



CURRENT AFFAIRS (AUGUST - 2018) :

National

- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind was on an official visit to Cuba, on the last leg of his three-nation tour to Greece, Surinam and Cuba. He met his Cuban counterpart Diaz-Canel. Both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in biotechnology, renewable energy and traditional medicines. Mr. Kovind also addressed the University of Havana on 'India and the Global South'.
- ⇒ Following the directions from the Supreme Court, the Central Government has constituted the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA) to address the dispute over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry. In the same verdict, the court also increased Karnataka's share in Cauvery Water marginally.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeITY) launched 5000 Wi-Fi *Choupals* in villages in partnership with Common Service Centres (CSCs). The aim of Wi-Fi *Choupals* is to develop rural Wi-Fi infrastructure and to host suitable applications to provide various Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services at an affordable cost. It is world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre. It seeks to connect all of India's households, particularly the rural areas.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for nomination of Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC). The NEC is a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all eight North Eastern State as its members which implements various projects through State and Central agencies. Under new arrangement with Home Minister as Chairman and Minister of DoNER as Vice Chairman will help it to become more effective body for North Eastern Region (NER).
- ⇒ The NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog launched Composite Water Management Index as useful tool to assess and improve performance in efficient management of water resources. The index aims to inspire States/UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water and recycling thereof with sense of urgency. The index were divided into two special groups North Eastern and Himalayan states and Other States. Among North-eastern and Himalayan states, Tripura topped the list followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. In the Other States group, Gujarat topped the list followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- ⇒ Seychelles President Danny Faure ahead of his state visit to India has said that India-Seychelles

joint project to develop naval base at Assumption Island in his country will not move forward. He also mentioned that Seychelles will develop military facilities at the island on its own. India was keen on developing the Assumption Island as naval base due to key strategic location in the western periphery of Indian Ocean and to expand its footprint in the region where China has been trying to enhance its military presence.

- ⇒ Seychelles President Danny recently visited New Delhi. India and Seychelles have signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) including in areas of infrastructure development in Seychelles, cyber security and white-shipping arrangement. Seychelles has gifted a pair of Giant Aldabra tortoise to India as a goodwill gesture. The pair was handed over to Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.
- ⇒ French state-run power utility EDF and American conglomerate General Electric (GE) have signed strategic cooperation agreement with State-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) to build construction of 6 EPR (European Pressurized Reactors) type nuclear reactors of capacity 1,650 megawatt (MW) each at Jaitapur nuclear plant in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra.
- ⇒ The United States of America (US) has postponed its inaugural 2+2 dialogue with India which was scheduled to be held on July 6, 2018 in Washington DC, citing 'unavoidable reasons'. Both countries are now identifying new mutually convenient dates to hold dialogue at the earliest, either in India or in the USA. This is the third time that 2+2 dialogue has been postponed in the last six months.
- ⇒ The ninth and final meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on India-Nepal relations was concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal. During this two day meeting, representatives from India and Nepal deliberated up on various bilateral issues including 1950 Peace and Friendship treaty, trade, transit and border.

International

- ⇒ Myanmar and the UN agencies signed an agreement that led to the return of 7,00,000 Rohingya Muslims who fled the country and crowded into camps in Bangladesh.
- ⇒ The world's largest international maritime warfare exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC-2018) is being held from June 27 to August 2, 2018 in and around Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. 26 countries, including India are participating in it. The theme of this year's RIMPAC exercise is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners." Four countries Brazil, Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam are participating for the first time. US withdrew invitation of Chinese navy in response to China's continued illegal militarisation of the islands in the disputed South China Sea.



