



## NATIONAL AND STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS

### National & State Related Current Affairs - April

- India is now the second-largest mobile phone producer in the world after China as per the data shared by Indian Cellular Association with the government.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 for better protection & promotion of human rights in the country. The features of the Bill are as follows:
  - It proposes to include "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights" as deemed Member of the Commission; It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission; It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility & scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission; & It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has asked Indian Diaspora in Zambia to become the partner in India's growth & asked them to take advantage of Overseas Citizen of India, OCI programme. Four MOUs were signed between the two countries which include, the establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Institute in Zambia, taxation, visa exemption on diplomatic passports & judicial cooperation. This is the first time in three decades that a President of India is undertaking a state visit to Zambia.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi left on a five-day visit to Sweden & the UK. The visit to the two nations aims at enhancing bilateral cooperation in key areas like trade, investments & Science & technology. On the first leg of his visit, the Prime Minister will attend the first-ever India-Nordic Summit at Stockholm, which will be co-hosted by India & Sweden. In London, Mr Modi will take part in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting being hosted by the UK.
- The Union Cabinet approved the promulgation of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance 2018, which would empower the government to seize the domestic assets of those deemed by a relevant court to be fugitive economic offenders. The Ordinance has a provision for a 'Special Court' under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 to declare a person as a Fugitive Economic Offender.
- The Minister of Housing & Urban Development Hardeep Singh inaugurated the 48th Foundation Day of Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) on 25th April. HUDCO is playing an important role in taking financial inclusion forward in the country, as it is taking care of the housing finance needs of the economically deprived sections.
- India has agreed for the most revered Buddhist relics from Sarnath to be taken to Sri Lanka for public exposition on the occasion of Vesak festival. This is the first time relics from Sarnath are being brought to Sri Lanka from India, & special arrangements have been made for this purpose.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in New Delhi after a two-day informal summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan. PM Modi wrapped up his two-day visit to China with both the countries underlining the importance of maintaining peace & tranquillity.
- With an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region, petrol pumps in the capital started supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel (both petrol & diesel). This move makes New Delhi the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI.
- R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power & New & Renewable Energy, laid the foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat in Uttarkashi.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a 10.30-km-long elevated road, touted to be the longest of its kind in the country, connecting UP Gate & Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad.
- Patna tops in 4G connectivity among 20 of India's largest cities. It has emerged ahead of the likes of Bengaluru, Mumbai & Delhi, according to the report of OpenSignal, a wireless coverage mapping company.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first all-electric high-speed locomotive in Bihar. The first big Make-in-India project completed by France's Alstom, the train has the country's most powerful engine with 12,000 horsepower & a maximum speed of 120 km/hr.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion.
- A Loan Agreement for IBRD loan of USD 48 million for the "Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)" was signed with the World Bank.
- The much-awaited bridge 'Ib Setu' built over the Ib river in Sambalpur district was thrown open to the public by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The 2.5-km-long bridge, which is the State's second longest bridge, has been built in three years at a cost of Rs. 117.50 crore.
- State-run Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) started its socio-economic Neem Project, inaugurated by Union Minister Smriti Irani in Amethi District of Uttar Pradesh.
- West Bengal has once again topped in the country with Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) bagging the Centre's award for the best Gram Panchayat in the country.



