

**HINDU REVIEW | JULY 2018 | CURRENT AFFAIRS | SBI PO/CLERK MAINS | RBI GRADE B PRELIMS 2018**

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# The Most Important Current Affairs JULY 2018

## Highlights of PM Modi Visit to Rwanda, Uganda

- ✓ India & Rwanda signed eight agreements following delegation-level talks between PM Narendra Modi & Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali. The two countries signed agreements in the fields of Defence, Trade, Agriculture, Leather & allied products & Dairy. India extended two Lines of Credit of 100 million US dollars each – one for development of industrial parks & Kigali Special Economic Zone, & the other for three agricultural projects in Rwanda. Mr Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Rwanda. PM Modi also gifted 200 cows to villagers as a part of Rwandan Government's Girinka Programme.
- ✓ India & Uganda signed four MoUs. The agreements were signed following the delegation-level talks between PM Narendra Modi & Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala. The MoUs are:
  1. MoU on Defence Cooperation.
  2. MoU on Visa exemption for Diplomatic & official passport holders.
  3. MoU on Cultural Exchange Programme.
  4. MoU on Material Testing Laboratory.
- ✓ Uganda Capital- Kampala, Currency- Ugandan shilling.
- ✓ Rwanda Capital: Kigali, Currency: Rwandan franc.

## A Brief on 10th edition of BRICS Summit

- ✓ The 10th edition of BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa. It is a 3-day long summit & will be attended by all the BRICS leaders.
- ✓ The theme for this summit is 'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth & shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'.
- ✓ The heads of state & government of all five BRICS nations including Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa convened for the 10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ✓ The summit saw the BRICS leaders come together & discuss various international & regional issues of common concern & adopted the 'Johannesburg Declaration' by consensus.

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

- ✓ BRICS is made up of China, Brazil, Russia, India & South Africa.
- ✓ In December 2010, China, as the Chair, invited South Africa to join BRIC & attend the Summit in Sanya, China.
- ✓ The 1st BRIC Summit was held in June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

## And the Ramon Magsaysay Award goes to

- ✓ The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance,

courageous service to the people, & pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.

- ✓ Two Indians, Bharat Vatwani (for Restoring Health & Dignity to troubled lives) & Sonam Wangchuk (for Harnessing nature, culture & education) made the country proud as their names figured in the list of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award winners.

## All About Final Draft of NRC Released By Assam

- ✓ Assam released the final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), seven months after it released the first draft on 1 January 2018, which included 1.9 crore names out of a total applicant pool of 3.29 crore.
- ✓ It left out 40.07 lakh people wherein 2.89 crore people were found eligible out of 3.29 crore applicants.
- ✓ The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the list of Indian citizens of Assam. It was prepared in 1951, following the census of 1951.

## 28th Meeting of GST Council| Complete Highlights

**Relief for now**  
Conceding to a long-standing demand, the GST Council has exempted several goods from the GST net.

**NO TAX**

- Stone/marble/wood deities
- Rakhi [other than that of precious or semi-precious material of chapter 71]
- Sanitary napkins
- Coir pith compost
- Sil leaves and their products, sabal rope
- Grass broom [raw material for grass broom]
- Leaf containers
- Circulation and commemorative coins, sold by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd to the Ministry of Finance

**SOME OF THE GOODS/SERVICES RETAINED IN THE 28% SLAB**

Digital cameras

Dish washers

Video recorders

Automobile parts

Vacuum cleaners

Aerated drinks

ACs

Automobiles

Tyres

Betting

Cement

Tobacco

**12% to 5%**

- Chenille fabrics
- Handloom duri
- Phosphoric acid (fertilizer grade only)
- Knitted cap selling below ₹1,000

**18% to 12%**

- Bamboo flooring
- Zip & slide fasteners
- Brass kerosene pressure stove

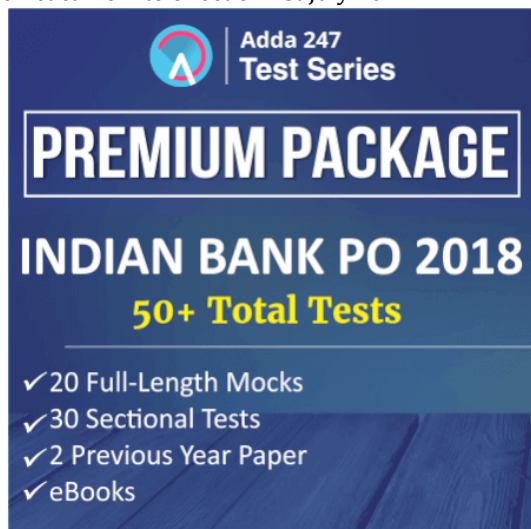
**18% to 5%**

- Ethanol for sale to Oil Marketing Cos
- Solid bio-fuel pellets

- ✚ The 28th meeting of the GST Council chaired by interim finance minister Piyush Goyal was held in New Delhi.
- ✚ The GST Council has exempted sanitary napkins from Goods & Services Tax. Earlier, there was a 12% levy of tax on sanitary napkins.
- ✚ It reduced tax rates on more than 50 items & exempted sanitary napkins, rakhis, stone, marble, wooden deities & Saal leaves from GST.
- ✚ GST on footwear priced below 1,000 rupees will attract 5% rate. GST on imported urea & ethanol sold to oil companies for blending with petrol & diesel has been reduced to 5%.
- ✚ GST rate on handbags, jewellery box, wooden box for paintings, artware of glass, stone endeavour, ornamental framed mirrors & handmade lamps were reduced to 12%.
- ✚ Lithium-ion batteries, vacuum cleaners, food grinders, mixers, storage water heaters, hair dryers, hand dryers, paint, varnishes, water cooler, milk cooler, ice cream coolers, perfumes, toilet sprays & toilet preparation have been brought to 18 from 28% slab.
- ✚ GST council has cleared 46 amendments which will be passed in Parliament. The exemption limit for traders in

Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh & Sikkim has been increased from 10 lakh to 20 lakh rupees. **Note:**

- ✚ GST is an Indirect Tax which has replaced many Indirect Taxes in India.
- ✚ The Goods & Service Tax Act was passed in the Parliament on 29th March 2017.
- ✚ The Act came into effect on 1st July 2017.



### South Korean President Moon Jae-In's Visit to India: Complete Highlights

- ✚ **South Korean President Moon Jae-in** visited India. This was his first visit to India. He was accompanied by **First Lady Kim Jung-sook**.
- ✚ **The main events that took place during the visit:**
- ✚ **President Moon attended the India-Korea business forum:** Korean President **Moon Jae-in** spoke at the **India-Korea Business Forum**. This was organized by the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**.
- ✚ **Inaugurated World's Largest Mobile Factory in Noida:** PM Narendra Modi & South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Noida & inaugurated the **New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida**. Notably, it is the **world's largest mobile factory**. Samsung has Invested close to 5,000 Crore Rupees in this plant & aims to Manufacture 12 Crore Mobile Handsets annually which will result in massive job creation.
- ✚ **India & South Korea Signed 5 MoUs In Field Of Science & Technology:** India & South Korea have signed **five MoUs in the field of Science & Technology** in New Delhi. Science & Technology Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan & his South Korean counterpart You Young Min signed three MoUs which are Programme of Cooperation 2018-21, Establishment of Future Strategy Group & Cooperation in Biotechnology & Bio-economy.
- ✚ **India, South Korea Ink 11 MoUs:** India & South Korea signed 11 MOUs during South Korean President Moon Jae-in's visit to India.
- ✚ **India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre Inaugurated:** The India-Korea Technology Exchange

**Centre** was inaugurated by the **Minister of State (I/C) MSME Giriraj Singh** & Minister of SMEs & Start-ups of Republic of Korea, Hong Jong- hak in New Delhi. The purpose of the Technology Exchange Centre is to create a platform for micro, small & medium enterprises of India & Korea where they can be assisted to identify & exchange latest technologies, share management expertise, product development & technology applications for product development.

- ✚ **Note| South Korea Capital-** Seoul, **Currency-** South Korean won.

### FIFA World Cup 2018 Concludes | France Emerged as Champions

- ✚ **The 21st edition of the FIFA World Cup** concluded in **Luzhniki Stadium** in the **Russian capital of Moscow**.
- ✚ 32 nations, divided into eight groups, battled it out for the coveted trophy in the quadrennial month-long event.
- ✚ **France emerged as the champion team of the FIFA World Cup 2018**. It has **defeated Croatia** in a thrilling final by 4-2. It was the **second world cup win for France**, it first won in 1998.

