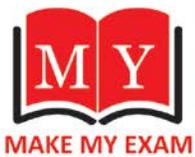


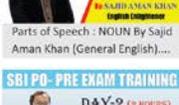
Monthly Current Affairs

July 2018

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National News

1. Sushma Swaraj inaugurates conference of heads of Indian missions across globe

- ✦ The 9th Heads of Mission Conference was held in New Delhi from June 30-July 2, 2018. It was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- ✦ The conference comes at the time when India is monitoring several important global developments including sanctions imposed by United States on Russia and Iran, and China's new assertiveness in Indo-Pacific region.

2. NITI Aayog Releases 1st Delta Ranking

- ✦ NITI Aayog launched the first Delta ranking, incremental progress, for the Aspirational Districts in the country.
- ✦ The ranking is based on self-reported data of districts between March 31 to May 31, 2018, across five developmental areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure.

3. Election Commission launches Mobile App "cVIGIL":

- ✦ The Election Commission of India has recently launched a mobile app cVIGIL for the citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.
- ✦ It is a user-friendly app and easy to operate. It will be operational only where the elections are announced.
- ✦ By using this app the citizens can immediately report an incident of misconduct.
- ✦ The citizens can click pictures and record a video of upto 2 minutes and can upload on this app.

4. National Workshop on Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities:

- ✦ The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has organized a National Workshop on Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities.
- ✦ The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform to all the stakeholders (Policy makers and employers).
- ✦ Under the initiative, Persons with Disabilities will be provided with the necessary skills for achieving employment opportunities.

5. India's first Global Mobility Summit:

- ✦ NITI Aayog is going to organize 'MOVE': Global Mobility Summit in New Delhi on 7th and 8th September 2018.

- ✚ The summit which will be organized in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners help the Government's goal for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth.

6. KVIC launches e-marketing system:

- ✚ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently launched its, in-house developed e-marketing
- ✚ system with the name Khadi Institution Management and Information System (KIMIS) in New Delhi.
- ✚ The system can be accessed from anywhere in the country for the sale and purchase of Khadi and Village Industries products.

7. Agreement signed on repatriation of Bru Persons to Mizoram:

- ✚ An agreement has been signed by the Government of India, Governments of Mizoram and Tripura and Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) on the repatriation of displaced Bru persons from Mizoram since 1997.
- ✚ Government of India will provide financial assistance for rehabilitation of Brus in Mizoram and address their issues of security, education, livelihood etc. in consultation with Governments of Mizoram and Tripura.

8. DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018:

- ✚ With an aim to expand the application of DNA based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2018.
- ✚ The Bill seeks to ensure that with the proposed expanded use of this technology in the country, there is also the assurance that the DNA test results are reliable.
- ✚ The data will also remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.

9. Cabinet Approval for renaming Agartala Airport:

- ✚ Agartala Airport in Tripura will be renamed as 'Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport.
- ✚ The approval was given by the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi
- ✚ The decision comes in the wake of the long pending demand of people of Tripura as well as the Tripura Government for paying tribute to Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore.

10. UAE Consulate To Come Up In Hyderabad

- ✚ Decks have been cleared for setting up a consulate of United Arab Emirates with Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao giving his

nod for it after discussions with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

- ✦ The establishment of the consulate would improve cordial relations between the state government and the UAE.

11. Tribal museum to be set up in Chhattisgarh:

- ✦ The Chhattisgarh Government is going to set up a tribal Museum which will be named after Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, a freedom fighter who participated in the revolt of 1857.
- ✦ The museum will be dedicated to the culture and tradition of the scheduled tribes.

12. Wholesale Markets Conference in Haryana:

- ✦ The Government of Haryana will host the world union of Wholesale Markets Conference at Gurugram in October 2018.
- ✦ The conference, organised by Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board, aims to provide common unified structure of mandis all across the world.

13. Gujarat CM Launches Special Drive Against Malnutrition: POSHAN Abhiyan

- ✦ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched 'Poshan Abhiyan'--a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. The CM also launched 'Purna' project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of 14 to 18.
- ✦ 'Purna' stands for Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls. The government has allocated Rs 270 crore to control malnutrition among those girls who he said would become mothers in future.

14. Piyush Goyal Launches CMSMS And 'Khan Prahari' App

- ✦ Union Minister of Coal, Railways, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal launched the Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) and Mobile Application 'Khan Prahari' developed by CMPDI, Ranchi in New Delhi.
- ✦ The basic objective of CMSMS is reporting, monitoring and taking suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities. The CMSMS is a web-based GIS application through which location of sites for unauthorised mining can be detected.

15. Cabinet approves Umbrella Schemes for Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates

- ✦ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for continuance of the 8 existing schemes of the Ministry of Home Affairs upto March 2020 for relief and rehabilitation of migrants and

- repatriates under the Umbrella scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates".
- ✦ The financial implication for this purpose is Rs. 3183 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

16. 1st Meeting Of E-Commerce Task Force Held In New Delhi

- ✦ Commerce Secretary, Rita Teotia, chaired the first meeting of the Task Force on e-commerce in New Delhi. The meeting deliberated upon the suggestions emerging from the sub-group meetings held in June 2018.
- ✦ The suggestions were on wide-ranging issues such as cross-border data flows, taxation, trade facilitation and logistics, consumer confidence, IPR and future tech, FDI and competition issues.

17. Law Commission Recommends Regulating Betting

- ✦ The Law Commission recommended that gambling and betting on sports, including cricket, be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).
- ✦ The commission's report, 'Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including Cricket in India', recommends a number of changes in the law for regulating betting and generating tax revenues from it.

18. 67th plenary meeting of North Eastern Council held in Shillong, Meghalaya.

- ✦ The 67th plenary meeting of North Eastern Council (NEC) was recently held in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ✦ It was chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh. The meeting was attended by Union Minister of Development of NER and Governors and Chief Ministers of the north-eastern States.

19. Government Sets Noise Standards For Airports Across India

- ✦ The Union Environment Ministry has issued a notification setting noise standards for all airports across the country. The limits, however, exclude defence aircrafts, and those that are landing and taking off.
- ✦ The rules state that busy airports — a civil airport with more than 50,000 aircraft movements per year (take-off or a landing) — should not exceed noise levels beyond 75 dB(A) Leq (decibels) during the daytime (6am to 10pm) and 65 dBA during the night (10pm to 6am).

20. Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs Launched ISCF And ISCI Program

- ✦ Mr Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) and Internship

- (ISCI) program that will provide the youth with an opportunity to experience the aspects of Urban planning and governance.
- ✦ 'Smart Cities Digital Payments Awards 2018' was also launched which is intended to promote 'Digital India' and ease of living for India's urban residents by promoting digital payments and encouraging Smart Cities to adopt innovative digital payments initiatives.

21. Gujarat Government grants religious minority status to Jews

- ✦ Gujarat Government has granted religious minority status to Jews living in the state.
- ✦ In this regard, State's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has issued GR to this effect.
- ✦ Gujarat is third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

22. Six Universities Granted 'Institute Of Eminence' Status

- ✦ The Union Government has granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector. The decision was taken on the basis of the recommendations given by an Empowered Expert Committee (EEC).
- ✦ Three Public Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:
 1. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay,
 2. IIT-Delhi,
 3. IISc Bangalore.

23. Indian Railways Introduces 1st Double Stack Dwarf Container Service

- ✦ Under the guidance of Piyush Goyal, Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways and Coal, in order to capture the lost traffic through the new delivery model for domestic cargo, Indian Railways has introduced Double Stack Dwarf Container Services.
- ✦ This freight train was flagged off from Western Railway's Rajkot railway station on its maiden commercial run.

24. NITI Aayog Released Paper On 'National Health Stack'

- ✦ The central government think tank NITI Aayog has unveiled the blueprint of 'National Health Stack' (NHS), a shared digital healthcare infrastructure. The blueprint is in line with the implementation of the Centre's flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat and other public healthcare programmes in the country.
- ✦ According to a consultation paper titled 'National Health Stack Strategy an Approach', the National Health Stack will facilitate the collection of

comprehensive healthcare data across the country. This will allow policymakers to further build their projections around upcoming outcomes, experiment with new services as well as fill the existing gaps in the Indian healthcare industry among others.

25. India's 1st Private UAV Factory To Come Up In Kota

- ✦ India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on the campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota, Rajasthan.
- ✦ The new defence unit of Shriram Rayons in Kota is being set up under 'Make in India' initiative of the union government.

26. Andhra Pradesh Tops Ease Of Doing Business Rankings

- ✦ For the second year in a row, Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the easiest Indian state to do business, according to a survey. The Chandrababu Naidu-led state took the pole position in the rankings for Ease of Doing Business that was released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Delhi.
- ✦ Telangana came second followed by Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The north-eastern state of Meghalaya was ranked lowest at 36th.

27. M. Venkaiah Naidu Becomes 1st Chairman Of Rajya Sabha To Sign MOU

- ✦ Rajya Sabha has, for the first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a foreign counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue.
- ✦ Venkaiah Naidu has become the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign such an agreement when he inked an MOU with the visiting President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Bernard Makuza.

