

Miscellaneous Includes the Visits

Miscellaneous includes the Visits, Science & Tech, Indian Railways & Other topics.- April

1. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is in Russia to attend the 7th Moscow Conference on International Security. This is her first visit to Russia in her capacity as the Defence Minister.
2. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj begun her three-day visit to Azerbaijan to participate in the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku.
3. Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has begun his three-day visit to India. According to the External Affairs Ministry, the visit will provide an opportunity to review wide-ranging cooperative partnership & to progress it further.
4. Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari is on a four-day official visit to South Korea. The visit is aimed at strengthening ties between the two nations & further cementing cooperation in areas, including sharing of technology, experience in port development & joint participation in port-related construction.
5. President Ram Nath Kovind, on a three-nation Africa visit, held delegation-level talks with Swaziland King Mswati III in Mbabane. India & Swaziland signed two agreements on health & visa waiver. President Kovind was conferred with 'Order of the Lion', the highest award of Swaziland.
6. President Ram Nath Kovind has returned to New Delhi after three African nations tour of Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland & Zambia. Mr Kovind & his Zambian counterpart Edgar Chagwa Lungu laid the foundation stone of Lusaka traffic Decongestion Project. The cost of the 93-km road is 289 million dollar India is providing 250 million dollars. The project will be completed in three years.
7. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was on the three-nation visit of Europe to Sweden, the UK & Germany. He has signed various important agreements & attended various conferences during the visit. Following are the important highlights regarding the 3-nation visit of PM Modi.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel & discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.
9. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj left for China on a four-day visit. She will participate in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). She will hold talks with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.
10. Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System-II, the eighth such satellite to be a part of a constellation. It

was launched from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. IRNSS-1I is expected to replace IRNSS-1A.

11. A world-class interpretation centre & other tourist facilities for visitors were inaugurated at the Konark Sun Temple, Odisha.
12. The trial run of the first container train between India & Bangladesh was flagged off from Kolkata city.
13. Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated first flight from Delhi to Pathankot (Punjab), at a ceremony held at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. Pathankot in Punjab state is the 21st airport in the country, which got operational for passengers.
14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr Ambedkar National Memorial in New Delhi. The memorial is dedicated to the life & contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Constitution.
15. Karan Johar has become the first-ever Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at the famous Madame Tussauds.


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- 5 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MOCKS

16. Madras High Court became the first court in south India & overall eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility. It was jointly launched by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami & Chief Justice Indira Banerjee. It will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to the government through e-stamps, which can be purchased both online & offline.
17. Ministry of HRD constituted a High Powered Committee to examine the entire system of conducting Class X & Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE with a view to prevent leakages. Mr. Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Retd. Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD will be the Chairperson of the 7 member High Power Committee.

Miscellaneous includes the Visits

18. The Union Government formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform the process of higher defence planning. The permanent body would be chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
19. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917. Nitish Kumar released the books titled- 'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary' written by Arvind Mohan, 'Champaran Andolan 1917' edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar & 'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi' collected & edited by Srikant.
20. Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 29th Road Safety Week at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. He released a book named "Have a Safe Journey".
21. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a book titled 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism' by former Planning Commission & Finance Commission member C H Hanumantha Rao.


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- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani'.
- Minister of State for External Affairs General VK Singh visits North Korea, the first high-level visit from India in 20 years. General VK Singh held talks with his North Korean counterpart and a host of other leaders.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has left on a day-long visit to Russia. Mr Modi will hold an informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi. The interaction will be part of regular consultation between the leadership of the two countries.
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted a High-Level Group consisting of eminent experts from across the country to examine the strengths and

weaknesses for enabling balanced expansion of Health Sector. High-Level Group on Health Sector will have Convenor by Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS (New Delhi).

