



CURRENT AFFAIRS (JULY - 2018) :

National

- ⇒ The first informal Summit between the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chinese President Xi Jinping was held in Wuhan, China. Both leaders agreed to issue strategic guidance to their forces to maintain peace along the border areas. PM Modi laid emphasis on people-to-people (P2P) contact through STRENGTH : S – Spirituality; T – Tradition, Trade and Technology; R – Relationship; E – Entertainment (art, music, etc.); N – Nature conservation; G – Games; T – Tourism and H – Health and Healing. The two leaders agreed to undertake a joint India-China economic project in war-torn Afghanistan.
- ⇒ Indian and French navies conducted the final and third phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 near Reunion Island in Indian Ocean region (IOR) to enhance their operational coordination. Varuna 2018 naval exercise between Indian and French Navy was conducted in three phases and included antisubmarine, air defence and asymmetric engagement exercises.
- ⇒ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited three countries Guatemala, Panama and Peru as part of his first official foreign visit to strengthen India's relations with them.
- ⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Nepal recently. Before reaching Kathmandu, he arrived Janakpur, the birthplace of Sita and said that Nepal is at the top of India's Neighbourhood First policy. Mr. Modi, along with the Nepalese PM K. P Sharma Oli laid the foundation of 900 Megawatt Arun-III hydro project. A bus service from Janakpur to Ayodhya was also inaugurated.
- ⇒ India has sent Bangladesh its second relief consignment under Operation Insaniyat to help tens of thousands of displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar into Bangladesh following military crackdown in violence-hit Rakhine state. Rohingyas are stateless ethnic minority (mostly Muslim) from Rakhine province of Buddhist-majority Myanmar.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 300 MW Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project in Bandipora District of Jammu & Kashmir. He also laid foundation stone of 1000 MW capacity Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Power Project. Pakal Dul Dam is proposed 167m concrete-face rock-fill dam (CFRD) on Marusadar River, a tributary of Chenab River in Kishtwar district of J&K.
- ⇒ The Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte visited India recently. The Netherlands joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The two countries agreed to cooperate in areas of agriculture and food processing. The first India-Dutch Centre of Excellence for Vegetables was started in Pune's Baramati.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the construction of Zojila tunnel project in Jammu and

Kashmir's Leh. It will be Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional road tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. It will be situated on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway (NH-1A). It consists of 14 km long two-lane bidirectional single tube tunnel.

- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway – 135 km long Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) Expressway, also known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE). He also inaugurated the first phase of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, India's first 14 lane expressway that spans from Nizamuddin Bridge to Uttar Pradesh border.
- ⇒ India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has established second Sino-Indian Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in Guiyang, China. It is India's second IT corridor in China to provide Indian IT firms access to growing Chinese software market. The first SIDCOP platform was established in Chinese port city of Dalian. For India, getting access to China's IT market is important to address the massive trade deficit which has now spiralled to over \$ 51 billion.

International

- ⇒ Nepal is going to host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit. BIMSTEC countries are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar and Thailand from South East Asia.
- ⇒ The US President Donald Trump scrapped the Iran nuclear deal, signed by his predecessor Barack Obama in 2015. He re-imposed sanctions on Tehran saying the agreement had not prevented Iran from the quest for nuclear weapons. Most of the European countries criticised Trump's action of revoking the deal for they fear re-nuclearisation of Iran, posing further threat to regional peace.
- ⇒ In March 2018, US President Donald Trump imposed 25% import tariffs on steel and 10% on aluminium items from all countries except Canada and Mexico, a move that sparked fears of global trade war. India has dragged United States (US) to World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Mechanism over imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium.
- ⇒ United States has withdrawn invitation to Chinese navy to participate in the 2018 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise. The withdrawal is in response to China's continued illegal militarisation of islands in disputed South China Sea. The Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. It is held biennially near Honolulu, Hawaii (US) during June and July of even-numbered years.



⇒ United States has renamed its oldest and largest strategically important military command US Pacific Command (PACOM) to Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). The decision was taken in recognition of growing importance of Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking.

Economy

⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 7.7.2018) 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 Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has launched GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources)-DHAN scheme at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Karnal. The scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG, thus keeping villages clean, increasing income of rural households and generation of energy from cattle waste.

