



## CURRENT AFFAIRS (JUNE - 2018) :

### National

⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently on a five-day visit to some European countries like Sweden, Britain and Germany. He arrived in Sweden and was greeted by his Swedish counterpart Stefan Lofven. Mr Modi attended the India-Nordic Summit. The Nordic countries are also called Scandinavian countries which include Sweden Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

After Sweden, Mr Modi visited the UK to attend the 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at the Royal Buckingham Palace. As many as 53 nations took part in the meeting and its theme was 'Towards A Common Future'. He met his British counterpart Theresa May. Mr Modi also interacted with the Indian Diaspora at the event titled 'Bharat Ki Baat, Sabke Saath'.

After the UK chapter, Mr Modi had a brief stop-over in Berlin, Germany and met the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

⇒ Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was on a three-day visit to India. India pledged to upgrade road and cross border rail links with Nepal and develop inland waterways to provide sea connectivity to the land-locked nation. India would also help Nepal in the field of agriculture through organic farming, soil testing and education in farming.

⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has lost contact with India's most powerful communication GSAT-6A satellite in less than 48 hours after it was launched. The loss in contact is believed to have been caused by power system failure or short circuit on the satellite.

⇒ In a major policy breakthrough, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited China for a summit with their President Xi Jinping. Coming after nearly a year of strained relations, the Modi-Xi summit is expected to give the much needed political thrust to the ties between the two rising Asian powers.

⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind recently paid a three-nation official state visit to African countries of Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. It was the first-ever visit by any head of state of India to Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland. The Indian President's visit to Zambia took place after 29 years.

⇒ The Ministry of Home Affairs has relaxed the six-decade-old Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime to allow foreign tourists to access border areas of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur for five years. The move is being initiated to promote tourism, create job opportunities for the locals and generate revenue for the states. However, citizens from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan will remain banned from all PAP areas. The protected areas currently include the whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim, besides parts of Himachal

Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir.

⇒ The central government has constituted Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform the process of higher defence planning. The DPC will be headed by the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

### International

⇒ North Korea's Kim Jong-un and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in held a historic summit at the Peace House building at the truce village of Panmunjom in North Korea. According to the declaration, the two leaders agreed to work together on ending the Korean conflict and beginning a new era of peace. North Korea already announced to suspend all tests of nuclear devices and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

⇒ NASA will launch humanity's first mission Parker Solar Probe (PSP) to the Sun on July 31, 2018. It is undergoing final preparations for its scheduled launch on board of NASA's Delta IV Heavy launch vehicle from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. After its launch, the probe will orbit directly through solar atmosphere — the corona — closer to surface than any human-made object has ever gone.

### Economy

⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 20.6.2018) are :  
\* Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 6.25%.

\* Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 6%

\* Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 19.5%

\* CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%

\* Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 6.50%

\* MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 6.50%.

\* Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 8.70% - 9.45%.

\* Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 6.25% - 7%.

\* Savings A/c.: 3.50% - 4.00%.

\* MCLR (Overnight) : 7.80% - 8.05%.

(MCLR, the Marginal Cost of Fund-based Lending Rate, is the new benchmark lending rate at which banks will now lend to new borrowers. Till 31 March 2016, banks used the Base rate as the benchmark



