

## Important Current Affairs - August 3rd Week 2018

### 13th August - 19th August 2018

#### Asian Games 2018 - Important Highlights:

<b>Asian Games 2018 Also known as</b>	Jakarta Palembang 2018
<b>Edition</b>	18th
<b>Host Country</b>	Indonesia
<b>Motto</b>	“Energy of Asia”
<b>Opening ceremony</b>	18 August
<b>Closing ceremony</b>	2 September
<b>Nations participating</b>	45
<b>Mascots</b>	1) Bhin Bhin - a greater bird-of-paradise, 2) Atung - a Bawean deer, and 3) Kaka - a Javan rhinoceros
<b>First Asian Games held in</b>	1951 in New Delhi, India

- Young javelin-thrower **Neeraj Chopra** carried India’s flag and led the contingent at the Asian Games 2018.
- On Day 1, **Bajrang Punia** clinched the 1st **Gold** medal at Asian Games 2018 by outstanding performance in **Wrestling** in Men’s Freestyle **65 kg**.

- **Apurvi Chandela** and **Ravi Kumar** won **bronze** in 10m Air Rifle mixed Team **Shooting** event in Asian Games 2018.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

### **Imran Khan elected as 22nd Prime Minister Of Pakistan, took oath on 18th August:**

- Former cricketer and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief **Imran Khan** was administered the oath by President **Mamnoon Hussain**.
- Pakistan's 15th National Assembly election was held on July 25, in which Imran Khan's PTI emerged as the largest party securing **116** seats.
- However, Khan did not have the majority to form the government as a total of **172 votes** were **needed** for that in the 342-member lower house of Parliament.
- On August 17, of the total National Assembly members, **176** voted in favour of Khan, while his opponent, Shahbaz received 96 votes. Hence, making the way clear for Imran Khan to become the new PM.
- Imran Khan established the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party on April 25, **1996** and contested general elections and elected as Member of Parliament in October, 2002.

### **Scarlett Johansson is now the highest paid actress in the world:**

- Scarlett Johansson's role as Marvel superhero **Black Widow** catapulted her to the top of **Forbes'** annual list of the world's highest-paid actresses, with **\$40.5 million**.

- With \$28 million, **Angelina Jolie** ranked **second** and is followed by Jennifer Aniston.
- Indian actress Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra are also renowned names in the west.

### **BBC's 'Women Who Changed The World List': Marie Curie Topped:**

- BBC History magazine compiled a list of “100 women who changed the world”, in which, Polish-born **Marie Curie**, who undertook pioneering research into **radioactivity** in the early 20th century, was voted number one. She was the first person to win **two Nobel prizes**.
- **Top 10 in the BBC History Magazine list:**
  1. Marie Curie
  2. Rosa Parks
  3. Emmeline Pankhurst
  4. Ada Lovelace
  5. Rosalind Franklin
  6. Margaret Thatcher
  7. Angela Burdett-Coutts
  8. Mary Wollstonecraft
  9. Florence Nightingale
  10. Marie Stopes

### **Vienna named world's most liveable city, Melbourne at 2nd:**

- For the first time, Austria's capital **Vienna** has topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for 2018, beating Australian city **Melbourne**, which had topped the list for the past seven years.

- **Osaka** in Japan came **third** followed by Calgary in Canada while Sydney is fifth.
- Syrian city **Damascus** was placed at the **bottom** of the list.

### **Asad Qaiser has been elected as the Speaker of Pakistan parliament:**

- Asad Qaiser of **Pakistan Tehreek-e Insaf (PTI)** party has been elected as the Speaker of Pakistan's parliament.
- He secured **176** votes and defeated **Khursheed Shah**.
- He was sworn in as the Speaker of the National Assembly, Parliament's lower house on 15th August.

### **Mario Abdo Benitez sworn in as the 50th President of Paraguay:**

- Benitez clinched the top spot after defeating his closest rival, **Efrain Alegre** from the liberal opposition alliance, by four percentage points in the nation's elections.
- 46-year-old Benitez replaces **Horacio Cartes**. Both are from the conservative Colorado Party.
- **About Mario Abdo Benítez:**
  - ◆ Got involved in politics in 2004.
  - ◆ Founded a political faction with the grandson of Paraguay's former dictator Alfredo Stroessner.
  - ◆ Opposes same-sex marriage and the legalisation of abortion.

### **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita re-elected as Mali president:**

- Keita won with **67 percent** of the vote in a runoff against opposition candidate **Soumaila Cisse**.