- The Union Home Ministry completely revoked the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Meghalaya while diluting it in other regions of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Diu Smart City has become the first city in India, that runs on 100% renewable energy during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean & green.
- West Bengal government has given its approval to State Forest Department to apply for coveted Ramsar Site recognition under Ramsar Convention to Sunderban Reserve Forest. Now, State Forest Department through Central Government will apply to Ramsar Convention Secretariat. Once it is conferred Ramsar site status, Sundarbans Reserve Forest will be largest protected wetland in the country. There are currently 26 sites in India recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to give an aid of 1,700 crore rupees to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development & creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
- Home Ministry has decided to relax the six-decade-old Protected Area Permit regime from Nagaland, Mizoram & Manipur for five years. Foreign tourists, except those from Pakistan, China & Afghanistan, will now be allowed to visit some of the most pristine locations of the country which, so far, were out of bounds for them without a special permit.
- India launched its second IT corridor in China to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market. The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has established one more Sino-Indian Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in China.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a three-nation visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. During his five-day visit, the PM will hold delegation level talks with the leadership of the three countries, on matters of mutual interest.
- PM Modi and Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and international issues at the Hyderabad House. The Netherlands has become the 64th signatory member of the International Solar Alliance. PM Modi noted that the first Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence CoE in Vegetables had started in Baramati, Maharashtra. India also welcomed the Netherlands as the Partner Country for the TechSummit in 2019.
- In New Delhi, Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte inaugurated the Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum to take forward an MoU signed between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and the Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment of the Netherlands in June 2017.
- India will be the host country for celebrations of World Environment Day 2018. The theme for this year is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. The World Environment Day will be celebrated on 5th of June.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurate Bangladesh Bhawan at Shanti Niketan in West Bengal. This is the first time in Indian history, that two prime ministers attended a convocation ceremony.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation its first smart and green highway, the Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh. The 135-kilometer six-lane access-controlled expressway is eco-friendly and has world-class safety features. It envisages signal-free connectivity between Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Palwal. It has been built at a cost of 11,000 crore rupees. It is India's first highway to be lit by solar power besides provisions of rainwater harvesting.
- Bhubaneswar (capital city of Odisha) becomes the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir. During his visit, Prime Minister laid down the foundation stone of 'Zojila Tunnel' on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Leh. The 14.2-kilometre long Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel.
- India's Shivangi Pathak has become youngest women of the country to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side.
- Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte, will be on a two-day official visit to India with an aim to boost

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Officers' Training Academy**10 TOTAL MOCKS**

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**National & State Related Current Affairs - May**

- Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Netherlands Mark Rutte arrived in India for a two-day official visit. Rutte is scheduled to meet a Business Delegation at Hotel Taj Diplomatic and then participate in the Clean Ganga Event.
- Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands who is also the United Nations Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development has arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to India.



the economic and political cooperation between the two countries.

- Prime Minister chaired twenty-sixth interaction through PRAGATI. He Reviewed progress of handling and grievance redressal related to post offices and railways.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.
- In the Cabinet re jig, **Piyush Goyal to take additional charge as Finance Minister** until Finance Minister is under treatment. **Smriti Irani to handle only the Ministry of Textiles & Rajvardhan Rathore has been given the charge of Information & Broadcasting Ministry.**
- **15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** will be held in the holy city of **Varanasi** in January 2019 with the Indian diaspora having an option to participate in Kumbha Snan & attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. This year's event would be **inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi & his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth.** The theme will be "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India".
- **India surpassed France to become one of the world's five largest military spenders**, as per Sweden's Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report. India spent \$63.9 billion on its military in 2017. The other countries in top five include the US, China, Saudi Arabia, & Russia.
- **India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank** for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan). The loan would help India in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022.
- A pact **signed between India & Guatemala for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes** in the educational field. The agreement was inked after a meeting between Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu & his Guatemala counterpart, Jafeth Cabrera Franco in Guatemala city.
- **India & Panama signed 2 agreements on the exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports** & in the field of Agriculture. These agreements were signed during the second leg visit of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu to Panama.
- India has released **grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training & construction of embankments** along Lalbakeya, Bagmati & Kamla rivers in Nepal. Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri handed over a cheque.
- In a first, a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team has started operations in Phagwara, Punjab. It was 192nd POPSK in the country, but the first one to be operated by an all-woman team.
- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, laid the foundation stone of various projects of the Government of India and

Government of Jharkhand, at an event in Sindri. The total cost of these projects is Rs. 27,000 crores.