28. 4th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals to strengthen mineral auction regime

- ✦ The 4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals will be held on 13th July, 2018 at Indore (MP) for showcasing blocks which will be auctioned by the states in FY 2018-19 to the potential investors.
- ✦ Union Minister for Mines Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that it will carry forward the efforts of the Government for strengthening the mineral auction regime as well as help in expediting auctions and bring in greater participation from the stakeholders.

29. PM Modi Inaugurates New Headquarters Building Of ASI

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India in New Delhi.

- ✦ The new Headquarters building is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including energy-efficient lighting and rainwater harvesting. It will also include a Central Archaeological Library with a collection of about one lakh 50 thousand books and journals.

30. Ministry of Water Resources Launches “Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puruskar Pao” Contest

- ✦ In an attempt to engage with the people of India on the important issues of water conservation and water management, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has launched a video contest titled “Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puruskar Pao”.
- ✦ The Ministry has joined hands with MyGov portal of the Government of India to run the contest.
- ✦ The fortnightly contest which was launched through MyGov, will last till 4th November 2018.
- ✦ Three winners will be chosen every fortnight.

31. Modi to lay foundation of Purvanchal Expressway

- ✦ In Azamgarh, Modi laid the foundation stone of the 340-km-long Purvanchal Expressway, stretching from the State capital to Ghazipur on the eastern fringes bordering Bihar.
- ✦ The State expects to complete the project, dubbed by it as the longest expressway in the country, by 2021.
- ✦ The Purvanchal Expressway will cross seven districts and connect Lucknow and Ballia via Azamgarh.

32. Fossil museum in Ariyalur set to Open by Tamilnadu CM

- ✦ The much-awaited fossil museum at Varanavasi near Ariyalur town is likely to open this month by Tamilnadu CM ,(Edappadi K. Palaniswami)
- ✦ The 100-acre museum will showcase the natural formation of rocks that provide evidence of the existence of dinosaurs and other associated reptilians in the Ariyalur region.
- ✦ A 40-acre section of the site museum will exhibit small and big mounds, signifying layers of land-formation over millions of years

33. Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar to inaugurate 17th World Sanskrit Conference in Vancouver

- ✦ Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar will inaugurate the 17th World Sanskrit Conference to be held at Vancouver, Canada from 9th July to 13th July, 2018.
- ✦ More than 500 scholars and delegates from over 40 countries will be participating in this conference and exchange their knowledge by presenting papers on various subjects followed by discussions from amongst the members.

34. PM Inaugurates Bansagar canal Project in Mirzapur

- ✦ Bansagar Dam project is a joint Venture between Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- ✦ Project will provide a big Boost to Irrigation in the region, and will be greatly beneficial for the farmers of the Mirzapur .
- ✦ PM Modi also laid the Foundation Stone of Mirzapur Medical College.

35. MCA Constituted 10-Member Committee to review offences Under Companies Act, 2013

- ✦ Ministry of Corporate Affairs(MCA) Constituted 10 Members,headedby the Secretary of MinistryMinistry of Corporate Affairs to review of the penal Provisions in the Companies Act 2013.
- ✦ The Committee has been set up to examine 'De-criminalisation' .
- ✦ The Committee shall submit its report within thirty days to the Central Government for Consideration of its recommendation.

36. World's First and cheapest clean drinking water project launched in Darbhanga, Bihar

- ✦ Project is launched by Sulabh International, an organisation that introduced the concept of SulabSauchalya.
- ✦ With this Project ,the People will easily get Pure and clean Water in 50 paisa\liter.
- ✦ The Cost of the Project is around 20 lacks

37. India to Grow over 7% predicts by OECD

- ✦ India's Economic growth is expected to rise 7.4% in 2018 and 7.5% in 2019 by Organisation for economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- ✦ Headquarters of OECD –Paris, France
- ✦ Secretary General –Jose Angel Gurria

38. Director General (West Zone), Ministry of I&B assumes Charge

- ✦ Shri R.N Mishra, an information service officer, has taken charge on promotion as Director General(West zone)Ministry of Information & broadcasting at the office of PIB.
- ✦ Mishra will take Charge of the functioning of the offices of both Press Information Bureau and Regional Outreach Bureau in West zone.
- ✦ He Succeeds Shri K. Muthukumar, who Superannuated in March 2018.

39. Piyush Goyal Inaugurates the MAHAGENCO Piep Conveyor system – An Initiative by WCL & MAHAGENCO

- ✦ Piyush Goyal inaugurated the MAHAGENCO pipe Conveyer System for Coal transportation from Cluster of mines of western Coalfields Limited(WCL).

- ✦ This System is Set up in Direction of developing a modern, efficient and eco-friendly mode of coal transportation from mines of WCL to the Pit head Power stations of MAHAGENO, Maharashtra state power Generation Company Ltd.
- ✦ It will help in avoiding coal Pilferage and Facilitate assured quality & quantity of supply of Coal to power plants at lower transport costs.

40. IMF cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.3% in 2019

- ✦ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's growth Forecast to 7.3% in the year 2019 and 7.5% in 2020.
- ✦ This makes India, Fastest growing country among economies in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- ✦ MD of IMF- Christine laggard
- ✦ Headquarters – Washington DC, USA.

41. President Ram Nath Kovind gives his assent to Assam's Anti-Witch hunting Bill

- ✦ President has Approved Witch hunting bill 2015, Converting in to Act, almost three years after it was passed by the State Assembly.
- ✦ Act aimed at Eliminating the superstition from the Society, imposes a punishment up to seven Years and a fine up to Rs.5 Lakh.
- ✦ This Provision will come as per section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Court.
- ✦ It also propose sentence of 3 years imprisonment if anybody blames a person for natural disasters in a particular locality such as floods ,Droughts etc

42. IIT- Madras Unveils World's 1st Remote LEAP Microscope

- ✦ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has commissioned remotely operable Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP).
- ✦ It was developed at a cost of RS 40 Crore.
- ✦ The 'Local Electrode Atom Probe' was developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research Institutions headed by IIT Madras.

43. Lok Sabha Passes Bill Allowing Detention of School Children in Classes 5,8

- ✦ The Lok Sabha today passed The Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education (second Amendment) Bill 2017 which allows detention of School students in class 5 and 8.
- ✦ The bill amend provision related to no detention policy in the parent act to empower central or state government to allow schools to hold back child in class 5 and 8 or in both classes.
- ✦ This will ensure a continued study by the students and improve their Performance.

44. NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform organizes Workshop on Empowering Women

- ✦ NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and Shri Ram College of Commerce(SRCC) of Delhi Jointly organized a two day International Conference on "Empowering Women : Fostering Entrepreneur, Innovation and Sustainability".
- ✦ Emphasis has been given on increasing education and skilling for the economic empowerment of women and stressed on the need for propagating an attitudinal change.
- ✦ The inaugural was followed by a Plenary Session and Panel Discussion on wide ranging topics, from how women-led enterprises enable change, how innovation can Contribute to Societal good and technology and sustainability are Complementary.

45. NMCG Organises "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan" in Five Ganga Basin States

- ✦ National Mission for Clean (NMCG) is running "Ganga Vrikshar open Abhiyan" in the Five main stem Ganga basin States – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- ✦ It aims to bring greater awareness regarding the importance of afforestation for the task of Ganga.
- ✦ Other Participants in the programme were: Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan(NYKS), Ganga Vichar Manch (GVM), NGOs and educational institutions, District Ganga Committees.
- ✦ In Uttar Pradesh the campaign was joined with Ganga Haritima Abhiyan.

46. Government Implementing Schemes for Development of Agriculture Schemes

- ✦ The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income –centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach.
- ✦ The department is implementing various schemes to meet this objective viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana(PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme(e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.
- ✦ Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH),a Centrally Sponsored Schemes is implemented to holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber, crops, mushrooms, Spices ,flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa.
- ✦ Aim is to Increase Productivity through introduction of improved varieties, quality seeds and planting materials, Protected cultivation, high density plantation, rejuvenation, precision farming and horticultural mechanization.

47. Lok Shaba passes fugitive economic offenders bill 2018

- ✦ The fugitive Economic Offenders bill aimed at preventing culprits evading the legal process and fleeing the Country was passed by Lokshaba.

- ✦ Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2013 gave power to agencies to seize properties which are not only in the name of the Offender but also the ones that are 'benami'.
- ✦ Under this law, appeals against orders of special court will lie before high Court.

48. Naidu launches e-Pragati core platform in Andhra Pradesh

- ✦ Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N Chandrababu Naidu launched 'e- Pragati core platform at Undavalli.
- ✦ Through this project, the state government intends to relises the vision of 'Sunrise AP 2022'.
- ✦ The e- Pragati authority will achieve the goals of the projects by supporting the seven development missions launched in the areas of e-governance, Social Empowerment, Skill Developmentmissions launched in the areas of e-governance, Social Empowerment, Skill Development, Urban Development,Infrastructure, Industrial Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Development and the Services sector.
- ✦ Banwarilal Purohit is the present governor of Tamil Nadu.

49. Cabinet approved Special Remission Scheme for prisoners

- ✦ Union Cabinet has approved to grant Special Remission to prisoners as part of commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to be observed in 2019.
- ✦ Five categories of prisoners will be considered for special remission are Women and Transgender convicts, Male convicts, Physically challenged ,Disabled convicts, Terminally ill convicts
- ✦ Special remission under this will not be given to prisoners who have been convicted for offence for which sentence is of death or death commuted to life imprisonment.