- Keita, who is 73, will take office on September 4. His immediate challenges include strengthening a 2015 peace accord between the government, its allies, and former Tuareg rebels.
- **About Mali:**
  - Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa.
  - Population - 18 million
  - Capital - Bamako
  - Official language - French
  - Currency - West African CFA franc

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

### **In Assam, Gujarat, Giant National Flags Unfurled On 72nd Independence Day:**

- An **1100 feet-long**, 9 feet-wide tricolour flag was unfurled with thousands of people taking part in a 5km-long '**Shaan-e-Tiranga**' rally, organised by the Agrawal Vikas Trust. This was the biggest 'Tiranga Yatra' organised in **Gujarat** so far.
- A **3.5 kilometre** long Tricolour was made in **Assam's Uparkhuti** village by a local club for Independence Day.
- The large flag was made to arouse national pride among the youngsters and honour the **Assam Athlete Hima Das**, who is the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track event at the World Junior Athletics Championship in Finland this year.

## India now world's 6th largest economy, says PM Modi on Independence day:

- Addressing the nation on the **72nd** Independence Day, PM Narendra Modi said, 'India has registered its name as the **sixth largest economy** in the world.'
- In 2013, India used to be counted as part of the 'Fragile Five' in the world. But today, India is seen as a destination for multi-billion dollar investments.
- This was the Prime Minister Modi's **fifth** and the last Independence Day speech before the 2019 general elections.

## Odisha government launched Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana:

- On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, Odisha CM **Naveen Patnaik** launched **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana** (BSKY) which provides annual cashless **health coverage of Rs 5 lakh** per beneficiary family per annum.
- More than 70 lakh families will be benefited by the scheme.
- Patnaik also handed over '**Uttam Jeevan Rakshya Padak**' and '**Jeevan Rakshya Padak**' to two children - Pankaj Kumar **Mahanta** and **Mamata Dalai**, respectively, for their act of bravery.
- Mamata Dalai (6) was selected for the award after she fearlessly fought against a crocodile to save her sister Asantis life last year.
- Similarly, Pankaj Mahanta (15) had displayed courage by diving into the Baitarani river and saved three women who were drowning in the river.

## **President Ram Nath Kovind granted 131 Gallantry Awards including one Kirti Chakra:**

- On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind has presented **131** Gallantry Awards to members of Armed Forces personnel and Paramilitary Forces, which include one **Kirti Chakra**, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), three **Vayu Sena** Medals (Gallantry), 11 **Nao Sena** Medals (Gallantry), 20 **Shaurya Chakras** and 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- Braveheart hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, **Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh** has been shortlisted for the **Kirti Chakra** award posthumously.
- Rifleman **Aurangzeb** was also conferred with the **third** highest gallantry award.

## **PM Narendra Modi announced immediate relief of Rs 500 crore to flood hit Kerala:**

- Kerala is facing its worst flood in 100 years with 80 dams opened and all rivers in spate.
- Modi also announced an ex-gratia of **Rs 2 lakh per person** to the next of kin of the deceased and **Rs 50,000** to those seriously injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (**PMNRF**).
- North and central Kerala have been worst-hit by the floods with at least 3,10,000 people displaced.
- At least 324 lives have been lost in Kerala's worst floods since **1924**.
- **Qatar** announced Financial aid of **Rs. 34.89 crore** for flood hit Kerala.

## **Film Actor Akshay Kumar Becomes Brand Ambassador For Road Safety Campaigns:**

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari launched three short films for generating public awareness towards road safety.
- **Akshay Kumar** featured in these films, which are directed by Shri R.Balki.

## **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan will be launched on 25th September:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan (PMJAA)** or Ayushman Bharat scheme will be launched on **25th September**.
- The scheme aims to provide a healthcare cover of **Rs.5 lakh** per family per annum. The scheme is expected to benefit more than **10 crore poor families**.
- **Ayushman Bharat:**
  - Ayushman Bharat is a government-sponsored healthcare scheme to provide **healthcare** cover of **Rs 5 lakh** to 10 crore **poor families** every year for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation
  - The scheme will be applicable only to the poor who are from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) database
  - The benefits of the scheme are portable across the country
  - The scheme also allows the poor people to benefit from cashless healthcare services from a public/private hospital



- Around 1 lakh 'Ayushman Mitras' will be set at the hospitals as part of the scheme to assist patients enrolled under the scheme.

### **Indian Railways to stop free travel insurance from September 1:**

- Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has decided to **stop free travel insurance** starting September 1 and "free insurance will be optional".
- The insurance provided by the IRCTC had a maximum cover of **Rs. 10 lakh** in case of a person's death during a train journey, Rs. 7.5 lakh if a person is disabled due to an accident, Rs. 2 lakh if injured and Rs. 10,000 for transportation of mortal remains.