### Important Highlights & Special Awards of the FIFA 2018 World Cup

1. **Golden Ball Award:** Croatian captain **Luka Modric**.
2. **Golden Glove Award:** Belgium's **Thibaut Courtois**.
3. **Golden Boot Award:** England's **Harry Kane**.
4. **Young Player Award:** France's **Kylian Mbappe**.
5. **Fairplay Award:** **Spain** was awarded the Fairplay Award for being the most disciplined team in the tournament.
6. **Man of the Match in Final:** **Antoine Griezmann** (France).

### Quick Facts:

1. The Prize money for the champion team was **38 million US Dollars**.
2. **Zabivaka** was the official mascot of the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
3. The official song of the tournament was "**Live It Up**", with vocals from Will Smith, Nicky Jam & Era Istrefi.
4. First time in the history of world cup **VAR (Video Assistant Referee)** system was used.
5. **FIFA World Cup 2022 will be held in Qatar**.

### Wimbledon Championships 2018: Complete List Of Winners

- ✚ **The 2018 Wimbledon Championships** is a Grand Slam tennis tournament which takes place at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom. It was the 132nd edition of the Championships.
- ✚ **Novak Djokovic won the men's singles Title** for the fourth time.



### Angelique Kerber won the Women's Singles title.

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Kevin Anderson (South Africa)
Women's Singles	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	Serena Williams (USA)
Men's Doubles	Mike Bryan (USA) & Jack Sock (USA)	Michael Venus (New Zealand) & Raven Klaasen (South Africa)
Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejickova (Czech Republic) & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Nicole Melichar (USA) & Kveta Peschke (Czech Republic)
Mixed Doubles	Alexander Peya (Austria) & Nicole Melichar (USA)	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus) & Jamie Murray (United Kingdom)

Corporation Bank & Andhra Bank to help them meet the regulatory capital requirement.



This is the first ever capital infusion in the current fiscal & the remaining amount of Rs 53,664 crore would be disbursed during the course of the year.

Which bank will get how much?

- Punjab National Bank:** Rs 2,816 crore (Highest Amount),
- Allahabad Bank:** Rs 1,790 crore,
- Andhra Bank:** Rs 2,019 crore,
- Indian Overseas Bank:** Rs 2,157 crore,
- Corporation Bank:** Rs 2,555 crore.

### RBI To Issue New Design Rs100 Denomination Banknote



RBI will shortly issue Rs100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of Dr Urjit R. Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

The new denomination has Motif of "RANI KI VAV" on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.

The base colour of the note is Lavender.

The dimension of the banknote will be 66 mm × 142 mm.

### All about the five-pronged strategy Project 'SASHAKT' to deal with NPAs

The Sunil Mehta Committee, set up to look into the faster resolution of stressed assets, recommended the creation of an asset management company for the resolution of stressed loans worth more than Rs. 500 crores.

FM Piyush Goyal announced that government has accepted a report submitted by a committee of bankers led by Punjab National Bank chairman Sunil Mehta. It recommended a five-pronged strategy Project



### Finance Ministry Approves Infusion of Rs. 11,336 Crore In 5 PSBs

The finance ministry has approved an infusion of Rs 11,336 crore in five state-owned lenders including PNB,

'SASHAKT' to deal with Non-performing Assets in the country's banking system.

The five-pronged strategy includes:

1. SME resolution approach, 2. Bank-led resolution approach, 3. AMC/AIF led resolution approach, 4. NCLT/IBC approach, & 5. Asset-trading platform.

The Mehta Committee also proposed a Bank Led Resolution Approach (BLRA) for loans between Rs. 50 & Rs. 500 crores. Under the BLRA approach, financial institutions will enter into an inter-creditor agreement to authorise the lead bank to implement a resolution plan in 180 days.

### Government Approves Hike In Minimum Support Price For Kharif Crops

The government has decided to sharply increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops, as it responds to concerns about distress in the country's farm economy despite two years of strong monsoons.

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.

The year-on-year jump in MSP for most other Kharif crops has also been far steeper than the annual increases announced over the last three years.

### Khareef Season MSPs: Annual Increase

Crop	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Paddy	3.70	4.30	5.40	12.90
Jowar	2.60	3.50	4.60	42.90
Bajra	2	3.50	7.10	36.80
Maize	1.10	3	4.40	19.30
Ragi	6.50	4.50	10.10	52.40

### Finance Ministry Keeps SSS' Interest Rates Unchanged

The Finance Ministry has kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC & PPF, unchanged for the July-September quarter.

The move is aimed at matching the hardening interest rates in the banking sector.

Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.

The Interest rates on different Small Savings schemes are as follows:

S. No	Schemes	Interest rate (in %)
1.	5 yr Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (Paid Quarterly)	8.3
2.	Savings Deposits	4
3.	Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.6
4.	National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.6
5.	Kisan Vikas Patra (maturity in 11 months)	7.3
6.	Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA)	8.1

7.	Term Deposit (1-5 years)	6.6-7.4
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### ISSF Junior World Cup 2018 Germany| Complete Highlights

The ISSF Junior World Cup 2 concluded in Suhl, Germany, where 761 junior shooters gathered & competed in 22 Rifle, Pistol & Shotgun events — both individual & team.

They represented 61 countries, piling up the impressive total of 1544 starts: the highest number in the history of the Junior World Cup.

Manu Bhaker shot 242.5 points & won the gold medal in 10m air pistol event. She created a junior world record.

India & the People's Republic of China battled all along the competition for the top position in the medal board, which was eventually taken by the Indian National Team with 26 total medals: 15 golds, two silvers & nine bronzes.

The People's Republic of China took 2nd place with 21 podiums: six golds, nine silvers & six bronzes.

Rank	Nation	Individual			Team		
		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1.	India	6	1	5	9	1	4
2.	China	1	5	5	5	4	1
3.	Italy	2	1	4	2	4	4
4.	Czech Republic	1	1	0	3	0	1
5.	Russia	1	2	1	2	4	0
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total		
1.	India	15	2	9	26		
2.	China	6	9	6	21		
3.	Italy	4	5	8	17		
4.	Czech Republic	4	1	1	6		

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### Banking Current Affairs

Nearly two dozen Banks & Financial Institutions, including SBI & LIC, signed the inter-creditor agreement

(ICA) framework to speed up the resolution of stressed assets which are under the 500-crore rupee bracket. The framework is part of the Project SASHAKT. The objective is to resolve stressed assets fast, & will primarily focus on NPAs in the 50 crore to 500 crore bracket.

- ✓ Oxigen & Fincare Small Finance Bank signed an agreement to roll out the Branchless Banking services, using Oxigen's flagship Point of Sale device called the Oxigen Micro ATM Super PoS.
- ✓ RBI licensed Bank of China to operate in India. Bank of China will now have operating offices in India. This will be the second Chinese bank to be operating in the country. UK's Standard Chartered has highest, 100 branches in India.
- ✓ Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) notified the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2018. IBBI has mandated that a resolution professional should determine whether a corporate debtor had indulged in fraudulent transactions within a specified time period during the resolution process.
- ✓ YES Bank received final regulatory approval from SEBI to start mutual fund business. YES Asset Management (India), a wholly owned subsidiary of YES Bank, will launch fund offerings across the spectrum in both debt & equity markets over the next 6-12 months.
- ✓ ICICI Bank announced that its mortgage loan portfolio crossed the Rs 1.5-trillion milestone, making it the largest private player in the segment, & the lender is targeting to grow it to Rs 2 trillion by FY20.
- ✓ RBI announced that the licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar, Rajasthan has been cancelled as it is not in a position to pay its depositors in full as & when their claims accrue, among other reasons.
- ✓ ADB approved 503-million US Dollar lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar which would benefit the agriculture sector.
- ✓ Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited appointed T Latha as the MD & CEO. She has taken over from G Sreeram.
- ✓ NABARD completed 36 years of service to the nation & celebrated the 37th Foundation Day on 12th July.
- ✓ HDFC securities announced the launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, Arya.
- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank received requisite approvals from RBI to begin taking new customers. Also, Aadhaar-issuing authority UIDAI has allowed it to use the 12-digit unique identification number-based e-KYC.
- ✓ RBI has made it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on the face of payment instrumentalities like demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques & other instruments to prevent money laundering.
- ✓ The board of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has approved the proposal for the insurer to hold a 51% stake in IDBI Bank. LIC has around 7.5% stake in LIC at

present & will acquire the remaining stake from the government.