- Sangeeta Bahl, a 53-year-old former model, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.
- Film actor Akshay Kumar launched the twin pit toilet technology campaign in New Delhi. The actor appealed everybody to spread the awareness on the issue and make the cleanliness drive more effective. The twin pit toilet technology is an Indian invention that collects defecation for a period of five years and then it turns into a valuable organic compost.
- **Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali** launched a **new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho'** to compete with WhatsApp.
- VP Naidu visited South America's Guatemala, Peru & Panama. Bilateral trade & investments are expected to be mainly discussed during the visit.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovitch Alimov arrived in New Delhi to hold talks with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj & other Union ministers. Sushma Swaraj will hold a bilateral meeting with Alimov in Delhi.
- Sushma Swaraj left on a visit to Myanmar. The visit is part of ongoing high-level interaction between the governments of India & Myanmar.
- PM Modi visited Nepal to take forward the issues of mutual interest & partnership across diverse sectors. This is Mr Modi's third visit to Nepal as PM. Both the leaders will jointly lay the foundation stone for Arun 3 hydropower project. PM Modi will visit historic Janaki temple. Both the PMs will inaugurate Janakpur-Ayodhya bus service & the inclusion of Janakpur in Ramayana circuit.
- PM Modi will visit Russia on for an informal Summit with President Vladimir Putin in Sochi city. As per the External Affairs Ministry, this informal Summit is in keeping with the tradition of regular consultations between India & Russia at the highest level.
- ISRO has developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites. It is supposed to measure precise location data.
- NASA signed a space act agreement with Uber Technologies to explore concepts & technologies related to Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for future air transportation such as flying cars in populated areas.
- China **launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite 'Gaofen-5' for comprehensive observation of the atmosphere**, including air pollution which is one of the country's major problems. The Gaofen-5 satellite was launched off the back of a Long March 4C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.
- **California-based aerospace company, SpaceX** blasted off its most powerful Falcon 9 rocket, which is certified to carry humans to space later this year.
- Scientists **discovered the fastest-growing black hole known in the universe**, describing it as a monster that

devours (eats) a mass equivalent to our Sun every two days. The discovery of the new supermassive black hole was confirmed using the spectrograph on the Australian National University (ANU) 2.3-metre telescope to split colours into spectral lines.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs- June

Visits

- US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley visited India.
- President Kovind arrived in Cuba on the final leg of his three-nation tour to Greece, Suriname & Cuba. He was received in Santiago by Vice President of Cuba, Ms Beatriz Johnson. The President was escorted first to the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery where he witnessed Change of Guards ceremony. He then paid respects to Jose Marti Memorial.
- President Kovind will embark **on a three-nation tour to Greece, Suriname & Cuba**. On the first leg, he will leave for Athens. He will leave for Suriname on the 2nd leg & then to Cuba of the final leg. Suriname is a founding member of the International Solar Alliance.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** left on a three-nation **visit to Greece, Suriname & Cuba**. He will be at Athens, where he will meet Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos. He will leave for Suriname **on the 2nd leg where he will hold discussions with President Desire Delano Bouterse**. In the last leg, he will reach Cuba to hold discussions with his **Cuban counterpart Miguel Diaz - Canel Bermudez**.
- **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis met World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva in Washington DC to seek assistance for a Multimodal Transport Corridor & the Rural Livelihood Project** which aims to provide sustainable livelihood enhancements in 10,000 villages in the state.
- PM Narendra Modi has arrived in Qingdao, China, to attend the two-day long 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. This will be India's first participation in the summit as a full-time member of the organization.
- Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Rajendra Chhetri is on a six-day visit to India. He is visiting India at the invitation of COAS General Bipin Rawat. General Chhetri will attend the Officer Cadet's 'Passing Out Parade' as Chief Reviewing officer at Indian Military Academy in Dehradun.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj begins her five-day visit to South Africa where she will meet the top leadership of the country. Her visit will further strengthen the close & long-standing ties with South Africa. The Minister will participate in the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting & chair the IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting during her visit.
- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is on a four-day visit to Brazil. He is scheduled to visit various operational & training units as well as interact with senior officials of the Brazilian Air Force.