### **Pune ranked first in Ease of Living Index 2018; Delhi at 65:**

- Of total 111 cities ranked under the 'Ease of Living Index 2018' which was released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, **Pune** has been ranked **first** while **Navi Mumbai** has surfaced as the **second** preferred spot in terms of 'liveability'.
- **Top 10 cities in 'Ease of Living Index' 2018 list are:**
  - ◆ 1- Pune;
  - ◆ 2- Navi Mumbai;
  - ◆ 3- Greater Mumbai;
  - ◆ 4- Tirupati;
  - ◆ 5- Chandigarh;
  - ◆ 6- Thane;
  - ◆ 7- Raipur;
  - ◆ 8- Indore;
  - ◆ 9- Vijayawada;
  - ◆ 10- Bhopal.

### **Rajasthan's Jodhpur railway station ranked as India's cleanest:**

- In a cleanliness report released by the Ministry of Railways, **Jodhpur and Jaipur** of North Western Railway in Rajasthan captured the first two spots in the **A1** Category stations.
- **Tirupati**, an important site for religious tourism and in South Central Railway, ranked **third**.
- Rajasthan's **Marwar** topped among the A Category railway stations, followed by Phulera and Warangal.
- There are over **8,000** stations on the Indian Railway network and they are classified into seven categories: A-1, A, B, C, D, E and F based on their annual passenger revenue.

### **India's first genetic bank for wildlife conservation inaugurated in Hyderabad:**

- National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in **Hyderabad**, Telangana.
- The Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank at LaCONES can store **17,000** vials worth of samples.
- Currently genetic material, including DNA, cells and tissues besides semen and eggs of 23 wildlife species are stored.

### **Haryana inaugurated its first licensed Hisar Airport:**

- The airport was inaugurated on August 15 by Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar.
- The team informed that the airport selected by the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the **RCS-UDAN Scheme** in which one airline

namely M/s Pinnacle Airways Limited have bid for two routes namely Delhi-Hisar and Hisar-Chandigarh.

### **Indian Navy launched 'Operation Madad' in flood hit Kerala:**

- The Southern Naval Command (SNC) launched '**Operation Madad**' for assisting the Kerala administration and undertaking disaster relief operations due to the unprecedented flooding experienced in many parts of Kerala.
- All the five gates of the **Idukki (Cheruthoni) Dam** in Kerala have been opened for the first time in **26 years**, due to heavy rain and flooding.
- The Idukki Dam system is constructed across the **river Periyar**.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced manned space mission taking Indian astronauts to space on board 'Gaganyaan' by 2022:**

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will have two unmanned missions and spacecraft will be launched using GSLV Mark-III.
- GSLV Mark III launch vehicle will be fully equipped with crew module and life support system for a manned mission in the next two years.
- If successful, India would be **fourth** nation to achieve that feat.

### **Godrej's Smita Crishna tops list of India's wealthiest women:**

- **Smitha V. Crishna**, a third-generation heir of the **Godrej** family, ranks first in the Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading **Wealthy Women 2018** list with an estimated wealth of ₹ 37,570 crore.

- **Roshni Nadar**, CEO and executive director at **HCL**, ranks **second** in the list with an estimated wealth of ₹30,200 crore.
- **Indu Jain**, the chairperson of the Times Group, ranks **third** in the list with an estimated wealth of ₹26,240 crore.

Rank	Name	Wealth (Rs Crore)	Company	Residence
1	Smitha V Crishna	37,570	Godrej	Mumbai
2	Roshni Nadar	30,200	HCL	New Delhi
3	Indu Jain	26,240	Bennett Coleman	New Delhi
4	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	24,790	Biocon	Bengaluru
5	Kiran Nadar	20,120	HCL	New Delhi
6	Leena Gandhi Tewari	10,730	USV	Mumbai
7	Sangita Jindal	10,450	JSW Steel	Mumbai
8	Jayshree Ullal	9,490	Arista Networks	San Francisco
9	Anu Aga	8,550	Thermax	Pune
10	Shradha Agarwal	8,200	Outcome Health	Chicago

Source: Hurun Research Institute

### Delhi vehicles to get blue sticker for petrol and orange for diesel:

- For better tackling of air pollution related issues in the Delhi, Supreme Court has approved the central government's proposal to use hologram-based colour-coded stickers for vehicles in Delhi based on the fuel used.
- The vehicles that run on **petrol** and **CNG** will have light **blue** stickers, while the **diesel** vehicles will have **orange** stickers.
- The scheme is based on a model used in **Paris**.

### India's first Humboldt penguin was born at Mumbai's Byculla zoo:

- After an incubation of 40 days, India's first **Humboldt penguin** was born on 15th August at **Mumbai's Byculla zoo**.
- As it was born on Independence Day, it was named as "The Freedom Baby".