- ✓ SBI & NABARD joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Telangana.
- ✓ In a major farmer outreach, Kisan Mela is being organised at SBI's rural & semi-urban branches across the country to impart financial literacy to farmers.
- ✓ As a step towards women empowerment, the state's first all-women branch of Jammu & Kashmir Bank was inaugurated. The chairman of JK Bank is Parvez Ahmad.
- ✓ Jana Small Finance Bank announced the commercial launch of its banking operations, the last microfinance company to convert itself into a small finance bank, three years after RBI gave its in-principle approval.
- ✓ Repco Micro Finance Ltd, a non-banking finance company promoted by Repco Bank, received Nabard 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.
- ✓ Private Sector Lender Federal Bank has received the regulatory nod to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait & Singapore, but is awaiting local clearances before it starts operations.

### Economy Current Affairs

- ✓ Union Government reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 250. The minimum initial deposit to open the account has also been reduced to Rs 250. The government has amended the Sukanya Samridhi Account Rules, 2016 for the purpose.
- ✓ CCEA approved proposal for expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by enhancing its capital base to Rs. 10,000 crore & tasking it to mobilise Rs. 1,00,000 crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure & Systems in Education or RISE by 2022.
- ✓ Telecom Commission approved the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) net neutrality recommendations that bar service providers from discriminating against internet content & services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access.
- ✓ IMF cut India's GDP growth forecast to 7.3% in the year 2018 & to 7.5% in 2019.

### Business Current Affairs

- ✓ Department of Telecom (DoT) given final approval to the merger of Vodafone India & Idea Cellular. The combination will be known as Vodafone Idea. It will create India's largest mobile-phone company. Vodafone will own 45.1% stake in the combined entity, while Kumar Mangalam Birla-led Aditya Birla Group & Idea shareholders would have 26% & 28.9%.
- ✓ Mobile tower arm of telecom major Bharti Airtel, Infratel received clearance from SEBI for its merger with Indus Towers.
- ✓ HCL Technologies Ltd surpassed Wipro Ltd to become India's third-biggest software services firm.



- ✓ India's richest person Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) beat Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the most valued company in India.
- ✓ Tata Steel board gave the green flag to the joint venture with German steel giant Thyssenkrup. The resultant entity will be called Thyssenkrup Tata Steel BV, will be the second-largest steelmaker in European steel sector after Lakshmi Mittal's ArcelorMittal.
- ✓ Bharti Infratel, a mobile infrastructure company, got the approval of competition watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) for merging its operations with Indus Towers.
- ✓ World Bank Group member IFC (International Finance Corporation) invested \$100 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (Mahindra Finance). This would enable the Mahindra Group company to augment its growth by extending loans to individuals along with financing small & medium enterprises.
- ✓ PM Modi & South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Noida & inaugurated the New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida. Notably, it will be one of the world's largest mobile factory. Samsung has Invested close to 5,000 Crore Rupees in this plant & aims to Manufacture 12 Crore Mobile Handsets annually which will result in massive job creation.
- ✓ BSNL unveiled the country's first internet telephony service that will allow users to dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app.
- ✓ YouTube has announced the investment of \$25 million to counter the spread of fake news on its platform.
- ✓ Microsoft & Walmart are teaming up for a strategic partnership that will take on rival Amazon in both technology & retail. The five-year agreement will see Walmart use Azure & Microsoft 365 across the company, alongside new projects focused on machine learning, artificial intelligence, & data platforms.
- ✓ Flipkart's digital payment subsidiary PhonePe has acquired Zopper Retail – a hyperlocal Point of Sale (POS) platform for small & medium businesses.
- ✓ European Union regulators slapped Alphabet-owned Google with a record 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) antitrust fine for abusing the dominance of its Android mobile operating system, which is by far the most popular smartphone OS in the world.
- ✓ E-commerce giant Amazon briefly crossed \$900-billion market cap for the first time in its history, becoming only the second company after Apple to achieve this milestone. Apple is currently the world's most valuable company with a market cap of \$935 billion.
- ✓ Oil & Natural Gas Corporation- ONGC- the premier Public Sector Natural gas Company approved exiting its helicopter service provider Pawan Hans by selling its entire 49%.
- ✓ Facebook confirmed it is working on a new satellite project, named Athena, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural & underserved areas.

### Schemes/ Portals/ Missions/ Apps/ Missions Launched by the Union & State Govt.

- ✓ Ministry of Women & Child Development organized the 2nd meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, NITI Aayog. It was declared that the month of September will be celebrated as National Nutrition Month every year.
- ✓ Ministry of Women & Child Development has launched a contest, #Childline1098, inviting people to share images of the Childline 1098 logo that they spot at unique locations & send it with a tagline, to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. CHILDLINE is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid & assistance.
- ✓ R Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission & Arvind Gupta CEO, MyGov launched the "#InnovateIndia Platform", a collaboration between the Atal Innovation Mission & MyGov, a citizen-centric platform of the Government of India. It is created for registering both grassroots & deep-tech innovators at a national level.
- ✓ CM of Odisha, Patnaik launched the 'Green Mahanadi Mission'. The main objective is to stop soil erosion on river banks & recharge the groundwater reserve.
- ✓ A National Viral Hepatitis control programme aimed at eliminating the deadly condition by 2030 was launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Health Organisation.
- ✓ On the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, the Ministry of Human Resource Development organized a National Conference of Vice Chancellors & Directors of Higher Education Institutions of India in New Delhi. The theme was "Research & innovation in Higher Education."
- ✓ Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched the Meghalaya Milk Mission in Shillong. The mission will facilitate in achieving the Centre's goal of doubling farmer's income by 2022 through the promotion of milk business in the state.
- ✓ Indian Railways launched 'Mission Satyanishtha' & a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event. It aims to sensitise all railway employees about the need to adhere to good ethics & to maintain high standards of integrity at work.
- ✓ Maharashtra government announced a new scheme called 'Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana', wherein farmers families where girl children are born will be given saplings for plantation. It aimed at empowering women & promoting tree plantation.
- ✓ Delhi government launched 'Happiness Curriculum' for school students up to class 8. Dalai Lama, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal & Deputy CM & education department in-charge Manish Sisodia were present at the occasion.
- ✓ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launched 'Poshan Abhiyan'--a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. He also launched 'PURNA' project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of

14 to 18. 'PURNA' stands for Prevention of Under Nutrition & Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.

- ✓ Chief Election Commissioner of India Om Prakash Rawat, along with the Election Commissioners Sunil Arora & Ashok Lavasa, launched an Android-based mobile application named 'cVigil' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.
- ✓ Union Minister of Coal, Railways, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal launched the Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) & Mobile Application 'Khan Prahari' developed by CMPDI, Ranchi in New Delhi. The basic objective is reporting, monitoring & taking suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities.
- ✓ MP State Government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme & subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers & poor families. Under this, BPL families would be provided electricity at a cost of Rs 200 per month. The main objective is to make sure that all the households have power facility in the state.
- ✓ Mr Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) & Internship (ISCI) program that will provide the youth with an opportunity to experience the aspects of Urban planning & governance.
- ✓ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani given in-principle approval for the 39-crore rupees 'Seema Darshan' project for developing more infrastructure facilities from T-Junction to Zero Point at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district to instil patriotism through a unique Gujarat initiative for border tourism.
- ✓ Haryana topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST & is also the fourth highest generator of e-way bills in the country.
- ✓ Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Paudhagiri' campaign with an aim to increase the green cover in Haryana. CM Khattar launched the 'Paudhagiri' campaign by planting a 'maulsari' sapling in the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex premises of Gurgaon.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh announced a Chhattisgarh Online Pension Management System. The system launched an app called "Abhar aapki sewa ka". Through this, 80,000 pensioners of the state will now get all the information related to pension & payment online.
- ✓ CM of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu launched 'e-Pragati core platform' at Undavalli. e-Pragati, a forward-looking digital initiative, is aimed at connecting the citizen to 34 departments, 336 autonomous organisations & 745-plus services.
- ✓ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Student Police Cadet (SPC) programme for nationwide implementation at a ceremony in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ✓ Minister for Science & Technology Harsh Vardhan has unveiled the first of a kind Air Quality & Weather Forecast System, SAFAR at Chandni Chowk in New Delhi. The giant true colour LED display will give real-time air

quality index on the 24x7 basis with colour coding along with 72-hour advance forecast.

