

Important Current Affairs - August 2nd Week 2018 6th August - 12th August

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

NASA launched Parker Solar Probe to touch Sun:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched off a \$1.5 billion spacecraft toward the Sun to protect the Earth by unveiling the mysteries of dangerous solar storms.
- The probe is designed to plunge into the Sun's mysterious atmosphere, known as the **corona**.
- It is the first major mission under NASA's Living With a Star program with 1.5 billions.
- It is also the first NASA mission to be named after a living person - a scientist called **Eugene Parker**. In 1958, he published a paper about the existence of solar wind, which this mission will be investigating.

Venezuela's President Maduro survives 'assassination attempt':

- Venezuela's president, **Nicolas Maduro**, has survived an apparent assassination attempt after the detonation of the explosives overhead during a speech he was making at a military event.
- Maduro replaced the socialist Hugo Chávez after his death from cancer in **2013**.

Pakistan PTI officially nominated Imran Khan as Prime Minister:

- **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** chairman **Imran Khan** has been officially nominated to be Pakistan's next Prime Minister.
- In order to assume the office, he will face a vote in Parliament where he will have to defeat **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)** President **Shehbaz Sharif**, who was nominated by the joint opposition.

Japan commemorates 73rd Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings:

- On **August 6, 1945** at 8:15 a.m., the US B-29 bomber **Enola Gay** dropped the 20 kiloton atomic bomb "**Little Boy**," on **Hiroshima**, which devastated most of the city, killing 80,000 people instantly, leaving 12,000 missing and 40,000 wounded.
- On **August 9, 1945**, at 11:01 a.m., another US bomber dropped the 21 kiloton atomic bomb "**Fat Man**" on another Japanese city - **Nagasaki** - killing about 40,000 people and leaving 60,000 injured.
- **About Japan:**
 - Capital - Tokyo.
 - Currency - Japanese Yen.
 - Prime minister - Shinzo Abe (Since 2012)

Oscar Academy is adding a New Category for Popular Films:

- The new Oscar will be awarded for "Outstanding Achievement in **Popular Film**" and will be introduced this coming year, at the **91st** Oscars.
- The **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**, which awards the Oscars, has added a new category after 17 years to recognise popular films.

- The last category to be added was '**Best Animated** Feature Film'.
- President of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences - **John Bailey**

Mike Pence disclosed the plans to build U.S. Space Force:

- **Mike Pence**, U.S. Vice-President, disclosed the details of the plans to build a **U.S. Space Force**, the sixth branch of America's massive military.
- It was President **Donald Trump's** vision to create the Space Force.
- Mr.Pence also said that an independent Space Force was necessary to counter Russia and China, who are working towards anti-satellite capabilities.
- U.S. will be investing an additional **\$8 billion** in U.S. space security systems over the next five years.

Macau set to overtake Qatar as world's richest place by 2020:

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Macau in China would overtake oil-rich Qatar with the highest per-capita gross domestic product of any country or jurisdiction on earth, by 2020.
- Macau is the only place in **China** where **casinos** are **legal** and its gross domestic product has more than tripled from about \$34,500 per capita in 2001, the IMF data shows.
- Three European countries -- Luxembourg, Ireland, and Norway -- made the top 10 places expected to be the world's wealthiest by 2020, while the US came in at No. 12.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

India became 3rd Asian nation to get STA 1 status from US:

- India has become the third Asian nation after **Japan and South Korea**, **37th** overall, and **first south Asian** nation to get the **Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA - 1)** status from the US.
- This status paves way for high-technology product **sales** to New Delhi, particularly in civil space and defence sectors.
- The US made an exception for India, which is yet to become a member of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- India so far was listed in **STA-2 category** along with Albania, Hong Kong, Israel, Malta, Singapore, South Africa and Taiwan.

World's largest bird sculpture Jatayu sculpture will be inaugurated in Kerala:

- The Jatayu sculpture at the Jatayu Earth Center (JEC) at Chadayamangalam in **Kollam** district, Kerala, said to be **world's largest bird sculpture**, will be inaugurated on August 17 by Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan**.
- This Rs 100 crore-project is a creation by film director and sculptor **Rajiv Anchal**.

Government introduced four GST amendment Bills:

- The government introduced four Bills to amend the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** laws in order to make the return forms simpler and raise the turnover threshold for availing composition scheme to Rs. 1.5 crore.