- The zoo authorities will be conducting DNA test to find out its gender.
- The chick weighed 75 gm and was reported to be healthy.
- **Humboldt penguin:**
  - The Humboldt penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*) is a South American penguin that breeds in coastal Chile and Peru.
  - The penguin is named after the cold water current it swims in, which is itself named after Alexander von Humboldt, an explorer.
  - The species is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

### **West Bengal Government removed family income ceiling for Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme:**

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** lifted the ceiling on annual family income for the beneficiaries of her government's flagship women welfare scheme '**Kanyashree**' that aims to ensure girls stay in school and delay their marriages till at least the age of 18.
- Kanyashree was launched on October 1, **2013** to prevent early marriage of girl children of socio-economically disadvantaged families whose annual income is **Rs 1,20,000** or less.
- This Scheme received the **United Nations Public Service Award** last year.

### **FSSAI launched RUCO initiative to collect, convert used cooking oil into biofuel:**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched **RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil)**, an initiative

that will enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to **biodiesel**.

- The regulator believes India has the potential to recover **220 crore litres** of used cooking oil for the production of biodiesel by **2022** through a co-ordinated action.
- According to FSSAI regulations, the maximum permissible limits for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) have been set at **25 per cent**, beyond which the cooking oil is **unsafe** for consumption.
- Current Chairperson for FSSAI - **Ashish Bahuguna**
- Current Chief Executive Officer for FSSAI - Pawan Kumar Agarwal

### **NPCI launched UPI 2.0 with overdraft facility:**

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched an upgraded version of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI), UPI 2.0**.
- Customers can now link overdraft account to UPI in addition to current and savings account, and the transaction limit has been doubled to **₹2 lakh**.
- UPI 2.0 also allows customers to check invoice before making a payment to the merchant.
- NPCI is an umbrella organization for all retail payments in India. UPI version 1 was launched in April 2016.

### **Delhi gets free WiFi, broadband under 'Smart City' project:**

- Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched a host of new **Smart City projects** in Delhi. The event took place at the Charkha Park in Connaught Place.

- Besides launching the two projects to provide high speed connectivity in the city, the Union Home Minister also launched other projects under the Centre's Smart City initiative. These projects include--
  - ◆ a solar tree,
  - ◆ an ideation centre,
  - ◆ two hi-tech nurseries,
  - ◆ 50 LED interactive screens,
  - ◆ four mechanical road sweepers,
  - ◆ two litter picking machines and
  - ◆ 10 auto tippers.

### **India's First project of Swadesh Darshan launched in Manipur:**

- The Manipur Governor, Dr. **Najma A. Heptulla** inaugurated the project '**Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom**' implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- The project which covers two sites – **Kangla Fort** in Imphal and Khongjom was taken up at an estimated cost of **Rs. 72,22,82607** under the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- **About 'Swadesh Darshan':**
  - 'Swadesh Darshan' (**tour of country**) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.
  - The scheme was launched in **2014-15** and the ministry has so far sanctioned 70 projects at a cost of **Rs 5,708.88 crore**.

## First “All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey” released by NABARD, 88% Rural Households have Savings Account:

- **All India Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS)**, conducted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 2016 in 245 districts of 29 states covering 40,327 households, revealed that
  - More than **88 per cent** of rural households have **bank accounts**,
  - Only about **24 per cent** of the 88% of rural households **use ATM services** at least once in three months,
  - The annual income of **farmers** increased **37.4 per cent** to Rs 1,07,172 between 2012-13 and 2015-16,
  - Among states, **Punjab, Haryana and Kerala** are the **top three** having average **monthly income** of Rs 23,133, Rs 18,496 and Rs 16,927, respectively.

## Karnataka Governor opens his official residence, Raj Bhavan to public for 15 days:

- Karnataka Governor **Vajubhai Vala** has opened his official residence, **Raj Bhavan**, for public viewing from August 16 to August 31.
- For the first time, citizens will get to explore the Raj Bhavan between 4pm and 6.30 pm.
- Raj Bhavan, formerly known during British India as the **Bangalore Residency**, was built by **Sir Mark Cubbon**, who was the commissioner of Mysuru territory of the British empire between 1840 and 1842.
- The 19 bedrooms in the Bhavan were named after famous Indian rivers and mountains.



## **BANKING, BUSINESS & FINANCE NEWS:**

### **No ATM to be refilled with cash after 9 pm from February 2019:**

- To reduce attacks on cash vaults and ATM frauds, the Home Ministry has issued a directive stating that no ATM will be refilled with cash after **9 pm in cities, 6 pm in rural areas and 4 pm in Naxal-affected areas** from **February 8, 2019**.
- Every cash van will carry not more than **Rs 5 crore** per trip.
- This move comes just a week after an estimated amount of **Rs 94 crores** was siphoned off from **Cosmos bank** in Pune.