### National Current Affairs

- ✓ 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 & 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 & will empower the government to seize both local & overseas assets of alleged offenders, such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi & Mehul Choksi.
- ✓ Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship 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 & only one of its kind in India which is exclusively for women.
- ✓ Agriculture & 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 & Farmers' Welfare on "Marine Fisheries-Mariculture in India" in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Supreme Court held that Lieutenant Governor does not have independent decision-making powers, & is bound to act on the aid & advice of the Council of Ministers.
- ✓ The India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre inaugurated by the Minister of State (I/C) MSME Giriraj Singh & Minister of SMEs & Start-ups of Republic of



Korea, Hong Jong- hak in New Delhi. The purpose this is to create a platform for micro, small & medium enterprises of India & Korea.

- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated the new Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India in New Delhi.
- ✓ India & the United Kingdom signed an agreement on the exchange of experience by legal professionals & government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts & tribunals.
- ✓ India become the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction & 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 & 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, & will be greatly beneficial for the farmers of Mirzapur & 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 & on cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards & Ghana Standards Authority were signed.
- ✓ Indian Government has announced the launch of a new MicroDot Technology that would help check on vehicle thefts.

### States Current Affairs

- ✓ 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 Patnaik inaugurated the Rs 300 crore Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project in Sundargarh district.
- ✓ PM Modi launched projects worth Rs. 60,000 crore at the ground-breaking ceremony in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Actress Kangana Ranaut & 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 & 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 Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival, "Behdienkhlam", at the small peripheral town of Jowai, Meghalaya.
- ✓ In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan inaugurated state-run power giant National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) 250 MW Solar Power Plant in Mandsaur.

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- ✓ 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 Kovind approved the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention & 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 & a fine of up to Rs. 5 lakh.

### New Appointments (National & International)

- ✓ Tata AIA Life announced that its board has appointed Rishi Srivastava as the new chief executive officer & managing director.
- ✓ HSBC announced the appointment of Surendra Rosha as Chief Executive Officer for HSBC India, subject to regulatory approvals.
- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank CEO Renu Satti has resigned from the role & will now head Paytm's new retail initiative.
- ✓ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been elected as Mexico's President with over 53% of the vote, according to the country's electoral commission.
- ✓ Chennai-based United India Insurance Company announced the appointment of K B Vijay Srinivas as its Director & General Manager.
- ✓ Senior bureaucrat Saraswati Prasad has taken over the additional charge as chairman & managing director of steel PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Mr Prasad succeeds P K Singh who retired recently.
- ✓ P K Shrivastava took over the reins of the Ordnance Factory Board as its new Director General & Chairman.
- ✓ Payments Council of India (PCI), an apex body representing the companies in the payments & settlement system, has announced the appointment of Vishwas Patel, CEO of Infibeam Avenues, as its new chairman.
- ✓ Uttam Dhillon, an Indian-American top White House lawyer, has been appointed as the new head of the crucial Drug Enforcement Agency that combats the smuggling & use of narcotics in the US.
- ✓ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed a veteran Uruguayan Army official Major General José Eladio Alcain as head of the United Nations mission tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between India & Pakistan.
- ✓ Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, who retired from the Supreme Court of India has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- ✓ Brexit Secretary David Davis has resigned from the UK government.
- ✓ Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST) has assumed charge as the 97th President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.
- ✓ British PM Theresa May appointed Jeremy Hunt as Foreign Secretary. This appointment has come after Boris Johnson resigned.
- ✓ VP, India & the President of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), M. Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan as the Director General, ex officio Member-Secretary of the Council, ICWA.
- ✓ Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki was given the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh by President Ram Nath Kovind.

- ✓ Bhushan Steel has approved the appointment of TV Narendran as Chairman & Non-Executive Additional Director of the company.
- ✓ Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Saran Singh is set to be named the Chef de Mission of the Asian Games-bound Indian contingent. The four deputy Chefs de Mission are BS Kushwaha, RK Sacheti, DK Singh & Colonel RK Swain.

### Sports Current Affairs

- ✓ Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced that the rate of pension for sportspersons who have won medals in international competitions & have retired from active sports has been doubled from April 1. Olympic & Para Olympic medallists will get a sum of Rs 20,000 per month each, while gold medallists at World Cups & World Championships in Olympic & Asian Games disciplines will receive Rs 16,000 per month. Silver & bronze medallists at World Cups in Olympic & Asian Games disciplines will receive a sum of Rs 14,000 per month.
- ✓ Lewis Hamilton won the German Grand Prix 2018 held at Hockenheimring track in Germany.
- ✓ Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee officially launched its Olympic mascots 'Miraitowa' & Paralympic mascot 'Someity'.
- ✓ Indian driver Jehan Daruvala completed an exhilarating pole to flag victory in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship in Belgium.
- ✓ In Wrestling, Bajrang Punia has won his second consecutive international gold while Sandeep Tomar had to be content with a silver medal at the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey. Indian wrestlers returned with 10 medals, including seven by women, from the ranking event.
- ✓ Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma lifted the Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok. In the title clash, he defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe & won his first title of the season.
- ✓ 18-year-old Indian runner Hima Das created history by becoming the first-ever Indian woman to win an athletics gold on the international stage. Hailing from Assam, Hima finished on top of the podium in the women's 400m event at the IAAF World U20 Championship in Tampere, Finland, clocking 51.46 seconds.
- ✓ ISSF Junior World Cup 2 concluded in Suhl, Germany, where 761 junior shooters gathered & competed in 22 Rifle, Pistol & Shotgun events — both individual & team. They represented 61 countries. India & the People's Republic of China battled all along the competition for the top position in the medal board, which was eventually taken by the Indian National Team with 26 total medals: 15 golds, two silvers & nine bronzes. Manu Bhaker shot 242.5 points & won the gold medal in 10m air pistol event. She created a junior world record.

- ✓ Janardan Singh Gehlot was elected the president of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) for the next four years.
- ✓ Former captains Rahul Dravid of India, Ricky Ponting of Australia & retired England Women wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor were inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018 during a glittering ceremony in Dublin, Ireland. Former Team India captain Rahul Dravid has become the fifth Indian cricketer.
- ✓ Malaysian veteran Lee Chong Wei has won the Malaysian Open Badminton singles title for a historic 12th time. In the women's singles final, top seed Tai Tzu Ying from Taiwan won.
- ✓ In the summit clash of the 37th & final edition of the Hockey Champions Trophy at Breda, the Netherlands, India lost to defending champions Australia via penalty shoot-off. It was Australia's record 15th Champions Trophy title. While India won their second consecutive silver medal, hosts the Netherlands bagged the bronze medal.
- ✓ Australian captain Aaron Finch slammed 172(76) against Zimbabwe to register the highest-ever individual score in T20Is, overtaking his own record of 156 runs.
- ✓ Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix 2018 title in Austria. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen finished in the second spot.
- ✓ International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced stricter sanctions for ball-tampering. The new regulations were introduced at its annual conference held in Dublin, Ireland. Ball-tampering has been upgraded from a level 2 to a level 3 offence. Tampering with the ball will be now penalized with a ban of up to 6 Tests or 12 ODIs.