- The Gujarat government unveiled its 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy' which aims to reduce the state's dependence on freshwater sources like the Narmada river. The policy will promote the use of treated wastewater and will see the setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) in all major towns and cities of Gujarat.
- Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating and developing the historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate as a major tourist attraction.
- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an advisory to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and the Lakshadweep archipelago over cyclonic storm 'SAGAR'.
- Guwahati now has India's first railway station run by solar power. Around 2352 solar modules with a capacity of generating 700 kwp has been set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station.
- Goa celebrates its Statehood Day as people's demand for full statehood was attained on 30th May 1987, when Goa became India's 25th state. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory.
- **Maharashtra became the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts)**, which would check irregularities & bring in transparency. The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land & is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans.
- **Madhya Pradesh government launched the country's first Integrated Control & Command Centre (ICCC)** for all 7 smart cities of the state, in Bhopal. Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Satna, & Sagar are the seven smart cities under SCM in Madhya Pradesh.
- Telangana government **introduced Rythu Bandhu, a scheme to provide Rs. 4,000 per acre each to land-owning farmers for Rabi & Kharif seasons**, & issued special passbooks for them.
- **Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu** inaugurated the state's **biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park** in the presence of Power Minister Tamiyo Taga in Itanagar. It has a capacity of 1 MW.
- **The department of youth & cultural affairs of the Gujarat government will be co-organisers for the centenary celebrations to mark the independence of Poland in Delhi** & other parts of the world.
- The states of **HP, J&K, Haryana & Uttarakhand agreed to implement the ambitious national health protection mission, which aims to provide an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family.**
- Rishad Premji is the chairman of NASSCOM. China Capital- Beijing, Currency- Renminbi, President- Xi Jinping.



### Static Takeaways from National & State Related Current Affairs

- Jayakwadi Dam built over Godavari River is located in Maharashtra.
- POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by PM in March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- Mouling National Park is situated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Arunima Sinha was the first Indian amputee to climb Mt Everest.
- Jharkhand CM- Raghubar Das, Governor- Draupadi Murmu.
- National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976. Its Headquarters in New Delhi.
- Ravi Shankar Prasad is the Minister of Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology.
- UNEP was founded as result of United Nations Conference on Human Environment in June 1972.
- It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Goa Governor-** Mridula Sinha, **Chief Minister-** Manohar Parrikar.
- Om Prakash Kohli is the Present Governor of Gujarat. Sardar Sarovar Dam, built over Narmada River is located in Gujarat.

### National Current Affairs - June

- India pledged **USD 5 million in assistance to the UN agency working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees** to help bolster its "severe funding crisis" following US' cut in its annual aid to United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).
- Govt. decided to **set up two more underground crude oil storages in Odisha & Karnataka** to increase emergency stockpile cover by 12 days to 22 days. The Cabinet approved setting up of 4 million tonne (MT) storage at Chandikhole in Odisha & 2.5 MT storage at Padur in Karnataka.
- Centre released **340 crore rupees for flood relief work in Assam**. 101 crore rupees released by the **Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**, while remaining 239 crore rupees was given by Home Ministry under State Disaster Relief Fund.
- **India & Cuba** signed two MoUs in the **field of biotechnology, traditional medicine & homoeopathy**. This was signed after delegation-level talks **between President Kovind & his Cuban counterpart Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel in Havana**. Cuba also reiterated **its support to India's candidature for a permanent seat in UN Security Council**.
- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Paperless Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Union Government announced to establish India's first national police museum in Lutyens' Delhi.
- India extended a **financial aid of Rs 99 million to Nepal for the construction of 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems** in 12 districts of the country's southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity.

