

## Important Current Affairs - August 1st Week 2018

### 1st August - 5th August

#### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

#### UN E-Government Index: India ranked 96th Denmark tops the list:

- **India** jumped 22 places to **96th** rank in the top 100 of the United Nations E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018.
- **Denmark**, with an index value of 0.9150, **topped** the 2018 E-Government Development Survey.
- The E-Government survey is released by the United Nations in every two years.
- The 2018 edition was titled as 'Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'.

Rank	Country	EGDI Index Value
1	Denmark	0.9150
2	Australia	0.9053
3	Republic of Korea	0.9010
4	The United Kingdom	0.8999
5	Sweden	0.8882
6	Finland	0.8815

### **Afghan announced that the Presidential election will be held on 20th April 2019:**

- The tenure of the incumbent, President **Ashraf Ghani**, will end in the year 2019.
- It is expected that he will stand for another five-year term.

### **Imran Khan Invited Aamir Khan, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev to Oath Ceremony:**

- Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister-to-be, has invited
  - Bollywood star Aamir Khan and
  - former cricketers Sunil Gavaskar,
  - Kapil Dev and
  - Navjot Singh Sidhuto his oath-taking ceremony on **August 11**.
- Imran Khan's **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** party emerged as the single largest party in Pakistan's national assembly after the July 25 general election.

### **Golden Bridge supported by hand shaped concrete opened in Vietnam:**

- Vietnam's **Cau Van** which means "**Golden Bridge**" in Vietnamese, has just opened in the Ba Na Hills near the city of Da Nang and is 150 metres long and 1,400 metres above sea level.
- The bridge supported by two hand-shaped concrete, was designed to evoke the image of the "giant hands of Gods, pulling a strip of gold out of the land".

### **Apple becomes First \$1 Trillion Company in History:**

- **Apple Inc.** became the **first** U.S.-based company with a market value of **\$1 trillion**, four decades after it was co-founded by **Steve Jobs** in a Silicon Valley garage and later revolutionized the worlds of computing, music and mobile communications.
- The iMac desktop computer, the iPod, iPhone, and iPad were smash hits.
- Apple CEO - **Tim Cook**.

### **Emmerson Mnangagwa again won Presidential election in Zimbabwe:**

- Current Zimbabwe President, **Emmerson Mnangagwa** won 50.8 percent of total votes.
- Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa of Movement for Democratic Change party (MDC) party secured 44.3 percent votes.
- Emmerson Mnangagwa has been sworn in as Zimbabwe's president on November 2017, just days after Robert Mugabe resigned.

### **NASA selects Indian origin Sunita Williams among 9 astronauts for human spaceflight:**

- Williams has been named for the **Boeing** programme to the ISS (International Space Station), the first test flight scheduled to take place in the middle of 2019.
- The eight active NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronauts and one former astronaut-turned-corporate crew member will launch on **Boeing CST-100 Starliner** and **SpaceX Dragon Capsule** to the International Space Station beginning in 2019.

- The Eight other astronauts are:
  - Victor Glover,
  - Robert Behnken,
  - Michael Hopkins,
  - Douglas Hurley,
  - Eric Boe,
  - Christopher Ferguson,
  - Josh Cassada, and
  - Nicole Mann.

### **Japan overtakes China as World's 2nd biggest stock market:**

- As a result of China's trade war with the US and its campaign to cut debt, the value of China's stock market fell to **\$6.09 trillion**, losing its position as the World's second biggest stock market to **Japan (\$6.17 trillion)**.
- The **U.S.** has the world's largest stock market at just over **\$31 trillion**.
- China's stock market overtook Japan's in **2014** and soared to an all-time high of over \$10 trillion in 2015.

### **Magnitude 7 Earthquake struck Indonesia:**

- Powerful earthquake hit the popular Indonesian resort island of **Lombok** and Bali.
- The National Disaster Management Board reported that the death toll had risen to 91.
- Earlier on July 29, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake hit Lombok and killed 16 people.
- **Important Notes:**

- Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the **Pacific "Ring of Fire,"** an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.
- In **December 2004**, a massive magnitude **9.1** earthquake off **Sumatra** triggered a tsunami that killed 2,30,000 people in many countries.