### **World Bank to issue world's first blockchain bond:**

- The World Bank has mandated the **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** (CBA) to issue the world's first blockchain-based bond.
- The **Kangaroo bond**, referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in the local currency, has been named **bond-i**, an acronym standing for **Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument**. (It's also a reference to Bondi Beach, an iconic spot in Sydney).

### **State Bank of India ranked as India's Most Patriotic Brand:**

- According to the survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov, Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, followed by
  - Tata Motors,
  - Patanjali,
  - Reliance Jio and
  - BSNL.

- In terms of food brands, **Amul** grabbed the **top** slot with one-third Indians considering it, followed by Patanjali.

## SPORTS NEWS:

### **Virat Kohli ranked top in the list of the highest run scorer in International Cricket 2018:**

- Indian skipper **Virat Kohli** claimed the top spot in the list of highest run scorers in **International Cricket 2018**.
- **Jonny Bairstow**, the England wicket-keeper batsman, stepped down to the **second** spot.
- Virat Kohli has scored 509 runs in Test cricket, 146 in T20Is and 749 in ODs. The total sum of the runs tallies up to 1404 runs in 25 innings.
- **Shikhar Dhawan** is the second Indian in the list with 1055 runs.

### **Footballer Lionel Messi confirmed as the new Barcelona captain:**

- Lionel Messi has succeeded **Andres Iniesta** as captain of Barcelona, after the Spaniard ended his 22-year stay at the club to join Japanese side Vissel Kobe in May.
- **Sergio Busquets** will be the **vice-captain**, with Gerard Pique and Sergi Roberto the third and fourth captains respectively.
- Messi, 31, joined the Barcelona club in **2001** and is their record goalscorer.

### **PV Sindhu remained at 3rd spot and Srikanth at 8th spot in BWF 2018 ranking:**

- In the latest **Badminton World Federation** (BWF) singles rankings, **P V Sindhu** remained static at the **third** spot, Saina Nehwal lost a place to be ranked **11th** now. **Kidambi Srikanth** slipped two places to **eighth**.
- Viktor Axelsen from Denmark and Tai Tzu Ying from Chinese Taipei ranked first in BWF Men's Singles and Women's Singles, respectively.

### **James Anderson became first bowler to take 100 Test wickets at Lord's:**

- England fast bowler **James Anderson** (36-year-old) became the first bowler to take 100 Test wickets at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground when he dismissed India opener Murali Vijay on day four of the second Test in the ongoing five-match Test series against India.
- Sri Lankan off-spinner **Muttiah Muralitharan**, is the only other bowler to capture 100 wickets at a single venue.

### **Ramesh Powar named as Head Coach Of Women's National Cricket Team:**

- This decision was informed by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Amitabh Choudhary.
- He was appointed interim coach of the team after the resignation of **Tushar Arothe**.
- Powar's term will include a tour to **Sri Lanka**, a bilateral series in the West Indies in October followed by the **ICC Women's World T20** in West Indies in November.

### India improved to World No: 96 in FIFA rankings:

The Top five positions in the latest **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** rankings are:

Rank	Country
1	France
2	Belgium
3	Brazil
4	Croatia
5	Uruguay

### UAE to host Asia Cup 2018:

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** and the **Emirates Cricket Board (ECB)** declared that the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** will be hosting the **Asia Cup 2018** cricket match.
- The tournament will be held from September 15 to 28 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will be participating in the tournament.
- The opening game of the tournament will be played by Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

### **Vaishali R becomes India's latest Woman Grandmaster:**

- The sister of R Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali R (17-year-old), became India's latest Woman Grandmaster (**WGM**) after earning her third and final WGM norm at Riga Technical University Open at Latvia.
- She is the highest ranked chess player in India in her age category.
- Recently, Praggnanandhaa became the world's **second youngest** Grandmaster of all time.
- **Vijayalakshmi** Subbaraman was **India's first** WGM, a title she achieved in 2001.

### **Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson announces retirement from all forms of Cricket:**

- 36-year-old Johnson announced his retirement from **international cricket** during the Test series against New Zealand in Perth in November **2015**, but remained a useful bowler in Twenty20 competitions, including for Perth Scorchers in the Australian 'Big Bash' tournament.
- He struggled with a back injury while playing for **Kolkata Knight Riders** in this year's Indian Premier League (IPL).
- He claimed 239 wickets in 153 one-day internationals, and 38 wickets in 30 T20 internationals for Australia.

### **Rishabh Pant becomes 4th Indian wicketkeeper to take five catches on debut Test:**

- Twenty-year-old Rishabh Pant took five catches on his debut Test match at **Trent Bridge** where India are playing **England** in five-match Test series.
- He is also the **first Asian** wicket-keeper and **third** in the **world** to take five catches in an innings on Test debut.