- lending rate. MCLR is built on four components – Marginal cost of funds, Negative carry on account of CRR, Operating costs and Tenor premium).*
- ⇒ The third edition of the government's annual Ease of Doing Business report has been published. West Bengal along with Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh has topped the list.
  - ⇒ India has replaced Vietnam to become the second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017. Currently, China stands at number one in mobile production around the world, followed by India and Vietnam.
  - ⇒ According to the statistics of the World Bank (IBRD) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's contribution to the world GDP was at 3.1% in 2017.
  - ⇒ Delhi became the first city in India to supply ultra-clean Bharat Stage (BS) VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel) with an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region. Other cities in NCR like Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad as well as other 13 major cities will roll-out cleaner BS-VI grade fuel from January 1, 2019. By switching to BS-VI, India has joined the league of US, Japan and European Union which follow Euro Stage VI emission norms. The Union Government in October 2016 had decided to skip one stage and migrate to BS-VI directly from BS-IV from April 2020 to fight the growing pollution.
  - ⇒ According to the report released by the global startup ecosystem map Startupblink, India was ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global startup ecosystem in 2017. The top 5 Countries in Global startup ecosystem in 2017 were United States (1st), United Kingdom (2nd), Canada (3rd), Israel (4th) and Germany (5th).
  - ⇒ After Reliance Industries Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd has become the second Indian company to achieve the \$100 billion mark as market capitalisation.
  - ⇒ The Union Cabinet gave its approval for rightsizing Competition Commission of India (CCI) from one Chairperson and six Members (totalling seven) to one Chairperson and three Members (totalling four). The downsizing proposal of CCI is in pursuance of the Government's objective of "Minimum Government – Maximum Governance".
  - ⇒ The Department of Posts has launched Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for New India (DARPAN) project, which aims to connect all 1.29 lakh rural branch post offices in the country to enable them to do online postal and financial transactions.
  - ⇒ According to the Steel Users Federation of India (SUF), India has overtaken Japan to become the world's second largest producer of crude steel in February 2018. China is the largest producer of crude steel in the world, accounting for more than 50% of the production. Earlier in 2015, India had overtaken US to become the third largest producer of crude steel.
  - ⇒ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the scheme of Updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), 1951 in Assam. The NRC scheme is specific to Assam only and covers about 3.29 crore applicants. NRC Assam is the register containing names of Indian Citizens in Assam. It will help government to check illegal immigration in India.
  - ⇒ According to the recently published Internet Security Threat Report, India emerged as the third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam and ransom-ware in 2017. India moved up by one place over the previous year. The report was published by the security solutions provider Symantec. The United States was the most vulnerable country to such cyber-attacks, followed by China.
  - ⇒ The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide loans worth about US \$4.5 billion (Rs 29,200 crore) to Bangladesh for financing of various social and infrastructure projects
  - ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by commercial banks for one year (till April 2019) due to unpreparedness of banks to migrate to the new accounting system. Ind AS is a global accounting practice that lender is mandated to adopt. The practice is on par with the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 9. It governs the accounting and recording of financial transactions as well as presentation of statements such as profit and loss account and balance sheet of lender or a company. Banks and non-banking financial companies currently follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) standards. In February 2016, RBI had issued circular mandating commercial banks, barring regional rural banks to implement Ind AS from April 1, 2018.
  - ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an inter-departmental group to study and provide guidance on the feasibility to introduce fiat digital currency backed by it. It will be submitted by end-June 2018. Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC, also called Digital Fiat Currency), is different from cryptocurrency or virtual currency like Bitcoin which is not a legal tender and not backed by the government. *(Fiat currency is a legal tender whose value is backed by the government that issues it. The US dollar, the euro are the examples of fiat money. This approach differs from money whose value is underpinned by some physical goods such as gold and silver. In short, a fiat currency's value is underpinned by the strength of the government that issues it, not its worth in gold or silver).*



