

Important Current Affairs - July 3rd Week 2018

16th July - 21st July, 2018

New GST (Goods and Services Tax) Rates:

- On July 21, GST Council cut tax rates on **88** items.
- The **sanitary napkins** (12% tax at present) and fortified **milk** (which was taxed at 18%) have been exempted from the levy.
- Certain items from 28% tax slab are shifted to the lower **18%** slab including washing machines, refrigerators, up to 25-inch televisions, vacuum cleaners, Lithium ion batteries and paints.
- Common-use **foot wares** Rs 1,000 to be taxed at **5 per cent**.
- **Ethanol oil** for oil companies to be taxed at 5 per cent in place of 18 per cent earlier.
- GST on handbags and handmade lamps has been reduced to **12%**.
- The new GST rates would come into effect from **July 27**.
- This rate reductions is estimated to cost the government exchequer nearly Rs 7,000 crore.

New GST rates	Items
0%	Sanitary napkins; rakhis; marbles, stone and wood deities; fortified milk; Raw material used in brooms; Saal leaves; Coir pith compost.
5%	Ethanol oil for oil companies, common-use foot wares up to Rs 1,000 value; Solid bio fuel pellets; Handloom dari; Phosphoric acid; Knitted cap/topi.
12%	Handicraft items, Handbags, bamboo flooring, jewellery

	box, wooden box for paintings, artware of glass, stone endeavour, ornamental framed mirrors, handmade lamps.
18%	Washing machine, Refrigerators, TV (up to 68 cm or 27 inch), Video games, Vacuum cleaners, Trailers, Juicer mixer, Grinders, Shavers & Hair dryers, water cooler, water heaters, Lithium ion batteries, electric iron, scents, toilet spray, paints, wall putty and Varnish, special purpose vehicles, work truck, trailer, Wooden frames for painting, photographs, mirrors.
28%	----

2018 Wimbledon Championships:

- Edition - 132nd tennis tournament
- Took place at - All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, **United Kingdom**
- It is the **third** Grand Slam tournament of the year.
- Novak Djokovic (Serbia) wins fourth (2011/2014/2015/2018) Wimbledon title.

2018 Wimbledon Champions:

Event	Winner	Runners-Up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Kevin Anderson (South Africa)
Women's Singles	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	Serena Williams (USA)
Men's Doubles	Mike Bryan (USA)	Michael Venus (New Zealand)

	Jack Sock (USA)	Raven Klaasen(South Africa)
Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejcikova (Czech Republic)	Nicole Melichar (USA)
	Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Kveta Peschke(Czech Republic)
Mixed Doubles	Alexander Peya (Austria)	Victoria Azarenka(Belarus)
	Nicole Melichar (USA)	Jamie Murray (UK)

Latest ICC ODI player rankings:

- **Virat Kohli** held No.1 spot in the ICC (International Cricket Council) ODI player rankings for batsmen, by touching a career-high **911 points**.
- England Test skipper **Joe Root** is at the No.2 spot, with 818 ratings points.
- Indian Bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** ranked **No:1** in **bowling** with 775 points. Kuldeep Yadav broke into the top-10 of the bowlers' chart at sixth.

● Top 5 Batting Rankings:

Player	Rank
Virat Kohli	1
Joe Root	2
Babar Azam	3

Rohit Sharma	4
David Wagner	5

• **Top 5 Bowling Rankings:**

Player	Rank
Jasprit Bumrah	1
Rashid Khan	2
Hasan Ali	3
Trent Boult	4
Josh Hazlewood	5

• **Top 5 ODI All rounder**

Player	Rank
Shakib Al Hasan	1
Mohammad Hafeez	2
Mohammad Nabi	3
Mitchell Santner	4
Angelo Mathews	5

Important Notes on ICC:

- ◆ Headquarters: Dubai , UAE.
- ◆ Chairman: Shashank Manohar.

Cabinet Approvals on July 18:

1. Establishment of Medical College, Salempur at **Deoria**, Uttar Pradesh
2. Policy framework for streamlining the working of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) in Pre-NELP and NELP Blocks.
3. Continuation of the Schemes of Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes
4. Special Package for Irrigation Projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada and other chronically drought prone areas of Rest of Maharashtra.
5. Special Remission to Prisoners on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
6. Determination of Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) payable by Sugar Mills for 2018-19 sugar season.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

Boxer Mayweather tops Forbes' list of World's highest paid celebrity:

- American Boxing champion **Floyd Mayweather** has been named the world's highest paid celebrity by Forbes with earnings of **\$285 million** in the last 12 months.
- Actor **George Clooney** take the No. 2 spot with the highest annual pay of his career.
- Reality star **Kylie Jenner**, 20, came in third on the annual Forbes Celebrity 100 list.
- Lionel Messi (ranked 8th with \$111 million) and Cristiano Ronaldo (ranked 10th with \$108 million) were the only other athletes in the top 10.