50. Recommendations made during the 28th meeting of the GST Council held in New Delhi on 21th July 2018

- ✦ The GST Council in its 28th meeting has recommended certain Amendments in the CGST Act 2017, IGST Act 2017, UTGST Act 2017 andthe GST Act 2017.
- ✦ Upper limit of turnover for opting for Compensation scheme to be raised from Rs. 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore.
- ✦ Composition dealers to be allowed to supply services (other than restaurants services),for upto a value not exceeding 10 % of Turnover in the preceding financial year, or Rs 5 lakhs, whichever is higher.
- ✦ These amendments will now be placed before the Parliament and the legislature of State and Union territories with legislature for carrying out the amendments in the respective GST Acts.

51. Rajya Sabha passes amendments to anti- corruption Law

- ✦ Rajya Sabha passed the Prevention of Corruption Bill (Amendment) 2013
- ✦ The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) bill, 2013 amends the archaic Prevention of Corruption Act 1988. The bill will now go to the Lok Sabha for the Lower House's nod
- ✦ According to the bill, the Criminal conduct has been categorized to only 2 types; illegitimate wealth, misappropriating of property.

52. Kerala ranked Best Governed State in India, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Among Other top Performers

- ✦ Kerala has been ranked the best governed Indian state in the Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2018 released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
- ✦ Kerala which scored 0.526 in the index was closely followed by two other southern states, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, with scores of 0.517 and 0.514 respectively.
- ✦ Index covers wide Range of themes such as support to human development, social protection, essential infrastructure, women and Children, crime law and order etc.

53. Advanced weather forecasting system unveiled in New Delhi

- ✦ Ministry for science and technology Harash Vardhan has unveiled the First of a Kind Air Quality and Weather forecast system, SAFAR at Chandni Chowk in New Delhi.
- ✦ SAFAR was developed indigenously by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Operationalized by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ✦ SAFAR will accelerate public awareness and preparedness of air pollution and weather extremes.
- ✦ It will lead to better understanding of linkages among emission, weather, pollution and climate.

54. The First international festival of Mizoram- Mizo Hnahtlak celebrated in Aizawl, Mizoram

- ✦ The first international festival of mizoram "Mizo Hnahtlak" was organized Dengthuama Hall in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- ✦ It showcased rich culture folk dances, colourful traditional attires, mass bamboo dance.
- ✦ The festival is aimed at uniting the Mizo ethnic community socially and culturally under a single platform.

55. India's Exports records highest Growth in 2017-18

- ✦ India's export expected to touch USD 350 billion in Current fiscal said by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu.
- ✦ The Minister stated that Services sector is set to become a dominant driver of the Indian economy and will contribute \$ 3 trillion of \$ 5 trillion by 2025.

- ✚ During this occasion the Minister released a Knowledge Study Report Jointly Prepared by ASSOCHAM and its Knowledge partner, Resurgent India and gave away Excellence Awards in 28 services categories.

56. Swachh Survekshan Grameen launched in UP, Jharkhand and Maharashtra

- ✚ The Swachh Grameen 2018 announced by the Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation on July 13th 2018 was launched by three States.
- ✚ In UP it was launched by Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. ShriRaghubar Das lauched it in Jharkhand.
- ✚ The Objective of SSG 2018 is to undertake a ranking of States and Districts on the basis of their performance on SBM-G parameters.
- ✚ The top Performing State and Districts are expected to be awarded on 2nd October.

57. Odisha government launches 'Green Mahanadi Mission'

- ✚ The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launches "Green Mahanadi Mission"
- ✚ The CM Launched the Mission by Planting a sapling on the bank of river Mahanadi during his visit to Boudh and Subarnapur districts in western Odisha.
- ✚ Under the mission, more than five crore saplings will be planted over an area of 41,000.
- ✚ The main Objective of the mission is to stop soil erosion on the river banks and recharge the groundwater reserve.
- ✚ Ganeshi Lal is the present Governor of Odisha.

58. Tamil Nadu Unveils Draft Forest Policy under State's Vision 2023 Plan

- ✚ The Tamil Nadu government has rolled out the draft state Forest Policy aimed at preserving forests and wildlife, conservation of ecosystems, and climate change mitigation among others in the state.
- ✚ As per the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 document released by former Tamil Nadu chief Minister J jayalithaa in 2014, preserving the ecology was among the themes of the document.
- ✚ The Forest Department will also develop mangroves in Tamil Nadu as 'Bio-Shield' along the coast as per the policy.

59. Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme to empower rural women through community participation

- ✚ Government of India has approved a scheme namely Mahila Shakti Kendra to empower rural women through community participation.
- ✚ The Scheme is implemented with cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between centre and states except for north East and Special Category states where the ratio is 90:10.
- ✚ Community engagement through college Student Volunteers is envisioned in 115 aspirational districts as part of the block Level

60. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & MyGov Launches “ Innovate India Platform”

- ✦ Innovation India Platform, a collaboration between the Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov was launched by NITI Aayog.
- ✦ This will create the much-needed innovations platform for registering both grassroots and deep-tech innovators at a national level.
- ✦ With the launch of the platform Indians will be able to upload and rate their organizations' innovation on the platform.
- ✦ NITI Aayog Founded : 1st January 2015, Chairman : PM Modi

61. Lok Sabha passes Anti-Trafficking Bill

- ✦ The Lok Sabha Passed the Trafficking of persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018.
- ✦ The Bill lays down a stringent punishment of 10 years to life imprisonment for aggravated forms of trafficking, which include buying or selling of persons for the purpose of bonded labour, bearing a child, as well as those where chemical substances or hormones are administered, and a survivor acquires life-threatening illnesses such as AIDS.
- ✦ The Bill Provides for the prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation of trafficked persons and seeks to establish National Anti-trafficked persons and seeks to establish national Anti-Trafficking.

62. Indian Railways Launches “Mission Satyanishtha” a program on Ethics in Public Governance

- ✦ The Indian Railways organized a program on Ethics in public Governance and Launched “Mission Satyanishtha” at a daylong event held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.
- ✦ The objectives of the mission are: To train every employee to understand the need and value of ethics in personal and public life, To develop inner governance through tapping inner resources.
- ✦ The issue of Ethics, Integrity and probity in public life have been a matter of concern all over the government sector.

63. West Bengal Assembly Passes resolution to rename state as Bangla

- ✦ Mamata Banerjee's Government has unanimously passed resolution to change state's name to 'Bangla' in all three Languages – Bengali, Hindi and English.
- ✦ The main reason given by State Government for changing name of West Bengal is that whenever there is meeting of all states, West Bengal figures at bottom of the list, as it is prepared according to alphabetical order.
- ✦ Process for changing the name of a state can be initiated by state itself. However, by virtue of article 3 of Constitution, Parliament has power to change name of state even if such proposal does not come from the concerned state.

- ✦ With Change in its Bangla, it will appear to fourth place after Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in list of states in alphabetical order.

64. Union HRD Minister releases the AISHE Report 2017-18

- ✦ The Ministry of human Resource Development organized a National conference of Vice Chancellors & Directors of Higher Education Institutions of India in New Delhi.
- ✦ The theme of this conference is “Research and innovation in Higher Education”.
- ✦ On the Occasion the Minister released the All India Survey of Higher Education Report 2017-18, Higher Educational Profile 2017-18 and Swachh Manual.
- ✦ Minister’s said Government will focus on improving the quality of higher education in the country.

65. ‘Study in India’ Programme to make India an educational hub for foreign students.

- ✦ In order to Promote higher Education in india, a Programme ‘Study in India’ has been launched with the objective to make India an educational hub for foreign students; improve the soft power of india with focus on the neighbouring countries and use it as a tool in diplomacy etc
- ✦ The programme focuses on International students from select from 30 countries across South East Asia, Middle East and Africa for a period of two years.
- ✦ This Programme does not offer any Scholarships, however, fee waivers to meritorious foreign students ranging from 100% to 25% are offered.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Mumbai's Victorian And Art Deco Ensembles Inscribed As UNESCO World Heritage Site

- ✦ Mumbai's Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This was announced at the UNESCO world heritage committee meeting in Bahrain.
- ✦ The Heritage enclave is situated in South Mumbai’s historic core and comprises an urban ensemble straddling two heritage precincts of the Fort Precinct and Marine Drive Precinct.

2. Final Nepal-India EPG Meeting Concludes

- ✦ The ninth and final meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India Relations concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Representatives from Nepal and India deliberated upon various bilateral issues including 1950 Peace and Friendship treaty, trade, transit and border during the two-day meeting.
- ✦ The EPG is a joint mechanism consisting of experts and intellectuals from India and Nepal. It was set up in February 2016 to make suggestions for updating all existing bilateral treaties and agreements between both the countries.

3. Asia's 1st Patent Arbitration Centre To Open In Tokyo

- ✦ Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property is slated to open in Tokyo in September 2018 to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region.
- ✦ The International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT) is set to have around a dozen arbitrators from around the world, who would try to resolve disputes within a period of one year.