- ⇒ The 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit concluded with the adoption of the Qingdao declaration. It was adopted by leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India (represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi) and Pakistan. It was India and Pakistan's first summit as full members of SCO grouping. India refused to endorse China's ambitious One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project as part of Qingdao Declaration. At the restricted session of the SCO Summit, Indian Prime Minister Modi floated concept of SECURE, where 'S' for security for citizens, 'E' for economic development, 'C' for connectivity in the region, 'U' for unity, 'R' for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and 'E' for environment protection.
- ⇒ North and South Korea agreed to form a unified team for some sport events at the upcoming 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. The athletes from the Koreas will march under a neutral Korean peninsula flag under the name 'Korea'.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 15.7.2018) 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 Union Cabinet has approved the monetisation of the 3.7 acre of land at the Pragati Maidan by India Trade Promotion Organisation on a long term lease of 99 years.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three Indian mobile payment applications BHIM, RuPay and UPI enabled remittance app of SBI in Singapore aimed at internationalisation of the country's digital payment platforms.
- ⇒ India will export raw sugar to China after a decade. Raw sugar is the second product after non-Basmati rice that China has decided to import, weeks after the PM Narendra Modi's visit, in a move to reduce the \$60 billion trade deficit with India.
- ⇒ A recent ASSOCHAM-NEC study on 'Electricals & Electronics Manufacturing in India' has revealed that India recycles only 5% of its e-waste and the country is one of the biggest contributors of e-waste in the world. E-waste or electronic waste refers to the electronic equipment being thrown away. It includes discarded computer monitors, motherboards, Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT), Printed Circuit Board (PCB), mobile phones and chargers, compact discs, headphones, etc. India generates around 2 million tonnes of E-waste per annum.
- ⇒ India received the first shipment of its so far cheapest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Russian supplier Gazprom. The LNG has been delivered at a cost of around \$1.5 cheaper than the LNG imported from Qatar, which is India's oldest and largest supplier of LNG.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved a Rs. 8500 Crore bailout package for the distressed sugar industries in the country. India is world's second largest sugar producer after Brazil with production of around 25 million tonnes in 2017-18 and is expected to be around 30 million tonnes in 2018-19. Currently, UP is India's foremost sugar producing state. The bumper harvest of sugarcane has created problem of plenty for already troubled cane farmers, sugar mills as well as governments at centre and state. The sugar mills need to buy cane from farmers at state advised price (SAP) but have to sell their produce at either marginal cost above production or in loss. Thus, higher price purchase of sugarcane but low price sale of sugar in open market creates stress on sugar mills and they are unable to make payments to farmers. This leads to accumulation of arrears.
- ⇒ Japan led the venture capital investment in India surpassing the USA and China in 2017. At \$ 4.9 billion, Japan's investment in India increased about 13 time from a mere \$ 387 million in 2016.
- ⇒ SoftBank Group Corp of Japan has decided to invest about \$ 100 billion in solar power generation in India. The company is expected to make the investment through a fund backed by Saudi Arabia government.



- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind has assented to the promulgation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018. This ordinance makes some fine-tuning mechanisms in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, mainly real estate and financial sectors. After this amendment, the IBC law will recognize the homebuyers as 'financial creditors', giving them due representation in the Committee of Creditors (CoC). Thus, now home buyers will be an integral part of the decision making process.
- ⇒ Tata Consultancy Services has decided to buyback Rs. 16,000 crore share, in an attempt to distribute the available cash among its shareholders.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will set up a Public Credit Registry (PCR) as a repository of information regarding loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers. This decision has been taken as per recommendations of Y.M. Deosthalee committee set up by the central bank.
- ⇒ The SEBI has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Deep Kalra to examine the direct listing of Indian companies on overseas stock market. Under the current framework, a domestic company cannot list on overseas exchanges without listing on the home market.
- ⇒ The registrar general of India has released new data showing significant decline in maternal mortality ratio of the country. In 2011-13 period, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in India was 167. As per the recently released data, the MMR during 2014-16 period stands at 130. Among the States, Kerala has the lowest MMR (46) while Assam has the highest MMR (237).
- ⇒ India was ranked 136th among 163 countries in Global Peace Index 2018 that was released by Sydney-based think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The top three countries in this index are Iceland, New Zealand and Austria.
- ⇒ The World Bank has approved the Atal Bhujal Yojana a Rs. 6,000 crore Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. Atal Bhujal Yojana aims to improve ground water management in priority areas of the country through community participation. Maharashtra government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Quebec province of Canada to increase economic cooperation and welfare of tribal community in the state.
- ⇒ Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) lab has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project. Li-ion battery is light weighted and is one-third the weight of lead acid batteries. It is nearly 100% efficient in both charging and discharging as compared to lead battery which has 70% efficiency.
- ⇒ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has commended India's progress in reducing maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 77%, from 556 per 10000 live births in 1990 to 130 per 10000 live births in 2016. This progress puts India on track towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of MMR below 70 by 2030.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Culture has launched Seva Bhoj Yojna, a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
- ⇒ ISRO's rocket sciences arm Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has decided to transfer its own in-house lithium ion (Li ion) cell technology to successful Indian industries and start-ups. The initiative aims to accelerate development of indigenous electric vehicle (EV) industry and reduce dependence of imported lithium ion cell technology.
- ⇒ Twenty States have signed the MoU with Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for implementing Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM). Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) 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 of Rs 5 lakh per family per year, taking care of almost all secondary care and tertiary care procedures.
- ⇒⇒ Japan's Cabinet has adopted an economic plan that will allow more foreign workers to work in the country. This proposal will help rapidly aging country to make up for its declining workforce. Under this plan, Japan will relax visa requirements in various sectors.
- ⇒ India has notified World Trade Organisation (WTO) of its decision to impose higher import tariffs (ranging from 20% to 50%) on 30 goods from United States. This will reportedly be the first time that India has imposed retaliatory import duties against US's unilateral protectionist policies that range from tighter visa regime to higher import duties. The proposed increase in import duties is aimed at countering the impact of higher US tariffs on certain Indian steel and aluminium products.
- ⇒ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has set up a 10-member committee to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in the country. The committee will be headed by Suresh Mathur.
- ⇒ The Union Government has constituted the Chief Ministers' Subgroup to coordinate policy approaches for agriculture sector and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). It will submit its report within three months from its date of constitution. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be its convener.



- ⇒ Indian IT industry's apex body NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies) has launched 'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme to increase number of women in senior levels in Information Technology (IT) industry.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Power is considering making 24 degrees celsius as mandatory default setting and labelling of air conditioners (ACs) within few months. The campaign was launched on voluntary basis to increase awareness and encourage consumers to adopt the guidelines. It will result in substantial energy savings and also reduce greenhouse gas emission. Every one degree increase in temperature of air-conditioner results in saving of 6% of electricity consumed.
- ⇒ Mongolia has launched construction of its first strategically important oil refinery funded by India in southern Dornogovi province.
- ⇒ The government has proposed to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the country under its Van Dhan Scheme. It also aims at building upon traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT for value addition.
- ⇒ India announced to increase its grant to Global Environment Facility's (GEF) new four-year investment cycle, known as GEF-7 from \$12 million to \$15 million. It was announced at the GEF Council meeting held at Da Nang, Vietnam.
- ⇒ The 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) concluded in Mumbai, Maharashtra in optimistic note to raise its lending capacity to boost prosperity and security in Asia. The theme of the third meeting was 'Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration'. It was attended by over 3,000 delegates from 86 member countries of AIIB.
- ⇒ Haryana Government is going to host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference at Gurugram in October 2018. The main aim of the conference is to provide common unified structure of *mandis* all across the world and take advantages of the improvements in the *mandis* in the world for India's domestic requirements.
- ⇒ The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended 15 executive directors to be elevated as managing directors (MD) at various public sector banks (PSBs). The BBB is headed by former Department of Personnel and Training Secretary Bhanu Pratap Sharma.
- ⇒ The Union Government has constituted a 13-member Committee for Sub-National Accounts to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or Gross Domestic Production (GDP) calculation. It will be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia.
- ⇒ India has agreed to provide tariff concessions on 3,142 products to Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) members, from July 1, 2018. Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) is an initiative under United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of Asia Pacific Region.
- ⇒ Telangana Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore-based engineering & consulting firm Surbana Jurong for preparing roadmap for Genome Valley 2.0. Genome Valley is India's first organized pharma-biotech cluster for life sciences R&D activities and largest life sciences destination in Asia, being home to over 200 companies employing 10,000 people. It includes 6 of world's top 10 R&D companies and three of India's largest vaccine manufacturers. The cluster was conceptualized in 1999 in Shamirpet, Hyderabad.
- ⇒ NITI Aayog is going to organise 'MOVE: Global Mobility Summit' on September 7-8, 2018 in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners. The summit will be held in New Delhi. It will help to drive India's goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth, thus, speeding up India's transition to a clean energy economy.
- ⇒ India has been placed at the 113th position in the list of 175 nations in 'End of Childhood Index 2018'. Singapore and Slovenia are jointly placed at the top position. Niger figures at the end of the list of 175.