Israeli parliament passed bill defining the country as Jewish state:

- This bill is assumed to be granting an advantageous status to **Jewish-only** communities and **downgrading Arabic** from an official language to one with a “special status.”
- 62 lawmakers voted in favor of this bill and 55 opposed it.
- Currently, in Israel, 74.5% of the population are Jews. Arabs make up 20% of Israel’s population.
- **About Israel:-**
 - ◆ Capital and largest city - Jerusalem.
 - ◆ Currency - New shekel
 - ◆ Official languages - Hebrew
 - ◆ Second language - Arabic
 - ◆ President - Reuven Rivlin
 - ◆ Prime Minister - Benjamin Netanyahu
 - ◆ Israeli parliament is called as - **Knesset** (Hebrew: "Assembly").

Pakistan PM launched first land based communication link with China:

- Pakistan Prime Minister **Nasirul Mulk** inaugurated the **Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)** project that would serve as the first land-based communication link between the two countries, and as a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.
- The project includes an 820 km-long underground OFC from Rawalpindi to Khunjerab and a 172-km aerial OFC link from Karimabad to Khunjerab.

Qatar ranked first in overall 4G mobile internet speeds:

- According to data speed tester **Ookla**, **India** ranks **109th** in overall 4G mobile internet speeds with an average download speed of 9.12 Mbps which is less than Pakistan (14.03 Mbps).
- Out of the list comprising 124 countries, **Qatar** ranked **first** in the list with 63.22 Mbps average download speed.
- **Norway** stood **second** in the list with 62.14 Mbps download speed.

UK topped Global Ranking of Nations' soft power:

- In 2018 'Soft Power 30' index, published by UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland and the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy, **France** placed **second** and **Germany** as **third** followed by the US.
- India does not figure on the list, but this year's report also features a chapter dedicated solely to Asia, listing 10 countries in the region, ranking India's soft power as eighth.

EU and Japan signed major trade deal:

- Japan and the EU (European Union) signed a trade deal, as an act against protectionism, as Washington puts up barriers and threatens a trade war.
- The deal which is signed in Tokyo is the largest ever negotiated by the EU.
- It is aimed to create a massive **free trade zone**, eliminating tariffs for everything from Japanese cars to French cheese.
- The agreement is expected to enter into force in 2019.
- Japan's Prime Minister - **Shinzo Abe**
- EU Council President - **Donald Tusk**

- EU Commission head - Jean-Claude Juncker

Amazon is the second company to hit \$900 Billion valuation after Apple:

- Amazon company crossed \$900-billion market cap for the first time in its history becoming only the second company after Apple to achieve this milestone.
- Amazon sold over 100 million products during its **Prime Day sale**.
- **Apple** is currently the world's most valuable company with a market cap of **\$935 billion**.
- Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Amazon - **Jeff Bezos** (Jeffrey Preston Bezos)
- Amazon was founded in 1994.

Hungary to withdraw from UN migration pact:

- **Hungary** will withdraw from the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" agreement which force countries to shelter migrants and it will be adopted in **December, 2018**.
- The US withdrew from the pact last year.
- The draft for the Global Compact for Migration was approved by 191 UN member nations, but not the United States, which withdrew in December saying it was "inconsistent" with its "immigration and refugee policies".

Two Indian origin candidates are contesting in London Mayor election 2020:

- Lucknow-born businesswoman **Ruby McGregor-Smith** and British Sikh politician **Kulveer Ranger** are among 10 shortlisted by Britain's ruling Conservative party.

- They are selected as prospective candidates to run for London Mayor in 2020 against Labour's Pakistan-origin Sadiq Khan.

Two Plus Two Dialogue Between India and USA to be held in New Delhi:

- It will be held in **September** 2018.
- The Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** and Defence Secretary **James Mattis** will travel to India for the dialogue with External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.

Fourth BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Kathmandu:

- Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali announced that 4th **B**ay of Bengal **I**nitiatives for **M**ulti-**S**ectoral, **T**echnical and **E**conomic **C**ooperation (**BIMSTEC**) to be held in Kathmandu.
- **Main Focus**:- To increase connectivity between the BIMSTEC nations including roads, airways and transmission lines.
- BIMSTEC Membership Countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

South Korean Ex President Park Geun hye got another 8 yrs in jail:

- For abusing state funds and elections, South Korea court sentenced jailed ex-President **Park Geun-hye** to additional 8 years.
- She is already serving **24 years** in prison on separate corruption charges following her removal in **2017**. She now faces a total of 32 years in prison.
- Present President of South Korea - Moon Jae-in

- South Korea Prime Minister - Lee Nak-yeon.