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

### Assam NRC Final Draft List released:

- In a bid to identify the **illegal Bangladeshi migrants**, the government released the final draft of **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** list with names of 28,983,677 citizens in Assam.
- However, around 40 lakh people have been left out of the list.
- **What is NRC?**
  - National Register of Citizens is a record of all legal citizens of a state. The first list of NRC was created way back in 1951.
  - The NRC was prepared under the purview of the **Foreigners Act of 1946**.
  - **Assam** is the only state in India that has an NRC.

### United States grants India the STA 1 trading status:

- US President Donald Trump decided to grant India the **STA-1 (Strategic Trade Authorization)** status equivalent to American allies for procurement of **military weapons**.
- This is a big rebuff to China for blocking India's entry into the **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**.

- The US President has relaxed a key condition set by the Obama Administration that India would be eligible only after it had secured the membership of all four technology control regimes -
  - a. the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG),
  - b. the Missile Technology Control Regime,
  - c. the Wassenaar Arrangement and
  - d. the Australia Group.
- India became a member of three of these, except for NSG where China has continued to block a consensus.

### **Mallya tops the List of India's 28 Fugitive Economic Offenders:**

- **Vijay Mallya** (promoter of defunct Kingfisher Airlines) allegedly defrauded banks of about **Rs 7,500 crore**, according to the list the Finance Ministry submitted in the Lok Sabha.
- **Mehul Choksi**, promoter of Gitanjali Jewels (₹7,080 crore) and his nephew **Nirav Modi** (₹6,498 crore) took the second and third spots.
- The list also includes Sterling Biotech promoters **Chetan Sandesara**, Nitin Sandesara and Diptiben Sandesara, who allegedly defrauded banks of ₹5,383 crore.

### **Govt launched e-Aksharayan Software in 7 Indian languages:**

- **E-Aksharayan** is free, desktop software for converting **scanned printed** Indian Language documents into a fully **editable** text format in Unicode encoding.
- The software supports editing in **seven** Indian languages - Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese.



### **Red Fort at MMC is to be remodeled into Museum:**

- **Red Fort**, which is at the east of **Madras Medical College (MMC)** Chennai, is planned to be remodelled into a **museum**.
- The building was constructed in 1897, the red brick structure has been classified as a **Grade I heritage building** by the Justice E. Padmanabhan Committee on heritage structures.
- The building is of **Indo-Saracenic** style.
- The State government has sanctioned **Rs.1.97 crore** for the restoration process of the building. On completion, the building is planned to be remodelled into a museum.

### **Lok Sabha passed the Commercial Bill:**

- The Lok Sabha passed the **Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018**, which aims at improving the ease of doing business in India.
- The Bill will designate some courts as commercial courts. By doing so, the commercial disputes can be resolved swiftly.
- It will also reduce the monetary jurisdiction of these courts from Rs.1 crore to Rs.3 lakh.

### **Startup India Yatra launched in Chhattisgarh:**

- Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India.
- **Aim:-** To promote **job creation** in tier 2 and tier 3 towns and cities.
- **Main pillars of the program are**
  - Simplification and Hand Holding
  - Funding Support and Incentives
  - Industry Academia Partnership and incubation

## **Cabinet approved Bill to restore the original provisions of the SC and ST:**

- Cabinet has approved to introduce a Bill to restore the original provisions of the **SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**. The Supreme Court has ruled out the Bill on 20th March.
- The Amendment Bill introduces three new clauses after Section 18 of the original Act. The three clauses are:
  - 1) The preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person
  - 2) The arrest of a person accused of having committed an offence under the Act would not require any approval
  - 3) The provisions of Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which deals with anticipatory bail, shall not apply to a case under this Act, in spite of any judgment or order of any Court.

## **World's 1st Hindi-Speaking Robot Rashmi:**

- Ranchi-based software developer **Ranjit Srivastava** is developing the world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot called **Rashmi**.
- The robot will speak Bhojpuri, Marathi, and English, and is equipped with facial expressions and recognition systems.