- **Union Health Minister JP Nadda** launched the **National Health Resource Repository (NHRR)**- the country's first-ever national healthcare registry of authentic, standardised & updated geo-spatial data of all public & private healthcare establishments.
- PM Modi launched **three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app & UPI by SBI** at the 'Business, Innovation & Community Event' in Singapore. With the launch, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS).
- President Kovind given his assent to an ordinance **to set up the country's first national sports university in Manipur**.
- **Union Minister for Women & Child Development Maneka Gandhi** laid the **foundation stone of India's first advanced DNA forensic laboratory in Chandigarh** as part efforts to reduce the backlog of cases needing advanced forensic analysis.
- Talks between **PMs Narendra Modi & his counterpart Lee Hsien Loong** led to the **signing of 8 agreements between the two sides** which covered areas as wide as military cooperation & connectivity. The 8 key fields under which the agreements were exchanged are: Naval cooperation, Economic co-operation, Fintech, Cybersecurity, Nursing, Combating Narcotics smuggling & Human Trafficking, Personnel Management & Public Administration, MoU between the NITI Aayog & Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) on Cooperation in the Field of Planning.
- Decks have been cleared for setting up a consulate of United Arab Emirates with Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao giving his nod for it after discussions with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- **Mumbai's Victorian & Art Deco Ensembles** inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Odisha government** decided to **raise the health cover from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh** under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) for women.
- PM Modi unveiled a bouquet of development projects in MP on his visit. He **in Rajgarh, dedicated the Mohanpura Dam Project to the nation**. In Indore, he attended the Madhya Pradesh Shehari Vikas Mahotsav.
- Gujarat government announced **wind-solar hybrid power policy - 2018, aiming to make optimum utilisation of the land & grid**. The policy provides 50% concession for cross-subsidy surcharge & additional surcharge when the generated energy is sold to a third party.
- The world's first of its **kind & state-of-the-art International Centre for 'Humanitarian Forensics' (ICHF)** was launched at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Union Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh **dedicated the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the Nation**. **Parvati is the first Blast Furnace of SAIL** that was



dedicated to the nation on 3rd February 1959 by the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

- **The Integrated Command & Control Centre of the Naya Raipur Smart City was inaugurated** by PM Modi. Integrated Command & Control Centre of Naya Raipur becomes the 10th Smart City Centre to be operational in the country.
- J P Nadda exchanged the MoU with the State Health Ministers of 20 States marking their commitment towards the launch of the Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM).
- **PM Modi visited Chhattisgarh where he dedicated the modernised & expanded Bhilai steel plant** to the nation. He also took part in programmes in Naya Raipur - the upcoming capital city of the state. He inaugurated Integrated Command & Control Centre at Naya Raipur. He inaugurated Raipur-Jagdalpur air service, **laid the foundation stone for the new building of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhilai.**
- **Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya has been selected as 100th Smart City.** With the selection of Shillong, the total proposed investment in the finally selected 100 cities under the Smart Cities Mission would be Rs.2,05,018 crores.
- **Neem & black buck have been declared as the state tree & animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh.** The rose-ringed parakeet will be the state bird while jasmine will be the state flower.
- President Kovind **has declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit** & its export was a major step in connecting the state with world trade.
- **Maharashtra government will provide the financial grant of 1,000 rupees per quintal to those farmers whose tur & gram could not be purchased by the administration before the May 31 deadline.**
- In Uttarakhand, **Polythene will be completely prohibited from 31st July** in the state. All the polythene vendors have been asked to finish the polyethylene stock before 31st July.
- **Madhya Pradesh government has announced an outstanding power bill waiver scheme for laborers & poor families.** The State Cabinet approved the **Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018 (Power Bill Waiver Scheme)** which is expected to benefit about 77 lakh people of the state.
- In a major step to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in Punjab, **the state government has launched a "Business First Portal".** It was unveiled by Industry Minister Sunder Sham Arora in Jalandhar.
- **HP government has decided to do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses & revert to annual examination system.**
- **Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Subhash Bhamre dedicated a highway tunnel at Theng near Chungthang in north Sikkim** to the nation. The tunnel will benefit the tourism & rapidly propel the growth of the state.
- **West Bengal Government has decided to invest 107 crore rupees to check erosion at vulnerable areas**

along the banks of the Ganga & the Padma. A stretch of 15 kilometres will be concretised, to prevent erosion.