⇒ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved proposal to provide financial assistance of Rs. 5.50 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18. It will help the sugar mills to offset the cost of cane which will in turn help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers.

⇒ India was ranked 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 released by global consultancy firm A T Kearney. This is the first time India fell out of the top 10 since 2015. The USA topped the FDI Confidence Index 2018 followed by Canada and Germany. The USA has topped the index for the sixth year in a row mainly due to continued confidence result of its large market, strong and sustained economic growth and recent corporate tax cuts. The fall in India's rankings may be due some policies such as challenges faced with the implementation of nationwide goods and services tax (GST) and 2016 demonetisation initiative which disrupted business activity to some extent.

⇒ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved continuation of Umbrella Scheme, Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana in agriculture sector. The Umbrella scheme comprises of 11 Schemes and Missions. All the 11 schemes and missions were clubbed together under one umbrella scheme 'Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana in 2017-18. They aim to develop agriculture and allied sector in holistic and scientific manner to increase income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.

⇒ India was ranked 6th on Global Optimism Index released as part of Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR) in the first quarter of 2018. The report was prepared based on the results of a survey of 2,500 businesses in 37 economies. The top five nations are Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands and US.

⇒ The Union Government has signed \$200 million loan agreement with World Bank for National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan) for 315 districts across all states and union territories. POSHAN (Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition in India) Abhiyaan was launched in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan in March 2018.

⇒ According to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India's installed clean (renewable) energy capacity has already touched 70 Gigawatts (GW) and 38 GW is under implementation. This shows that India is progressing fast in areas of renewable energy and it is committed to meeting target of having 175 GW renewable energy (100GW Solar, 60 GW Wind, 10 GW Biomass and 5 GW Hydro) by 2022.

⇒ The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FCC), headed by NK Singh has constituted Advisory Council to advise and assist the Commission. The Finance Commission is a constitutionally-mandated body established once every five years by the President to devise a formula for distributing net tax proceeds between centre and states as well as among states and local bodies.



- ⇒ According to the Heritage Foundation, an American think-tank, India was placed at the 130th rank in the latest annual Index of Economic Freedom for the year 2018. Among the 180 countries, Hong Kong topped the index followed by Singapore and New Zealand.
- ⇒ The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted high level group to explore and give recommendations for a balanced expansion of the health sector. It will be headed by Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi.
- ⇒ Telangana government has launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) Scheme, an investment support scheme to support livelihood of farmers. Under this scheme, farmers will directly get financial support twice every year to maximise agricultural production and productivity. They will get investment support of Rs 8,000 per acre every year (Rs. 4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season) as crop investment support.
- ⇒ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put state-run lender Dena Bank under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework. It has barred Dena Bank from extending fresh credit in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) and mounting losses. It makes Dena Bank the first lender to face curbs on lending under PCA framework. This means Dena bank can disburse loans for credit facilities already sanctioned, but cannot sanction fresh loans.
- ⇒ The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), a top state-run Chinese bank has launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund. The fund has been named as Industrial and Commercial Bank Credit Suisse India Market Fund.
- ⇒ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has demanded more tests for genetically modified (GM) mustard – Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH-11) for “commercial cultivation. The GEAC had given final clearance for GM mustard (in May 2017). But this clearance was mired in confusion after government held it as inadvertent error. It was put on hold after the Environment Minister held that wider consultations and further tests were needed on the release of transgenic mustard to settle the issue. There has been strong opposition from various organisations and also from within the government to the approval given to GM mustard.
- ⇒ The Government of India is going to acquire the 100% stake of the RBI's housing finance regulator 'National Housing Bank'.
- ⇒ Axis Bank Ltd., India's third biggest private sector lender by assets, reported a surprise fourth-quarter loss of Rs. 2,200 crore. This is the first time the bank has posted a quarterly loss since its listing in 1998.
- ⇒ India's largest e-commerce company Flipkart agreed to sell 77% stake to the US retail giant Walmart for \$ 16 billion. Flipkart's co-founder Binny Bansal will retain some of the stakes while Sachin Bansal, the other co-founder will sell his entire stake.
- ⇒ Bamnipal Steel Ltd., a subsidiary of Tata Steel, has acquired Bhushan Steel Ltd., a sick company. With this, Tata Steel has emerged as the first company to acquire a stressed asset under the new Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
- ⇒ According to Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), the subscriber base of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has crossed 1 crore subscribers mark since its launch in May 2015.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued notification for creation of Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in Department of Commerce. DGTR will be apex national authority for administering all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures.
- ⇒ According to the World Health Statistics 2018 released by World Health Organisation (WHO), India saw estimated 211 cases of tuberculosis (TB) per 1,00,000 people in 2016. India has pledged to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of global target set by WHO.
- ⇒ State run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has distributed over 30 crore light emitting diode (LED) bulbs across the country under zero-subsidy Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) Scheme aims to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and preserve environment.
- ⇒ According to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with total wealth of \$8,230 billion. US is the richest nation globally with total wealth of \$62,584 billion. Total wealth refers to private wealth held by all individuals living in each country. It includes all their assets (cash, equities, property and business interests) less any liabilities. It excludes government funds. Top 6 wealthiest countries are US (\$62,584 billion), China (\$24,803 billion), Japan (\$19,522 billion), UK (\$9,919 billion), Germany (\$9,660 billion) and India (\$8,230 billion).
- ⇒ India received the first consignment of 2 million barrels of crude oil from United Arab Emirates (UAE) for its strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) at Mangaluru (on west coast), Karnataka. The Central Government under phase I of SPR programme had announced to build three underground crude oil storage facilities with total capacity of 5.33 million tonnes at Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Mangalore (Karnataka) and Padur (Kerala).