Science & Technology Current Affairs

- The four first-year engineering students from Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science near Chennai, Tamil Nadu have developed the world's lightest satellite which will be launched from a NASA facility in the US by August 2018. They built the 4cm 'cube' satellite 'Jaihind-1S' with a 3D printed outer casing from polylactic acid (PLA) nylon material, making it lighter than a medium sized egg, at just 33.39 grams.
- **NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson, retired after a 22-year-long career**. She has spent more time off Earth than any other American, **totalling 665 days over three International Space Station missions**. The 58-year-old is **the oldest woman to go into space**.
- **US scientists unveiled the world's most powerful & smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit'** that can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second.
- China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite 'the Gaofen-6' which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research & disaster monitoring.


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Books & Authors

- **Nitin Gadkari** released a book **'Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops'** published by **NABARD**. It is based on a study of 10 important crops **by a team under the leadership of leading agricultural economist Dr. Ashok Gulati**.
- VP Naidu has received the book **"Vedvigyan Alok"** (**Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet - Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya**) authored by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik.

Other Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare restricted the manufacture of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only from 1st July 2018. Oxytocin is a

naturally-occurring hormone which causes uterine contractions during labour & helps new mothers lactate.

- The Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS), a well-funded start-up in skill development for maritime & shipbuilding sector, has announced setting up of 24 labs -6 in Mumbai & 18 in Vizag campus.
- **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has selected 3,000 additional schools for the establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), bringing the total number of ATL schools to 5,441. The schools to establish ATLs for nurturing innovation & entrepreneurial spirit among secondary school children across India.
- Government launched **5,000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages** & delivery of rail tickets through Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- **The European Union Film Festival (EUFF) will premiere in New Delhi** at the Siri Fort Auditorium.
- Information & Broadcasting Minister **Col Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated the European Union Film Festival at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.**
- Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh has flagged off the 1st batch of three month-long Kailash Mansarovar Yatra-2018 in New Delhi. The Yatra will continue till the 8th of September 2018.
- India received the first-ever cargo of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Russia as New Delhi diversifies import basket to meet its vast energy needs.
- Environment-friendly, clean & equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists, 13 Indian beaches will soon get the Blue Flag certification. These beaches of Odisha, Maharashtra & other coastal states will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.
- NTPC Ltd has adopted the iconic Charminar in Hyderabad under the Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India. This is part of a special drive under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission.
- **Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** created a **world record of distributing the maximum number of bee-boxes in one day.**
- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) proposed a draft bill to repeal the University Grants Commission (UGC) & set up the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). This move that aims to reform higher education in India. The Act entitled 'Higher Education Commission of India Act, 2018 (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act)' revamps UGC Act, 1951 & its parent legislation completely.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs- July

Visits

- PM of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay arrived in New Delhi for a visit to India. During this, he will call on President Ram Nath Kovind and hold talks with PM Narendra Modi.
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in New Delhi for visit to India. He is being accompanied by

First Lady Kim Jung-sook on his maiden visit to the nation. A financing arrangement of 10 billion dollars has been set by the Korean side for infrastructure development in India.

- A new integrated state-of-the-art integrated Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) was jointly inaugurated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan at Dhaka's Jamuna Future Park. Rajnath Singh is presently in Bangladesh on a three-day visit. He also inaugurated the Bangladesh-India Friendship building in Bangladesh Police Academy in Sardah.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj embarked on a two-day visit to Manama, to co-chair the second High Joint Commission meeting with her Bahraini counterpart.
- PM Narendra Modi left on a three-nation visit to Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa. PM Modi will reach South Africa to attend the 10th BRICS summit at Johannesburg.


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Science & Technology Current Affairs

- American and Spanish Scientists have discovered a new shape called 'scutoid' while studying nature's way of moulding tissue to form the skin, cavity linings and the building blocks of organs.
- ISRO successfully carried out a flight test for a newly-designed Crew Escape System. According to ISRO, the first 'Pad Abort Test' demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad. It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Scientists have discovered the world's oldest colours. 1.1 billion-year-old bright pink pigments, extracted from rocks deep beneath the Sahara desert in Africa, have finally been traced.
- IIT Madras launched "world's first" remotely operable microscope that would enable a precise atom-by-atom view of a material. The 'Local Electrode



Miscellaneous includes the Visits

Atom Probe' (LEAP) was developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions headed by IIT Madras.