- Pant became the **first Indian batsman** to open his Test account with a **six**.
- Pant, who replaced an injured Dinesh Karthik, is the 291st Test player for India.
- **Five catches on debut Test for an Indian wicketkeeper:**
  - Tamhane v Pak, Dhaka, 1955;
  - Kiran More v Eng, Lord's, 1986;
  - Naman Ojha v SL, Colombo SSC, 2015;
  - Pant v Eng, Trent Bridge, 2018.

## DEFENCE NEWS:

### India successfully tested Anti-Tank Missile "HELINA" in Pokhran:

- Indigenously-developed guided bombs- **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAAW)** were successfully flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer, **Rajasthan**.
- Anti-tank guided missile Helina was test fired at Pokhran in Rajasthan.

### India to participate in SCO Peace Mission 2018 exercise at Russia:

- India will participate for the **first time** in the joint **SCO Peace Mission Exercise**, a part of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** initiatives, being conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia from August 22-29 at **Chebarkul**.
- India became a full member of the SCO in June **2017**.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an **eight-member** multilateral organization, established on 15 June **2001** in Shanghai, China.

- 8 members of SCO are:- China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

### **Indo-Israel missile defence system Barak 8 to be procured by Israeli Navy:**

- The multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system, jointly developed by **India and Israel**, will be procured by the Israeli Navy to protect its economic zones and strategic facilities from diversified threats and the sales for it have exceeded **USD 5 billion**.
- Barak-8 is an operational **air and missile** defense system used by the Israeli Navy as well as by the Indian Navy and air forces.
- Barak 8 has been jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), India's DRDO, Israel's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, Elta Systems, Rafael and some other Indian defence companies.

### **Indian and Singapore navies to commemorate 25th anniversary of maritime bilateral exercise:**

- The Indian and Singapore navies will conduct joint exercises **next month** to commemorate the **25th anniversary** of the maritime bilateral exercise between the two countries.
- Singapore is a leading source of investment in India and a key financial market for Indian companies.
- The country is the gateway to the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and a broader East.
- Singapore's education minister **Ong Ye Kung** was the **Guest of Honour** at the Independence Day celebration.

### **Indian Army to climb world's fifth highest peak Mt Makalu:**

- To achieve greater heights in the field of mountaineering, **Indian Army** is planning to attempt fifth highest mountain peak in the world - **Mt Makalu**(8,485 metres) in 2019.
- Under the protection of Army Adventure Wing, an expedition to **Mount Kamet** (7756 meters), Joshimath (district Chamoli, Uttarakhand), is also being conducted from August to September.
- Mount Kamet is the **third highest peak of India** after Kanchanjunga and Nanda Devi and the only highest peak available to climb within the country.

### **India sent INS Sahyadri to Fiji to boost ties:**

- INS Sahyadri ship celebrated the 72nd Independence Day of India in the Port of Suva, Fiji on August 15.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Sahyadri** (F49) is the third and latest ship among the **Shivalik Class** of indigenously built stealth frigates and forms a part of the Eastern Fleet of Indian Navy.
- INS Sahyadri draws its name from the beautiful, age-defying **Western Ghats** (also known as Sahyadri ranges) stretching across 1,600 km along India's western coast.

### **India is building AMCA, a new fifth generation fighter jet:**

- **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft** (AMCA), India's only fifth-generation fighter aircraft, will make its first flight in **2032**.
- The AMCA will fly with two GE-414 engines.
- It is being designed in a way that it can deflect away maximum radar waves and thus minimize its radar cross-section. It can also absorb the radio waves thereby reducing the radar footprint.



- This aircraft programme is after the decision by IAF not to go ahead with the fifth-generation project with Russia.

## APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

### Rekha Sharma appointed as chairperson of National Commission for Women:

- Sharma, 54, was earlier a member of the Commission and was holding the additional charge of chairperson after **Lalitha Kumaramangalam** demitted office in September last year. She belongs to Haryana.
- The National Commission for Women (NCW) was set up as statutory body in January **1992** under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

### Government dismissed Usha Ananthasubramanian from service:

- Usha Ananthasubramanian was, three months back, divested of all her powers as **MD of Allahabad Bank**, after being named in a CBI charge-sheet in the **Rs 14,000 crore** (Rs 140 billion) Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case but had continued to be an employee of the bank.
- A Mumbai branch of PNB had fraudulently issued LoUs (letters of undertaking) for the group of companies belonging to **Nirav Modi** since March 2011.

### Infosys CFO Ranganath stepped down from his position:

- **M.D.Ranganath** has resigned his position as the **Chief Financial Officer** (CFO) and a key managerial personnel from **Infosys**.

- He will continue as CFO till November 16, 2018.
- He has been working at Infosys for a span of 18 years and as CFO in the last 3 three years.