4. Abu Dhabi 'Smartest City' In Middle East: Study

- ✦ According to McKinsey, three factors make a city smart.
- ✦ First is the technology base, which includes a critical mass of smartphones and sensors connected by high-speed communication networks.
- ✦ The second consists of specific applications, such as translating raw data into alerts.
- ✦ The third is usage by cities, companies, and the public.

5. MoU between India and UK in Law and Justice:

- ✦ With an aim to enhance cooperation between India and United Kingdom regarding cooperation between both countries in the sphere of Law & Justice, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ✦ A Joint Consultative Committee will also be set up under the MoU.
- ✦ The MoU will take care of the concerns and requirements in the field of exchange of experience by legal professionals and Government functionaries.

6. World's 1st Digital Art Museum Opens In Tokyo

- ✦ The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan allowing patrons to step all the way into the artworks.
- ✦ Attendees are able to move freely through the 9,000-square meter interactive gallery. The exhibition itself is linked in real-time to the real-world seasons, which means that no two trips to the museum will be the same.

7. World Heritage meeting closes with 19 new sites added to list

- ✦ The 42nd World Heritage Committee meeting closed in Bahrain's capital Manama, with 19 new sites inscribed to the World Heritage List. The meeting, which opened on June 24, added 13 cultural sites, three natural sites and three mixed ones to the World Heritage List, including Germany's Naumburg Cathedral, Kenya's Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site, Oman's Ancient City of Qalhat, China's Mount Fanjingshan and France's Chaine des Puys, Xinhua reported.
- ✦ The World Heritage List now contains 1,092 sites in 167 countries. The committee also decided to inscribe Lake Turkana National Parks in Kenya to the List of World Heritage in Danger, while removing the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System from the list.

8. India To Operate 'World's Emptiest Airport' In Sri Lanka

- ✦ India's latest frontline warship INS Trikand has reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit. Sri Lanka Navy ceremonially welcomed the state-of-the-art warship in accordance with naval traditions.
- ✦ INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art warship of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions - air, surface and sub-surface.

9. Nepal, India To Jointly Promote Tourism

- ✦ The 2nd meeting of the joint working group on tourism cooperation between India and Nepal concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal. Both sides agreed to jointly promote Buddhist and Ramayana circuits and Adventure tourism. The meeting also decided to set up an industry-led India Nepal Tourism Forum.
- ✦ The Indian delegation was led by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Suman Billa, while Nepalese side was led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Ghanshyam Upadhyaya.

10. PM Modi Inaugurated World's Largest Mobile Factory In Noida

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Noida and inaugurated the New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida. Notably, it will be the world's largest mobile factory.
- ✦ With the beginning of this New Plant, India's Make In India and Skill India Will get a major Push in the country. Samsung has Invested close to 5,000 Crore Rupees in this plant and aims to Manufacture 12 Crore Mobile Handsets annually which will result in massive job creation.

11. South Korean President Moon Jae-In On 4-Day Visit To India

- ✦ South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in New Delhi evening on a four-day visit to India. He is being accompanied by First Lady Kim Jung-sook on his maiden visit to the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited South Korea in 2015 during which the bilateral partnership was elevated to a special strategic partnership.
- ✦ A financing arrangement of 10 billion dollars has been set by the Korean side for infrastructure development in India.

12. China, India clinch deal to reduce tariffs on Indian medicines, anti-cancer drugs

- ✦ China has announced that it has clinched deal with India on reduction of tariffs (import duties) on Indian medicines including anti-cancer drugs.
- ✦ However, it is not yet clear whether it has agreed to grant licences to Indian companies to sell cancer drugs in its huge market.

13. India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre Inaugurated

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

14. 6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers at Cape Town

- ✦ India supports the efforts of the BRICS nations to further deepen the collaborations in Areas of Research, Innovation, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) For improved student learning outcomes and employability.
- ✦ Union Minister of State for HRD Dr Satya Pal Singh addressed the 6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers at Cape Town, South Africa.

15. India, UK Sign Agreement On Exchange Of Experience By Legal Professionals

- ✦ India and the United Kingdom signed an agreement on the exchange of experience by legal professionals and government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts and tribunals. The agreement was signed by Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and UK's Secretary of State for Justice David Gauke in London.
- ✦ The MoU sought to enhance bilateral cooperation in legal affairs which would provide a framework for promoting greater cooperation between the judicial and legal professionals in both countries through the exchange of expertise and training.

16. Forbes Releases 2018 List Of America's Richest Self-Made Women

- ✦ Forbes released its fourth annual list of America's Richest Self-Made Women. These 60 women, who have a record combined net worth of \$71 billion, up 15% from \$61.5 billion in 2017. The minimum net worth needed to make this year's list is \$320 million, up from \$260 million last year.
- ✦ Diane Hendricks, co-founder and chairman of ABC Supply, the nation's largest roofing distributor, reclaims the top spot, with a net worth of \$4.9 billion. Marian Ilitch, worth \$4.3 billion, falls to the No. 2 spot.

17. First meeting to improve agriculture by Sub -groups of Chief Ministers using MGNREGA held at NITI Aayog

- ✦ **The First Meeting of Sub-Group of Chief Ministers** between MGNREGA and Agriculture was held at **NITI Aayog** Constituted by PM **Narendra Modi**.
- ✦ Objective of this meeting was to make efforts for improving agriculture and reducing Costs.
- ✦ MGNREGA Stands For Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Development.

18. UN Member States Approve USD 6.69 Billion For 13 Peacekeeping Operations

- ✦ The UN member states have approved a 6.69 billion US Dollar budget for 13 peacekeeping operations for the year 2018-19. It is the second year in a row, the committee has made significant cuts to the overall peacekeeping budget.
- ✦ The Committee also approved significant management reforms including creation of two new departments focused on political and peace building affairs and four stand-alone divisions for Africa. The United States is the biggest contributor to the United Nations.

19. India becomes the Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Region of World Custom Organization (WCO)

- ✦ India has Become the vice-chair of the Asia pacific region of World customs Organisation for a period of two years from July 2018 to June 2020.
- ✦ Theme of Inaugural Ceremony is "Customs – Fostering Trade Facilitation".
- ✦ World Customs Organisation Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Kunio Mikuriya (Japan) is the Secretary-general of WCO.

20. Shri Rajnath Singh co-chairs the 6th meeting of India – Bangladesh Home Minister level talks with counterpart , Mr Asaduzzaman

- ✦ Liberal visa regime agreement signed in the meeting.
- ✦ During the meeting, all security related matters of interest including counter-terrorism, capacity , border management , countering illegal activities ,drug and human traffickingetc. were discussed.

- ✦ Ministers also witnessed the signing of the Revised Travel Arrangement 2018 amending RTA 2013 for future liberalizing the visa regime between the two countries.

21. Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin to hold first summit talks in Finland

- ✦ Vladimir Putin and US President Donald held the first summit at Helsinki in Finland.
- ✦ The two Leaders are expected to Welcome by Finland President Sauli Niinisto.

22. 8th India- Oman Joint Commission Meeting Begins In Muscat

- ✦ The 8th session of Oman- India Joint committee held with Indian delegation headed by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and industry and the civil Aviation, In Muscat.
- ✦ Areas of discussion in meeting includes Cooperation in Space, renewable energy start ups , SMEs, food security, tourism sector etc.
- ✦ Oman Capital – Muscat, Currency Omani rial.

23. Celebrity 100' List of World's Highest –paid Entertainers Released by Forbes

- ✦ Forbes released List of world's highest paid Entertainers of 2018
- ✦ From India, Akshay Kumar(40.5 million dollars) is ranked 76th while Salman khan(37.7 million dollar) is on the 82nd Spot.
- ✦ Top Three celebrities on the list are: Floyd Mayweather (Athlete, Boxing), George Clooney (British liquor giant) , Kylie Jenner(founder, Kylie Cosmetics).
- ✦ Forbes- American Business Magazine, Headquarters New York city, USA.

24. Indo- US delegation meeting on Defence Cooperation

- ✦ Indo-US Bilateral defence cooperation, the 7th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DITI) meeting was held between India and US delegation.
- ✦ The meetings are held twice a year, alternately in India and the USA with the aim to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of Defence equipment.
- ✦ US has designated India as a 'Major Defence Partner' and expected the defence relationship between the two countries.

25. EU Signs its biggest free Trade deal

- ✦ The European Union and Japan have signed one of the world's biggest free trade deals, covering nearly a third of the world's GDP and 600 million people.
- ✦ Key Points of it includes, In the Field Agricultural Exports, Automotive sector, Trade and Sustainable Development etc.

- ✦ It was signed between EU Presidents Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

26. India and USA hold Senior Officers Meeting on Homeland Security Dialogue, Delhi

- ✦ The meeting focused on issues relating to security cooperation, Customs and Immigration, aviation security, capacity building etc.
- ✦ They agreed to maintain sustained interactions to enhance security cooperation between the two Countries.
- ✦ Indian Delegation was led by Additional Secretary of Home Ministry Rajni Sekhri Sibal and US side was led by Deputy Under Secretary of department of Homeland Security James McCament.

27. Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of understanding among BRICS Nation on the Regional Aviation Partnership

- ✦ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) amongst BRICS on the Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation viz. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- ✦ The Objective is that BRICS countries would benefit from the establishing of an institutional framework to cooperate in the field of Civil aviation.
- ✦ The MOU signifies an important landmark in the civil aviation relations between India and other BRICS Member States and has the potential to Spur greater trade, Investment, tourism and cultural exchanges amongst the BRICS Nations.
- ✦ The 1st BRICS Summit was held in June 2009 in Yekaterinburg.

28. Amazon's stock market value hits \$900 billion

- ✦ Amazon crossed \$900 billion market cap for the first time in its history and becomes 2nd company after Apple to achieve milestone
- ✦ Jeff Bezos founded this company in 1994.
- ✦ Apple is Currently the first company with the market cap of \$935 billion.

29. Jeff Bezos topped the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2018

- ✦ According to Bloomberg Billionaires index 2018, Jeff Bezos(Amazon founder) is the richest man in modern history with a net worth of \$152 Billion.
- ✦ Bill gates is in the second position with \$95.5 billion followed by Mark Zuckerberg with \$83.5 billion.
- ✦ Mukesh Ambani(India) ranked 15th in the list with a net worth of \$43.9 billion.
- ✦ The Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking of the world's richest people.

30. 8th BRICS health Ministers Minister's Meeting Held At Durban

- ✦ The 8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting was held at Durban, South Africa.
- ✦ Mr. J P Nadda Stated that India is committed to eliminating TB by 2025.
- ✦ Highlighting the accomplishments of India in the health sector, Shri Nadda stated that India's achievement in reducing the maternal mortality ratio(MMR) by 77%, from 556 per 100000 live births in 1990 to 130 per 100000live births in 2016 was commended by Regional Directors of WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO).
- ✦ Indian Delegation was led by MR J P Nadda.

31. PM to Visit Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa (July 23-27)

- ✦ This will be the First visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda and the first visit by our Prime Minister to Uganda in over 20 Years.
- ✦ The visit to South Africa is in context of BRICS Summit.
- ✦ A number of agreements and MOUs in the areas of Defence, trade, Culture, Agriculture and Dairy cooperation are scheduled to be signed during the visit.
- ✦ Two lines of Credit worth 164 million US Dollars will be extended to Uganda during the Visit.

32. First Meeting of India – Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats held in Agartala.

- ✦ The First Meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on border Haats was held on 22-23 July 2018 in Agartala, Tripura.
- ✦ In the meeting both sides noted the positive impact of Border Haats on the livelihoods of people living in areas adjoining.
- ✦ Issues Related to, review of operations of the four functional Border Haats and suggestions for improvement, timeline for setting up the six additional Border Haats, were also discussed.

33. MOUs Signed Between India and Rwanda during visit of Prime Minister to Rwanda.

- ✦ India and Rwanda signed Eight agreements during Prime Minister's visit to Rwanda.
- ✦ Agreements are in the field of Defence, Trade, Agriculture, Leather and allied products and Dairy.
- ✦ Rwanda Capital –Kigali, Currency –Rwandan franc
- ✦ Mr. Modi became the first Indian to visit Rwanda on the first leg of his three nation tour to Africa.

34. PM Signed 4 Agreements with Uganda

- ✦ India and Uganda signed four MOUs in Field of Defence Cooperation, MOU on Visa exemption for Diplomatic and official passport holders, Cultural Exchange Programme, Material Testing Laboratory.
- ✦ India announced two Lines of Credit worth nearly US \$200 million to Uganda in energy, infrastructure, agriculture and diary sectors.

- ✚ PM Modi visited Uganda on the second leg of his three- African unation's tour after concluding his Rwanda visit.
- ✚ Uganda Capital – Kampala, currency –Ugandan Shilling

35. Invest India and business France Sign MOU to Promote Investment

- ✚ Invest India and business France have signed an MOU to promote investment facilities and cooperation between startups of India and France.
- ✚ The goal will be facilities direct foreign investment by providing practical investment information to enterprises and support the Companies pursuing those opportunities which contribute positively to economic growth of the two countries.
- ✚ The goal will be to facilitate direct foreign investment information to enterprises and support the companies pursuing those opportunities which contribute positively to economic growth of the two countries.
- ✚ Business France is an executive agency of the French government under the supervision of the Minister for economic Affairs.

36. Thaawarchand Gehlot Attended Global Disability Summit 2018 in London UK

- ✚ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social justice & Empowerment attended the Global Disability Summit held in London, Uk
- ✚ The motto of Global Disability Summit 2018 was to firm up the commitments of the country leaders towards the cause of the persons with disabilities.
- ✚ Global leaders assured their commitments for elimination stigma and discrimination, promoting inclusive education, economic empowerment, technology and innovation in assistive devices, data desegregation etc.

37. 6th India- UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) Meeting held in New Delhi

- ✚ The 6th India- UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held in New Delhi, both discussed a range of issues on S&T cooperation between the two countries.
- ✚ Minister of Science& Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan stressed upon both the countries to expeditiously take forward the UK India tech partnership announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Theresa during PMs visit to UK.
- ✚ Dr. Harsh Vardhan expressed the need to establish few more Network Centres in areas such as cyber Physical System- Artificial Intelligence, digital Economy, health technologies, cyber security and promoting clean growth, smart urbanization, future mobility and environment.

38. MOUs signed between India and South Africa during 10th BRICS Summit

- ✚ Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India and the Agricultural Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa on Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education.

- ✦ Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the government of the Republic of India regarding the Setting up of the “Gandhi Mandela Centre of Specialization for “Gandhi Mandela Centre of Specialization for Artisan Skills” in South Africa.
- ✦ Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Space Research Organisation and the South Africa National Space Agency on Cooperation in the Exploration and uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

Banking

1. ICICI Bank appoints Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as non-exec part-time chairman

- ✦ Private lender ICICI Bank has appointed Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as an additional (independent) director effective July 1, 2018 for a period of 3 years.
- ✦ The bank, in a notification to the exchanges, also said that it has named Chaturvedi as non-executive part-time chairman subject to the approval of shareholders.
- ✦ Chairman MK Sharma retired on June 30.

2. Cabinet approval for extending Scheme of Recapitalization of RRBs up to 2019-20:

- ✦ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of the scheme of recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for the next three years i.e. up to 2019-20.
- ✦ This decision will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9 per cent.
- ✦ This will enable them to play a greater role in financial inclusion and meeting the credit requirements of rural areas.

3. HDFC Bank, Most Valuable Bank In Emerging Market Outside China

- ✦ HDFC Bank has gone past Russia's Sberbank to become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. HDFC Bank's current market capitalisation is \$78.4 billion against Sberbank's \$74.4 billion.
- ✦ Chinese banks are leading the pecking order in the emerging market, with Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping the list with a market cap of \$273.4 billion.

4. Airtel Payments Bank Gets RBI Nod To Resume Taking New Customers

- ✦ Airtel Payments Bank has received requisite approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to begin taking new customers. Also, Aadhaar-issuing authority UIDAI has allowed it to use the 12-digit unique identification number-based e-KYC.
- ✦ The development comes nearly seven months after Airtel, along with Airtel Payments Bank, came under fire for allegedly opening payments bank accounts of its mobile subscribers without their consent.

5. HDFC Securities Enable MF Transactions Through Facebook Messenger

- ✦ HDFC securities announced the launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, *Arya*.
- ✦ A subsidiary of HDFC Bank, HDFC securities rolled out a theme called “The Pace of Innovation” which is structured to innovate and provide intuitive and relevant digital solutions to customers and this effort, is in line with the vision.

6. SBI to hold Kisan Mela for Farmers’ financial literacy

- ✦ Country’s Largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) Organize a Nation-wide Kisan Mela as an outreach Programme for farmers and to impact financial literacy.
- ✦ SBI said it expects to cover 10 lakh farmers through nearly 14,000 rural and semi-branches across the country in this Kisan Mela.
- ✦ Bank also offers farmers with Kisan Credit Card (KCC) an enhancement of 10 per cent to their limit on renewing the account.
- ✦ Bank will make farmers aware about the benefits of timely renewal of KCC account and Usage of KCC Rupay card for Transactional convenience.
- ✦ SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters – Mumbai

7. Jana Small Finance bank Launches Commercial Operations

- ✦ Jana Small Finance bank announced the Commercial launch of its banking operations, the last microfinance company to convert itself into a small Finance bank(SFB), three years after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its in Principal approval.
- ✦ The Bengaluru-based small finance bank, which was earlier called Janalakshmi Financial services and weathered huge losses on account of demonetization.
- ✦ The main purpose of having SFBs is to expand access to financial services in rural and semi-urban areas.
- ✦ Anjay Kanwal is the MD and CEO of Jana Small Finance bank.

8. Finance Ministry to provide capital to more banks by September

- ✦ Union Finance ministry is planning to provide additional Capital close to Rs 11,336 crore in 5 more public sector banks by September 2018 end.

- ✦ These five state-owned banks are Punjab National Bank(PNB), Corporation Bank, Andra Bank, Allahabad Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.
- ✦ The combined value of Shares sales of these banks is upwards of RS 50,000 crore.
- ✦ Piyush Goyal is the Present finance Minister of india.