Myanmar Joined International Solar Alliance:

- **Myanmar** joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA) and it became the **68th** signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.
- Myanmar Minister for International Cooperation **Kyaw Tin** handed over the ISA Framework Agreement to External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** during a bilateral meeting on Delhi Dialogue 2018.
- **About International Solar Alliance:**
 - Founded: Paris, France
 - Headquarters: Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, **Haryana**, India
 - Membership Nations: 121 nations (As of 2017)
 - Purpose: Bring together a group of nations to endorse clean energy, sustainable environment, public transport and climate.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

Seven new members take oath in Rajya Sabha on July 18, 2018:

The newly elected members for Rajya Sabha are:

- ◆ RSS ideologue Rakesh Sinha,
- ◆ classical dancer Sonal Mansingh,
- ◆ sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra,
- ◆ former BJP lawmaker Ram Shakal,

- ◆ CITU state general secretary Elamaram Kareem,
- ◆ CPI's Binoy Viswam,
- ◆ Jose K Mani of Kerala Congress (Mani).

- The nominees enter the Rajya Sabha to replace Sachin Tendulkar, actor Rekha, former AG of India K Parasaran and businesswoman Anu Agha.
- The **President** of India has the power to nominate **12** members to the Rajya Sabha with special knowledge or experience in fields like literature, art, science and social service.
- **Facts about Rajya Sabha:-**
 - ◆ Present Chairman - Venkaiah Naidu (Vice-President of India)
 - ◆ Leader of the House - Arun Jaitley, BJP
 - ◆ Leader of the Opposition - Ghulam Nabi Azad, INC
 - ◆ Seats - 245 (233 Elected, 12 Nominated)
 - ◆ Tenure of the member - six years

PM Modi Government won no confidence vote which was raised by TDP:

- With **325** votes, Narendra Modi government won the no-confidence motion, which was raised by **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)**, in the lower house of parliament.
- The Congress and the other parties that supported the no-confidence motion had about **152** seats.

India inaugurated World's largest visa centre in Bangladesh:

- To reduce the waiting time for VISA applicants, Home Minister **Rajnath Singh**, who is in Dhaka on a three-day visit inaugurated

the world's largest visa centre along with his Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan.

- The new integrated state-of-the-art Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) spread in an 18,500 square feet commercial area at **Jamuna Future Park** in **Dhaka** will replace all the existing centres (Motijheel, Uttara, Gulshan and Mirpur Road) in Dhaka in two phases.
- Bangladeshis constitute one of the largest number of visitors from a single country to India. Last year, India issued 1.4 million visas to Bangladeshi nationals.

Odisha to get India's 1st skill training centre:

- Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship **Dharmendra Pradhan** announced that the Centre is planning to set up one **National Skill Training Institute** (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country.
- He laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute at Barang near **Bhubaneswar**.
- The Institute costing **Rs 160 crore** will come up over five acres of land and have state-of-the-art facilities.
- The Centre has introduced an array of national and State level projects like Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities, Clean India, Urja Ganga gas pipeline project and Sagarmala port project which needs skilled workforce.

Udaipur ranked 3rd among World's 15 Best Cities:

- The heritage city of Udaipur has been ranked **third** among a list of 15 best cities in the world by **Travel + Leisure**.

- The first two cities on the list are **San Miguel de Allende** and **Oaxaca**, both in Mexico.
- Udaipur city in Rajasthan is also known as "City of Lakes" and the "Venice of the East".

World famous Rath Yatra celebrated in Odisha:

- Popularly known as the 'Festival of Chariots', Rath Yatra festival in honour of Puri's Lord **Jagannath** is one of the most awaited festivals of Orissa. Every year, this festival is observed on July 14.
- This yatra is conducted from Jagannath temple to Gundicha temple.
- Apart from Indian, this festival attracts a large number of international tourists in Puri.

Delhi Metro will receive green power from solar plant in 2 months:

- The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation had signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) to receive green power from **Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Ltd (RUMSL)** situated in **Madhya pradesh** in upcoming two months.
- This project is among the **largest** power plant in the world which spread over an area of nearly 1,590 acres which will supply **750MW** in Rewa, district of Madhya Pradesh.
- This project would save Rs 1, 400 crore of DMRC in Successive 25 years.
- With this project, DMRC would pay around **Rs 3.67** for per unit of solar power, including the transmission charge. Currently the DMRC is buying power at Rs 7 per unit.