## OBITUARY:

### **Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister, passed away on 16th August:**

- Former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, 93 years old, passed away on 16th August due to his prolonged ill health.
- He was one of the greatest leaders of India. The veteran leader was **Prime Minister thrice** in 1996, 1998-1999 and 1999-2004.
- He was born on **December 25, 1924**, in Gwalior.
- He was one of the founding members of the Jan Sangh in 1951 and became its president in 1968.
- He was elected **10 times the Lok Sabha** from four different States. He was twice the member of Rajya Sabha.
- He was also a poet and his poetry collections were compiled in his book **Meri Ekyavan Kavitayen** (My 51 Poems).

### **Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General passed away:**

- **Kofi Annan**, 80 years old, **passed away** due to illness.
- He is the **first black African** secretary-general of the United Nations.
- He served two terms as secretary-general from January 1, 1997, to December 31, 2006.
- Kofi Annan and the UN were jointly awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2001**.

### **Managing Director of Bajaj Electricals, Anant Bajaj passed away at 41:**

- Industrialist Anant Bajaj, the only son of Bajaj Electricals Chairman Shekhar Bajaj, passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest.
- Bajaj started his career as a project coordinator in Bajaj Electricals back in 1999.
- He was also responsible for setting up the ₹ 45 crore high mast manufacturing and galvanising plant at Ranjangaon, near Pune in Maharashtra.

### **Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee Passed Away:**

- 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**.

### **Chhattisgarh Governor Balram Das Tandon passes away at 90:**

- He became the governor of Chhattisgarh in **July 2014** and has served on various other posts including the **Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab**.
- Tandon was one of the founding members of the Jan Sangh which later became the BJP.
- In his 65 years of political career, Tandon was **six-time MLA** and state BJP president of Punjab for two years.
- Tandon has served as cabinet minister in 1977-79 and in 1997-2002 in the ministries headed by Punjab Chief Minister

Parkash Singh Badal. He was elected from **Amritsar five times** between 1960 and 1977, and was again elected from Rajpura in 1997.

### **Former Indian skipper Ajit Wadekar passed away:**

- Former Indian Skipper **Ajit Wadekar**, 77 years old, **passed away** on 15th August.
- He played for the Indian national team between 1966 and 1974.
- He was the first Indian captain to achieve overseas wins while touring the West Indies and England in 1971. India won over five matches in the West Indies in the early 1970s and then defeated England over three.
- He has been awarded the Arjuna Award (1967) and Padma Shri (1972).

## **IMPORTANT DAYS:**

### **World Photography Day and World Humanitarian Day observed on 19 August:**

- **About World Humanitarian Day:**
  - Objective:- To recognize work of humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives.
  - The campaign theme for this year is: “#NotATarget”.
  - The World Humanitarian Day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by passing a resolution A/63/L.49 in **2008**.
  - The day marks death of the Special Representative of Secretary-General to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 of

his colleagues who were killed in bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad on August 19, 2003.

- 19th August is also celebrated as **World Photography Day**. The birth of this day dates back to 1839 in France, but it came in to force in 2009.

## QUIZ CORNER:

1) The World Bank has mandated which of the following bank to issue the world's first blockchain-based bond?

- A. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
- B. Bank of America
- C. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
- D. Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Answer:- D

2) What is the theme for International Youth Day (IYD) 2018?

- A. Safe Spaces for Youth
- B. Youth Building Peace
- C. Youth Civic Engagement
- D. Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward

Answer:- A

3) Which city ranked first in 'Ease of Living Index 2018', which was recently released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri?

- A. Greater Mumbai

**B. New Delhi**

**C. Pune**

**D. Tirupati**

**Answer:- C**

**4) Who is the highest run scorer in International Cricket 2018?**

**A. Jonny Bairstow**

**B. Kumar Sangakkara**

**C. Virat Kohli**

**D. MS Dhoni**

**Answer:- C**

**5) In a cleanliness report released by the Ministry of Railways, which of the following railway stations captured the first two spots as India's cleanest A1 Category stations?**

**A. Tirupati and Vijayawada**

**B. Jodhpur and Jaipur**

**C. Bandra and Hyderabad**

**D. Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam**

**Answer:- B**

**6) Who topped BBC's 'Women Who Changed The World' List ?**

**A. Marie Curie**

**B. Ada Lovelace**

**C. Emmeline Pankhurst**

**D. Mother Teresa**



**Answer:- A**

**7) Where was Operation “Madad” launched by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) to carry out disaster relief operations due to the floods?**

- A. New Delhi**
- B. Andhra Pradesh**
- C. Tamil Nadu**
- D. Kerala**

**Answer:- D**

**8) Who became the first bowler to take 100 Test wickets at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground?**