## **Delhi celebrates its first ever dragonfly festival:**

- This is First-ever festival for insects that help maintain ecosystem and is being organized from Aug 3 to Sept 1 jointly by WWF (World Wide Fund) India and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).
- This will culminate towards a dragonfly census on August 19.



- India has about 500 different types of species at present, while around 3012 species were recorded worldwide until 2010.

### **Ministry of Textiles and Power launches SAATHI initiative:**

- SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries) aims to accelerate the adoption of **energy efficient** textile technologies in the **power loom sector** and cost savings due to use of such technology.
- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited** (EESL) will replace old inefficient electric motors with energy efficient **IE3** motors which will result in energy and cost saving up to 10-15% in the first phase.
- Power loom clusters at Ichalkaranji, Bhiwandi, Erode, Surat, Bhilwara and Panipat have been identified for pilot study.

### **Lok Sabha passed the National Sports University Bill, 2018:**

- The Bill is to establish a **National Sports University** in **Manipur**, at the cost Rs.524 crore.
- It aimed at enhancing the country's standing in sports.
- The National Sports University Bill, 2018, will replace an Ordinance promulgated by the President Ram Nath Kovind on May 31 2018.
- The legislation was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2017 by Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**.

### **Karnataka Government launches "Swachhameva Jayate":**

- In order to achieve the status of **Open Defecation Free** (ODF), Karnataka launched "Swachhameva Jayate" a rural cleanliness and **sanitation** campaign.

- This campaign will aim to boost the **Swachh Survekshan Grameen** in all the districts with the help of school children.
- Since the inception of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the government of Karnataka has constructed a total of 22 lakh toilets in 29,736 villages. The state needs another five lakh toilets in its rural areas before October 2 to achieve ODF status.

### **Andhra Pradesh government launched 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestham':**

- Under the scheme, an allowance of **Rs 1000 per month** will be provided to **unemployed** youth in the state.
- About 12 lakh youths in the age group of 22-35 years will get the benefit of the scheme.
- Andhra Pradesh CM - **Chandrababu Naidu**.

### **Delhi tops in State Investment potential index:**

- The index prepared by economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), showed that **Delhi** topped the rankings on **infrastructure and economic conditions** of the state.
- **Tamil Nadu** was in **second** place and topped the rankings in labour and governance.
- These two states are followed by Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and West Bengal.
- The ranking of 20 states and one Union Territory of Delhi was based on six pillars -
  1. Land,
  2. Labour,
  3. Infrastructure,

4. Economic climate,
5. Governance and political stability and
6. Business perceptions.

### **Himachal Pradesh launches Shaur Nahin mobile application:**

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched ‘**horn not ok**’ awareness campaign and ‘**shaur nahin**’ (no noise) mobile application.
- The main aim is to spread awareness of unnecessary blowing horn as it creates unnecessary **noise pollution**.
- The app will enable the general public to report cases of noise pollution.

### **Union Govt approved research projects worth over Rs 100 crore under IMPRINT-2 scheme:**

- Around 122 new research projects of 112 crore rupees under its **Impacting Research Innovation and Technology** ‘**IMPRINT-2**’ scheme are approved.
- **IMPRINT - 2** is a government initiative to address the major **science and engineering challenges** that India must address and champion to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance.

### **Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana was launched in Bihar:**

- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** launched ‘**Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana**’, a scheme for the **girl child**.
- The scheme will provide **Rs.54,100** for a girl child from her birth until she graduates.

- The Chief Minister also said that the amount under the ‘**Bicycle Yojna**’ will be increased from **Rs.2,500 to Rs.3,000**.

### **Lok Sabha passed the 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill:**

- **Lok Sabha** passed the **123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill** unanimously to provide a **National Commission for Backward Classes (BC)** as a constitutional body.
- The Bill was passed with all 406 votes being cast in support of the Bill.
- The Bill will be reviewed by the Rajya Sabha as **constitutional amendment** under **Article 368**.
- The Bill will insert Article 338B in the Constitution.
- According to the Bill, a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes should be provided. The Commission constitutes of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other members. All the members shall be appointed by the President of India.