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- ✓ Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced that more than 34 years after coming into existence, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been renamed as Sports India.
- ✓ Bajrang Punia emerged champion at the Tbilisi Grand Prix in the 65kg category after outplaying Iranian

- wrestler Mehran Nasiri in the final in Georgia. Meanwhile, in the 86kg category, Deepak Punia clinched a bronze with a 5-3 win over Osman Gosen of Turkey.
- ✓ At 52, Anju Khosla has become the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon – one of the toughest one-day sporting events. The New Delhi resident completed her first full Ironman Triathlon, in Carinthia, Austria, in 15 hours, 54 minutes & 54 seconds.
- ✓ Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will lead the 18-member Indian men's hockey squad while Chinglensana Singh Kangjum will serve as his deputy in the 18th Asian Games, which will begin in Jakarta & Palembang, Indonesia in August 2018.
- ✓ India's premier gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched a gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin in Turkey. This is Dipa's first medal in a World Challenge Cup.
- ✓ Indian lifter Jhilli Dalabehera bagged the bronze medal in the 2018 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent. She lifted 167 kg in the 48 kg category to finish third on the podium. Jhilli is the second woman lifter after Saikhom Mirabai Chanu in 2013 to win a medal in the Junior World Championships.
- ✓ India Women's Cricket Team Coach Tushar Arothe has stepped down from the role citing personal reasons, as per BCCI.
- ✓ India bagged four medals in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament Stage 3 in Taipei, Taiwan. The feat comprised 3 silver medals & a bronze. India also finished joint third with Iran in the championship. India ended their campaign behind toppers Korea & hosts Chinese Taipei. Korea topped the tally with 14 medals, 8 of them being gold.
- ✓ In a departure from the norm, the Mission Olympic Cell included the entire Indian hockey team in the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme, rewarding the players for their silver medal-winning performance at the Champions Trophy.
- ✓ Mohammad Kaif announced his retirement from all forms of competitive cricket. The 37-year-old Kaif played 13 Tests & 125 ODIs for India & will always be remembered for his match-winning knock of 87 at the Lord's during the epic NatWest Trophy final in 2002.
- ✓ The Indian team won four silver medals & five bronzes (total 9 medals) at the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships in Brasilia, Brazil.
- ✓ Indian boxers ruled the ring at the 36th Golden Glove of Vojvodina youth tournament, ending with seven gold medals to claim the overall top spot in the event in Subotica, Serbia. Four men & three women clinched gold medals at the tournament, which featured 17 countries. India finished first with 17 medals, including six silver & four bronze.
- ✓ Former world number one Angelique Kerber defeated seven-time champion Serena Williams in the women's singles final to clinch her first-ever Wimbledon title. Angelique Kerber hails from Germany.



- ✓ India's star shuttler PV Sindhu (seeded second) suffered a defeat to fourth seed Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in straight games inside 50 minutes to settle for runners-up spot in the Thailand Open at the Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok. In men's singles, Kanta Tsuneyama (Japan) was the winner & Tommy Sugiarto (Indonesia) was runner up.
- ✓ Honda's Marc Marquez (of Spain) cruised to his ninth consecutive German Grand Prix victory to extend his MotoGP lead.
- ✓ Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold at the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid, conceding just one point in five bouts en route to the title victory in the women's 50kg freestyle category. The 23-year-old outclassed Canada's Natasha Fox 10-0 in the final.
- ✓ Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has clinched a gold medal at the Sotteville Athletics Meet in France. The Indian youngster secured the top spot in the podium with an 85.17m throw.
- ✓ Planning for its next three Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) added seven medal events to the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, published a 2020 Tokyo Olympics schedule with no agreement on when to race swimming finals, & set a timetable to add new sports to the 2024 Paris Olympics. The next Winter Olympics will now include: women's monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men & women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerials & snowboardcross.
- ✓ Alisson Becker of Brazil has become the World's most expensive goalkeeper while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record £56 million.
- ✓ Shubhankar Sharma became the youngest Indian golfer to make the cut in any Major after he capped a wonderful back nine to achieve the feat at the 147th Open Championships at Carnoustie, Scotland.
- ✓ The All India Football Federation (AIFF), the governing body of football in India named India & Bengaluru FC Captain Sunil Chhetri as the AIFF Player of the Year in the Federation's Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai.
- ✓ Fakhar Zaman recently scored a double century for Pakistan against Zimbabwe & he became the first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a one-day international. He became the quickest player in history to reach 1,000 runs in the format.
- ✓ Star sprinter Muhammed Anas Yahya once again entered the record books as he broke his own national record to win the 400 metres race at the Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji meet in the Czech Republic.
- ✓ Indian badminton player Lakshaya Sen bagged the gold medal after defeating Indonesia's top-seeded Kunlavut Vitidsaran in the final match of the Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ✓ India won 8 medals in Junior Asian Wrestling Championship which concluded in New Delhi. The

medals comprised 2 gold, 3 silver & 3 bronze. Sachin Rathi won the gold after winning the bout in the 74-kg category. Deepak Punia then won the gold in the 86 kg category. Iran with 189 points topped the team championship. India with 173 points finished second while Uzbekistan with 128 points came third.

### International Current Affairs

- ✓ Pakistan got its first-ever woman Chief Justice of a high court. Justice Tahira Safdar was named as the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court.
- ✓ United States eased export controls for high-technology product sales to India by elevating its status to a Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) country. With the move, the United States has granted India the same access as NATO allies, Australia, Japan & South Korea.
- ✓ The ninth & final meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India Relations concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal. EPG is a joint mechanism consisting of experts & intellectuals from India & Nepal.
- ✓ Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property is slated to open in Tokyo in September 2018 to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region.
- ✓ The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan.
- ✓ UN member states approved a 6.69 billion US Dollar budget for 13 peacekeeping operations for the year 2018-19.
- ✓ The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) would be operated as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture. The \$210 million facility, 241km south-east of Colombo, is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights.
- ✓ UN Security Council adopted a resolution 2427, aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being & empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle. Resolution 2427, strongly condemns the recruitment & use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing & maiming, rape & other forms of sexual violence, abductions.
- ✓ US President Donald Trump & his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin held the first summit at Helsinki in Finland. Host Finland President Sauli Niinisto met Trump before Trump & Putin sit down to a bilateral meeting first without aides & then with their teams of support staff.
- ✓ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the second joint commission meeting with her Bahraini counterpart Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa. Issues of trade, investment & counter-terror cooperation discussed at the joint commission meeting. She jointly inaugurated impressive Embassy of India Complex in Manama.
- ✓ European Union (EU) & Japan signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). It was signed at EU-Japan summit in Tokyo by EU Presidents Jean-Claude Juncker

& Donald Tusk & Japanese PM Shinzo Abe. It is biggest ever trade deal negotiated by the EU & creates free trade zone covering nearly third of the world's GDP.

- ✓ UN Environment Programme (UNEP) entered into a partnership with Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools. It was launched during a High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York.
- ✓ US State Department announced that the inaugural 'two-plus-two dialogue' between India & the United States will be held in New Delhi on September 6. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo & Defence Secretary James Mattis will travel to India for the dialogue with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj & Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ Myanmar joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), thus, becoming the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.

### Defence Current Affairs

- ✓ An Indian Air Force contingent comprising of four Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft landed at Darwin Air Force Base, Australia for participating in the Exercise Pitch Black-2018.
- ✓ Unified Commanders' Conference (UCC) for the year 2018 held in New Delhi. The Annual Conference provides a platform for discussions at the Apex Level on all 'Joint Issues' amongst the three Services & Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ Major General VD Dogra became the first serving Indian Army officer & the only General across the world to have completed a gruelling 'Ironman' competition held in Austria.
- ✓ National Security Guard will be the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC.
- ✓ India's latest frontline warship INS Trikand reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit. INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art warship of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons & sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions - air, surface & sub-surface.
- ✓ India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) & light bulletproof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on the campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota, Rajasthan.
- ✓ An MoU was signed between the Indian Army & State Bank of India on the Defence Salary Package.
- ✓ India's supersonic cruise missile (SCM) BrahMos was test fired from Odisha's Chandipur range launch pad under extreme conditions. The test was conducted in order to increase the longevity of its life. The missile can

cruise at speeds of up to Mach 3.0, or three times the speed of sound.

- ✓ Militaries of India & Pakistan will be part of a mega anti-terror drill in Russia named "Peace Mission" in August 2018 which is being organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). It will be joined by all SCO member countries including Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan.
- ✓ Defence public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed an MoU with Saab, Sweden, for jointly marketing the L-Band 3D Air Surveillance Radar, RAWL-03, co-developed by BEL & Saab. BEL joined hands with Saab, Sweden & the US, to market the Long Range Air Surveillance Radar, a cost-effective L Band three dimensional radar.
- ✓ One of the country's first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad, which is India's missile development centre & fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries. The incubator will be housed at T-Hub. It will be funded through the Ministry's Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme. Under the scheme research in the fields of Aerospace & Defence by MSMEs, start-ups, research institutions, educational institutions are to be funded.
- ✓ As part of Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, the 7th Defence Technology & Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting held between India & the US delegation in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by, Secretary (Defence Production), Dr Ajay Kumar & under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition & Sustainment, DoD, US Government Ms Ellen M Lord.