- A. James Anderson**
- B. Stuart Broad**
- C. Chris Woakes**
- D. Sam Curran**

**Answer:- A**

**9) What is the position of PV Sindhu in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) singles rankings?**

- A. Fifth**
- B. Second**
- C. Third**
- D. Fourth**

**Answer:- C**

**10) Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of National Commission for Women?**

- A. Rekha Sharma**
- B. Lalitha Kumaramangalam**
- C. Mamta Sharma**
- D. Sushma Sahu**

**Answer:- A**

**11) India's first genetic bank for wildlife conservation inaugurated in -----.**

- A. Chennai**
- B. Hyderabad**
- C. New Delhi**
- D. Mumbai**

**Answer:- B**

**12) Who tops the list of India's wealthiest women 2018?**

- A. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**
- B. Indu Jain**
- C. Smitha V. Crishna**
- D. Roshni Nadar**

**Answer:- C**



**13) For controlling air pollution related issues in Delhi, the vehicles that run on petrol and CNG will have light blue stickers, while the diesel vehicles will have orange stickers. The scheme is based on a model used in**

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

**Answer:- A**

**14) Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador For Road Safety Campaigns?**

- A. Anil Kapoor**
- B. Akshay kumar**
- C. Suresh kumar**
- D. Sonam Kapoor**

**Answer:- B**

**15) On 72nd Independence Day, a 1,100 feet long national flag was unfurled in**

- A. Assam**
- B. Maharashtra**
- C. Uttar Pradesh**
- D. Gujarat**

**Answer:- D**

16) Balram Das Tandon passes away at 90. Tandon was six-time MLA and became the governor of \_\_\_\_\_ in July 2014.

- A. Gujarat
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Assam

Answer:- C

17) Which of the following city has named World's most liveable city for 2018?

- A. Vienna
- B. Melbourne
- C. Osaka
- D. Sydney

Answer:- A

18) Addressing the nation on the 72nd Independence Day, PM Narendra Modi said, 'India has registered its name as the \_\_\_\_\_ largest economy in the world.'

- A. Seventh
- B. Fourth
- C. Fifth
- D. Sixth

Answer:- D

**19) Who was appointed as the head coach of Women's National Team?**

- A. Ramesh Powar**
- B. Naresh Iyer**
- C. Suresh Iyer**
- D. Arun Johar**

**Answer:- A**

**20) How much amount will be given to the poor families every year as per the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan?**

- A. Rs.3 lakh**
- B. Rs.1 lakh**
- C. Rs.5 lakh**
- D. Rs.2 lakh**

**Answer:- C**

**21) When will India launch 'Gaganyaan', the manned space mission?**

- A. 2020**
- B. 2022**
- C. 2021**
- D. 2023**

**Answer:- B**

**22) The multi-purpose 'Barak 8' missile defence system was jointly developed by India and**

- A. Russia
- B. Pakistan
- C. Nepal
- D. Israel

**Answer:- D**

**23) Mario Abdo Benitez sworn in as the 50th President of**

- A. Paraguay
- B. Guatemala
- C. Bolivia
- D. Argentina

**Answer:- A**

**24) 73-year-old Ibrahim Boubacar Keita re-elected as president of**

- A. Nigeria
- B. Ghana
- C. Mali
- D. Liberia

**Answer:- C**

**25) Recently, Mamata Banerjee lifted family income ceiling for the beneficiaries of women welfare scheme 'Kanyashree'. Earlier the ceiling was**

- A. Rs 1,20,000 or less
- B. Rs 1,50,000 or less
- C. Rs 1,30,000 or less

**D. Rs 1,70,000 or less**

**Answer:- A**

**26) Good Governance Day is observed in India on the 25th December every year. It is to honor which of the following leader's birth anniversary?**

**A. Dr.Rajendra Prasad**

**B. APJ Abdul Kalam**

**C. Indira Gandhi**

**D. Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

**Answer:- D**

**27) Imran Khan elected as \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister Of Pakistan.**

**A. 23rd**

**B. 24th**

**C. 22nd**

**D. 21st**

**Answer:- C**

**28) PM Narendra Modi announced immediate relief of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ crore to flood hit Kerala.**

**A. Rs 250 crore**

**B. Rs 500 crore**

**C. Rs 300 crore**

**D. Rs 400 crore**



**Answer:- B**

**29) Who became the first Indian batsman to open his Test account with a six?**

- A. Virat Kohli**
- B. Ajinkya Rahane**
- C. Shikhar Dhawan**
- D. Rishabh Pant**

**Answer:- D**

**30) Who gave India its first gold medal at the 18th edition of the Asian Games 2018?**

- A. Bajrang Punia**
- B. Ravi Kumar**
- C. Apurvi Chandela**
- D. Deepak Kumar**

**Answer:- A**

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