PM dedicated Bansagar Canal Project to Nation in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh:

- The Bansagar Dam project is a joint venture of **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.**
- This project will provide a big boost to **irrigation** in the region and will be greatly beneficial for the farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- In 2014 this project was made a part of the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.**
- The Prime Minister also laid the Foundation Stone of the Mirzapur Medical College, besides inaugurating 100 Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the State and dedicated a bridge over the River Ganga at Balughat.

President Ram Nath Kovind clears Bill against witch-hunting:

- President Ram Nath Kovind give assent to the witch-hunting (Prohibition, Prevention, and Protection) **Bill 2015** that the Assam Assembly passed three years ago.
- The Act prescribes a prison term of up to 7 years and up to Rs. 5 lakh in fine for calling a person witch.
- It also has provisions to come with **Section 302** of the IPC, punishment for murder, if someone is killed after being branded a witch.
- This Bill has rejuvenated the campaign of a barely literate 65-year-old woman against superstition that has claimed scores of lives.

ASI has planned to upgrade seven monuments in Tamil Nadu:

Under **Adarsh Smarak** Scheme for Conservation of Monuments, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has planned to upgrade infrastructural and tourist-friendly facilities at seven sites in Tamil Nadu, namely:

- Shore Temple in Mamallapuram,
- Vellore Fort,
- Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur,
- Kailasanathar Temple in Kancheepuram,
- Sittannavasal Caves,
- Gingee Fort and
- Moovar Koil in Kodumbalur.

India's first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad:

- The incubator will be housed at **T-Hub** and will be India's **missile development centre** and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries.
- The incubator will be funded through the Ministry's Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme.
- Initially, a corpus of ₹100 crore has been created by two PSUs- HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) and BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited), each contributing ₹50 crore.

13 year old Mumbai boy launched logistics startup, partners 'Dabbawalas':

- **Tilak Mehta**, a 13-year-old boy from Mumbai, has launched a logistics startup called '**Papers N Parcels**' (PNP) to carry parcels within the Mumbai city for **same-day delivery**.

- Users can place an order and get real-time updates via an app. PNP handles parcels of up to 3 kg and charges Rs. 40-180 per parcel depending on the weight.

India's first government sponsored 'Transgender Poets' meet held in Kolkata:

- This Meet was chaired by India's first transgender college principal **Manabi Bandopadhyay**, who read out several of her own poems at the two-and-a-half-hour event organised by the Sahitya Akademi.

Goa banned fish import from other states for 15 days after formalin scare:

- After high level traces of cancer-causing chemical **formalin** were found in fish consignments, Goa CM **Manohar Parrikar** banned import of fish from neighbouring states for 15 days.
- Formalin is a toxic chemical and is used to preserve bodies and prevent decay in mortuaries.

Mumbai's Elphinstone Road station renamed as Prabhadevi:

- The station named after Lord Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay Presidency from 1853 to 1860, has been rechristened as **Prabhadevi** in honour of a local deity of the same name and to erase a "colonial" name.
- This renaming was first proposed by Shiv Sena leader Diwakar Raote in 1991.

India and Ghana signed two Memorandum of Understanding:

- India and Ghana signed two agreements in an effort to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar announced that two MOUs on Cultural Exchange Programme and on cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards and Ghana Standards Authority.
- Capital: Accra
- Currency: Ghanaian cedi.

Govt to use MicroDots technology to check vehicle thefts:

- In this technique, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a **vehicle identification number** on all over the vehicle's body including their engines.
- This tech is termed as **MicroDots** and it is almost **impossible** to **remove** these **dots**. Hence, the car's identity can be established at any stage.
- The government's highest automobile technical standard making body **CMVR-TSC** (Central Motor Vehicles Rules -Technical Standing Committee) will finalise the rules and its guidelines in the next one or two months.

Rajya Sabha passed the 'Prevention of Corruption Amendment Bill':

- Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 states that anyone who is caught **bribing government officials** can be sentenced to a **jail** term of up to **seven years**.
- However, if the payment of the bribe is reported to the authorities within two weeks, you could avoid punishment under the new law.

- This bill was first introduced by the former United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in **2013**. But it has taken nearly five years for the bill to pass after examinations from the parliamentary standing committee, law commission and eventually a select committee.