Books & Authors

- Renowned historian and author of several bestselling books Ramachandra Guha has penned a new book titled "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" on the father of the nation.
- JK Rowling will come out with the fourth novel titled 'Lethal White' in the series about the exploits of private investigator Cormoran Strike in September 2018 under her pseudonym Robert Galbraith.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- Shivangi Pathak, who became the youngest Indian woman to reach the peak of Mount Everest, has added another feather to her cap by scaling Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro in 3 days.
- A city college student, Prabhat Koli (19), who crossed the English Channel when he was 16, has become the first Asian to swim the choppy water from Jersey (an Island in the UK) to France in cold weather.
- Bhitarkanika National Park (Odisha) has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country with a record number of their nesting sites spotted in it.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched its, in-house developed, single-umbrella e-marketing system named Khadi Institution Management and Information System (KIMIS) in New Delhi.
- Law Commission recommended that gambling and betting on sports, including cricket, be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up a state-of-the-art Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport to find indigenous solutions to meet the challenges posed by the growing air traffic and for enhancing safety, capacity and efficiency of aircraft operations in the country.
- Union Environment Ministry issued a notification setting noise standards for all airports across the country. The rules state that busy airports a civil airport with more than 50,000 aircraft movements per year (take-off or a landing) should not exceed noise levels beyond 75 dB(A) Leq (decibels) during the daytime (6am to 10pm) and 65 dBA during the night (10pm to 6am).
- NITI Aayog unveiled the blueprint of 'National Health Stack' (NHS), a shared digital healthcare infrastructure. As per the consultation paper titled

'National Health Stack Strategy an Approach', the National Health Stack will facilitate the collection of comprehensive healthcare data across the country.

- Under the guidance of Piyush Goyal, Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways and Coal, in order to capture the lost traffic through the new delivery model for domestic cargo, Indian Railways has introduced Double Stack Dwarf Container Services. This train was booked from the Reliance Rail Siding at Kanalus to Rewari in the state of Haryana.
- Union Government has granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector. Three Public Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status: 1. IIT-Bombay, 2. IIT-Delhi, 3. IISc Bangalore.
- Three Private Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status: 1. Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation, 2. BITS Pilani, 3. Manipal Academy of Higher Education.
- Satyarup Siddhanta become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world. Ojos del Salado is a stratovolcano (a volcano built up of alternate layers of lava and ash) in the Andes on the Argentina-Chile border.
- Railways launched its first consolidated Bridge Management System, a web-enabled IT application to store data on its one lakh 50 thousand bridges.
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launches the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in the Delhi. An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts and the results will be announced in the form of a ranking of all districts and states on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters.
- Archaeological Survey of India decided to allow photography within the premises of all centrally protected monuments/sites. However, the 3 monuments/sites in which the photography would not be permitted are Ajanta Caves and Leh Palace having paintings, and Mausoleum of Taj Mahal, Agra.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs- August

Visits

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to visit Vietnam and Cambodia, with an aim to deepen India's strategic cooperation with the two key nations in the ASEAN region. She will inaugurate the 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Hanoi. In Vietnam, she will co-chair the 16th meeting of the Joint Commission along with her Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Binh Minh. After Vietnam, she will be visiting Cambodia where she will have a bilateral meeting with her Cambodian



counterpart Prak Sokhonn and also call on PM Hun Sen and President of Senate Say Chhum.

- EAM Sushma Swaraj is now in Kyrgyzstan which is the second leg of 3-central Asian nations' visit. Before landing in Bishkek, the Minister completed a successful visit to Kazakhstan where she met the country's top leaders to discuss ways to consolidate its strategic partnership with India in areas like trade, energy, security and information technology.