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- ✓ Indian women's compound archery team created history by becoming the world rank one side in the category. The team is six points ahead of the Chinese Taipei team.
- ✓ Four persons of India-origin, including three women, have been named by Fortune among 40 of the most influential & inspiring young people in business under the age of 40. Instagram Cofounder & CEO Kevin Systrom & Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, both 34, are tied for first place on the Fortune '40 Under 40' list.

- ✓ As per the US-based Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation.
- ✓ With the persistent decline in poverty, India is no longer a nation having the largest number of poor people in the world, as per the study published by the US-based think tank, Brookings. Nigeria has already overtaken India as the country with the largest number of extreme poor in early 2018. The study, titled 'The start of a new poverty narrative' is authored by Homi Kharas, Kristofer Hamel & Martin Hofer.
- ✓ Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has topped the list of "smart cities" in the Middle East & Africa, as per Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture & Tourism.
- ✓ China, UAE, Cyprus & significantly, Mauritius, along with 21 other countries have been tagged as "high-risk jurisdictions" by global banks acting as custodians for foreign funds which comprise the largest group of investors in the Indian stock market.
- ✓ Facebook Inc. co-founder Mark Zuckerberg has overtaken Warren Buffett as the world's third-richest person, as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ✓ HDFC Bank has gone past Russia's Sberbank to become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping the list with a market cap of \$273.4 billion. Globally, America's JPMorgan Chase is the most valuable with a market cap of \$353 billion. There are four lenders from India that now rank among the world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by its housing finance cousin Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank & State Bank of India.
- ✓ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani at the Reliance Industries' 41st Annual General Meeting announced that Reliance is India's largest payer of Goods & Services Tax (GST), Excise & Customs Duty, & Income Tax in the private sector paying Rs.9844 crore in FY18. Reliance has become the first Indian company to record PBDIT (Profit Before Depreciation Interest & Taxes) of over \$10 billion.
- ✓ Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57th most innovative nation in the world. The country has improved its ranking from 60th position in 2017. GI is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead & the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva. The Top 3 Countries in Global Innovation Index are: 1. Switzerland, 2. The Netherlands, 3. Sweden.
- ✓ For the second year in a row, Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the easiest Indian state to do business in, according to a survey. The state took the pole position in the rankings for Ease of Doing Business that was released by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion & Ministry of Commerce & Industry in Delhi. Telangana came second. Meghalaya was ranked lowest at 36th.
- ✓ India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017. India's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to \$2.597 trillion at the end of 2017, against \$2.582 trillion for France. The world's top 3 economies are: 1. The United States, 2. China, 3. Japan.
- ✓ Forbes released its fourth annual list of America's Richest Self-Made Women. These 60 women, who have a record combined net worth of \$71 billion, up 15% from \$61.5 billion in 2017. Diane Hendricks, co-founder & chairman of ABC Supply, the nation's largest roofing distributor, reclaims the top spot, with a net worth of \$4.9 billion. Marian Ilitch, worth \$4.3 billion, falls to the No. 2 spot.
- ✓ Reliance Industries Chairman & India's richest person Mukesh Ambani dethroned Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba's Co-founder Jack Ma to become Asia's richest person as RIL shares hit an all-time high, according to Bloomberg.
- ✓ Forbes has Released the 'Celebrity 100' list of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers. Boxer Floyd Mayweather captures the top spot on Forbes' 20th annual Celebrity 100 ranking of the world's highest-paid celebrities. From India, Akshay Kumar (40.5 million dollars) is ranked 76th while Salman Khan (37.7 million dollars) is on the 82nd spot.
- ✓ UK topped an annual global ranking of nations' soft power, with France placed second on the list of 30 countries which does not feature India. The 2018 'Soft Power 30' index, published by UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland & the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy, ranked Germany as third.
- ✓ According to the Public Affairs Index 2018, Kerala is the best-governed state in the country, released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre. As per the report, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka & Gujarat are among the top five states delivering good governance.

### Important Days

- ✓ India on July 26 celebrated the 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to mark the success of 'Operation Vijay' & to remember the supreme sacrifice of the Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil War.
- ✓ July 28 marks World Hepatitis Day 2018. The theme was "Test. Treat. Hepatitis" for World Hepatitis Day 2018 events.
- ✓ International Tiger Day is being celebrated every year on 29 July to raise awareness about tiger conservation.
- ✓ World Day against Trafficking in Persons is organized across the world by the United Nations on 30 July. The theme was 'Responding to the trafficking of children & young people'.
- ✓ GOI announced that 1st of July shall be commemorated as 'GST Day'. All the other States (except Jammu &



Kashmir) & Union territories with legislature have passed their respective SGST Acts.

- ✓ International Day of Cooperatives is observed across the world on July 7. The 2018 theme of the Day is the 'Sustainable societies through cooperation'.
- ✓ World Population Day was established by the then-governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. The theme of WPD 2018 is 'Family Planning is a Human Right'.
- ✓ Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 is observed internationally on 18th July. This year marks 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela (18 July 1918). This year's Mandela Day is dedicated to 'Action Against Poverty'.

### Agreement Signed

- ✓ A Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between NITI Aayog & Lupin Foundation to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme. As per the terms of the SoI, Lupin Foundation, with the NITI Aayog, will work in three states - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Rajasthan to facilitate the creation of an ideal template to develop economic strength, technological viability & moral leadership.
- ✓ Invest India & Business France signed an MoU to promote investment facilitation & cooperation between startups of India & France.
- ✓ Invest India & the UAE Minister for Artificial Intelligence (AI) signed an MoU for India - UAE Artificial Intelligence Bridge in New Delhi.
- ✓ Rajasthan Government signed an MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladeviji Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows.
- ✓ Odisha government signed an MoU with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for enhancing early warning system for effective management of all kinds of disaster in the state, including flood, drought, heat wave, lightning, & road accidents.
- ✓ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) entered into an agreement with Bombay Metal Exchange (BME) for the growth & systematic development of commodity derivatives markets in the non-ferrous metals complex.
- ✓ IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited, a joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank & Legal & General (UK), announced its tie-up with Oxigen Services India Pvt. Ltd., to establish the distribution of its insurance products at Oxigen retail outlets.
- ✓ India & South Korea have signed five MoUs in the field of Science & Technology in New Delhi. Science & Technology Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan & his South Korean counterpart You Young Min signed three MoUs which are Programme of Cooperation 2018-21, Establishment of Future Strategy Group & Cooperation in Bio-technology & Bio-economy.
- ✓ Rajya Sabha has, for the first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a MOU with a foreign

counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue. Venkaiah Naidu become the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha inked with the visiting President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Bernard Makuza.

- ✓ Microsoft signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to provide free digital training to 9,500 college students in one year.
- ✓ University of Houston, Texas signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IIPE) to build scientific & technical knowledge through joint research.
- ✓ India signed a revised travel agreement with Bangladesh to ease visa restrictions for citizens from the neighbouring country. Under the Revised Travel Arrangement (RTA)-2018, freedom fighters & elderly Bangladeshi nationals will get five-year multiple visa from India.
- ✓ Cabinet approved the signing of MoU amongst BRICS Nations on the Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation. The objective is that BRICS countries will benefit from the establishing of an institutional framework to cooperate in the field of civil aviation.
- ✓ Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic arm of IT major, Infosys signed MoU with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for the construction of a station at Konappana Agrahara in Electronics City.
- ✓ An agreement signed between IIT Delhi & the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under which projects would be launched that would aim to give "scientific validation" to the ancient medical science & integrate it with technology.

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### Awards & Recognition

- ✓ Canadian author Michael Ondaatje won the Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel "Warlight,".
- ✓ Mohun Bagan 'Ratna', the highest honour of Mohun Bagan club was awarded to former India international Pradip Chowdhury at its foundation day programme. Pradip Chowdhury is a former Mohun Bagan captain.
- ✓ Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was awarded the INFRA Icon Award in the 'Global Energy' category at the mid-day INFRA Icons Awards 2018, in Mumbai.