Sports

- ⇒ India defeated Afghanistan by an innings and 262 runs in the only Test between the two countries played at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangaluru. Shikhar Dhawan was adjudged the Man of the Match.
- ⇒ India's football team captain Sunil Chhetri has become the joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentine superstar footballer Lionel Messi. He achieved this feat after he scored his 64th goal in the match between India and Kenya in Intercontinental Cup summit clash in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Cristiano Ronaldo is at the top of the list.
- ⇒ Rafael Nadal of Spain clinched the French Open title by defeating Dominic Thiem of Austria. In the Women's Singles, Simona Halep of Romania won the title by defeating Saloane Stephens of the USA,
- ⇒ India's new chess sensation R. Praggnanandhaa made history by becoming the youngest Indian Grandmaster at the age of 12 years and 10 months.
- ⇒ India's ace shooter Tejaswini Sawant grapped the gold medal in the women's 50m Rifle Prone event at the Munich Grand Prix.



Awards

- ⇒ China awarded its first highest state honour Friendship Medal to Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ⇒ Renowned social activist and founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak was honoured with Japan's prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize for his contribution to Asia's development.
- ⇒ Surat smart city from Gujarat was selected for 'City Award' for showing great momentum in implementation of projects under India Smart Cities Awards 2018 especially in categories of urban environment and transport.
- ⇒ Madhya Pradesh was awarded by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for reducing maternal mortality under the Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign (Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan-PMSMA). The state was awarded for registering unprecedented decline in maternal deaths from 2014 to 2016 as per report of Registrar General of India (RGI).
- ⇒ Madhya Pradesh Government has conferred prestigious National Kalidas Samman on noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon (78) for her contribution to visual arts. The award was conferred in recognition of her insightful and sensitive portrayal of the identity and spirit of women through her meaningful paintings in a variety of media.

Persons

- ⇒ S Ramesh has been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). He will succeed the present chairman Vanaja N. Sarna.
- ⇒ Peggy Whitson, NASA's record-breaking space-woman, has announced her retirement as astronaut.
- ⇒ AR Rahman has been appointed Brand Ambassador of Sikkim Government for one year.
- ⇒ S Ramesh has been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes.
- ⇒ Commander Abhilash Tomy, the well-known sailor of the Indian Navy has participated in historic Golden Globe Race (GGR), which commenced from Les Sables d'Olonne harbour in western France. He will be representing India in indigenously built sailing vessel Thuriya. He is the only invitee from Asia to prestigious GGR.