- **Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu stated that the state was now Open Defecation Free (ODF)** as it had achieved its goal of constructing 2.77 lakh individual toilets. Naidu who was traveling through Chittoor district unveiled a plaque in Tirupati to honour the achievement.

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# CDS 2018

## IMA, INA & AFA

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### 15 TOTAL MOCKS

- 5 ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS MOCKS
- 5 ENGLISH MOCKS
- 5 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MOCKS

### National Current Affairs- July

- Lok Sabha passed the **Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017** which has the provision of allowing a court trying an offence related to cheque bouncing, to direct the drawer to pay interim compensation to the complainant. The interim compensation will not exceed 20% of the cheque amount and will have to be paid by the drawer within 60 days of the trial court's order to pay such a compensation.
- Parliament approved a legislation to help the government bring back fugitives involved in white-collar crimes to stand trial in India. The fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 will become law after the President's assent and will empower the government to seize both local and overseas assets of alleged offenders, such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.
- The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan laid the foundation stone for permanent campus of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for Women at Mohali, Punjab. This is the first NSTI Institute for Punjab and only one of its kind in India which is exclusively for women.
- Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh notified the "National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017", which will guide the development of marine fisheries sector for the next 10 years. This was declared at the inter-session meeting of the consultative committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on "Marine Fisheries-Mariculture in India" in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.



- Govt. decided to sharply increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops. The MSP for common variety paddy, the most important Kharif crop, will be raised by Rs 200 over last year's Rs 1,550 per quintal. That works out a 13% increase for the financial year ended March 2019 compared to a 5.4% increase in FY18.
- Supreme Court held that Lieutenant Governor does not have independent decision-making powers, and is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The apex court was ruling on a batch of appeals filed by the Delhi government challenging the Delhi High Court's order holding the LG as the administrative head of the national capital.
- The India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre inaugurated by the Minister of State (I/C) MSME Giriraj Singh and Minister of SMEs and Start-ups of Republic of Korea, Hong Jong- hak in New Delhi. The purpose this is to create a platform for micro, small and medium enterprises of India and Korea.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India in New Delhi.
- India and the United Kingdom signed an agreement on the exchange of experience by legal professionals and government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts and tribunals.
- India has become the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). This move paved the way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of important projects, cumulatively worth over Rs. 900 crore in Varanasi. Among the projects inaugurated are the Varanasi City Gas Distribution Project and the Varanasi-Ballia MEMU train. He also laid the Foundation Stone for an International Convention Centre in Varanasi. He also laid the Foundation Stone of the 340 km long Poorvanchal Expressway in Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh.
- India become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years (from July 2018 to June 2020). The underlying Theme of the Inaugural Ceremony is "Customs - Fostering Trade Facilitation".
- PM Modi dedicated the Bansagar Canal Project to the Nation in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. This project will provide a big boost to irrigation in the region, and will be greatly beneficial for the farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country. He laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- India has been elected new President of Asian Tug of War Federation. India's Gautam Kaul won the prestigious post in the Federations' Executive Committee elections held in Kathmandu, Nepal. This is the first time when India has been elected to lead the organisation.
- India & Ghana signed two agreements in an effort to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The two MOUs on Cultural Exchange Programme and on cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards and Ghana Standards Authority were signed.
- Indian Government has announced the launch of a new MicroDot Technology that would help check on vehicle thefts. Under this, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including its engine.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched development projects worth over 5400 crore rupees in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh.
- The hotel named 'Hostess' was launched by Kerala Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran. 'Hostess', India's public sector hotel run entirely by women for women is claimed to be the first such in the country.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Rs 300 crore Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project in Sundargarh district.
- PM Narendra Modi launched projects worth 60,000 crore rupees at the ground-breaking ceremony in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Actress Kangana Ranaut and Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched a smartphone distribution scheme called 'Mobile Tihar' under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.
- Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das announced that the first 'Khadi Mall' of the country that will be opened in Jharkhand.
- Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam has become the first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'.
- Union minister of chemicals and Fertilisers Ananth Kumar announced that the country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The unit is in keeping with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan drive.
- Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr Jitendra Singh attended the famous 4-day Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival, "Behdienkhlam", held every year at the small peripheral town of Jowai, Meghalaya.
- Tony Award winner Liliane Montevecchi, the Paris-born dancer, actor, and singer, passed away at the age of 85 following a battle with colon cancer.
- In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state. The HC stated that "they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person."
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan inaugurated state-run power giant National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) 250 MW Solar Power Plant in Mandsaur.