### **Ujjwala Yojana to achieve its target of providing 5 crores free LPG connections to poor families:**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** pet project **Ujjwala Yojana** will achieve its target of providing 5 crores free LPG connections to poor families.
- The main aim of bringing clean cooking fuel to poor households identified according to the **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)**.
- More than **44 percent of Ujjwala** beneficiaries currently are from SC/ST communities.

### **Rajasthan is the first State to implement Biofuel Policy:**

- **Rajasthan** become the first State in the country to implement the **national policy on biofuels** unveiled by the Central government.
- This policy on biofuels seeks to help **farmers** dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence.

## **Business News:**

### **Nokia signed world's first big 5G deal worth \$3.5 billion:**

- Finland's Nokia will supply **T-Mobile**, the third biggest U.S. mobile carrier, with **\$3.5 billion** in next-generation **5G** network gear, marking the world's biggest 5G deal so far.
- In February, T-Mobile was working both with Nokia and rival network vendor **Ericsson** of Sweden to build out 5G networks in **30 U.S. cities** during 2018.

### **Reliance Beats TCS and became India's Most Valued Company:**

- India's richest person Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** beat **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to become the most valued company in India.
- RIL's market capitalisation during the day was Rs 7.44 trillion as compared to TCS' Rs 7.39 trillion.
- RIL had recently reported its highest ever quarterly net profit of Rs 9,459 crore, for the April-June quarter.

## Seven Indian firms named in Fortune 500 list, IOC remains top ranked Indian company:

- Seven Indian companies feature in the **US magazine Fortune 500** list of the **world's largest firms**, with state-run Indian Oil Corp (**IOC**) remaining the top-ranked Indian company and **137th** position in World Level in the **2018** rankings.
- American retail giant **Walmart tops** the latest Fortune listing.
- **Reliance Industries** Ltd was the most profitable Indian firm on the list. On the globally most profitable list, it secured the 99th position. This list was topped by Apple.
- **Other Indian companies feature in the Fortune 500 list are:**
  - 1) Reliance Industries Ltd - 148th rank;
  - 2) Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) - 197th rank;
  - 3) State Bank of India (SBI) - 216th rank;
  - 4) Tata Motors - 232nd rank;
  - 5) Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) - 314th position;
  - 6) Rajesh Exports - 405th rank.

## Reliance Jio partnered with SBI for digital services:

- **Reliance Jio** partnered with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to extend the next generation of **digital banking** and payments services to customers.
- **MyJio** platform will enable **SBI YONO's** digital banking features and solutions for a seamless, integrated and superior customer experience. It will also extend the financial services capabilities of SBI and Jio Payments Bank.



## BANKING & FINANCE NEWS:

### **RBI increased the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.5%:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the repo rate by 25 basis points to **6.5%** and the **reverse repo rate** to **6.25%**.
- This is the third bi-monthly policy review of the 2018-2019 financial year.
- The marginal standing facility rate and the **bank rate** have been adjusted to **6.75%**.
- This decision was made by the Monetary Policy Committee headed by **RBI Governor Urjit Patel**.
- **For Bank Exams**:-- Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks in the event of a shortfall of funds.

### **HDFC awarded best performing bank in CLSS schemes:**

- HDFC has been awarded the best performing primary lending institution in **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)** for the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) and LIG (Low Income Group) category.
- The award was given by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- CLSS was introduced in June **2015** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana ( PMAY)** for home loans to customers from the EWS as well as LIG.

### **NHAI inks MoU with SBI for Rs 25,000 Crore loan:**

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** is getting an unsecured loan of **Rs 25,000 crore** from State Bank of India (SBI) for 10 years with 3 years of moratorium on repayments.

- This is SBI's highest long-term unsecured loan to any entity and also the largest ever loan sanctioned to NHAI.
- The total sanctioned amount is to be disbursed to NHAI within March 31, 2019.