- The four amendment Bills are
- Central GST (Amendment) Bill,
- Integrated GST (Amendment) Bill,
- GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill and
- Union Territory GST (Amendment) Bill.

Kolkata man tops IQ world list with the score of 148:

- **Amit Sahai**, a 43-year-old senior professional from Kolkata has topped the prestigious **Intelligence Quotient (IQ) World list** along with two other Americans with a score of **148**.
- He has a background in international sales of **software**, IT, ITes services and high end audio and engineering products.
- He is also a member of the International High IQ Society.

Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2018:

- **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2018** unanimously. The Bill gives statutory powers to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
- The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha with more than a two-thirds majority on 2nd August 2018.
- It was recommended that the government should make public the caste census findings, based on which the reservation policy should be formulated.
- The demand for having a **woman member in the NCBC** would be considered and the other demand that one member in the five-member body must be from the minority community was dropped.

GST council announced Cashback For Digital Transactions:

- Finance Minister **Piyush Goyal** announces **20% Cashback** upto Rs 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupay or USSD mode.
- The main aim of the meeting on the concerns and suggestions of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **About GST**
- Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect tax (or consumption tax) levied in India on the supply of goods and service.
- The GST was launched at midnight on 1st July 2017 by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, and the Government of India.

Goa becomes first state by starting its own app based taxi service called "GoaMiles":

- Goa CM **Manohar Parrikar** and Tourism Minister Manohar Aijaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called "**GoaMiles**".
- A taxi owner did not have to pay anything and GTDC's charges would be recovered from the consumer. GTDC will charge the consumer around **Rs 20-80** as service fee.
- Customers will get honest service and will get to know the fare before the journey starts.
- There is a **panic-cumemergency button** available on the app.

Entry Fee To Taj Mahal and Other Historical Monuments Increased:

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) raised the entry fee to visit **Taj Mahal** from ₹1000 to **₹1100** for **foreign** tourists and from ₹40 to **₹50** for **domestic** tourists.
- Apart from this, visitors from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries will now pay **Rs. 540**, including Rs. 500 as toll tax to visit the monument.
- Earlier, the Archaeological Survey of India increased the entry fee for its protected monuments in 2016.

NITI Aayog identified 117 districts as Aspirational Districts for RUSA Scheme:

- During the second phase of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**, central assistance is provided for opening of new Model **Degree Colleges (MDCs)** in 'Aspirational Districts' identified by NITI Aayog and in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- These districts have been selected on the basis of the composite index which includes published data of deprivation enumerated under Socio-Economic Caste Census, Health & Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure.

Largest museum of US to return 2 ancient sculptures to India:

- An eighth-century stone sculpture of **Goddess Durga** and a third century **limestone** sculpture '**Head of a Male Deity**' will be returned to India by the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, the largest museum in the US.
- The stone sculpture of Durga Mahishasuramardini was donated to the museum in **2015**.

- The limestone sculpture, donated in **1986**, was part of Nagarjunakonda Site Museum's excavated inventory.

Cabinet extended PMGSY beyond the 12th five year plan period:

- The government approved that the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** can be continued even beyond the **12th five year plan period**.
- **About PMGSY:**
- PMGSY was launched on December 25, 2000. The aim is to provide All-Weather road connectivity to the eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas of the Country.

Govt to provide discount of Rs. 15 per kg on pulses for poor:

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decided to provide a discount of **₹15/kg** on pulses, over the wholesale market price, to States for distribution under welfare schemes like **mid-day meal, Public Distribution System (PDS)**, and Integrated Child Development Programmes (ICDP).
- States and Union Territories will be offered to lift 34.88 lakh tonnes of **Tur, Chana, Masoor, Moong and Urad** at the discount of ₹15/kg over the prevailing wholesale market price on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- The Government will spend **₹5,237 crore** for implementing this scheme.

Rajya Sabha passed the SC and ST (PoA) Amendment Bill 2018:

- Rajya Sabha passed the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018**.