- ⇒ India's largest commodities exchange platform, Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) launched the country's first copper options contracts. The option contract will provide physical market participants additional instrument to hedge their price risk. Copper is the third-most-consumed industrial metal in the world, after iron and aluminium.
- ⇒ The 5th India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave was held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was jointly organised by the Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry along with Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the institutional partner of the event.
- ⇒ India and Netherlands launched Clean Air India Initiative in New Delhi. It aims to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and companies from Netherlands.
- ⇒ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's most valued and largest IT outsourcing company created history by becoming the first Indian company to reach Rs. 7 lakh crore market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone. M-cap is value of company that is traded on stock market.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone for first phase (2400MW) of NTPC's coal based Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand.
- ⇒ India has concluded price negotiations with Russia for deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems for Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ⇒ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.
- ⇒ Baba Ramdev's Patanjali has tied up with state owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to launch Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards. With this, India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand has entered in to telecom sector after gaining popularity in the consumer goods market.
- ⇒ The government has identifies 4 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for listing in stock exchange. There are 56 RRBs in the country with a combined balance sheet size of Rs. 4.7 lakh crore. Of these, 50 are in profit.
- ⇒ Social networking giant Facebook has partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch Digital Literacy Programme to train women on safe use of internet and social media.

Sports

- ⇒ Chennai Super King emerged th Indian Premier League champion by defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhade Stadium, Mumbai. MS Dhoni was the captain of CSK while Kane Williamson was that of the Sunrisers Hyderabad. Kane Williamson won

the Orange Cap (Highest runs), Andrew Tye of Kings XI Punjab won the Purple Cap (highest wicket taker) and Sunil Naraine of KKR was adjudged the most valuable player of the 11th IPL.

- ⇒ AB de Villiers of South Africa announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket.
- ⇒ Real Madrid retained the Champions League title for 2018 defeating Liverpool.
- ⇒ China emerged the Champion of the Thomas Cup Men's Badminton Championship by defeating Japan.
- ⇒ Japan's women team clinched the Uber Cup Badminton by defeating Thailand.