World class exhibition on four eminent personalities of Bengal to be hosted at Kolkata:

- A world-class permanent exhibition on four eminent personalities of Bengal -
 - Rabindranath Tagore,
 - Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose,
 - Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and
 - Syama Prasad Mukherjeewill open at the National Library in **Kolkata** in the near future.
- This is announced by Shri Raghvendra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture.

SCHEMES:

Haryana CM launched Paudhagiri Campaign:

- Under the campaign, **22 lakh students** studying in Class 6th to 12th of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling each, during these three months of monsoon - July, August and September.
- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** launched this 'Paudhagiri Campaign' by planting a 'maulsari' sapling in Tau

Devi Lal Sports Complex premises of Gurugram, to increase the green cover in the state.

Ministry of Human Resource Development announced 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' scheme:

- The initiative has been launched under '**Samagra Shiksha**'. Under this initiative, government will give an annual library grant to schools **to promote reading culture**.
- The grant will be given to Primary to Senior Secondary levels and will vary between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 20,000.

DEFENCE NEWS:

DRDO successfully test fired BrahMos Missile from Odisha:

- Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO), and the Indian Army have test fired a supersonic **BrahMos** cruise missile under "extreme weather conditions", in **Balasore district** in the eastern Indian state of **Odisha**.
- The missile - named after the **Brahmaputra River** in India and the **Moskva River** in **Russia** - is a derivative of the Russian-made P-800 Oniks over-the-horizon supersonic anti-ship cruise missile.
- The missile's range is estimated at around 300 to 400 kilometers.
- BrahMos is considered one of the the **world's fastest cruise missile** currently in operational use.

IAF to take part in Australia's 'Exercise Pitch Black' for 1st time:

- For the first time, Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise "**Pitch Black**", a three-week multinational warfare exercise hosted by the Royal **Australian** Air Force (RAAF).
- **145 air-warriors** including a Garud commando team, four Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter planes and a C-130 and a C-17 transport aircraft from IAF will participate in this exercise.

International Army Games 2018 will be conducted from July 28 to August 11:

- The Army games are organised annually by Russia and this year 28 competitions will be **held in seven countries** including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia.
- This year the Games will bring together 181 teams from **32 countries**.
- Military servicemen from Algeria, Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan and the Philippines will demonstrate their skill for the **first time**.
- The Indian Army will be participating in two team competitions - the **Tank Biathlon** and **Elbrus Ring** - being held in **Russia**.
- The army will also be participating as observers in two events in Russia and three events in China. The events in **China** would be the 'Suvorov', 'Seaborne assault' - an amphibious operation, and 'Safe Route'.

SPORTS NEWS:

India won 9 medals in World Junior Wushu Championships:

- The Indian team bagged nine medals including **four silver and five bronze** medals in the 7th World Junior Wushu championships held in Brasilia, **Brazil**.
- In the Sanshou discipline,
 - Babulu (42 kg, sub junior),
 - Saleem (56 kg, sub junior),
 - Savita (48 kg, junior) and
 - Rohit (80kg, junior) won the silver medal,
 - while Himanshu (56 kg, junior),
 - Shruti (60kg, junior),
 - Janhvi (52 kg, junior) claimed bronze medals.
- In the Taolu discipline, Karanjit Taijiquan and Karanjit Taijijian won two bronze medals.

Neeraj Chopra won Gold Medal at Sotteville Athletics Meet in France:

- India's star **javelin** thrower Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the International de Sotteville-les-Rouen Meeting in **France**, beating a competitive field which included 2012 London Olympics gold-medallist Keshorn Walcott.
- He also won the gold at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast earlier this year before breaking the national record with a 87.43m effort at the Doha Diamond League, where he finished fourth.
- Neeraj is a part of India's squad for the **Asian Games 2018**.

India jump to 5th rank in latest Men's Hockey World Rankings:

- In the latest list of Men's hockey world rankings issued by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), India jumped one place to the **fifth** position.
- Champions Trophy winners **Australia** (1906 points) remained on **top** of the chart.
- **Argentina** ranked **second** with 1883 points, followed by **Belgium** (1709 points) and Netherlands (1654 points).
- Related Points:-
 - The next challenge for India is the Asian Games, in which India have been placed in **Pool A** alongside Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong China, while Pool B comprises Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Oman, Thailand and hosts Indonesia.

Vinesh Phogat won gold at Spanish Grand Prix:

- 24-year-old Indian **wrestler** Vinesh Phogat grabbed a gold in the women's **50 kg** freestyle category at the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid, by defeating Canada's **Natasha Fox** 10-0 in the final match.
- She had won a gold at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in the 50 kg category.