- ✓ JP Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare presented the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) 'IPledgefor9' Achievers & MMR Reduction Awards. As per him, India has shown 22% reduction in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) since 2013. Uttar Pradesh has shown 30% decline & has topped the chart in the reduction of maternal deaths.
- ✓ Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon had received the National Kalidas Samman in Delhi for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.
- ✓ Michael Ondaatje's bestselling novel 'The English Patient' was announced as the winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize at the Southbank Centre in London.
- ✓ An eight-year-old Indian-origin schoolboy Ishwar Sharma, who is the under-11 UK national yoga champion has been named the 'British Indian of the Year' in the young achiever category for his accomplishments in the field.
- ✓ A team comprising experts from the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur & the University of Oxford has been selected for an award for exceptional research-led innovation to mitigate arsenic poisoning in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta in the north & northeast India.

#### Summits/Events Held

- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats concluded in Agartala, Tripura.
- ✓ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment attended the Global Disability Summit held in London, UK.
- ✓ 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held in New Delhi discussed a range of issues on S&T cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ The first Nepal-India Think Tank Summit held in Kathmandu to foster greater collaboration & knowledge-sharing among the think tanks of the two countries.
- ✓ 3rd BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa, along with the International Durban Film Festival (DIFF). The last day of the festival (27th July) was celebrated as India Country Day.
- ✓ International Union of Food Science & Technology (IUFoST), the global voice of food science & technology in association with Indian National Science Academy (INSA) as adhering body, announced the 19th edition of its prestigious global event to be held in Navi Mumbai, India in October 2018. The focal theme is 25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe & Diverse Foods.
- ✓ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with various ministries & industry partners, is organising 'MOVE: Global Mobility Summit' in New Delhi in September 2018. This Summit will help drive Government's goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration & job growth & also speed up India's transition to a clean energy economy.
- ✓ 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional ministerial meeting was held in

Tokyo, Japan. It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries.

- ✓ Commerce Secretary, Rita Teatota, chaired the first meeting of the Task Force on e-commerce in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 2nd meeting of the joint working group on tourism cooperation between India & Nepal concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ✓ HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada.
- ✓ Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) organised an International Round Table Conference on 'Data for New India' in New Delhi. Such a Conference was organized in India for the first time. The objective was to identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in India.
- ✓ The first India Tourism Mart will be organized in New Delhi in September 2018 to create a global tourism mart for India on lines of major international travel marts.
- ✓ Ministry of Mines organized the 4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. CM of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan was the chief guest of the conclave.
- ✓ With an aim of upgrading quality of education, research, hospital care facilities in the national AYUSH institutions throughout the country & develop them as light house institutions, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under Ministry of AYUSH organized Conference of Heads of AYUSH National Institutes in New Delhi.
- ✓ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry & Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu co-chaired 8th session of India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) along with Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade & Digital Economy of Oman, Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy.
- ✓ 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue held in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj delivered the key-note address of the event. The theme is, 'Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Co-operation'.
- ✓ India & Japan held the fourth round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue in New Delhi. During the dialogue, key issues related to the Indo-Pacific region & maritime security were discussed.
- ✓ 8th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting was held at Durban, South Africa. Indian delegation was led by Mr J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare. He stated that India is committed to eliminating TB by 2025.
- ✓ 4th BIMSTEC Summit will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The announcement in this regard was made by Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

#### Committees

- ✓ Considering the increasing incidents of mob lynching, the Union Government constituted a High-Level Committee chaired by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba to deliberate in the matter & make recommendations.
- ✓ Insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted

a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects & make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20. IRDAI Member P.J. Joseph appointed as the Chairman of the committee.

- ✓ National Green Tribunal formed a monitoring committee on the cleaning of the Yamuna River. The tribunal headed by National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairperson A K Goel directed the committee to develop an action plan on the same & submit it by September 2018 & submit a detailed report on the issue by December 31, 2018.
- ✓ With a view to resolve the stress & revive such assets, the Government has decided to set up a High-Level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary, Pradeep Kumar Sinha with representatives from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal & the lenders having major exposure to the power sector.
- ✓ Government has set up a 13-member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states & districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation. The Committee for Sub-National Accounts will be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia.
- ✓ United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres constituted a High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation. The panel will be co-chaired by Melinda Gates, Co-Chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, & Jack Ma, Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group.
- ✓ Odisha Government constituted Heritage Cabinet headed by CM Naveen Patnaik to preserve the history & culture of Odisha. Its aim is to spread & preserve history & culture of Odisha & enrich Odia language further.
- ✓ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a 10 Member Committee, headed by the Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs Mr Injeti Srinivas, for review of the penal provisions in the Companies Act, 2013. It has been setup to examine 'de-criminalisation' of certain offences.
- ✓ Govt. decided to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Anil Swarup, former Secretary, School Education, with suitable representations from NCC, M/o Youth Affairs & Ministry of HRD to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) & National Service Scheme (NSS).

### 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 & 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 & 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 & 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 & Spanish Scientists have discovered a new shape called 'scutoid' while studying nature's way of moulding tissue to form the skin, cavity linings & 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 Atom Probe' (LEAP) was developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions headed by IIT Madras.

### Books & Authors

- ✓ Renowned historian & 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 & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched its, in-house developed, single-umbrella e-marketing system named Khadi Institution Management & Information System (KIMIS) in New Delhi.
- ✓ Law Commission recommended that gambling & betting on sports, including cricket, be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct & indirect tax regimes & 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 & for enhancing safety, capacity & 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) & 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 & 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 & 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 & 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 & Sanitation launches the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in the Delhi. An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts & the results will be announced in the form of a ranking of all districts & states on the basis of quantitative & 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 & Leh Palace having paintings, & Mausoleum of Taj Mahal, Agra.

### Obituaries

- ✓ Veteran sports journalist Swapna Sarkar passed away due to diabetic complications. He was 67 years old.
- ✓ The world's oldest person, a 117-year-old Japanese woman, has died.
- ✓ Acclaimed Bengali writer Ramapada Chowdhury, whose story 'Abhimanyu' was made into a Hindi movie 'Ek doctor ki maut', passed away. Chowdhury was 95.
- ✓ Tony Award winner Liliane Montevecchi, the Paris-born dancer, actor, & singer, passed away at the age of 85 following a battle with colon cancer.
- ✓ Spiritual leader Dada Vaswani passed away at the age of 99 in Pune, Maharashtra. He was chief of Sadhu Vaswani Mission in Pune that is named after his uncle TL Vaswani.
- ✓ Kannada poet & film song lyricist M.N. Vyasa Rao passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was 73.
- ✓ Veteran actor Rita Bhaduri passed away after fighting a kidney-related ailment for many days. She was 62 years old.
- ✓ Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away in New Delhi last evening after a prolonged illness. He was 94. His famous poetic works include Asawari, Lahar Pukare & Paran Geet.
- ✓ Ramchandra Singhdeo, former & first Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh, passed away in Raipur.
- ✓ Los Angeles Times & Pulitzer Prize-winning restaurant critic Jonathan Gold passed away at 57.

### Countries| Capital| Currencies

- ✓ Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli is the current PM of Nepal.
- ✓ Bidhya Devi Bhandari is the current President of Nepal & commander in chief of Nepalese Army.
- ✓ The Nepalese Rupee is the currency of Nepal. Kathmandu is Capital of Nepal.
- ✓ Japan Capital- Tokyo, Currency- Japanese yen, PM- Shinzo Abe.
- ✓ Mexico Capital- Mexico City, Currency- Mexican peso.
- ✓ Netherlands Capital- Amsterdam, Currency- Euro, USD, PM- Mark Rutte.
- ✓ Austria Capital: Vienna, Currency: Euro.
- ✓ Bhutan Capital- Thimphu, Currency- Indian Rupee, Bhutanese ngultrum.
- ✓ Donald Trump is the 45th President of the USA. Washington DC is the capital city of USA.
- ✓ South Korea Capital- Seoul, Currency- South Korean won.
- ✓ Canada Capital: Ottawa, Currency: Canadian dollar, PM: Justin Trudeau.
- ✓ Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira.
- ✓ United Kingdom Capital: London, PM: Theresa May, Currency: Pound sterling.
- ✓ Taipei is the capital city of Taiwan. Its currency is New Taiwan dollar.
- ✓ Bangladesh PM- Sheikh Hasina, Capital- Dhaka, Currency- Bangladeshi Taka.
- ✓ Manama is the capital city of Bahrain. Bahraini dinar is the currency of Bahrain.
- ✓ Russia Capital- Moscow, Currency- Russian ruble, President- Vladimir Putin.
- ✓ Serbia Capital: Belgrade, Currency: Serbian dinar.
- ✓ Oman Capital: Muscat, Currency: Omani rial
- ✓ Capital of Ghana: Accra, Currency: Ghanaian cedi.
- ✓ South Africa President: Cyril Ramaphosa, Currency- South African rand.
- ✓ Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah.
- ✓ The UAE Capital- Abi Dhabi, Currency- UAE dirham.