- ⇒ India has received the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo comprising 1.2 Lakh tones of the Gas from the United States. The cargo has landed at the Dabhol regasification terminal in Maharashtra. The recent consignment of LNG has been imported from the US under a long-term contract of 20 years.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Coal has launched UTTAM (Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal) Application for coal quality monitoring. The app aims to ensure transparency and efficiency in coal quality monitoring process and bring the coal governance closer to people.
- ⇒ The Global Logistics Summit (GLS-2018) was held recently in New Delhi to improve logistics and connectivity which are vital for increasing intra-state and international trade flows. It provided the platform to hold discussions with global experts, academics, government officials and private sector and industry representatives. The Logistic Sector involves transportation, material handling, warehousing, packaging, shipping, security, inventory management, and supply chain management.
- ⇒ The Central Government and the Maharashtra Government have signed a US \$420 million loan agreement with the World Bank for Projects for Climate Resilient Agriculture to help small and marginal farmers in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra. The loan will be provided from World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- ⇒ India's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank became the first Indian bank to go live on SWIFT's (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System) Global Payment Innovation (GPI), an improved cross-border payments service. SWFIT GPI was launched in May 2017 to help banks to track their global transactions at all times, keeping full vigil on payments activity.
- ⇒ The Union government has banned imports of hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in livestock industry, where it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals. The Government has decided to rely on domestic production to satisfy requirements of hormone. Oxytocin, often called love hormone, is released naturally in human bonding activities such as sex, childbirth and breastfeeding.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP) model from the gross value added (GVA) methodology to provide its estimate of economic activity in the country. The switch to GDP is mainly to conform to international standards and global best practices. The GVA methodology gives the picture of the state of economic activity from producers' side or supply side whereas the GDP model gives the picture from consumers' side or demand perspective.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has placed 11 public sector banks (PSBs) out of 21 State-owned banks under its Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework because of their deteriorating performance. PCA is a process or mechanism to ensure that banks don't go bust. Under it, the RBI has put in place some trigger points to assess, monitor, control and take corrective actions on banks which are weak and troubled.
- ⇒ Indian origin Australian Veena Sahajwalla has launched world's first microfactory that can transform components from electronic waste items into valuable materials for re-use.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a 12-member committee, headed by Manmohan Juneja, to review the enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under the Companies Act, 2013. Under the Companies Act 2013, certain class of profitable companies (entities) are required to shell out at least 2% of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities.
- ⇒ India ranked 130th out of 186 economies in the recently released Index of Economic Freedom 2018 that measures the degree of economic freedom in the countries of the world. India jumped 13 places from the 143rd rank in the previous year. The index is topped by Hong Kong, followed by Singapore and New Zealand,
- ⇒ Boeing India, a subsidiary of the US aerospace manufacturer Boeing, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Mahindra Defence Systems entered into an agreement to manufacture the fighter aircraft F/A-18 Super Hornet in India.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened the reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), under which an individual can transfer up to US \$2,50,000 abroad in a year. The purpose of tightening of norms is to improve monitoring and also to ensure compliance with the LRS limits.
- ⇒ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's forex (foreign exchange) reserves have touched a record high of \$424.9 billion in April 2018.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Health and Wellness Centre in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh to mark the launch of Ayushman Bharat Yojana-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM). It aims to target over 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database. It will cover Rs. 5 lakh per family per year, taking care of almost all secondary care and tertiary care procedures. There will be no cap on family size and age in the scheme. Under it, the government aims to set up 1.5 lakh wellness centres by 2022 that will leverage on comprehensive primary health care for preventive, promotive and curative care.