- The Bill will reverse the Supreme Court order that provides the provision for the immediate arrest of the accused booked under the SC/ST law.
- Now the Bill rules out any provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of atrocities against people from SC and ST communities.
- The Bill inserts **three sections** 18A (1) (a), 18A (1) (b) and 18A (2) in the 1989 Act.
- **Section 18A (1) (a)** of the Bill says Preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of an FIR against any person.
- **Section 18A (1) (b)** of the Bill says the investigating officer shall not require approval for the arrest, if necessary, of any person against whom an accusation of having committed an offence under this Act has been made and no procedure, other than that provided under this Act or the Code, shall apply.
- **Section 18A (2)** of the Bill says the provision of section 438 of the Code shall not apply to a case under this Act, notwithstanding any judgment or order or direction of any Court.

Project 'SWAYAM' launched By HRD Ministry:

- 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM), aims to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses.
- This course covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
- The main objective is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched Mobile App Niryat Mitra:

- The app developed by the **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)** is available both on Android and on IOS platforms.
- The app provides a wide range of information required to undertake international trade right from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures.

Lok Sabha passed The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill:

- Lok Sabha passed the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill**, outlawing talaq-e-biddat. According to the Bill, talaq-e-biddat has been made a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- **Three provisions of the Bill:**
 - Instant triple talaq is illegal
 - It imposes a jail term of up to three years and fine
 - It provides additional safeguards from the Act being misused
- It also provides for **subsistence allowance** to Muslim women and custody of minor children as **may be determined by the magistrate**.

India's Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve enters UNESCO list:

- The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (**KBR**) of Sikkim, the highest biosphere reserve in India that includes the third highest mountain peak in the world, **Kanchenjunga** (8,586 m), has been

included in the UNESCO's **World Network of Biosphere Reserve** (WHBR).

- India has **18** biospheres reserves, of which 11 have been included in the WNBR.
- The last biosphere reserve to be included was the **Agasthyamalai** Biosphere Reserve in Kerala in 2016.
- The **Nilgiri** Biosphere Reserve was the first reserve from India to be included in the WNBR.

Santali becomes 1st Indian tribal language to get own Wikipedia edition:

- The Santhali Wikipedia got approval from the language committee of the Wikimedia Foundation on June 28 and went live on August 2.
- It presently has content of about 70,000 words.
- Santali is written in **Ol Chiki script** and spoken by **6.4 million people**, according to the 2001 census, in India alone and its speakers live mostly in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam. It is also spoken in Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Several hundred students wrote their Class 10 board examinations under the **West Bengal** Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) in the Ol Chiki script for the **first time** this year.
- Wikipedia is available in nearly **300 languages** globally as of August 2018.

Rajya Sabha passes Immovable Property Amendment Bill:

- The Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which was moved by Union Urban

Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, was adopted by a voice vote.

- The Lok Sabha had passed the bill in December last year.
- **Aim:-** To amend the regulations governing the **compensation payable** for acquisition of immovable property by the Centre for defence and security purposes.

Three northeastern States emerge as new HIV hotspots:

- According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura** have emerged as the new hotspots for HIV.
- In terms of persons living with HIV (PLHIV) who are on Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART), **Maharashtra** has the highest number (with 2.03 lakh persons) followed by A.P.(1.78 lakh) and Karnataka (1.58 lakh persons).

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 'One District One Product' Summit in UP:

- One District One Product (**ODOP**) scheme will help each district of Uttar Pradesh to manufacture one product.
- Under this ODOP scheme, the state government has set a goal of providing **employment to 25 lakh people** in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.
- During the summit, with a tagline of '**Nayi Udaan, Nayi Pehchan**', the President distributed loan sanction papers amounting to Rs 1,006.94 crore to 4,085 artisans from 75 districts.
- Uttar Pradesh is uniquely famous for product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts, including
 - ◆ Varanasi (Banarasi silk sari),

- ◆ Bhadohi (carpet),
- ◆ Lucknow (chikan),
- ◆ Kanpur (leather goods),
- ◆ Agra (leather footwear),
- ◆ Aligarh (locks),
- ◆ Moradabad (brassware),
- ◆ Meerut (sports goods) and
- ◆ Saharanpur (wooden products).

India ranked 177 on the Environmental Performance Index 2018:

- According to the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** ranking, India has been placed **177th rank** out of 180 countries on the **Environmental Performance Index 2018**.
- India slipped 36 points from 141 in the 2016 report, prepared by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the WEF.