Awards

- ⇒ CEAT Cricket Rating Awards –
 - International Cricketer of the Year – Virat Kohli
 - International Batsman – Shikhar Dhawan
 - International Bowler – Trent Boult (New Zealand)
 - T20 Batsman – Colin Munro (New Zealand)
 - T20 Bowler – Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
 - Lifetime Achievement – Farokh Engineer
- ⇒ The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak was honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development.
- ⇒ Noted Indian botanist Kamaljit S Bawa has been felicitated with the coveted Linnean Medal in Botany. He is the first Indian to get this medal.
- ⇒ Veteran Journalist and former BBC correspondent Sir William Mark Tully has been felicitated with the Mumbai Press Club's Red-Ink Award 2018 for Lifetime Achievement.
- ⇒ Arunachal Pradesh-based NGO Singchung Bugun Community Reserve (SBVCR) won the India Biodiversity Award 2018 in the 'Conservation of wildlife species' category. It was awarded for its efforts to conserve rare and critically endangered bird Bugun Liocichla.
- ⇒ Japanese director Hirokazi Kore-eda has been honoured with the coveted Palme D'or honour, the best film honour at the Cannes Film Festival for the film 'Shoplifter'.
- ⇒ Olga Tokarczuk has become the first writer from Poland to be awarded the Man Booker International Prize. She won the prize with English translation of her novel 'Flights', which charts multiple journeys in time, space and human anatomy.

Persons

- ⇒ Shivangi Pathak, a 16-year girl from Haryana has become the youngest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest from Nepal side.
- ⇒ Pawan Chamling of Sikkim created history by becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister in India. He has completed 23 years and six months of uninterrupted service in office. He surpassed earlier record held by Jyoti Basu, 5-term West Bengal CM who held office for 23 years.



- ⇒ HD Kumaraswamy of the Karnataka State Janata Dal has become the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.
 - ⇒ Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed new chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). He succeeded TS Vijayan.
 - ⇒ Gina Haspel has become the first female director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the USA.
 - ⇒ James Harrison of Australia, popularly known as the 'Man with the golden arm' is estimated to have saved the lives of 2.4 million babies after giving blood almost every week for 60 years. His blood has unique properties containing an antibody which was used to create the life-saving 'Anti-D' injections.
 - ⇒ Kummanam Rajasekharan – New Governor of Mizoram
 - ⇒ Prof Ganeshi Lal – New Governor of Odisha
 - ⇒ Nasirul Mulk, Pakistan's former Chief Justice was named as country's caretaker Prime Minister for two-month period ahead of general elections to be held in July 2018.
 - ⇒ Shashank Manohar has been re-elected unopposed as the independent Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
 - ⇒ Rajinder Singh has been named as the President of Hockey India.
- Died**
- ⇒ Ashok Mitra, the former Left Front finance minister of West Bengal passed away.
- Miscellaneous**
- ⇒ The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) from January 21 to January 23, 2019. Its theme will be 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India'.
 - ⇒ The first ever bilateral joint military training exercise 'Harimu Shakti' 2018 between India and Malaysia began in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia. The exercise aims at bolstering cooperation and coordination between the armed forces of both nations.
 - ⇒ Bangladesh has proposed restructuring of the charter of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) to pave the way for inclusion of non-Muslim countries like India as observer status.
 - ⇒ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved plan to set up 20 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges. The decisions are part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
 - ⇒ According to the recently released report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has emerged as fifth largest military spender in 2017. India had spent \$63.9 billion on defence in 2017. The world's five biggest military spenders in 2017 are United States (\$610 billion), China (\$228 billion), Saudi Arabia (69.4 billion), Russia (66.3 billion) and India (\$63.9 billion).
 - ⇒ North Korea has destroyed its nuclear test site 'Punggye-ri' as part of steps that have reduced tension on the Korean peninsula.
 - ⇒ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched an initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using massive open online course (MOOC) platform SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds).
 - ⇒ Punjab government along with World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India is conducting first organised census of Indus Dolphins, one of the world's rarest mammals. Presently there are 5 to 11 Indus Dolphins in the 185 Km stretch of the Beas river that flows through Punjab.
 - ⇒ NASA launched first-ever InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) lander dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars.
 - ⇒ Guatemala opened its embassy in Jerusalem, two days after the USA inaugurated its new site there. Paraguay is also to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
 - ⇒ According to Maharashtra cybercrime department officials, GravityRAT, a malware allegedly designed by Pakistani hackers has recently been updated further and equipped with anti-malware evasion capabilities. GravityRAT was first detected by Indian Computer Emergency Response (CERT-In) on various computers in 2017. RAT (Remote Access Trojan) is a program capable of being controlled remotely and thus difficult to trace.
 - ⇒ Nepal Government has granted power generation licence to Indian government-owned subsidiary Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) from a 900-Megawatt (MW) Arun-3 Hydropower Project located in eastern Nepal. Arun-3 Project is the largest capacity project in history of hydroelectricity of Nepal. It is scheduled to be constructed within next five years on the Arun river.
 - ⇒ Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCDCL) has launched India's first cloud-based Common Integrated Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre and Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC). It is powered by Hewlett Packard (HP) Enterprise's Universal Internet of Things (IoT) Platform.
 - ⇒ Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) has approved modern, animal-free tests for drug manufacturers. It will spare animals like rabbits, guinea pigs and mice from suffering due to drug experiments. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India was pushing for doing away with cruel methods of testing on animals for the past several years.