Marc Marquez won German Grand Prix for 9th time:

- **Honda's** Marc Marquez clinched his ninth consecutive German Grand Prix victory and took a 46-point championship lead over Valentino Rossi.
- Seven-time world champion **Valentino Rossi** finished **second** with his Yamaha team-mate Maverick Vinales third.

Sajan clinched India's first gold in Junior Asian Wrestling Championships:

- Indian **wrestler** Sajan clinched India's first gold on the opening day of the Junior Asian Wrestling Championships.
- Sajan outplayed Iranian Shayan Hossein Afifi in the title clash of the **77kg** category Greco-Roman bout 3-0.

Seven new Medal Events Added To Beijing Winter Games 2022:

- The next season of the olympics will include following seven new games:
 - ◆ Women's monobob,
 - ◆ Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women,
 - ◆ Mixed team events in short track speed skating,
 - ◆ Ski jumping,
 - ◆ Ski aerials and
 - ◆ Snowboardcross.

Brij Bhushan Saran Singh to be named India's Chef de Mission at 2018 Asian Games:

- He is the **president** of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The **four deputy** Chefs de Mission set to be appointed are
 - ◆ B.S. Kushwaha (former secretary of Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Federation),
 - ◆ R.K. Sacheti (executive director of Boxing Federation of India),
 - ◆ D.K. Singh (Uttarakhand Olympic Association) and
 - ◆ Colonel R.K. Swain (secretary Equestrian Federation of India).

- The Host cities for Asian Games 2018 are Jakarta and Palembang in **Indonesia**.

Fakhar Zaman becomes first Pakistani to score double century in ODIs:

- **Fakhar Zaman** broke the previous 194 run record of **Saeed Anwar** for Pakistan and also became the first player from Pakistan to score a double hundred in ODI cricket.
- He achieved the feat **against Zimbabwe** in the fourth match of the bilateral series in Bulawayo, and became **overall sixth** batsman to smash a double hundred in men's ODI cricket history.
- **Important Note:-**
 - ◆ Sachin Tendulkar (200) was the first male cricketer to have slammed a double ton in ODI history.
 - ◆ Rohit Sharma (264, 209 and 208) is the only man to have scored a double century three times.

◆ **List of Double Centurions in ODIs:**

- ▶ Rohit Sharma - 264, 209, 208 runs;
- ▶ Martin Guptill - 237;
- ▶ Virender Sehwag - 219;
- ▶ Chris Gayle - 219;
- ▶ Sachin Tendulkar - 200;
- ▶ Fakhar Zaman - 210.

Alisson Becker Became World's Most Expensive Goalkeeper:

- Liverpool have agreed a fee of almost **£67 million** for AS Roma and Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker.
- The 25-year-old Brazilian has beaten Ederson Moraes (£34.7 million, Benfica to Manchester City).

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS:

Finance Ministry approved Infusion Of Rs 11,336 Crore in five Public Sector Bank:

- The government announced **Rs 2.11 lakh crore** capital infusion programme October last year.
- As per the plan, the public sector banks (PSBs) will get Rs 1.35 lakh crore through recapitalisation bonds, and the balance Rs 58,000 crore through raising of capital from the market.
- The following banks will receive the capital amount from ministry:
 1. Punjab National Bank: Rs 2,816 crore (Highest Amount),
 2. Allahabad Bank: Rs 1,790 crore,
 3. Andhra Bank: Rs 2,019 crore,
 4. Indian Overseas Bank: Rs 2,157 crore,
 5. Corporation Bank: Rs 2,555 crore.

First All Women Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank inaugurated:

- First Lady of J&K, **Usha Vohra** e-inaugurated the first All-Women Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank and also launched special services and products designed exclusively for women clients of the bank, which included
 - ◆ Pink Gold Saving Scheme,
 - ◆ Pink Platinum Saving Scheme,
 - ◆ Special Loan Facility for Women Entrepreneurs,
 - ◆ Pink Gold Debit Card and
 - ◆ Pink Platinum Credit Card.
- J&K Bank Chairman and CEO - Parvez Ahmed.

RBI plans to issue new Rs. 100 notes in violet colour:

- RBI will issue new ₹100 notes in a smaller size than previous version and with **violet** colour as the base.
- This note will reportedly feature the picture of **Rani-Ki-Vav** (the Queen's Stepwell), which is in **Gujarat's** Patan, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- RBI is likely to release these notes in August or September and all ₹100 notes issued by it earlier will remain valid.
- The Dewas-based Bank Note Press has started printing the new 100 rupee note.