Died

- ⇒ Sujaat Bukhari, the editor of the Rising Kashmir newspaper was killed in a terrorist attack. He was instrumental in organising several peace talks and conferences in Kashmir.
- ⇒ Bhaiyyu Maharaj, a spiritual leader of Madhya Pradesh committed suicide.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ The Centre for Railways Information System (CRIS) has developed a mobile based application 'Utsonmobile' which will enable booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets, etc.
- ⇒ The Indian Railways has decided to launch 'undercover ministry men' to check the faults in the services offered to passengers. The Railways has decided to bring undercover men dressed in plain clothes, to monitor the food quality, staff behaviour, etc.
- ⇒ The 22nd edition of trilateral Naval Exercise Malabar 2018 between India, Japan and United States was held off the coast of Guam in Philippine Sea. The exercise came at a time of increased friction between China and US along with nations bordering resource rich South China Sea (SCS) as China is militarising reclaimed islands in it to further strengthen its claim.
- ⇒ The Haryana government has decided to introduce a scheme under which students from classes 6 to 12 of both the government and private schools will be given an incentive of Rs. 50 each for every live tree planted by them every six months for a period of three years.
- ⇒ Sikkim government has decided to organise 'Lama Mela' in the State to mark the Buddhist cultural diversity.
- ⇒ Foundation of Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory was laid in the campus of Central Forensic Science Lab (CFSL), Chandigarh. It is India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated for crimes related to women for timely deliver justice.
- ⇒ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has explored royal burials like Chariots, Swords and Caskets with ornamental motifs dating back to 2200 BC-1800 BC of the 'Bronze Age' near Sanauli village in Baghpat, UP.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has launched a new system called Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) to generate more accurate and area specific forecast of extreme weather events including rains, heat wave and cold wave.
- ⇒ Andhra Pradesh is set to become the first state in India to use auto-disabled syringes for all clinical purposes to prevent infection. Auto Disable Syringe is a medical syringe that cannot be reused. They incorporate mechanism to break or lock syringe plunger when injection is given to make syringe inoperable for being used for second time.
- ⇒ Mauritius is going to host 11th World Hindi Conference in its capital city Port Lois from August 18-20, 2018.
- ⇒ The Indian Navy successfully rescued 38 Indians who were stranded at the Socotra Island off the coast of Yemen. The sailors were stuck at the island after a severe cyclonic storm Mekenu.



- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind has declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit. Queen pineapple is spiny, golden-yellow in colour. It has a pleasant aroma and flavour. Its sweetness and unique aroma differentiates it from pineapples of other states of the Northeast region.
- ⇒ Mauritius is going to host 11th World Hindi Conference in its capital city Port Louis from August 18-20, 2018.
- ⇒ India will host first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Countries in September 2018 in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ⇒ Union Cabinet has approved of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Institut National de la Santeet de la Recherche Medicale (INSERM), France. The MoU aims at cooperation in areas of common interest within medical, health research and life sciences fields.
- ⇒ The United States has approved sale of six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters along with support equipments to India. The Apache choppers are one of the most advanced multi-role combat helicopters which have advanced weapons systems and night-fighting features, manufactured by Boeing.
- ⇒ The 106th Indian Science Congress will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar, Punjab from January 3 to 7, 2019. The theme for the five-day science congress is 'Future India: Science & Technology'.
- ⇒ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has converted indigenous Pinaka rocket system into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets. It is expected to be delivered to the Indian Army in two years.
- ⇒ The Union Government has approved financial assistance amounting to Rs. 5.5 lakh per family to West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs). It will benefit 5,764 families of WPRs settled in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ⇒ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified gaming addiction as mental health disorder in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11. WHO defines gaming disorder as pattern of gaming behaviour (video-gaming or digital-gaming) characterized by impaired control over gaming,
- ⇒ The Indian Army has drawn detailed plan to develop Jaisalmer Military Station in Rajasthan as Smart Facility patterned on Central Government's Smart Cities Mission. The plan has been formulated in consonance with eight key areas identified by central government for development of Smart Cities. It has provisions for rainwater harvesting, centralised garbage disposal, solar-security lights, underground electric cabling, solar-water heaters, LED lighting and LPG supply through pipelines.
- ⇒ Indian Army is observing the year 2018 as "Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty" to honour soldiers who have been disabled in line of duty.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has declared medium (5 GW by 2022) and long-term (30 GW by 2030) targets for offshore wind power capacity addition.
- ⇒ Harayana Government has launched 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme to give star rankings to its panchayats on the basis of seven social parameters.
- ⇒ According to updated count by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the number of nuclear warheads with nine nuclear countries has reduced from 14,935 at start of 2017 to 14,465 at start of 2018. These nine countries are United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.
- ⇒ The world's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics was launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The centre is joint venture of Regional delegation of International Committee of Red Cross (ICCR) in India, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives and also Gujarat Forensic Science University.
- ⇒ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has notified that the use of Aadhaar biometric data for criminal investigation is not allowed under Aadhaar Act, 2016. As per Section 29 of the Aadhaar Act, the biometrics data collected by UIDAI can be used only for the purpose of generating Aadhaar and for authentication of identity of Aadhaar holders and cannot be used for any other purpose.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has banned al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) under anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.
- ⇒ Surya-Kiran XIII, the thirteenth edition of India-Nepal joint military exercise was held at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 30 May to 12 June 2018.
- ⇒ The Indian Army contingent comprising of 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry Battalion Group was awarded United Nations Medal for "selfless service". The contingent is part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Vanijya Bhawan, a new office complex in New Delhi for the Department of Commerce. Vnijya Bhawan will help in ease of doing business by bringing all Departments of Commerce under one roof.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved setting up of committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in the country. The committee will be headed by E Sreedharan.