- ⇒ Indian Army's month long Vijay Prahar exercise concluded in Suratgarh, Rajasthan. It was conducted by South Western Command of Indian Army.
- ⇒ United States' prestigious Stanford University has agreed to assist Uttar Pradesh Government to combat chronic disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
- ⇒ The Indian Air Force (IAF), for the first time successfully conducted scheduled test for airmen recruitment (STAR) online, taking forward Digital India Initiative of Government. This makes IAF the first of any of the three services to undertake selection tests online.
- ⇒ Atal Tinkering Labs of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog organized an Atal Tinkering Marathon in an effort to identify India's best student innovators. It was a six-month-long nationwide challenge across six different thematic areas, namely, clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agriculture-tech. Under it, Students of top 30 innovations will be trained on business and entrepreneurship skills, including intellectual property, effective communication, making an elevator pitch etc.
- ⇒ Scientists have discovered world's second oldest grain of magmatic zircon (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) from Champua from Singhbhum rock sample in Odisha's Kendujhar district. It is an estimated 4,240 million years old, making it world's second oldest rock ever to be discovered.
- ⇒ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is going to set up skill development centre for clients of Bharosa, an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad, Telangana. Bharosa is an initiative of Hyderabad City Police launched in 2016. It is a state-of-the-art centre to support women and children who are victims of violence.
- ⇒ The Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team began its operations Phagwara, Punjab. This is India's first POPSK run by an all-woman team.
- ⇒ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched full-fledged Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP). It aims to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country through 30 courses by 2021 for sustainable conservation and management of natural resources.
- ⇒ The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched comprehensive plan "REPLACE" to eliminate industrially produced artificial trans-fats from global food supply by 2023. The elimination of trans-fats is key to protecting health and saving lives. REPLACE is abbreviated in six strategic actions as Review, Promote, Legislate, Assess, Create awareness and Enforce.
- ⇒ China has launched a relay satellite names 'Queqiao' to explore the far side of the moon.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. It will be the first of its kind institute in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation.
- ⇒ Supreme Court has approved Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme for smooth distribution of water among four southern riparian states/UT viz. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.
- ⇒ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has commissioned special unit called Bastariya Battalion (numbered 241) to combat Naxals activities in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. This is for the first time that CRFP has raised special battalion that includes local representation to enhance combat capabilities in Naxal-hit areas of Bastar district.
- ⇒ The 26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers was held in Durban, South Africa. The grouping is a bloc of four countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
- ⇒ Kerala was on high alert as rare and deadly Nipah Virus (NiV) infection which was detected for the first time in the state. It was confirmed by the laboratory results from National Institute of Virology, Pune. Nipah virus (NiV) infection causes severe disease in both animals and humans. Fruit bats of the Pteropus genus are natural host of the virus.
- ⇒ Indian Navy's six-member all-women Navy crew onboard of INSV Tarini vessel reached Panaji, Goa after circumnavigating around globe in 254 days under Navika Sagar Parikrama expedition. It was first-ever all women Asian and Indian circum-navigation expedition of globe . The vessel was skippered by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi.
- ⇒ The first commercial flight (42-seater ATR aircraft of the Alliance Airlines) of Arunachal Pradesh under UDAN scheme was landed at Pasighat airport or Advance Landing Ground (ALG) in East Siang district. This historic moment puts the border state on the aviation map of the country.
- ⇒ India ranked 145th among 195 countries in terms of Healthcare access and quality (HAQ) index in the year 2016, behind its neighbours like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The index was released as part of Global Burden of Disease study released by Lancet, one of the world's oldest and best known peer-reviewed general medical journal. The study used index to measure quality and accessibility of healthcare, based on 32 causes of death which should be preventable with effective medical care. The top three countries with the highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016 were Iceland, Norway and the Netherlands.



EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

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- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of the country's first national sports university in Imphal (west), Manipur.
- ⇒ The thirteenth edition of India-Nepal joint military exercise 'Surya-Kiran' was conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 30 May to 12 June 2018.
- ⇒ ASEAN-India Film Festival was held in New Delhi from May 25 to 30, 2018. It was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (ASEAN Multilateral Division) as part of the series of events to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN and India relations. The film festival was non-competitive and its tagline was 'Friendship through Films'.
- ⇒ NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with noted media personality and entrepreneur Sushant Singh Rajput to collaborate and support its flagship Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) initiative.
- ⇒ Indigenously developed Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be delivered to the armed forces by 2020. At present, its basic system is being perfected and attempts are being made to increase its flight altitude. Its manufacturing will be done by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Bharat Electronics Ltd.
- ⇒ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has signed Letter of Intent (LoI) with UN Environment to promote 'green cricket' in India. The partnership aims to spread greater awareness about key environmental challenges India is facing and highlight alternate and more sustainable solutions. It will help make cricket green and sensitise spectators towards minimising waste generation during matches. It will also focus on phasing out single-use plastic across stadiums in the country.
- ⇒ The first edition of Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany from September 25 to 28, 2018. It will be the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.
- ⇒ Colombia has formally joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as global partner. It makes Colombia the first Latin American country to join the the NATO.
- ⇒ Tata Trusts has signed MoU with the Government to provide development support in eight worst Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh. It will help the Government in conducting surveys and providing ground level and technical support in raising living standards of citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all.
- ⇒ Russia unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station named 'Akademik Lomonosov'.
- ⇒ Madhya Pradesh government has issued an order that makes it compulsory for students to answer roll calls with 'Jai Hind' to mark their attendance in schools, replacing the usual and traditional 'yes sir' or 'yes madam'.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) rolled out 'Gaj Yatra', an awareness campaign to protect elephants from Tura in Garo Hills of Meghalaya.
- ⇒ The WHO global air pollution database, released in Geneva reveals that India has 14 out of 15 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM 2.5 concentrations (PM stands for Particulate Matter. PM 2.5 consists of 'fine particles' with aerodynamic diameters less than or equal to 2.5 microns). Kanpur is the most polluted city in the world followed by Faridabad and Varanasi. Delhi ranks 6th.
- ⇒ Indore emerged as the cleanest city in the Central Government Swachh Survekshan 2018. Bhopal and Chandigarh secured the 2nd and the 3rd positions.
- ⇒ Scientists from the University of Minnesota, US have discovered that chemical element ruthenium (Ru) is the fourth element to have unique magnetic properties (ferromagnetism) at room temperature. So far only three periodic table elements Iron (Fe), Cobalt (Co), and Nickel (Ni) have been found to be ferromagnetic at room temperature.
- ⇒ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Bangladesh Bhawan at Vishwa Bharti University in Santiniketan, West Bengal.
- ⇒ According to a recent survey, the USA was the most preferred destination for the Indian tourists going abroad. For those headed for Europe, Switzerland and Spain were the top choices.
- ⇒ Scientists have discovered a new species of shieldtail snake named Bhupathy's Shieldtail from the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.
- ⇒ The trip between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur is the world's busiest international air route (average 84 flights daily).
- ⇒ The first-ever International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Books & Authors :

- ⇒ Daughters of the Sun – Ira Mukhoty
- ⇒ Courting the People – Anuj Bhuwania
- ⇒ Elaeven Gods and a Billion Indians – Boria Majumdar
- ⇒ She Goes to War, Women Militants of India – Rashmi Saxena
- ⇒ Triple Talaq : Examining Faith – Shalman Khurshid
- ⇒ The Only Story – Julian Barnes
- ⇒ The Future of Humanity – Michio Kaku
- ⇒ Across the Universe – Ajoy Bose