BANKING, BUSINESS & FINANCE NEWS:

RBI approved to transfer 50,000 crore surplus to government:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer ₹50,000 crore of its surplus money to the government, for the year ended **June 30, 2018**.
- The RBI follows July-June accounting year.
- The RBI had transferred a surplus of ₹30,659 crore to the government for the fiscal ended June 2017.
- During the tenure of former governor Raghuram Rajan, RBI transferred over **₹65,800** crore to the government for two consecutive years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch 650 branches of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) on the 21st August:

- The event will take place at the capital's Talkatora stadium.
- The government is planning to utilize **650 branches** as controlling offices for servicing and monitoring post offices.
- These branches will be linked to IPPB by the end of this year.
- There are **370 million** different types of accounts at post offices, which will be linked to IPPB gradually.

SBI launched unified payment terminal MOPAD:

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched its latest customer-friendly digital initiative **Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device (MOPAD)** at a shopping mall, in **Visakhapatnam**.
- The new device titled MOPAD is a Point of Sale (PoS) terminal that would along with cards accept payments through UPI, Bharat QR, and SBI Buddy wallet which till now required different tools to receive payments.
- So customers won't have to carry cards for shopping, MOPAD can just **scan the QR code** to make the payment.
- A charge-slip as a proof of payment, will be available for customers who pay through MOPAD.

IKEA opened its first store in India:

- **IKEA**, Swedish home furnishings major, opened its **first store in Hyderabad**, India.
- IKEA has already been sourcing for the past three decades in India. It will be opening its other branches in Mumbai, Bengaluru and National Capital Region.
- The store is of 400,000 sq. ft located at the heart of city's IT hub.

- IKEA in Hyderabad employs 950 people directly, half of them women, and 1,500 indirectly in services and expects to host close to 7 million visitors each year.

NSE unveiled new logo at its silver jubilee celebration:

- The **National Stock Exchange** (NSE), India's largest equity bourse, has celebrated its silver jubilee by unveiling its new logo, which is a modern representation of a blooming **marigold** with red, yellow, orange, and blue hues.
- The celebrations were attended by former prime minister **Manmohan Singh**, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, NITI Aayog deputy chairman Rajiv Kumar, and Delhi lieutenant-governor Anil Baijal.
- The NSE was inaugurated by Singh in **1994** when he was finance minister.
- NSE chief - **Vikram Limaye**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

India's moon mission Chandrayaan 2 launch delayed for 2nd time:

- The launch of India's **second Moon mission Chandrayaan-2** has been delayed for the second time from October to **January** next year.
- Chandrayaan-2 will be ISRO's **first time attempt** to land a **rover** on the Moon.
- The launch was first planned in April and was pushed to October.
- **Reason for Delay in Launch:-**

- ISRO faced two setbacks this year, losing communication with **GSAT-6A** satellite and failing **PSLV-C39** mission.

ISRO to launch its heaviest satellite GSAT-11 on November 30:

- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) heaviest satellite so far - the **GSAT-11** (weighing over 5.7 tonnes i.e., **5,700-kg**)- which the space agency had cleared for launch in June, will take off a spaceport in **French Guiana** on 30 November.
- GSAT-11 carries **40 transponders** in the Ku-band and the Ka-band frequencies, and is capable of providing high bandwidth connectivity with up to **14 GB per second data transfer speed**.
- GSAT full form - Geosynchronous SATellites.
- ISRO chairman - **K Sivan**.

Google officially launches Android 9.0 named 'Pie':

- Google announced '**Pie**' as the name for the latest version of the Android operating system, succeeding Android Oreo.
- The Android P or '**Pie**' version has begun rolling out to **Pixel phones** and will be available to other devices later this year.
- **Other Important Highlights:**
- Since Android 1.5, Google has named each version of its mobile operating system after a sweet food - moving sequentially through the letters of the alphabet.