9. RBI to Issue New Design RS100 Denomination Banknote

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India will Shortly issue RS100 denomination banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi series bearing the Signature of Urjit R. Patel
- ✦ The new Denomination has Motif of “RANI KI VAV” on the reverse, depicting the Country’s cultural heritage.
- ✦ The Dimension of the banknote will be 66mm X 142 mm.
- ✦ The base colour of the note is Lavender Colour

10. Federal bank gets RBI nod to enter Bahrain, Kuwait, Singapore

- ✦ Federal Bank is waiting for local clearances to start operations.It already has representative offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- ✦ Federal Bank does not have any plans to increase its presence and will concentrate on digital alternative to help reach out to more customer.
- ✦ The bank will be Focusing more on the unsecured lending segment, where its book stands at Rs 380 crore at Present.
- ✦ Federal Bank Headquarters – Kochi

11. Oxigen announces a strategic partnership with Fincare Small Finance bank

- ✦ Oxigen and Fincare small Finance Bank signed an agreement to roll out the branchless banking Services ,using Oxigen’s flagship Point of Sale device called the Oxigen Micro ATM Super POS.
- ✦ Fincare Small finance bank would offer bill Payment servicethrough internet and mobile banking, also it would expand other services like POS, network, micro-ATM, pre paid cards etc.
- ✦ Oxigen Founded in 2004, headquarters : Gurugram.

12. SoftBank partners Paytm to launch payments service in Japan

- ✦ SoftBank Group Corp will launch a digital Paytm services in Japan, and has partnered Paytm for the service.
- ✦ The service Paypay will be launched by Softbank’s joint venture with Yahoo (Japan).
- ✦ This will promote cashless payment in Japan.
- ✦ Paytm founded in 2010, Founder : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Janardan Singh Gehlot Elected International Kabaddi Federation Chief

- ✦ Janardan Singh Gehlot was elected the president of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) for the next four years, it was announced after the Annual General Congress (AGC) of the federation, conducted in Dubai, the UAE.
- ✦ Observer and Director of International Affairs Olympic Council of Asia Vinod Tiwari was also present in the AGC of the IKF where 22 member countries participated.

2. Uruguay's Major General Jos Eladio Alcain appointed Head of UNMOGIP

- ✦ United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Major General José Eladio Alcain of Uruguayan Army as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
- ✦ He will succeed Major General Per Gustaf Lodin of Sweden, who completed his two-year assignment.

3. Trump appoints Indian-American Uttam Dhillon appointed as new head of key federal agency

- ✦ Uttam Dhillon, an Indian-American top White House lawyer, has been appointed as the new head of the crucial Drug Enforcement Agency that combats the smuggling and use of narcotics in the US.
- ✦ Dhillon replaces Robert Patterson, who has retired after 30 years of service.
- ✦ Dhillon, who till recently worked in the White House as deputy counsel and deputy assistant to President Donald Trump, took up the role of Acting Director of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

4. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel Appointed NGT Chairperson

- ✦ Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, who retired from the Supreme Court of India has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). He has been appointed to the position for a term of five years, as per an order issued by the personnel ministry.
- ✦ The post of NGT chairperson had been lying vacant for more than 6 months after the retirement of Justice Swatanter Kumar.

5. Mark Zuckerberg Becomes World's 3rd-Richest Person

- ✦ Facebook Inc. co-founder Mark Zuckerberg has overtaken Warren Buffett as the world's third-richest person. Zuckerberg, who trails only Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos and Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates, eclipsed

Buffett as Facebook shares climbed 2.4%, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

- ✦ It's the first time that the three wealthiest people on the ranking made their fortunes from technology. Zuckerberg, 34, is now worth \$81.6 billion, about \$373 million more than Buffett, the 87-year-old chairman and chief executive officer of Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

6. Prof. Sandeep Sancheti Takes Charge As President Of AIU

- ✦ Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has assumed charge as the 97th President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.
- ✦ The AIU has currently more than 720 members represented by Vice Chancellors. Seen as the representative of all Universities of India, the AIU facilitates coordination and mutual consultation among Universities as well as acting as a liaison with Central and State governments.

7. Shri S.N Agrawal takes over as a New Member Staff Railway Board

- ✦ Shri S.N. Agrawal has taken over as a Member Staff, Railway board and Ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India on 20.07.2018. Previously He was General Manager of South Eastern Railway, Kolkata.
- ✦ Shri S.N Agrawal, a Civil Engineer, belongs to the Indian Railway Service of Engineers(IRSE) of 1980 batch.
- ✦ He has varied experience of Working in several key posts in western Railways, Central Railways, Southern Railways, North Central Railways etc.

8. Tata AIA life elevates Rishi Srivastava as CEO & MD

- ✦ Tata AIA life limited, a private life insurer, has announced the elevation of Rishi Shrivastava as the new Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of the company with effect from August 1.
- ✦ He is replacing current Chief executive officer Naveen Tahilyani. Srivastava is currently Chief of Proprietary Channels, product, Marketing & corporate Communication at Tata AIA.
- ✦ TATA Headquarters – Mumbai , founded in 2000.

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Science Tech & Defence

1. ISRO conducts first crew escape test for India's manned mission to space

- ✦ As part of its preparations to send an Indian astronaut into space using an indigenous rocket in the future, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota tested the crew escape module, which is critical to ensure safety of the astronauts in case a rocket explodes on the launch pad.
- ✦ "The system is an emergency escape measure designed to quickly pull the crew to a safe distance from the launch vehicle in the event of a launch abort. The first test (Pad Abort Test) demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad.

2. Indian Warship INS Trikand Reaches Sri Lanka In Goodwill Visit

- ✦ India's latest frontline warship INS Trikand has reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit. Sri Lanka Navy ceremonially welcomed the state-of-the-art warship in accordance with naval traditions.
- ✦ INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art warship of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions - air, surface and sub-surface.

3. High level Chinese Military Delegation arrives at Sukna:

- ✦ With an aim to strengthen bilateral ties with India, a high level Chinese Army delegation led by Lt Gen Liu Xiaowu, Deputy Commander of Western Theatre Command arrived at Sukna on 2nd July.
- ✦ This visit is seen as a major initiative to strengthen relationship between the militaries of both nations. The delegation comprising 10 senior military officials from China who will interact with their military counterparts of India.
- ✦ During their stay at Sukna, the visiting dignitaries will hold delegation level talks, besides interaction at various levels for better understanding of each other and exchange of ideas.

4. NSG Becomes 1st Central Force To Opt For E-Ticketing Instead Of Railway Warrant

- ✦ The National Security Guard will be the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC.
- ✦ An MoU was signed between the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and the NSG at the headquarters of the special force (New Delhi). This system will eliminate the need for carrying railway warrants by the NSG personnel.

5. RIL Becomes India's Largest Tax Payer In Private Sector

- ✦ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani at the Reliance Industries' 41st Annual General Meeting announced that Reliance is India's largest payer of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector paying Rs.9844 crore in FY18.
- ✦ Reliance has become the first Indian company to record PBDIT (Profit Before Depreciation Interest and Taxes) of over \$10 billion. Other Businesses Reliance Industries have are: refining, petrochemicals, retail and digital services.

6. BSNL Launches India's 1st Internet Telephony Service To Enable Making Calls Without SIM

- ✦ State-run telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) unveiled the country's first internet telephony service that will allow users to dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app.
- ✦ Now BSNL customers will be able to make calls using the company's mobile app "Wings" to any phone number in the country. Using this service, BSNL customers will be able to make calls on any network in the country even by using BSNL wi-fi or any other service provider.

7. Microsoft And Rajasthan Sign MoU For Free Digital Training To College Students

- ✦ Microsoft has signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to provide free digital training to 9,500 college students in one year. The initiative was taken for the enhancement of digital learning and capacity building of college students in the state.
- ✦ Microsoft will also train educators from government colleges through the Microsoft Innovative Educator Programme, building capacity for innovative use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the classroom.

8. Indian Naval aircraft deployed for RIMPAC naval exercise

- ✦ For the first time, Indian Navy's Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft Boeing P- 8I (Poseidon Eight India) from Indian Naval Ship (INS) Rajali has inducted

- for participating in the 26th edition of RIMPAC-18, the Rim of the Pacific Multinational Naval exercise.
- ✚ During the exercise, IN P8I will be operating from Joint Airbase Hickam, Honolulu in Hawaii.
 - ✚ This is the first time ever that an Indian Naval aircraft has traversed so far east into the Pacific.

9. Indian army and SBI signed MOU on defence salary package

- ✚ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and SBI on the Defence Salary Package on 12 July 2018.
- ✚ This MoU will benefit a large number of serving and retired Army personnel who are having their accounts with SBI.
- ✚ The signing-in ceremony was chaired by the Director General (MP&PS), Lt Gen SK Saini and was attended by top officials of SBI

10. India going ahead with S-400 buy declared by Nirmala Sitharaman

- ✚ India is going ahead with the purchase of S-400 air defence systems from Russia
- ✚ India needs a waiver from the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for the proposed deal, estimated to be worth about \$5.5 billion (Rs 39,000 crore)
- ✚ The U.S. has passed the CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) that proposes to impose sanctions on nations that have significant defence relations with Russia.

11. ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) takes over land that belonged to HMT Watches Limited in Tumakuru

- ✚ The 110-acre plot of land belonging to the defunct factory, which was closed on April 30, 2016, will be handed over to ISRO.
- ✚ On Saturday, Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara will inaugurate the program, which will be attended by ministers S.R. Srinivas and Venkataramanappa, senior IAS officer in the Department of Space.
- ✚ Head Quarters of ISRO- Bengaluru ,Founder –Vikram Sarabhai

12. Government to launch Global Housing Construction Technology Challenge under PMAY-U

- ✚ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is going to launch Global Housing Construction Technology Challenge as part of technology mission of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).
- ✚ The challenge aims to accelerate PMAY-U's target of providing 'housing for all' as the scheme is moving at pace far slower than its rural counterpart.

13. Chief of Naval Staff, Vice admiral Ibok-Etwe Ekwe Ibas, Nigerian Navy visiting India From 16 to 19 July

- ✦ Visit aims to consolidating bilateral naval relations between India and Nigeria, as also to explore new avenues for naval cooperation .
- ✦ Nigerian Navy scheduled to meet with the chief of the Air Staff and the Chief of army Staff.

14. BrahMos Missile tested in extreme Weather conditions

- ✦ DADO has Successfully test-Fired supersonic cruise missile under extreme weather conditions.
- ✦ BrahMos, a joint venture between and Russia, has been demonstrated in Various configuration in land –attack, anti- ship and from air.
- ✦ It has strick range of around 290 km and is described as the world’s fastest supersonic cruise missile.
- ✦ It has top supersonic speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 . It is hailed as world’s fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.

15. ISRO has successfully conducted ground test of high thrust version of Vikas Engine in TamilNadu

- ✦ ISRO has Conducted a ground test of its high thrust version of the Vikas Engine that would improve the payload capability of the space agency’s launch vehicles.
- ✦ The vikas Engine is the workhorse liquid rocket engine used to power the second stage of the ISRO’s trusted Polar Satellite Launch vehicle.
- ✦ ISRO is planning to Launch GSLV-MkII- D2 during the Second half of 2018 carrying GSAT-29.
- ✦ ISRO stands for Indian Space Research Organization
- ✦ Headquarters –Bengaluru

16. T-Hub (Hyderabad) to Host country’s 1st Defence incubator

- ✦ First defence Incubator will come up in T-Hub ,Hyderabad.
- ✦ It has been proposed by Telangana IT minister KT Rama rao. It will give boost to Indian Defence and aerospace Research and Industry
- ✦ The IDEX will be Founded and managed by a Defence Innovation Organisation.
- ✦ Nirmala Sitharaman is the Present Defence Minister of India.

17. ISRO signs contracts with three vendors to assemble 27 satellites

- ✦ The Indian space Research Organisation has signed contracts with three vendors to outsource Spacecraft Assembly Integration and Testing(AIT) activities.
- ✦ Vendors are expected to help ISRO assemble about 27 satellites over the next three years.
- ✦ The contacts were signed with Alpha design Technologies P Ltd and its six consortium members; also with defence public enterprise Bharat Electronics Ltd(BEL) and Tata Advanced System Ltd, Hyderabad.

18. Facebook to launch Satellite 'Athena' in 2019

- ✦ Facebook will Launch new Satellite project, named Athena, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas.
- ✦ The company aim to launch satellite in early 2019.
- ✦ Mark Zuckerberg is CEO of Facebook.

19. NASA launches tools to increase commercial use of satellite data

- ✦ NASA has launched an online toolkit to make it easier for users to find, analyse and utilize the most relevant satellite data for their research, business projects or conservation efforts.
- ✦ The 'Remote Sensing Toolkit' provides a simple system that quickly identifies relevant sources based on user input.
- ✦ It aims to Spark innovation among entrepreneurial and lead to further commercialization of NASA Technology.
- ✦ It provides simple system that quickly identifies relevant sources based on user input.

20. Myanmar Joins international Solar Alliance.

- ✦ Myanmar joined the India – initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA) and becoming the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for Optimum Utilisation of solar energy.
- ✦ The international Solar Alliance aims to undertake joint efforts required to reduce the cost of Finance and technology and mobilise more than USD 1000 billion of Investment needed by 2030 for massive deployment of Solar energy.
- ✦ ISA was jointly Launched by India and France in November 2015 at Paris on side lines of COP 21 UN Climate Change Conference.
- ✦ ISA is a action oriented organization that aims Brings together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate Global Demand.

21. Space X falcon 9 Sets New Record with Successful Launch of Heaviest Communication Satellite in to Orbit

- ✦ Space X set a new record by Successfully launching communication satellite Telstar 19 VANTAGE to a geostationary transfer orbit (GTO).
- ✦ The launch took Place from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.
- ✦ The new generation satellite was deployed approximately 32 minutes after liftoff

22. Indian Air Force participates in Australia's "Pitch Black Exercise" for the First Time

- ✦ Indian Air force (IAS) for the First time will participate in multinational air exercise Pitch Black-18 in Australia hosted Royal Australian Air force(RAFF).

- ✦ Pit Black Exercise will host up to 4000 personnel and up to 140 aircrafts from 12 Participant countries including Australia, Canada, Germany, Thailand, Malaysia and United State.
- ✦ The multilateral exercise will feature range of realistic, simulated threats found in modern and Dynamic battle –space environment.
- ✦ It will be three week multi-national large force employment exercise (27 July to 17 August 2018) conducted from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF base Tindal.

23. Bharti Infratel gets SEBI approval for merger with Indus Towers

- ✦ Bharti Infratel, the mobile tower arm of telecom bell weather Bharti Airtel, received Clearance from the Stock exchange for its merger with Indus Tower.
- ✦ The Combined company will own 100 per cent of Indus Towers – jointly owned by Bharti Infratel (42 percent holding), Vodafone (42 percent), Idea Group (11.15 percent).
- ✦ SEBI Chairman – Ajay Tyagi, headquarters –Mumbai

24. Karnataka tops in renewable energy, says IEEFA

- ✦ Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation, declared by IEEFA (Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis).
- ✦ It has surpassed Tamil Nadu that has for quite some time been India's best renewable market.
- ✦ Karnataka CM :HD Kumaraswamy, Governor- Vajubhai Vala.

25. HCL overtakes Wipro to become the third largest Indian IT services firm

- ✦ HCL Technologies has overtaken Wipro – the third largest Indian IT services firm- in terms of dollar topline
- ✦ Bengaluru –based Wipro's Dollar revenue declined 1.7 % Sequentially to \$ 2.03 billion in the first quarter.
- ✦ The revenue of Noida Based HCL Technologies rose 0.8% to \$2.05 billion in the quarter from the preceding three months.

Important days

1. Goods And Services Tax Day: 1 July

- ✚ The Government of India has announced that 1st of July shall be commemorated as 'GST Day'. Union Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Piyush Goyal will preside over as the Chief Guest of the event and Minister of State for Finance, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla will be the Guest of Honour.
- ✚ The government of India is celebrating the 1st Anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) coming into force on 1st July 2017.

2. World day of International justice is observed on July 17

- ✚ Every Year on July 17, World Day for International Justice is observed all around the world.
- ✚ Aim of this day is to promote International Criminal Justice.
- ✚ July 17 was has been chosen for it because it is the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court.

3. PM Pays homage to Soldiers on Kargil Vijay Diwas

- ✚ Kargil Vijay Diwas is Observed on 26 July every Year, named after the success of Operation Vijay.
- ✚ On Kargil Vijay Diwas, a Grateful nation pays homage to all those who served the nation during Operation Vijay.
- ✚ The prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has paid homage to soldiers on Kargil vijay Diwas.

Books & Authors

1. Ramachandra Guha pens "Gandhi : The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" Book

- ✚ Renowned historian Ramachandra Guha has penned a new book titled "Gandhi : the years that changed the world" on Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✚ This book will be published by Penguin Random House India.
- ✚ He has written several best selling book like "India After Gandhi" and "Gandhi Before India"
- ✚ This book will narrate the story of Gandhi's life, from his departure from South Africa to his assassination in 1948. It will also tell the history of Indian freedom movement.

2. "When Coal turned Gold: The Making of a Maharatna Company" written by Partha Sarathi Bhattacharyya

- ✦ Former chairman of Coal India Ltd's (CIL)'s Partha Sarathi wrote book "When Coal turned Gold: The Making of a Maharatna Company"
- ✦ The book talks about the transformation of Coal India Ltd's (CIL) from a loss-making enterprise into a profitable Maharatna PSU.
- ✦ Chairman of Coal India Ltd – Anil Kumar Jha, Head Office – Kolkata

Sports

1. Champions Trophy Hockey Final, India vs Australia Highlights: India Go Down Fighting To Australia In Final

- ✦ History repeated itself in the Hockey Champions Trophy as India settled for silver medal in the tournament after losing to Australia in the final via shootout.
- ✦ Australia won their 15th gold medal at Champions Trophy. India won their second silver medal after winning their first in 2016.
- ✦ Third place Netherland.