- The first of world's cheapest drinking water project launched in Darbhanga district, Bihar. It would be managed by Self Help group of Darbhanga Nagar Nigam.
- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015, converting it to an Act, almost three years after it was passed by the state Assembly. It aimed at eliminating the superstition from the society, imposes a punishment of up to seven years and a fine of up to Rs. 5 lakh.

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## CDS 2018

Officers' Training Academy

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### National Current Affairs - August

- 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. The Bilaspur University will be known as Atal Bihari Vajpayee University while the Narrow-Gauge Line will be called Atal Path.
- India and Singapore signed the Second Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in New Delhi which will boost bilateral trade between the two countries.
- India and Germany signed an agreement on financial and technical cooperation focusing on sustainable urban development and renewable energy.
- AIBD India elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a period of two years. India got elected against Iran. Director General of All India Radio F. Sheheryar re-elected as chair of the executive board while Sri Lanka was elected as vice-chair.
- Union Government unlocked green funds worth over Rs. 66,000 crores to increase the country's forest cover.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has rolled out the Smart City projects that will help New Delhi emerge as a world-class city. The projects are undertaken by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).
- 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. It is India's first genetic resource bank where the genetic material will be stored for posterity.
- The Government of India has released 470 million Nepali rupees grant for Terai roads project in Nepal. Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri handed over a cheque of grant.
- 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.
- 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.
- PM Modi inaugurated various projects in Junagadh district of Gujarat. These included the Government Civil Hospital, a milk processing plant and some buildings of the Junagadh Agriculture University.

### States Current Affairs

- The Union Government, Rajasthan and the World Bank signed a USD 250 million Development Policy Loan (DPL) to support Rajasthan in improving the performance of its Electricity Distribution Sector under the State's '24x7 Power for All' program.
- Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari signed an MoU with six states for the construction of Lakhwar multi-purpose project in the upper Yamuna basin to deal with water crisis. CMs of Uttar Pradesh (Yogi Adityanath), Rajasthan (Vasundhara Raje Scindia), Uttarakhand (Trivendra Singh Rawat), Himachal Pradesh (Jai Ram Thakur), Haryana (Manohar Lal Khattar) and Delhi (Arvind Kejriwal) signed the MoU. Under this, the 204-metres high project will be constructed near Uttarakhand's Lohari village with live storage capacity of 330.66 million cubic metres (MCM).
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for setting up of a Special Investment Region (SIR) in northern Krishnagiri district to attract investments. It would be jointly developed by GMR Infrastructures Limited & Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO).
- The analysis titled The Urban Commute was released. It is analysed by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), 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. Bhopal tops for lowest overall emissions and energy use from urban commute.
- 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.
- Rajasthan become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels unveiled by the Centre this year.



- The iconic Mughalsarai Railway Junction in Uttar Pradesh renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station. BJP National President Amit Shah inaugurated the renamed station.
- The world's first-ever thermal battery plant was unveiled in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. It is manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST).
- 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.
- Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad released the document 'Digital North East Vision 2022' in Guwahati, Assam. It emphasizes leveraging digital technologies to transform the lives of people of the northeast and enhance the ease of living.
- 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.

