the seven events competed for two days. En route to the title, she won the high jump (1003 points) and javelin throw (872 points) events and finished second-best in shot put (707 points) and long jump (865 points).

Women's 4x400m Relay Team Wins Gold

i. India won gold in the women's 4X400 metre event.

ii. The Indian quartet of Hima Das, Raju Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad and Vismaya Korothe registered a time of 3 minutes and 28.72 seconds to finish at the top of the podium. India clinched the silver medal in the men's 4X400 metre event.

Asian Games 2018: Jinson Johnson Wins Gold in Men's 1500m Event

i. India's Jinson Johnson claimed the gold medal in the men's 1500m event in the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Manjit Singh, 800m champion, however, finished fourth.



ii. Johnson clocked 3:44.72 sec to claim the top honours ahead of Iran's Amir Moradi, who turned in a timing of 3:45.62sec, his season's best effort. Johnson earlier won a silver in the 800m event.

Obituaries

Australian Professional Golfer Jarrod Lyle Passes Away

i. Australian professional golfer Jarrod Lyle has died after a long battle with cancer, aged 36.



ii. The Australian won twice on the feeder Web.com tour in 2008 and played 121 US PGA Tour tournaments during his professional career.

DMK Chief M Karunanidhi Passes Away

i. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi passed away in Chennai. He was the 94-year-old veteran leader of Tamil Nadu.

ii. He started as a screenwriter in Tamil film industry and was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five-term.

Legendary India Captain Ajit Wadekar Passes Away At 77

i. Former India cricket captain Ajit Wadekar, who led the team to path-breaking Test wins in England and the West Indies, passed away after prolonged illness. He was 77.

ii. The aggressive batsman was a trailblazer in Indian cricket despite a mere 37 Test appearances, leading India to triumphs in England and the West Indies in 1971. Wadekar scored 2,113 runs in his Test career, including one hundred, and was also the country's first ODI captain.

Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee has passes Away

i. Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has passed away aged 93 in Delhi. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was three times Prime Minister of India. First Term: May 1996, Second Term: 1998-1999 and Third Term: 1999-2004.

ii. A member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Vajpayee served as the eleventh Prime Minister of India. He headed the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the Indian Parliament, and became the first Prime Minister unaffiliated with the Indian National Congress to complete a full five-year term in office.

Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Das Tandon Passes Away

i. Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Das Tandon passed away at the age of 90.

ii. He was admitted to a hospital in Raipur after he suffered cardiac arrest.

Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee Passes Away

i. Former Lok Sabha speaker Somnath Chatterjee passed away. He was 89 years old.

ii. Chatterjee was the Speaker of the Lower House from 2004-09 when Manmohan Singh-led UPA- 1 (United Progressive Alliance) was in power.



Former UN chief and Nobel laureate Kofi Annan Passes Away

i. Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has passed away at the age of 80.

Annan, who was the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, served at the UN from 1997 to 2006.

ii. Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with the UN in 2001 "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world".



VS Naipaul: Nobel Prize Winner Dies At 85

i. Nobel Prize-winning British author V S Naipaul has died at the age of 85.

ii. Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul who was born in Trinidad wrote more than 30 books and won the Nobel Literature Prize in 2001.

US Singer Aretha Franklin Passes Away at 76

i. US singer Aretha Franklin has died at the age of 76. The "Queen of Soul" was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and made her debut in 1961.

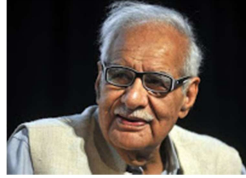
Her style on such hits as "Respect" and "Natural Woman" attracted fans all over the world.



ii. She received the Grammy Award 18 times and was the first female vocalist to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Veteran Journalist Kuldip Nayar Passes Away

i. Eminent Indian writer and journalist **Kuldip Nayar** passed away in New Delhi following a brief illness. He was 95. Mr. Nayar was originally born in Sialkot in 1923.



ii. His famous autobiography was "**Beyond The Lines**". He was also the High Commissioner of India to the U.K. and nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.

US Senator John McCain Passes Away At 81

i. US Senator **John McCain**, a celebrated Vietnam war hero, passed away after losing a battle to brain cancer. He was 81. The six-term senator, McCain was also a Republican presidential nominee in 2008.

ii. A fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, he spent more than five years as a prisoner of war after his plane was shot down.

Important Days with theme

International Day of The World's Indigenous Peoples: 9 August

i. The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed across the world on **August 9** with an aim to strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as human rights, the environment, education, health and social development.

ii. The theme of 2018 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was **'Indigenous peoples' migration and movement'**.

International Youth Day: 12 August

i. It is an awareness day designated by the United Nations to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.

ii. The Theme for IYD 2018 is: "Safe space for Youth"

National Handloom Day: 7 August

i. The National Handloom Day is being observed every year on **7 August** to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also carter an impetus to India's handloom industry.



ii. This year it was the 4th edition of the National Handloom Day after it was instituted in 2015.

Important Cabinet Approvals: 9th August 2018

i. The World Biofuel Day is observed every year on **August 10** to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.



ii. On the occasion, PM of India, Narendra Modi unveiled a Booklet on "National Policy on Biofuels 2018", and launched "Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub" [PARIVES

72ND INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA: 15 AUGUST

Independence Day is an annual observance

celebrated every year on



15th of August. India's Independence Day is a day of great significance for the people of India. At this day India got freedom from the British rule after long years of slavery. It has been declared as the National and Gazetted Holiday all across the India in order to independently commemorate the independence of country from British Empire on 15th of August in 1947.

Sadbhavana Diwas: 20 August

The Sadbhavana (means having good feelings for others) Diwas or Harmony Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the earlier Prime Minister of India named Rajiv Gandhi

National Sports Day: 29 August

i. The National Sports Day is celebrated on **29th August** every year to mark the **birthday of legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand.**

ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted all sports enthusiasts and stated that this year has been great for the sporting fraternity, with the Indian athletes excelling in various tournaments including Asian Games 2018 and Commonwealth Games.

Life of Major Dhyan Chand in Brief:

1. The legendary hockey player was born on 29 August 1905 in **Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.**
2. He is widely considered as the greatest field hockey player of all time.
3. He had started playing hockey only after joining the Army at the age of 16.
4. He was famously known as **'The Wizard'** for his superb ball control and had scored more than 1000 goals during his international career.