2. India's Dalabehera Bags Bronze In Junior World Weightlifting

- ✦ Indian lifter Jhilli Dalabehera has bagged the bronze medal in the 2018 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent. She lifted 167 kg in the 48 kg category to finish third on the podium.
- ✦ According to Indian Weightlifting Federation Secretary General Sahdev Yadav, Jhilli is the second woman lifter after Saikhom Mirabai Chanu in 2013 to win a medal in the Junior World Championships.

3. Anju Khosla, Oldest Indian Woman To Complete Ironman Triathlon

- ✦ At 52, Anju Khosla has become the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon – one of the toughest one-day sporting events. The New Delhi resident completed
- ✦ her first full Ironman Triathlon, in Carinthia, Austria, in 15 hours, 54 minutes and 54 seconds.
- ✦ It comprises 3.86 km swimming leg, 180.25 km bike leg followed by a marathon (42.2 km), to be completed without a break.

4. Tbilisi Grand Prix, Georgia: Bajrang Punia Wins Gold, Deepak Bronze

- ✦ Bajrang Punia emerged champion at the Tbilisi Grand Prix in the 65kg category after outplaying Iranian wrestler Mehran Nasiri in the final in

Georgia. The 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist recorded a comfortable 9-3 win over the Iranian.

- ✦ Meanwhile, in the 86kg category, Deepak Punia clinched a bronze with a 5-3 win over Osman Gosen of Turkey.

5. India vs England: Rohit Sharma's Century Helps India Clinch T20I Series

- ✦ Rohit Sharma's elegant unbeaten century made it a walk in the park for India as they cruised to a seven-wicket victory against England to clinch the three-match T20 International series 2-1.
- ✦ The Indian vice-captain made a target of 199 look ridiculously easy on a small Bristol ground after the visiting bowlers did a commendable job at the back end to restrict the hosts to a sub-par score.

6. Tushar Arothe Resigns As India Women's Cricket Coach

- ✦ India Women's Cricket Team Coach Tushar Arothe has stepped down from the role citing personal reasons, as per the announcement by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ✦ Under his stint, the team reached the final of the ICC Women's World Cup in 2017. In 2018, the team won the three-match One Day International (ODI) series and five-match T20I series in South Africa.

7. France hold trophy of FIFA world cup 2018

- ✦ France won (4-2) FIFA against Croatia held at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia
- ✦ Luka Modric of Croatia won the Golden ball as best Player of the Tournament, Harry Kane wins Golden boot.
- ✦ France's Antoine Griezmann won Bronze Ball and the silver ball, became Man of match.

8. Maiden Wimbledon Title won by Angelique kerber

- ✦ Angelique kerber defeated seven-time champion Sarena Williams in the women's singles final to clinch her first-ever Wimbledon title.
- ✦ Angelique kerber belongs to Germany.
- ✦ The Wimbledon Championship is the oldest tennis tournament in the world.

9. Neeraj Chopra , Javelin thrower wins gold at Sotteville Athletics Meet

- ✦ Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra has Clinched a gold Medal at Sotteville Athletics met at France.
- ✦ Neeraj Chopra Secured the Top Spot in the Podium with an 85.17m throw.
- ✦ Moldova's Andrian Mardare took the Silver medal.
- ✦ Lithuania's Edis Matusevicius won Bronze medal.

10. Lakshya Sen Wins Badminton Asian Junior Championship Title

- ✦ Indian Badminton player Lakshya Sen wins Gold Medal Defeating Indonesia's Kunlavut Vitidsaran in finals of Badminton Asia junior Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ✦ The feat is only the Second for India in the men's singles category since Gautam Thakkar's gold way back in the 1965 edition of the tournament.
- ✦ Sen has previously won a brown medal at the event in 2016.
- ✦ Indonesia Capital- Jakarta

11. Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman becomes quickest player to reach 1000 runs

- ✦ Pakistan's batsman Fakhar Zaman became the Quickest player to reach the 1000 runs in ODI (one day Internationals).
- ✦ Fakhar Zaman has broken the record of West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards. Fakhar Zaman took 18 innings to reach the 1000 mark. Vivian Richards had achieved this mark in 21 matches.
- ✦ BCCI(Board of Control for India) headquarters are situated in Mumbai.

12. World Junior Squash Championships begins in Chennai.

- ✦ World Junior Squash Championships has begun in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ Total 24 countries are taking part in this World Junior squash championship held in Chennai.
- ✦ India, placed in group -E alongside Switzerland and Saudi Arabia, is seeded fifth.

13. Tokyo 2020 Committee Officially Launched Olympic Mascot.

- ✦ Japan has named its Official mascots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✦ "Miraitowa" a big eyed, blue- checked, will be the official Olympic mascot. The Name was a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity, expressing "hope for a bright future stretching off forever".
- ✦ "Someity" Pink Checked Mascot for Paralympic owes its name to a type of Cherry tree blossom and exhibits enormous mental and physical Strength.
- ✦ Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing, China in 2022.

14. Virat Kohli receives International Player of the year award by Barmy Army.

- ✦ India captain Virat Kohli was presented with the International Player of the year award for 2017- 2018 by England's Barmy Army.
- ✦ Barmy Army is a popular group of English cricket fans. At present, the Indian cricket team is in England to play a 4 day friendly match against country side Essex.
- ✦ He became the fastest to score 3000 one day international runs as captain.

Awards

1. Anjolie Ela Menon awarded Kalidas Samman for visual arts

- ✦ 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 of women through her meaningful paintings in a variety of media.

2. J P Nadda Gives Away PMSMA 'IPledgefor9' Achievers And MMR Reduction Awards

- ✦ J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare presented the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) 'IPledgefor9' Achievers and MMR Reduction Awards.
- ✦ The 'IPledgefor9' Achievers Awards were given to individuals and teams of doctors from the private sector and States for their remarkable services, outstanding support of institutions and commitment in achieving the mission's objectives of safe motherhood to every woman in India.
- ✦ According to Mr Nadda, India has shown 22% reduction in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) since 2013. Uttar Pradesh has shown 30% decline and has topped the chart in the reduction of maternal deaths.

3. Rapco Micro Finance Received NABARD 2018 award

- ✦ Rapco Micro Finance Ltd received NABARD 2018 award for its services to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the Fiscal Year 2017-18.
- ✦ R.S Isabella is the Managing Director of Repco Micro Finance Ltd.
- ✦ Repco's Headquarters are situated in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ NABARD - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

4. Michael Ondaatje named in Man Booker prize Long list

- ✦ Canadian author Michael Ondaatje has again made the Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel "Warlight" weeks after his book "The English Patient" was named the best work of fiction from the last five decades of the literary prize.
- ✦ "Warlight" contains an incredible array of Characters through whom Ondaatje tells the hidden, barely Spoken ,tale of war, especially as it impacts on children.
- ✦ Ondaatje's "The English patient" which won the Booker in 1992 was named the winner of the Golden Man Booker winner a special award to mark bookers 50th anniversary.

5. Sunil Chhetri wins 2017 AIFF player of the year award.

- ✦ Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri was named the 2017 All India Football Federation(AIFF) Player of the Year.
- ✦ Sunil Chhetri is a star player for both India and Bengaluru FC teams.
- ✦ All India Football Federation President – Praful M Patel

Obituaries

1. Spiritual Leader Dada Vaswani Passes Away

- ✦ Spiritual leader Dada Vaswani passed away at the age of 99 in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ✦ He was chief of Sadhu Vaswani Mission in Pune that is named after his uncle TL Vaswani.
- ✦ Acclaimed as a humanitarian, philosopher, educator, orator and non-sectarian spiritual leader, Vaswani was also known for promoting vegetarianism and animal rights.

2. Kannada poet M.N Vyasa Rao passes Away

- ✦ Film song lyricist and Kannada poet M.N Vyasa Rao Passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✦ Mr. Rao also was also a novelist and authored many detective and literary novels in Kannada.
- ✦ He had received Karnataka Rajya Sahitya academy award for his Short Story collection titled Maleyalli Neneda maragalu.
- ✦ Rao entered the Kannada film as a lyricist in 1975 in hit film Shubhamangala.

3. Lyricist and poet Gopal Das Saxena 'Neeraj' died at 93

- ✦ Lyricist and Poet Gopal Das Saxena Died at the age of 93.
- ✦ Neeraj was born in a village called Puravali in Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2007.
- ✦ He wrote for several Hindi Movies and attained a unique position as a songwriter who wrote with equal facility in both Hindi and Urdu.

4. Sports journalist swapan Sarkar passes away

- ✦ Noted sports scribe, Swapan Sarkar, passed away due to diabetic complication. He was 67.
- ✦ He was the delhi sports correspondent of Ananda Bazaar Patrika(ABP)

- ✚ Sarkar was a versatile sports writer and covered football, tennis, cricket, badminton, table tennis and athletics for his Publication.

5. Chiyo Miyako, world's oldest person, passe away at 117

- ✚ The world's oldest person, Chiyo Miyako, has Died.
- ✚ Miyako, born on May2, 1901, became the world's oldest person in April after Nabi Tajima from Kikai island in southern japan died at the age of 117.
- ✚ Her seath was confirmed by the government of kanagawa, her home state south of Tokyo, Japan.

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