- ◆ Android 1.5 Cupcake (April 2009)
- ◆ Android 1.6 Donut (September 2009)
- ◆ Android 2.0/2.1 Éclair (October 2009, January 2010)
- ◆ Android 2.2 Froyo (May 2010)
- ◆ Android 2.3 Gingerbread (December 2010)

- ◆ Android 3.0/3.1/3.2 Honeycomb (February 2011, May 2011, July 2011)
- ◆ Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich (October 2011)
- ◆ Android 4.1/4.2/4.3 Jelly Bean (July 2012, November 2012, July 2013)
- ◆ Android 4.4 KitKat (October 2013)
- ◆ Android 5.0/5.1 Lollipop (November 2014, March 2015)
- ◆ Android 6.0 Marshmallow (October 2015)
- ◆ Android 7.0/7.1 Nougat (August 2016, December 2016)
- ◆ Android 8.0/8.1 Oreo (August 2017, December 2017)

DEFENCE NEWS:

Maitree 2018 Joint Military Exercise between India and Thailand held in Thailand:

- Exercise 'Maitree' is a joint military exercise between **Indian Army** and Royal Thai Army and is running on in Thailand from 6 to 19 August 2018.
- Maitree 2018 was platoon level exercise that comprises of infantry component.
- **Aim:-** To develop mutual understanding and bonhomie between the two armies in order to counter terrorism.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

Indra Nooyi resigned her position as CEO of PepsiCo:

- **Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi**, 62, resigned her position as **CEO** of PepsiCo.

- She has been leading the company since 2006. She studied at the Madras Christian College. She went to the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, before leaving for the U.S. in 1980 for a second master's degree at the Yale School of Management.
- **Ramon Laguarta**, 54, will succeed Ms.Nooyi as CEO. Her office will resume from **October 3**.
- Ms.Nooyi will remain Chairman until early 2019 to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

Former Chile president Bachelet named new UN human rights chief:

- UN (United Nations) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen former two time Chilean President **Michelle Bachelet** to be new UN high commissioner for human rights.
- She would replace Jordan's **Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein**.
- Bachelet who ranks among the world's most powerful women in politics, also served in 2010 as the first director of UN Women, the UN agency promoting gender equality worldwide.

Ivan Duque sworn in as Colombia's Next President:

- He became 60th president of Colombia.
- **About Colombia**
 - Capital: Bogota
 - Currency: Colombian peso.

Rashida Tlaib set to become 1st Muslim woman in US Congress:

- She (42-year-old) is the daughter of Palestinian immigrants and won a Democratic primary election to represent **Michigan's 13th** district, securing 33.6 percent of the vote.

- Tlaib is set to replace John Conyers.
- She served in the Michigan state house from 2009 to 2014, and was also the **first Muslim woman** ever elected to the state's legislature.

RS Sharma re-appointed as TRAI Chairman till September 2020:

- The government reappointed **Ram Sewak Sharma** as Chairman of **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** till September 2020 when he turns 65.
- He was named the TRAI chief in July 2015 for a three-year period.
- Sharma, who recently shared his Aadhaar number on Twitter, also served as UIDAI's Director General between 2009-2013 and even wrote the **first software** for **UIDAI** for enrolment.

NDA candidate Harivansh Singh elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman:

- The BJP-led NDA candidate **Harivansh Narayan Singh** was elected the Rajya Sabha's **Deputy Chairman** post, which fell vacant after the retirement of Congress' **PJ Kurien** on July 1.
- Harivansh got 125 votes, while Congress-led UPA's candidate **BK Hariprasad** got 105 votes.
- Harivansh Singh is a member of the **Janata Dal (United)**, the BJP's ally in **Bihar**.

RSS thinker S Gurumurthy, Satish Marathe appointed as directors on RBI board:

- The government appointed **Swaminathan Gurumurthy** and **Satish Kashinath Marathe** as part-time non-official directors

on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board, for a period of **four years**.

- Gurusurthy, an economist and chartered accountant by profession, is also the co-convenor of **RSS**-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch. A **vocal supporter of PM Narendra Modi's policies**, Gurusurthy had defended the demonetisation of high value currency notes.
- Marathe began his banking career with Bank of India, and then became chairman of The United Western Bank Ltd. He is also the founder of Sahakar Bharati, an NGO that supports co-operatives in India.
- The RBI Act allows **ten directors** nominated by the **government**. With these two appointments, RBI's board now has 10 government-appointed members.

OBITUARY:

Five time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi passes away:

- DMK chief, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, passes away at 94. He was made Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the first time in **1969**.
- His five reigns as chief minister spanned from 1969-1971, 1971-1976, 1989-1991, 1996-2001 and 2006-2011.
- He also became a popular **screenwriter** for Tamil films.
- After independence, Periyar's movement split into two. Karunanidhi followed **Annadurai**, establishing the **Davidar Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** in **1949**. He was the party's first treasurer and was elected to the assembly in 1957.