### **RBI bars Fino Payments Bank from enrolling new customers:**

- Reserve Bank of India observed that a few Fino Payments Bank accounts had deposits in excess of the stipulated amount of **₹1 lakh**.
- According to RBI's operating guidelines for payments banks, a customer can make deposits of **up to ₹1 lakh per account** in a year. Such banks cannot accept deposits beyond this limit.
- RBI has imposed similar restrictions on **Paytm Payments Bank** (on June 20) and **Airtel Payments Bank**(in January) which are also not able to on-board new customers.
- Other payments banks that have started operations are:-
  - ◆ India Post Payments Bank Ltd,
  - ◆ Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank and
  - ◆ Jio Payments Bank.

## **SPORTS NEWS:**

### **Carolina Marin won gold in BWF World Championships 2018, P.V. Sindhu won Silver:**

- Spanish badminton ace Carolina Marin won gold in **Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2018**, in Nanjing.

- She created history by becoming the **first woman** to win three badminton World titles with an emphatic victory.
- She beat **P.V.Sindhu** of India by 21-19, 21-10.
- Here is the complete list of the winners of World Badminton Championship 2018:
  - **Men's Singles** - Kento Momota (Japan)
  - **Women's Singles** - Carolina Marin (Spain)
  - **Men's Doubles** - Li Junhui (China) and Liu Yuchen (China)
  - **Women's Doubles** - Mayu Matsumoto (Japan) and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
  - **Mixed Doubles** - Zheng Siwei (China) and Huang Yaqiong (China)

### **Neeraj Chopra won Gold Medal at Savo Games in Finland:**

- Indian **javelin thrower** Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in the Savo Games in Lapinlahti, Finland. He made a throw of 85.69 meters.
- Chao-Tsun Cheng of Chinese Taipei made a throw of 82.52m and won a silver medal.

### **Ten year old swimmer breaks record set by 23 time Olympic gold medalist:**

- At the Far Western Long Course Championship, a 10-year-old swimmer named **Clark Kent Apuada** (Filipino-American boy) won the 100-meter butterfly in 1:09:38, that's more than a second faster than the record **Michael Phelps** (23-time Olympic gold medalist) set at the Far Western swimming championship in 1995 in the same category of boys 10 and under.

### **Smriti Mandhana becomes the second Indian cricketer to smash a hundred in women's T20 cricket:**

- Indian women's cricket team **opener**, 22-year-old, **Smriti Mandhana** scored 102 runs off 61 balls for Western Storm against Lancashire Thunder, slamming 12 fours and four sixes.
- The first Indian who scored century in women's T20 cricket is **Mithali Raj** (100\* for Railways, 2017).

### **15 Year Old Nepalese becomes 4th youngest to play an ODI:**

- Nepalese cricketer **Rohit Kumar Paudel**, aged 15 years and 335 days, has become the **fourth** youngest debutant in men's ODI cricket.
- Rohit made his debut against the Netherlands in the second ODI at the VRA Ground in Amstelveen.
- Pakistan's **Hasan Raza** was the youngest-ever debutant and was just 14 years and 233 days old when he made his debut against Zimbabwe in 1996.

### **Karman becomes 6th Indian woman to enter top 200 Tennis rankings in Singles:**

- Karman Kaur Thandi, 20-year-old Delhi girl, jumped 32 places and now ranked **200th** in the WTA (Women's Tennis Association) list.
- In April, India's top singles player **Ankita** had broken into the top-200 and is now ranked **195** (-4).
- Earlier, Sania Mirza, Nirupama Vaidyanathan, Shikha Uberoi and Sunitha Rao had made it to the top-200.
- In the men's singles, **Yuki Bhambri** was unchanged at **86** while Ramkumar Ramanathan climbed four places to a career-best 111.

## APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

### Centre approved the appointment of 3 judges to Supreme Court:

- Uttarakhand Chief Justice **KM Joseph**,
- Madras HC Chief Justice **Indira Banerjee** and
- Orissa HC Chief Justice **Vineet Saran**  
are elevated as Supreme Court judges.

### Deepak Parekh reappointed HDFC director:

- HDFC chairman **Deepak Parekh** was reappointed as non-executive director on the board of Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd (HDFC), though 22.64% of the shareholders voted against his continuation.
- **J.J. Irani** and **Keki Mistry** too got reappointment as directors to HDFC's board with more favourable votes.