- ⇒ The first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan was held in New Delhi. POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2018. POSHAN stands for Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition. It aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.
- ⇒ 34 leading global technology firms including Facebook, Microsoft, HP, ARM, Cisco, and Oracle have signed Cybersecurity Tech Accord to work together on cybersecurity issues. Under it, signatory companies have agreed to collaborate on stronger defence systems, no offensive cyberattacks, and protect against tampering of their products, capacity building and collective action. The participant companies view Tech Accord as Digital Geneva Convention.
- ⇒ According to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018, India is now the world's sixth largest economy at \$2.6 trillion (in terms of GDP), displacing France. The five economies ahead are United States, China, Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published new draft rules to make it mandatory for automobile manufacturers to provide high security registration plates (HSRP) to all new vehicles from January 1, 2019. The HSRP is to be fitted in all classes of motor vehicles, will have tamper-proof plates with host of in-built security features and is expected to offer increased protection against theft.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs inaugurated the new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for eVidhan project of the Government at Parliament House Annexe. e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize and make functioning of State Legislatures in India to make them paperless. It is a part of broader Digital India Programme of Central Government.
- ⇒ India and Finland have reached an agreement on the tax dispute with Nokia under Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) system. The resolution covers disputes pertaining to Nokia India as well as Nokia Corp. This involves payment of Rs 1,600 crore, a sum that was deposited with government by Nokia in March 2018. This paves way for the sale of Nokia's Chennai (Sriperumbudur) plant, which has been shuttered since November 2014.
- ⇒ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's largest IT outsourcing company created history by becoming the first Indian company to reach \$100 billion market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone. Market capitalisation is the value of a company that is traded on stock market, calculated by multiplying total number of shares by present share price.
- ⇒ According to the recently released Migration and Development Brief by the World Bank, India has retained the top position as recipient of remittances with about \$69 billion in 2017. India was followed by China (\$64 billion), Philippines and Mexico.
- ⇒ In the World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2018, prepared by the Reporters Without Borders, India was placed at the 138th rank out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide in terms of press freedom in 2017. India was ranked at the 135th in WPFI 2017. The top three countries in the index are Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Van Dhan Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) at Bijapur, Chattisgarh. The PM also inaugurated the first model Van Dhan Vikas Kendra under the scheme in Bijapur. The scheme aims at economic development of tribals involved in collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and provide them sustainable livelihood.
- ### Sports
- ⇒ The 21st Commonwealth Games were organised in Gold Coast, Australia. About 4,500 athletes from 71 countries participated. Mary Kom led the Indian contingent and PV Sindhu was the flag-bearer. India won 26 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze medals (total 66) and secured the third position. Australia won the highest gold medals followed by Britain.
- ⇒ Manchester City won the English Premier League football title.
- ⇒ Kerala emerged champion of the Santosh Trophy football by defeating Bengal in the final at the Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata.
- ⇒ Bangaluru FC clinched the inaugural AIFF Super Cup football title by defeating East Bengal at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- ⇒ India's Rahil Gangjee clinched the Panasonic Open Golf Title.
- ### Awards
- ⇒ 65th National Film Awards –
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award – Vinod Khanna (Posthumously)
  - Best Actor (Female) – Sridevi for Mom
  - Best Actor (Male) – Riddhi Sen for Nagarkirtan
  - Best Film – Village Rockstars (Assamese)
  - Best Director – Jayaraj for Bhayanakam
  - Best Music Director – AR Rahman
  - Best Female Playback Singer – Shashee Tirupati 'Vaan'
  - Best Male Playback Singer – KJ Yesudas
  - Best Children's Film – Mhorkya (Marathi)
- ⇒ Gujarati poet, playwright and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra was selected for 2017 Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses (poetry) titled "Vakhar" published in 2009



- ⇒ Madhya Pradesh was selected for the Most Film Friendly State award 2017 for its efforts towards easing filming in the State. MP was acknowledge for easing filming in the State by offering excellence on ground support and filmic infrastructure and creating well-structured website.
- ⇒ Kutch-based Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank has bagged the prestigious Banco Award for the best performing cooperative bank.

### **Persons**

- ⇒ Nawaz Sharif, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan has been barred from participating in elections for life.
- ⇒ Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been re-elected President of Egypt.
- ⇒ Prince Harry of Britain has been appointed Commonwealth Youth Ambassador.
- ⇒ Park Geun-hye, the former President of South Korea has been jailed for 24 years for corruption.
- ⇒ Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the former President of Brazil has been jailed for 12 years for corruption.
- ⇒ Bhanu Pratap Sharma is the new Chairman of the Banks' Bureau Board. He replaced Vinod Tai.
- ⇒ Debjani Ghosh has become the first woman President of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies). Rishad Premji is its Chairman.
- ⇒ Justice Indu Malhotra has become the first Indian lawyer to join the Supreme Court as a judge directly from the Bar.
- ⇒ Jhulan Goswami, the former women's cricket team captain has been honoured with a commemorative stamp to acknowledge her outstanding contribution to Indian cricket.
- ⇒ Ban Ki-moon, the former UN Secretary General has been elected new Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA). The BFA is a non-profit organisation that hosts high level forum for leaders from governments, business houses and academia in Asia and other continents.
- ⇒ Himanta Biswas Sarma has been elected President of the Badminton Federation of India after the demise of former President Akhilesh Dasgupta last year.

### **Died**

- ⇒ Isao Takahata, the legendary Japanese film director passed away.
- ⇒ Milos Forman, the legendary Czech film director passed away.

### **Miscellaneous**

- ⇒ To ensure safe future for young women, West Bengal government has launched a scheme called "Rupashree". Under this scheme the government provides one-time financial support for the marriage of poor girls.
- ⇒ The Bangladesh government has scrapped reservation in government jobs when thousands of students marched across the country in protest against it.