Former PM Indira Gandhi's aide RK Dhawan passes away aged 81:

- Senior Congress leader and long-time aide of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, **Rajinder Kumar Dhawan** passed away at the age of 81 years in Delhi.
- Dhawan joined Indira Gandhi as a personal assistant in **1962** and worked with her until she breathed her last.
- He was elected to the Rajya Sabha **twice**, from April **1990** to April 1996, and July 2004 to July 2010.
- He was appointed Minister of State (independent charge) Housing and Urban Development (1995-1996).

Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee Passed Away at the age of 89:

- A **ten-time Lok Sabha** MP, Chatterjee was a central committee member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), which he had joined in 1968.
- He was the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009.
- He won the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in **1996**.

SPORTS NEWS:

Rafael Nadal Maintains Top Spot in ATP world Rankings:

- Spain's **Rafael Nadal** maintained his lead in the men's **Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)** world **singles** rankings, with 9,310 average points, ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer.
- The current top 10 ATP rankings and point scores are as follows:
 - 1. Rafael Nadal (Spain) 9,310 Points;

- 2. Roger Federer (Switzerland) 7,080;
- 3. Alexander Zverev (Germany) 5,665;
- 4. Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina) 5,455;
- 5. Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) 4,610;
- 6. Kevin Anderson (South Africa) 4,355;
- 7. Marin Cilic (Croatia) 3,905;
- 8. Dominic Thiem (Austria) 3,665;
- 9. John Isner (USA) 3,490;
- 10. Novak Djokovic (Serbia) 3,355.

Germany's Mario Gomez retires from International Football:

- Veteran German striker **Mario Gomez** (33-year-old), who made his debut for Germany in 2007, scored 31 goals in **78** international appearances.
- He represented his country at the FIFA World Cup in 2010 and 2018 and the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012.
- He is now looking to pay his full attention to the domestic football league, **Bundesliga**.

Neeraj Chopra named Indian flag bearer for the Asian Games 2018 opening ceremony:

- **Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** has been handed the honour of being the Indian contingent's flag bearer at the 2018 **Asian Games** in Indonesia's Jakarta and Palembang.
- He won the gold medal in Commonwealth Games 2018 event in Gold Coast earlier this year.
- The announcement was made by Dr Narinder Batra, President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

- Former hockey captain **Sardar Singh** was India's flag bearer at the **2014 Asian Games** in Incheon.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

“International Youth Day” and “World Elephant Day” observed on August 12:

- The theme for International Youth Day (IYD) 2018 is - '**Safe Spaces for Youth**'.
- The first International Youth Day was observed on 12 August, **2000**.
- Two Canadian filmmakers Michael Clark and Patricia Sims, as well as Sivaporn Dardarananda, the Secretary-General of Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation created the **World Elephant Day** in **2011**, and it was held on August 12, 2012.

Other Important Current Affairs - Headlines:

- ★ India observed **76th anniversary of Quit India movement** on 8th August 2018. The day is observed as August Kranti Day every year.
- ★ The government has urged all citizens not to use the national flag made of **plastic**.
- ★ **Maharashtra** Government announces special assistance of Rs 500 crore for OBC community.

- ★ Indian-American high school student **Avi Goel** won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division which was held in Berlin.
- ★ Justice **Rajendra Menon** takes charge as Chief Justice of **Delhi** High Court.
- ★ Justice Vijaya Kamlesh **Tahilramani** was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the **Madras** High Court.

QUIZ CORNER:

1) For digital transactions, the GST Council announced a cash back of

- A. 20%
- B. 15%
- C. 45%
- D. 35%

Answer:- A

2) Article 35A gives special status to the State and People of

- A. Assam
- B. Telangana
- C. J&K
- D. Goa

Answer:- C



3) India has become the 3rd Asian nation to get Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA - 1) status from US. Two Asian nations which already got STA-1 status from US are

- A. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia**
- B. Japan and South Korea**
- C. China and Singapore**
- D. Iran and Bangladesh**

Answer:- B

4) Who is the President of Venezuela?