### Kumar Mangalam Birla, YC Deveshwar appointed directors in Air India:

- Renowned industrialists **Kumar Mangalam Birla** (heads of \$44.3 billion multinational Aditya Birla Group) and **YC Deveshwar** (chairman of ITC) appointed as non-official independent directors in **Air India**, for a period of three years.
- This appointment was approved by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.

- Besides them, Shyamvir Saini and Gurmohinder Singh will be non-official independent directors in National Seeds Corporation Ltd and Bharat Earth Movers Limited respectively.
- Tapan Kumar Mandal has been named non-official independent directors in **Kolkata Metro** Rail Corporation Ltd.

### **Chief Justice Gita Mittal is appointed as new Chief Justice of J&K HC:**

- She is the acting Chief Justice of Delhi HC.
- She is the **first woman** Chief Justice of J&K HC.
- Justice B.D. Ahmed, the State's last Chief Justice, was retired on March 15, 2018.
- Patna High Court Chief Justice Rajendra Menon has been appointed as the Chief Justice Delhi HC.

### **Vijay Thakur Singh appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs:**

- Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh is currently India's envoy to **Ireland** and will take over as Secretary (EAST) from October 1 after superannuation of Preeti Saran on September 30.
- She is a 1985 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service.

## **AWARDS:**

### **Gopalkrishna Gandhi to be awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2018:**

- Former West Bengal Governor **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** will be awarded with the **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2018**.



- He was chosen by the committee for his outstanding contribution for promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill.
- The award carries a citation and a cash award of **Rs.10 lakh**.
- The award will be presented on 20th August 2018 on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- **Former recipients of the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award:**
  - Mother Teresa, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Mohammed Yunus, Lata Mangeshkar, Sunil Dutt, Dilip Kumar, Kapila Vatsyayan, Teesta Setalvad, Swami Agnivesh, K.R. Narayanan, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Muzaffar Ali and Shubha Mudgal.

### **Five MPs conferred Outstanding Parliamentarian award:**

- President Ram Nath Kovind granted “Outstanding Parliamentarian” award
  - for the year **2013** to **Dr Najma A. Heptulla** (Manipur's Governor and five time Rajya Sabha member ).
  - for the year **2014** to **Hukumdev Narayan Yadav** (Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Lok Sabha member)
  - for the year **2015** to Congress leader **Ghulam Nabi Azad**,
  - for the year **2016** to **Dinesh Trivedi** (Trinamool Congress)
  - for the year **2017** to **Bhartruhari Mahatab** (Biju Janata Dal [BJD] Member of Parliament [MP] from Odisha's Cuttack).
- The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award was established in **1995**.

### **ONGC won top honours at Swachhta Pakhwada Awards:**

- Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) received top honours at the **Swachhta Pakhwada** Awards, an **oil ministry** initiative to honour companies and individuals doing exemplary work in **cleanliness**.

- The award was given away by Oil Secretary M M Kutty to ONGC Chairman and Managing Director **Shashi Shanker**.
- Indian Oil Corp (**IOC**) bagged the **runner-up's** award.
- The Oil Ministry celebrated Swachhta Pakhwada fortnight from July 1 to 15 with the theme 'Innovation and Sustainability'.

### **Indian Origin Mathematician Akshay Venkatesh won Prestigious Fields Medal:**

- **Akshay Venkatesh**, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious "**Fields medal**", which is known as the Nobel prize for math.
- Each winner receives a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize.
- The other three winners are
  - **Caucher Birkar**, a Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin;
  - Germany's **Peter Scholze**, who teaches at the University of Bonn and
  - **Alessio Figalli**, an Italian mathematician at ETH Zurich.

### **Other Important Current Affairs - Headlines:**

- ★ **NABARD** sanctions **Rs 772 Crore** For Water Projects In **Haryana**
- ★ Indian-origin prison guard **Sashi Cheliah** won MasterChef Australia 2018.
- ★ **Karnataka** made **Yoga** mandatory for all colleges and universities in the State.