- ⇒ As a part of three-day international conference on "Accessible Tourism" (also called Inclusive Tourism), Nepal has launched its first accessible trekking trail for differently abled and elders in Pokhara city. The trail has been equipped with proper signage and washrooms. Accessible tourism or inclusive tourism refers to an emerging concept referring to travel that is accessible to all people, with disabilities or not.
- ⇒ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been withdrawn from Meghalaya completely, but will still continue in certain areas of Arunachal Pradesh. The AESPA empowers security forces to conduct operations, arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice.
- ⇒ The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted 'Gagan Shakti', the biggest ever war combat game exercise at the Pokharan field firing range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ⇒ Multi Modal Logistics Park was recently inaugurated at Balli Station near Madgaon in Goa. The park is located on Konkan Railway route. It has been set as per the MoU entered between Konkan Railway & Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR). It will benefit trade and industry from economic transport solutions and state-of-the-art facilities.
- ⇒ Swaziland, an African country changed its name when its King Mswati III officially announced the 'Kingdom of eSwatins' as the new name.
- ⇒ China's out-of-control Tiangong-1 space lab has re-entered Earth's atmosphere, landing in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean near world's 'spacecraft cemetery or graveyard'. Most of its parts were burned up during gravity-propelled re-entry process. The spacecraft cemetery, also known as Point Nemo, is considered the most remote place on the Earth (at about 2400 km from any spot of land). the area is often used to crash-land defunct satellites.
- ⇒ According to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2018 or NIRF-3 released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru was adjudged as overall the best Indian university. This was the third edition of NIRF survey and was released as part of India Rankings 2018 for the Educational Institutions. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) was adjudged the best engineering college and Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) as the best management institution. Delhi University's Miranda House was adjudged the best college, AIIMS-Delhi as the best medical college and NLSIU-Bengaluru as the best law school in the country.
- ⇒ India-South Korea joint anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise 'Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018' was conducted in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast in Tamil Nadu. The exercise was conducted between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Korean Coast Guard (KCG) to improve maritime security in Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has approved closure of Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) Burn Standard Company Ltd (BSCL) under the Ministry of Railways. This decision was taken in view of continuous poor physical and financial performance of the company for more than a decade despite financial assistance and other support from the government and low probability of its revival in future.
- ⇒ The Reporters Without Borders released the 2018 World Press Freedom Index. India was placed at the 138th position out of 180 countries. Norway topped the list followed by Sweden.
- ⇒ The Indian Navy, in coordination with the Kerala Government conducted multi-agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named 'Chakravat' off the Kochi Coast. The mandate of the exercise was to review response mechanism in the event of a cyclonic storm.
- ⇒ The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently conducted Exercise Gaganshakti 2018, the biggest air combat exercise along the Pakistan and China borders between April 10 and 23, 2018. The aim of this exercise was real time coordination, deployment and employment of air power in short and intense battle scenario. Though it was an IAF centric exercise, it was also executed keeping in mind "Joint Operational Doctrine" so that requirements of other services are also met. The exercise was aimed at coordinating operations, maintenance and administrative responses to achieve stated objectives of IAF, in case of any contingency.
- ⇒ Madhubani railway station got complete makeover with Mithila paintings. It is also known as Madhubani paintings. The makeover project was a unique initiative of the Indian Railways to experiment with local artists voluntarily painting works in short span of two months.
- ⇒ Uttar Pradesh Government has launched Ganga Hariteema Yojana (also known as Ganga Greenery Scheme) in 27 districts of the State located on the bank of the river Ganga.
- ⇒ The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. It was co-organized by the Ministry of Housing and Affairs, Japan's Environment Ministry, and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). The theme of this edition of forum was "Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency – a 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities". The event saw participation of around 40 mayors of cities around the world and mayors of more than 100 cities across India. The Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was launched in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan with the objective of integrating 3Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle in policy, planning and development.
- ⇒ According to the recently published study, over the quarter of nitrogen on the Earth comes from weathering of the planet's bedrock. For centuries, prevailing science indicated that all of the nitrogen on the Earth available to plants used to come from atmosphere. This study could greatly improve climate change projections.
- ⇒ Linguists from the University of Hyderabad have discovered two endangered languages Walmiki and Malhar, predominantly spoken in remote regions of Odisha.
- ⇒ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop' to address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD), particularly amongst the young people. The project aims to encourage schools to shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, mainly between 11 am and 1 pm to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight. The launch of the project comes in the backdrop of rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiency in the country, as the studies have found that over 90% of boys and girls in various Indian cities are deficient in Vitamin D.
- ⇒ India's first high-speed electric locomotive with 12000 horsepower (HP) engine has been flagged off by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Madhepura Electric Locomotive Factory in Bihar. It is the first big Make-in-India project developed and completed by the Indian Railways in collaboration with the French firm Alstom. Till now, most powerful electric engines in the Indian Railways were of 6,000 HP.
- ⇒ The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued Expression of Interest for the first offshore wind energy project of India in the Gulf of Khambat, off the coast of Gujarat.
- ⇒ The Union Government has constituted a 13-member task force to prepare a road map and fast-track implementation of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology or drones in the country. It will be headed by the Minister of State (MoS) for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Home Affairs has launched web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) to allow foreign tourists and travellers to avail of paperless and cashless visa-related services.
- ⇒ The Union Government has formed Defence Planning Committee (DPC), a new integrated institutional mechanism that will drive the country's military and security strategy and guide defence equipment acquisitions. It will be under the chairmanship of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- ⇒ Diu Smart City has become the first city in India to run on 100% renewable energy during daytime.
- ⇒ 'Parker Solar Probe', humanity's first mission to the Sun will be launched by NASA on July 31, 2018.