### International Organizations/Companies in News from June Current Affairs

- ✓ President of the World Bank- Jim Yong Kim. Headquarters of World Bank- Washington, DC.
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank is a regional development Bank established in 1966. Headquarters of ADB is in Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is Present President of the Asian Development Bank.
- ✓ Microsoft Corporation is an America Based technology company. CEO- Satya Nadella, Headquarters- Washington DC.
- ✓ Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.

- ✓ Microsoft Corporation is an America Based technology company. CEO- Satya Nadella, Headquarters- Washington DC.
- ✓ Forbes- American Business Magazine, Founded in- 1917. Headquarters- New York City, USA.
- ✓ European Bank for Reconstruction & Development is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Suma Chakrabarti is the President of EBRD. It headquarters in London, UK.
- ✓ World Customs Organization Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Kunio Mikuriya (Japan) is the Secretary-General of WCO.
- ✓ Managing Director of IMF- Christine Lagarde, Headquarters in- Washington DC, USA.
- ✓ UNEP was founded as a result of United Nations Conference on Human Environment in June 1972. It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ✓ The Host cities for Asian Games 2018 are Jakarta & Palembang in Indonesia.
- ✓ BIMSTEC stands for Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical & Economic Cooperation. The group was formed in 1997 & it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand. Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.
- ✓ HSBC Headquarters in London UK.



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### Financial Organizations in News

- ✓ BSE is Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. It was established in 1875, making it Asia's first stock exchange.
- ✓ United India Insurance Company is the 2nd Largest General Insurance company in India. It headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Urjit Patel- 24th Governor of RBI, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 1st April 1935, in Kolkata.
- ✓ Bank of China (BOC) headquarters in Beijing. BOC was formally established in February 1912. Chen Siqing is the Chairman of BOC.

- ✓ NABARD stands for National Bank For Agriculture & Rural Development. NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982. Headquarters- Mumbai, Chairman- Dr Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.
- ✓ Yes Bank MD & CEO- Rana Kapoor. Head office of Yes Bank- Mumbai.
- ✓ ICICI Bank stands for Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India. Headquarters of ICICI Bank: Mumbai.
- ✓ Sandeep Bakhshi is the present whole-time director & chief operating officer (COO) of ICICI Bank.
- ✓ SEBI- Securities & Exchange Board of India. SEBI Chairman- Ajay Tyagi, Headquarters- Mumbai.
- ✓ Dhanlaxmi Bank Headquarters in Thrissur, Kerala.
- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank was the first payments bank to start operations in India. Anubrata Biswas is the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Payments Bank.
- ✓ IDBI Bank Headquarters in Mumbai. B Sriram was appointed as the IDBI Bank's CEO & Managing Director recently.
- ✓ SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 01st July 1955.
- ✓ NABARD Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 12 July 1982.
- ✓ S Srinivasan is the MD & CEO of Federal Bank. It headquarters in Kochi, Kerala.
- ✓ Invest India is the official Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, mandated to facilitate investments in the country. Deepak Bagla is the MD & CEO Invest India.
- ✓ Pramod Kabra is the Chairman of Fincare Small Finance Bank. The Corporate Office of Fincare Small Finance Bank is in Bengaluru. The registered office of Fincare Small Finance Bank is in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ IRDAI stands for Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India. Headquarters of IRDAI is in Hyderabad. Subhash Chandra Khuntia is Chairman of IRDAI.

#### States| CMs| Governors| Capital| Static General Awareness

- ✓ Maharashtra CM- Devendra Fadnavis, Governor- C Vidyasagar Rao.
- ✓ Jharkhand CM- Raghubar Das, Governor- Droupadi Murmu.
- ✓ Odisha CM- Naveen Patnaik, Governor- Ganeshi Lal.
- ✓ Om Prakash Kohli is the present Governor of Gujarat.
- ✓ Delhi CM- Arvind Kejriwal, Lieutenant Governor- Anil Baijal.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh CM- Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Governor- Anandiben Patel.
- ✓ Meghalaya CM- Conrad Sangma, Governor- Ganga Prasad.
- ✓ Uttarakhand CM- Trivendra Singh Rawat, Governor- Krishan Kant Paul.

- ✓ Sardar Sarovar Dam built on river Narmada is the largest dam in Gujarat state.
- ✓ Haryana CM- Manohar Lal Khattar, Governor- Kaptan Singh Solanki.
- ✓ UP CM- Yogi Adityanath, Governor - Ram Naik
- ✓ Bihar CM- Nitish Kumar, Governor- Satya Pal Malik.
- ✓ Assam CM- Sarbanand Sonowal, Governor- Jagdish Mukhi.
- ✓ Banwarilal Purohit is the present Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ ESL Narasimhan is the present Governor of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh CM- Raman Das, Governor- Balramji Dass Tandon.
- ✓ Kerala CM- Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor- Palaniswami Sathasivam.
- ✓ Hirakud Dam built over Mahanadi River is situated in Odisha.
- ✓ Karnataka CM- HD Kumaraswamy, Governor- Vajubhai Vala.
- ✓ Balramji Dass Tandon is the present Governor of Chhattisgarh.

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#### Other Static General Awareness from July 2018 Current Affairs

- ✓ David Richardson is the CEO of International Cricket Council. ICC Headquarters in Dubai, the UAE.
- ✓ 'Legatrix' is a one-stop solution for effectively managing the organisation's legal & regulatory compliances through monitoring control at different levels.
- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established on 14th October 2003. It headquarters in New Delhi.
- ✓ SAIL Headquarters- New Delhi, Founded in- 1954.
- ✓ Ordnance Factory Board Headquarters in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✓ NITI- National Institution for Transforming India. NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman- Rajiv Kumar, CEO- Amitabh Kant.
- ✓ Dr K Sivan is Chairman of ISRO. ISRO stands for Indian Space Research Organization. Headquarters of ISRO- Bengaluru, Karnataka.



- ✓ Sudeep Lakhtakia is the present Director General of NSG.
- ✓ General Bipin Rawat is the present & 27th Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army.
- ✓ Dr. Harsh Vardhan Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Suresh Prabhu is the Minister of Civil Aviation.
- ✓ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is a Government of India (Ministry of Culture) organisation responsible for archaeological research & the conservation & preservation of cultural monuments in the country. It was founded in 1861 by the British Raj.
- ✓ Aruna Sundararajan is the chairman of Telecom Commission. Manoj Sinha is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Communications.
- ✓ Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is an Indian think tank founded in 1943. Its Headquarters in New Delhi.
- ✓ John Mathai was the first Railways Minister of Independent India.
- ✓ Piyush Goyal is the present Finance Minister of India.
- ✓ Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- ✓ Narendra Singh Tomar is the Minister of Mines.
- ✓ Uma Bharati is the Minister of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
- ✓ Mr Piyush Goyal is the Minister of Corporate Affairs.
- ✓ Wholesale inflation rate, measured by Wholesale Price Index (WPI), is a marker for price movements in bulk buys for traders & broadly mirrors trends in shop-end prices.
- ✓ Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy is abbreviated as AYUSH.
- ✓ Mob Lynching is an act to punish (a person) without legal process or authority, especially by hanging, for a perceived offence or as an act of bigotry.
- ✓ Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing, China in 2022.
- ✓ The Government of India has set-up POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) which was launched by the Hon'ble PM on 8th March, 2018 from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- ✓ Maneka Sanjay Gandhi is the Union Minister for Women & Child Development.
- ✓ Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the present 25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.
- ✓ ONGC is the world's second largest exploration & production (E&P) company. Chairman & Managing Director- Shashi Shanker. Registered Office- New Delhi.
- ✓ The STA-1 list currently comprises 36 countries in total. India is the only South Asian country to feature on the list. Other Asian countries designated as STA-1 include Japan & South Korea.

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