★ **Kerala** government has made **e-way bill mandatory** for inter-State goods movements as it concerns at the loss of revenue over Rs. 400 crore.

## QUIZ CORNER:

1) **RBI's monetary policy committee in its third bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19, increased repo rate to**

- A. 6.75%**
- B. 6.25%**
- C. 6.5%**
- D. 6.15%**

**Answer:- C**

2) **US President Donald Trump decided to grant India the STA-1 trading status equivalent to American allies for procurement of military weapons. What is the full form of STA?**

- A. Strategic Trade Authorization**
- B. Special Trading Authorization**
- C. Strong Trade Authority**
- D. Secured Trading Authority**

**Answer:- A**



**3) Which bank has been awarded the best performing primary lending institution in Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme?**

- A. NABARD**
- B. SBI**
- C. ICICI**
- D. HDFC**

**Answer:- D**

**4) Which free software has been launched by the Union IT Ministry for converting scanned printed Indian Language documents into a fully editable text format?**

- A. Darshan-Y**
- B. e-Aksharayan**
- C. Imagery**
- D. Saransh**

**Answer:- B**

**5) Which of the following telecommunications company bagged world's first big 5G deal worth \$3.5 billion?**

- A. Verizon**
- B. Huawei**
- C. Ericsson**
- D. Nokia**

**Answer:- D**



**6) Which company beat TCS and became India's Most Valued Company?**

- A. Reliance Industries**
- B. Ashok Leyland**
- C. Larsen and Toubro Company**
- D. Cognizant**

**Answer:- A**

**7) Which of the following is the only state in India that has an NRC (National Register of Citizens)?**

- A. Punjab**
- B. Bihar**
- C. Assam**
- D. West Bengal**

**Answer:- C**

**8) Which rank did India obtain at UN E-Government Index recently?**

- A. 96**
- B. 105**
- C. 48**
- D. 35**

**Answer:- A**

**9) President Ram Nath Kovind granted 'Outstanding Parliamentarian' award for the year 2017 to**

- A. Najma A. Heptulla**
- B. Dinesh Trivedi**
- C. Ghulam Nabi Azad**
- D. Bhartruhari Mahatab**

**Answer:- D**

**10) Which company received top honours at the Swachhta Pakhwada Awards, an oil ministry initiative to honour companies and individuals doing exemplary work in cleanliness?**

- A. ONGC**
- B. BHEL**
- C. IOC**
- D. BSNL**

**Answer:- A**

**11) Which firm remains the top-ranked Indian company in the US magazine Fortune 500 list of the world's largest firms?**

- A. Tata Motors**
- B. Reliance Industries Ltd**
- C. Indian Oil Corporation**
- D. State Bank of India**

**Answer:- C**



**12) Which of the following Bollywood star has been invited by Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister-to-be, to his oath-taking ceremony on August 11?**

- A. Shah Rukh Khan**
- B. Aamir Khan**
- C. Saif Ali Khan**
- D. Salman Khan**

**Answer:- B**

**13) Who has been appointed as non-official independent directors in Air India by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**

- A. Uday Kotak**
- B. Lakshmi Mittal**
- C. Gautam Adani**
- D. Kumar Mangalam Birla**

**Answer:- D**

**14) Golden Bridge supported by hand shaped concrete was recently opened in**

- A. China**
- B. Japan**
- C. Vietnam**
- D. Italy**

**Answer:- C**

**15) First-ever dragonfly festival is being organized from Aug 3 to Sept 1 at**

- A. Delhi**
- B. Hyderabad**
- C. Kolkata**
- D. Shimla**

**Answer:- A**

**16) Who has been elevated as Supreme Court judge, recently?**

- A. KS Jhaveri**
- B. Hrishikesh Roy**
- C. Gita Mittal**
- D. KM Joseph**

**Answer:- D**

**17) Which of the following firm makes history by becoming first US company to reach \$1 trillion market value?**

- A. Apple**
- B. Walmart**
- C. Amazon**
- D. Microsoft**

**Answer:- A**

**18) Who won Presidential election in Zimbabwe recently?**

- A. Emmerson Mnangagwa**
- B. Robert Mugabe**
- C. Canaan Banana**
- D. Nelson Mandela**