Repc Micro Finance Ltd received NABARD 2018 award:

- Repco Micro Finance Ltd got his Award for its service to **self-help group** (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.
- As of now, this company has disbursed loans amounting to **₹2,500 crore** to over 10 lakh beneficiaries through 50,000 SHGs.

NTPC signs Rs. 1,500 crore loan agreement with HDFC Bank:

- The loan has a door-to-door tenure of **15 years** and will be utilised to partly finance capital expenditure of NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), which is India's biggest power producer.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

Person	Appointed / Resigned	Institution/ Country	Points to be noted
Ramesh Powar	appointed as interim coach	India women's cricket team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed former India off-spinner Ramesh Powar to look after the Indian women's cricket team till replacement for coach Tushar Arothe will be found.
Kaptan Singh Solanki	took additional charge as Governor	Himachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki was given the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh by President Ram Nath Kovind. He would carry the functions of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in addition to his own duties, during the absence of incumbent Himachal Governor Acharya Devvrat, who is on leave.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

IIT Madras unveiled World's First Remotely Operable Microscope:

- The Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) at a cost of **Rs 40 crore**, was developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions headed by IIT Madras.

- The microscope enables precise view of atoms of a material and a true three-dimensional (**3D**) atomic scale reconstruction which would impart a major thrust to research in nanotechnology, among other fields.

Facebook to Launch Satellite Athena in 2019:

- Facebook is working on a new satellite project, named **Athena**, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas.
- The company aims to launch a satellite in early **2019**.
- In 2016, Facebook's internet satellite for Africa was lost when SpaceX's rocket exploded.

VISITS:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa:

- From July 23 - 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Rwanda, Uganda and then South Africa where he will attend the **10th** edition of the **BRICS Summit in Johannesburg**.
- India is expected to sign a defence cooperation agreement during the visit.
- In BRICS Summit, global issues, including those related to international peace and security will be discussed.
- **Important Points About Rwanda:**
 - ◆ President - Paul Kagame
 - ◆ Prime Minister - Anastase Murekezi
 - ◆ Currency - Rwandan franc

- ◆ Capital - Kigali
- **Important Points About Uganda:**
 - ◆ President - Yoweri Museveni
 - ◆ Prime Minister - Ruhakana Rugunda
 - ◆ Currency - Ugandan shilling
 - ◆ Capital - Kampala
- **Important Points About South Africa:**
 - ◆ President - Cyril Ramaphosa
 - ◆ Currency - Rand
 - ◆ South Africa Capitals - Cape Town (Legislative capital), Pretoria (Administrative capital), Bloemfontein (Judicial capital).

Other Important Current Affairs - Headlines:

- ★ 8th session of India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held in **Muscat**. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu** addressed this meeting.
- ★ Renowned Hindi **Poet Gopal Das Neeraj** Passed away. He was conferred with Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in 2007.
- ★ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh announced a Chhattisgarh **Online Pension** Management System (OPMS) and launched an app called “**Abhar aapki sewa ka**”.
- ★ India won a silver and two bronze medals in the **Junior Asian Wrestling Championships 2018**. Divya Kakran won silver in the women’s 68 Kg. Reena in women’s 55 Kg and Karuna in women’s 76 kg won bronze medals.
- ★ **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu launched **e-Pragati** core platform, a forward-looking digital initiative, at Undavalli, Amaravati.

QUIZ CORNER:

1) Recently DRDO successfully test fired BrahMos Missile in

- A. Assam**
- B. Odisha**
- C. Maharashtra**
- D. West Bengal**

Answer:- B

2) Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan laid the foundation stone of India's first National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in

- A. Nagaland**
- B. Meghalaya**
- C. Odisha**
- D. Assam**

Answer:- C

3) Who topped Forbes' 2018 list of World's highest paid celebrity?

- A. Floyd Mayweather**
- B. Dwayne Johnson**
- C. George Clooney**
- D. Lionel Messi**

Answer:- A

4) Which state Chief Minister launched the 'Paudhagiri Campaign', to increase the green cover in the state?

- A. Assam**
- B. Punjab**
- C. Haryana**
- D. Uttarakhand**

Answer:- C

5) Who is appointed as interim coach of India women's cricket team, after resignation of Tushar Arothe?

- A. Chandrakant Pandit**
- B. Biju George**
- C. Sunil Joshi**
- D. Ramesh Powar**

Answer:- D

6) India inaugurated World's largest visa centre in

- A. Bhutan**
- B. Bangladesh**
- C. Sri Lanka**
- D. Nepal**

Answer:- B

7) Recently, Which state Governor took additional charge of Himachal Pradesh?