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Science & Technology Current Affairs

- ISRO will outsource the production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private Industries. Note: The ISRO will launch Gaganyaan, India's first manned mission to outer space in 2020.
- India's first Indian human mission will be launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by 2022. The programme will make India the fourth nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission, after USA, Russia and China. PM Modi announced 'Gaganyaan — India's maiden human spaceflight programme'.
- A new European satellite named 'Aeolus' using advanced laser technology to track global winds and improve weather forecasts has been successfully put into orbit on a Vega rocket from French Guyana.
- Ranchi-based software developer Ranjit Srivastava is developing the world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot, claimed to cost just Rs50,000 so far.
- India will launch its second lunar mission "Chandrayaan-2" on January 3, 2019, to land on the moon with a lander and rover. 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.
- 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. 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.

- 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.

Books & Authors

- 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.
- 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.
- "Atal Ji Ne Kaha" is the latest book on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- India's first biofuel-powered flight landed in Delhi, covering the distance between Dehradun & Delhi. It is developed by CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun. The flight test was successfully completed by SpiceJet.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1). This marks attaining a critical milestone in the growth of the country's Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector.
- IT ministry launched a desktop software e-Aksharayan for Indian Languages Technology Industry 'Bhashantara', in New Delhi. The objective is to enable editing and printing of text in scanned documents. The software e-Aksharayan launched in 7 Indian languages.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched a logo & tagline for Geographical Indications (GI) to increase awareness about intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the country. The slogan is- 'Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India'.
- 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. It seeks to establish the NCBC under the constitution with authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding OBCs. NCBC will have a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and 3 other members of which at least one will be a woman.
- Minister of state for Culture (I/C), Dr Mahesh Sharma, released 3 books: 'Jewellery', 'Ghats of Banaras' and 'Untold Story of Broadcasting', at IGNCIA (Indira Gandhi



National Centre for the Arts), in New Delhi. 'Jewellery' was written by Dr Gulab Kothari. 'Ghats of Banaras' was written by Dr Sachidanand Joshi and 'Untold Story of Broadcasting' was written by Dr Gautam Chatterjee.

- 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).
- Indian-American high school student Avi Goel has won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division which was held in Berlin, Germany. 14-year old Avi is a tenth grader at Silver Creek High School in Evergreen, San Jose, California.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs- September

- Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a Flood Forecasting & Early Warning System (FFEWS) for Kolkata City. It is also India's first comprehensive city-level FFEWS.
- A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra scrapped the pre-Independence provision of adultery in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which treats a married woman as a commodity owned by her husband. Section 497 (adultery) gives a husband the exclusive right to prosecute his wife's lover. If found guilty, the adulterer faces five years behind bars.
- SC declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as Constitutionally valid. The Supreme Court ruled that linking the Aadhaar card to PAN card is mandatory & is needed for filing income tax returns. The apex court, however, said Aadhaar is not mandatory for opening bank accounts & linking with existing accounts. SC also struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act that allowed private companies to avail Aadhaar data.
- Supreme Court agreed to live-streaming & video recording of court proceedings, saying "sunlight is the best disinfectant". The Supreme Court allowed live streaming of cases of Constitutional importance that take place in the Court of the Chief Justice of India.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) & ISRO signed an MoU for setting up of an state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence. The Supreme Court had in a verdict in August last year declared it illegal & unconstitutional.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched the country's first "National Scholarship Portal Mobile App" (NSP Mobile App) in New Delhi.
- Union minister K J Alphons, the Minister of State for Tourism, inaugurated the country's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh.

- NITI Aayog, Intel & Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI).
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare announced the implementation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) & Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017. As per the law, every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 has the right to live in a shared household & enjoy its facilities. Those violating the act could be jailed for up to two years or fined up to Rs1 lakh or both.
- The first of its kind university in the country in the transport sector, the National Rail & Transportation Institute (NRTI), started operations. Currently, it is functioning out of the National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara.
- The Supreme Court abolished Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the 1862 law which criminalised homosexuality. The Delhi High Court had decriminalised homosexuality in 2009, but the decision was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2013. As per Section 377, consensual sexual acts are also considered unnatural & are punishable.


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