**Answer:- A**

**19) Recently, which State has made Yoga mandatory for all Colleges and Universities?**

- A. Punjab**
- B. Madhya Pradesh**
- C. Karnataka**
- D. Tamil Nadu**

**Answer:- C**

**20) Which Amendment Bill provides a National Commission for Backward Classes?**

- A. 122nd Constitutional Amendment Bill**
- B. 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill**
- C. 124th Constitutional Amendment Bill**
- D. 125th Constitutional Amendment Bill**

**Answer:- B**

**21) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is getting an unsecured loan of Rs 25,000 crore from**

- A. Indian Bank**
- B. State Bank of India**
- C. ICICI Bank**
- D. Union Bank of India**

**Answer:- B**



**22) Who became the second Indian cricketer to smash a hundred in women's T20 cricket?**

- A. Jhulan Goswami**
- B. Harmanpreet Kaur**
- C. Smriti Mandhana**
- D. Mithali Raj**

**Answer:- C**

**23) Which country overtakes China as World's 2nd biggest stock market?**

- A. Russia**
- B. Germany**
- C. Unites States**
- D. Japan**

**Answer:- D**

**24) Who took second spot in the List of India's 28 Fugitive Economic Offenders?**

- A. Chetan Sandesara**
- B. Nirav Modi**
- C. Vijay Mallya**
- D. Mehul Choksi**

**Answer:- D**

**25) Who has been appointed as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)?**

- A. Subhash Chandra Garg**
- B. T. S. Tirumurti**
- C. Vijay Thakur Singh**
- D. Ruchi Ghanashyam**

**Answer:- C**

**26) What is the name of the world's first Hindi speaking robot?**

- A. Rashmi**
- B. Sophia**
- C. Rishika**
- D. Vanitha**

**Answer:- A**

**27) Which state retained the first position on the National Council for Applied and Economic Research (NCAER)'s 2018 State Investment Potential Index?**

- A. Delhi**
- B. Kerala**
- C. Andhra Pradesh**
- D. Punjab**

**Answer:- A**

**28) Under the 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Nestham' scheme, an allowance of \_\_\_\_\_ rupees per month will be provided to unemployed youth.**

- A. Rs 2000**

- B. Rs 1500**
- C. Rs 500**
- D. Rs 1000**

**Answer:- D**

**29) Which state government recently launched 'Swachhameva Jayate' a rural cleanliness and sanitation campaign?**

- A. Bihar**
- B. Assam**
- C. Karnataka**
- D. Telangana**

**Answer:- C**

**30) Which of the following payments bank has been recently barred by the RBI from adding new customers over discrepancies in adherence to KYC norms?**

- A. Fino Payments Bank**
- B. India Post Payments Bank**
- C. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank**
- D. Jio Payments Bank**

**Answer:- A**

**31) Which of the following player (aged 15 years and 335 days) has become the fourth youngest debutant in men's ODI cricket, recently?**

- A. Yodhin Punja**



- B. Gurdeep Singh**
- C. Mujeeb Ur Rahman**
- D. Rohit Kumar Paudel**

**Answer:- D**

**32) How many Indonesians performed poco-poco dance to promote Asian Games 2018 and to set a world record along the way?**

- A. 75,000**
- B. 65,000**
- C. 70,000**
- D. 60,000**

**Answer:- B**

**33) Who becomes 6th Indian woman to enter top 200 Tennis rankings in Singles?**

- A. Karman Kaur Thandi**
- B. Ankita Raina**
- C. Rutuja Bhosale**
- D. Pranjala Yadlapalli**

**Answer:- A**

**34) What is the magnitude of the powerful earthquake which hit the popular Indonesian resort island of Lombok and Bali, recently?**

- A. 8.3**
- B. 5.8**
- C. 7.0**

**D. 9.1**

**Answer:- C**

**35) Who won the Women's Singles title at World Badminton Championship ?**

**A. Nozomi Okuhara**

**B. Carolina Marin**

**C. P.V.Sindhu**

**D. Saina Nehwal**

**Answer:- B**

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