- ⇒ The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched the integration of e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository in a bid to make education system in India more transparent. e-Sanad is a project aimed at online submission and verification of documents with ultimate object to extend contactless, cashless, faceless and paperless document attestation service. National Academic Depository (NAD) is a 24X7 online store-house of all academic awards viz., diplomas certificates, degrees, mark-sheets etc. duly digitised and lodged by academic boards, institutions, eligibility assessment bodies. It ensures easy access to and retrieval of academic awards and validates and guarantees its authenticity and safe storage.
- ⇒ Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation 'Huddle Kerala' was held at Kovalam in Kerala.
- ⇒ The Malaria Summit was held in London, United Kingdom organisations to make game-changing commitments towards beating malaria. It was organized by the non-profit organisation Malaria No More in conjunction with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and supported by the British Prime Minister Theresa May.
- ⇒ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee have identified two small potent molecules Pep-I and Pep-II, for their inhibitory activity to treat the Chikungunya disease. The antiviral activity of these molecules was so high that their small amount was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in the virus. Currently, there are no drugs to treat chikungunya or any vaccine to prevent it.
- ⇒ The Justice Rajesh Bindal Committee has submitted its report on legal issues related to inter country removal and retention of children. There are over three crore Indians living abroad having cross-border marriages. When such diverse marriage breaks down, their children suffer as they are dragged into international legal battle between their parents over their custody.
- ⇒ The two-day coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach', to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism was held along Kerala coast.
- ⇒ Bilateral joint training exercise Harimau Shakti 2018 between India and Malaysia was conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia recently as part of the ongoing defence cooperation between both countries.
- ⇒ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed Bhabha Kavach, a next-generation bulletproof jacket that is cheaper and lightweight. It has been named after Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, the father of Indian nuclear programme.
- ⇒ The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is open now for visitors in Srinagar.

### **Books & Authors**

- ⇒ Mothering A Muslim : The Dark Secret in Our Schools and Playgrounds – Nazia Erum
- ⇒ Shell; The Art. The Science, The Witchcraft – Subroto Bagchi
- ⇒ We That Are Young – Preti Taneja
- ⇒ Reporting Pakistan – Meena Menon
- ⇒ Who We Are And How We Got Here – David Reich
- ⇒ Evil in the Mahabharata – Meena Arora Nayak

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