- A. Gujarat**

- B. Assam**
- C. Bihar**
- D. Haryana**

Answer:- D

8) Neeraj Chopra wins gold at Sotteville Athletics Meet in France. He is associated with

- A. Discus throw**
- B. Badminton**
- C. Javelin throw**
- D. Table Tennis**

Answer:- C

9) According to data speed tester Ookla, which country ranked first in overall 4G mobile internet speeds?

- A. Qatar**
- B. Norway**
- C. Canada**
- D. US**

Answer:- A

10) India occupied which position in the latest Men's Hockey World Rankings?

- A. Sixth**
- B. Second**
- C. Third**



D. Fifth

Answer:- D

11) Which country topped in 2018 'Soft Power 30' index?

A. France

B. United Kingdom

C. United States

D. Germany

Answer:- B

12) Against which country did Japan and EU sign a deal as an act of protectionism against the trade tariffs?

A. U.S.

B. China

C. Russia

D. India

Answer:- A

13) Which of the following scheme is dubbed as 'Modicare'?

A. Ayushman Bharat

B. Employment State Insurance Scheme

C. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

D. Janashree Bima Yojana

Answer:- A

14) Under “Ayushman Bharat” scheme, every year, each family will get health insurance cover of

- A. ₹2-lakh**
- B. ₹3-lakh**
- C. ₹4-lakh**
- D. ₹5-lakh**

Answer:- D

15) India's first government sponsored 'Transgender Poets' meet held in

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

Answer:- A

16) Recently in India, which of the following cancer-causing chemical was found in fish consignments?

- A. Benzene**
- B. Formalin**
- C. Azathioprine**
- D. Vinyl chloride**

Answer:- B

17) Which of the following PSU has become the official partner for Hockey Men’s World Cup 2018?

- A. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**
- B. Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC)**
- C. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)**
- D. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**

Answer:- B

18) Which country decided to withdraw from UN migration pact?

- A. Hungary**
- B. Belgium**
- C. Croatia**
- D. Ethiopia**

Answer:- A

19) Who is set to be named as India's Chef de Mission at 2018 Asian Games?

- A. Colonel R.K. Swain**
- B. D.K. Singh**
- C. Brij Bhushan Saran Singh**
- D. B.S. Kushwaha**

Answer:- C

20) With which country, European Union recently signed a huge free trade deal that cuts or eliminates tariffs on nearly all goods?

- A. Japan**
- B. China**
- C. Australia**

D. United States

Answer:- A

21) The new 10 Rupees note will reportedly feature the picture of

A. Sun Temple

B. Ajanta Caves

C. Fatehpur Sikri

D. Rani-Ki-Vav

Answer:- D

22) Who held No.1 spot in the latest ICC ODI player rankings?

A. Rohit Sharma

B. Joe Root

C. Virat Kohli

D. Babar Azam

Answer:- C

23) Which of the following non-banking finance company received NABARD 2018 award?

A. Repco Micro Finance Ltd

B. Muthoot Finance Ltd

C. Bajaj Finance Limited

D. Power Finance Corporation Limited

Answer:- A

24) Which City in India has been ranked third among a list of 15 best cities in the world by Travel + Leisure?

- A. Gangtok**
- B. Varanasi**
- C. Mysore**
- D. Udaipur**

Answer:- D

25) For the first time, Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise 'Pitch Black', which is a war exercise hosted by

- A. Australia**
- B. Germany**
- C. China**
- D. Russia**

Answer:- A

26) Recently, Election Commissioner Sunil Arora inaugurated a new manufacturing facility for EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) production at

- A. Bangalore**
- B. Kolkata**
- C. New Delhi**
- D. Hyderabad**

Answer:- A



27) During 8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting, J P Nadda stated that India is committed to eradicate which of the following disease by 2025?

- A. Diabetes**
- B. Cancer**
- C. Cirrhosis**
- D. Tuberculosis**

Answer:- D

28) Who becomes the first Pakistan batsman to score double century in ODIs?

- A. Shoaib Malik**
- B. Fakhar Zaman**
- C. Sarfraz Ahmed**
- D. Imam-ul-Haq**

Answer:- B

29) Which party raised the no-trust motion in Modi's government, 2018?

- A. Indian National Congress**
- B. All India Trinamool Congress**
- C. Telugu Desam Party**
- D. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam**

Answer:- C

30) Which of the following item has been exempted from the GST slab rates?

- A. Sanitary napkins**
- B. Perfumes**
- C. Handbags**
- D. Handicraft items**

Answer:- A

USEFUL LINKS:

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