- A. Nicolas Maduro**
- B. Rumen Radev**
- C. Halimah Yacob**
- D. Jakaya Kikwete**

Answer:- A

5) ISRO to launch its heaviest satellite so far - GSAT-11 on November 30. GSAT-11 weighing over

- A. 6,300-kg**
- B. 5,700-kg**
- C. 4,800-kg**
- D. 7,200-kg**

Answer:- B



6) Amit Sahai, a 43-year-old senior IT professional has topped the prestigious 'Intelligence Quotient (IQ) World list' along with two other Americans with a score of 148. He was born and brought up in

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kolkata

Answer:- D

7) Senior Congress leader and long-time personal assistant of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who recently passed away at the age of 81 years, is

- A. Rajinder Kumar Dhawan
- B. Kedarnath Singh
- C. Arjan Singh
- D. Pavani Parameswara Rao

Answer:- A

8) Google officially launched Android 9.0 named

- A. KitKat
- B. Froyo
- C. Pie
- D. Donut

Answer:- C



9) What was the name of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the US Air Force on August 6, 1945?

- A. Fat Man
- B. Fat Boy
- C. Little Boy
- D. Little Man

Answer:- C

10) World's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu sculpture, will be inaugurated in

- A. Kerala
- B. Gujarat
- C. Assam
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer:- A

11) Who maintains Top Spot in men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world singles rankings?

- A. Novak Djokovic
- B. Rafael Nadal
- C. Roger Federer
- D. Grigor Dimitrov

Answer:- B

12) Goa becomes first state by starting its own app based taxi service called



- A. GoaQuickGo**
- B. GoaTrack**
- C. GoaMiles**
- D. GoaTrip**

Answer:- C

13) Exercise 'Maitree' is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and

- A. Sri Lanka**
- B. Thailand**
- C. Singapore**
- D. Bangladesh**

Answer:- B

14) US-based pro-Khalistan group 'Sikhs for Justice' hold its first global rally at

- A. Rome**
- B. New York**
- C. London**
- D. Paris**

Answer:- C

15) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer _____ crore of its surplus money to the government, for the year ended June 30, 2018.

- A. ₹65,000 crore**
- B. ₹50,000 crore**

- C. ₹55,000 crore
- D. ₹60,000 crore

Answer:- B

16) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) raised the entry fee to visit Taj Mahal from ₹1000 to _____ for foreign tourists and from ₹40 to _____ for domestic tourists.

- A. ₹1100, ₹50
- B. ₹1200, ₹60
- C. ₹1150, ₹55
- D. ₹1250, ₹65

Answer:- A

17) Michelle Bachelet named as new chief of UN Human Rights Council. She was the Former (two-time) President of

- A. Chile
- B. Australia
- C. Cuba
- D. Venezuela

Answer:- A

18) Which of the following category will be introduced this coming year, at the 91st Oscars?

- A. Makeup and Hairstyling
- B. Film Editing
- C. Foreign Language Film



D. Popular Film

Answer:- D

19) Who has been re-appointed as TRAI Chairman till September 2020?

- A. Debjani Ghosh
- B. Sandeep Jajodia
- C. Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- D. Ram Sewak Sharma

Answer:- D

20) Central Government decided to provide a discount of Rs. _____ per kg on pulses for poor.

- A. ₹15/kg
- B. ₹20/kg
- C. ₹25/kg
- D. ₹10/kg

Answer:- A

21) The National Stock Exchange (NSE) celebrated its silver jubilee by unveiling its new logo. NSE was inaugurated by Manmohan Singh in

- A. 1996
- B. 1992
- C. 1994
- D. 1998



Answer:- C

22) Who has been elected for the Rajya Sabha's new Deputy Chairman post, which fell vacant after the retirement of Congress' PJ Kurien on July 1?

- A. Sanjay Raut**
- B. Harivansh Narayan Singh**
- C. Hariprasad**
- D. Satish Mishra**

Answer:- B

23) The 1st Indian tribal language to get own Wikipedia edition is

- A. Santali**
- B. Lamani**
- C. Kotwalia**
- D. Magahi**

Answer:- A

24) Which bank recently launched its latest customer-friendly digital initiative Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device (MOPAD)?

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

Current Affairs



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Answer:- C

25) Who was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 2018 Asian Games opening ceremony?

- A. Punam Yadav**
- B. Neeraj Chopra**
- C. Jitu Rai**
- D. Heena Sidhu**

Answer:- B

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