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- ⇒ India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual exercise between the navies of two neighbouring countries. The first edition of CORPAT between two navies was inaugurated by Indian Navy's Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba during his visit to Bangladesh.
- ⇒ India was ranked 35th among 100 countries in recently released Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETl). Top 3 countries in this index are: United Kingdom, United States.
- ⇒ Two building clusters of Victorian Gothic and Art Deco architectural styles in Mumbai, Maharashtra were jointly inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List. The decision was taken during 42nd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Manama, Bahrain.
- ⇒ Supreme Court has extended deadline for publication of final draft of Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) from earlier June 30, 2018 to July 31, 2018.
- ⇒ The Delhi government launched 'Happiness Curriculum' which includes meditation, moral values and mental exercises for its school students. It was designed and prepared by a team of 40 Delhi government teachers, educators and volunteers over period of six months.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of renaming Agartala Airport in Tripura as 'Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport, Agartala. Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore was the king of Tripura from 1923 to 1947 before its merger with India.
- ⇒ State-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) is going to set up state-of-the-art Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport.
- ⇒ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will set up 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The Design University for Gaming will help UNSECO to develop edutech gaming in state, with the target of providing 50,000 jobs in 10 years. Gaming and IT giants like UBSOft, Samsung, Microsoft etc are ready to establish their centres in Visakhapatnam.
- ⇒ The Law Commission of India (LCI) in its report "Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including Cricket in India", has recommended that gambling and betting on sports be allowed as regulated activities. The commission is led by former Supreme Court Justice BS Chauhan. It recommended linking Aadhar or PAN card of individuals indulging in betting and gambling and making transaction cashless to regulate illegal activities such as money laundering.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court in its latest ruling once again has upheld the Chief Justice of India (CJI) as 'Master of Roster'. According to the ruling given by SC bench of Justices A.K. Sikri and Ashok Bhushan, CJI is an individual judge and not the powerful collective of five senior-most judges of Supreme Court called the 'Collegium'. The judgement upheld CJI 's complete administrative authority to allocate cases and constitute Benches.

Books & Authors :

- ⇒ Straight Talk – Abhishek Manu Singhvi
- ⇒ The President Is Missing – Bill Clinton and James Patterson
- ⇒ Republic of Caste – Anand Teltumbde
- ⇒ The White Book – Han Kang
- ⇒ Like A Fading Shadow – Antonio Munoz Molina