### National Current Affairs - September

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) & National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI) jointly set up a Centre of Excellence for data analytics to support Government departments to unlock the hidden potential of the data that they are generating as part of the governance processes & use it to improve the overall governance.
- India & UN signed the Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022. It outlines the work of UN agencies in India, to support the achievement of key development outcomes.
- Meeting between Ravi Shankar Prasad & the Minister for Development of IT & Communications, Uzbekistan Mr Shuhrat Sadikov held in New Delhi for strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries in ICT sector. 2 MoUs signed.
- India & Morocco signed an MoU for deepening cooperation between MSME sectors of the two countries in Rabat, Morocco.
- PM Modi has been awarded with the UN's highest environmental honour, also given to five other individuals & organisations, for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance & pledge to eliminate single use plastic by 2022. Cochin International Airport was given the award for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy.
- Cabinet approved the new telecom policy, now named National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, which aims to attract USD 100 billion investment & create 4 million jobs in the sector by 2022. According to the draft of the policy, NDCP is focused on increasing high-speed broadband penetration, with use of modern

technologies like 5G & optical fibres across the country at affordable rates.

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a new airport at Jharsuguda, which will attract investors to the mineral-rich area.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim on September 24, nine years after the foundation stone was laid. The airport is the hilly state's first & only airport.
- World Bank Board has endorsed an ambitious five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India, which aligns with New Delhi's objectives of high, sustainable & inclusive growth. It is expected to bring between 25 & 30 billion US Dollars in financial support to India.
- India & Sri Lanka signed an MoU for construction of a 5000-metric ton temperature controlled warehouse in Dambulla, Sri Lanka.
- India & Serbia signed agreements on cooperation in plant protection & plant quarantine & on-air services, following the talks between Vice President Venkaiah Naidu & Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.
- India, Iran & Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan during which implementation of the Chabahar port project & a host of other issues including ways to deepen counter-terror cooperation were discussed.
- India & France have signed implementation agreement on 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC) in the presence of Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Hardeep Singh Puri & Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France in India.
- India & Nepal signed an MoU on Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey on Broad Gauge Rail Line between Raxaul (Bihar) & Kathmandu.
- The bi-annual talks between Indian & Bangladeshi border forces held in New Delhi. Director General of Border Security Force (BSF) KK Sharma represented the Indian side while Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Major General Md Shafeenul Islam led the Bangladeshi side.
- India & US signed the Communications Compatibility & Security Agreement (COMCASA) that will facilitate India to obtain critical defence technologies from the US, & access critical communication network to ensure interoperability among the US & the Indian armed forces.

### States Current Affairs

- PM was in Anand to inaugurate a state-of-the-art Amul chocolate plant set up with an investment of about Rs. 190 crore. He also inaugurated a take-home ration plant with production capacity of 600 tonnes per day & a ready-to use therapeutic food plant with monthly capacity of 600 tonnes along with the incubation center cum center of excellence in food processing for promoting entrepreneurs & start-ups.



- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India International Convention & Expo Centre (IICC) in Dwarka, New Delhi.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the website for the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019, www.pbdindia.gov.in. PM of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will be the Chief Guest.
- For the first time in India, dog owners will have a dedicated dog park to visit. Set up in Hyderabad, the park is spread across an area of 1.3 acres.
- Delhi government signed an MoU with the Seoul Metropolitan Government to work closely in the fields of environment, tourism, wastewater & solid waste management, infrastructure & public health.
- The festival of Nuakhai is being celebrated in Odisha.
- Haryana government signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up an ethanol plant in Panipat with an outlay of over Rs 900 crore.
- For the first time, bus services between Bihar & Nepal have started. It was flagged off from Patna by CM Nitish Kumar. Four buses will ply from Bodhgaya to Kathmandu. Similarly, four buses will ply from Patna to Janakpur.
- In a bid to boost PM Modi's flagship 'Digital India' campaign, Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under the Bhamashah Yojana. Focused on women who fall under the Below Poverty Line (BPL), the scheme aims to transfer financial & non-financial benefits of government schemes in a transparent manner.
- Telangana Cabinet passed a resolution calling for the dissolution of the Telangana Legislative Assembly. The state's CM had convened the meeting of his Council of Ministers to dissolve the Legislative Assembly & seek fresh elections six months ahead of schedule.

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