

Important Current Affairs - September 1st Week 2018

1st September - 9th September

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

Arif Alvi is elected as new President of Pakistan:

- He is a close ally of Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of the founding members of the **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** party.
- The 69-year-old former dentist defeated Pakistan Peoples (PPP) Party's Aitzaz Ahsan and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Maulana Fazlur Rehman to become the **13th President**.
- Arif Alvi took the oath of office on September 9 as the outgoing President **Mamnoon Hussain's** five-year tenure ends on September 8.

India and Nepal Sign MoU On Preliminary Survey Of Railway Line Between Raxaul and Kathmandu:

- India and Nepal agreed to construct a new electrified rail line with India's financial support connecting the border city of **Raxaul in India** to **Kathmandu**, the capital of Nepal in **April 2018**.

China pledged to offer USD 60 billion to Africa:

- Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged **USD 60 billion** in financing for projects in Africa in the form of assistance, investment and loans.

Current Affairs



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- China will provide the said amount to finance development in the African continent over the next **three years**.
- The value will cover the **non-refundable** assistance of **USD 15 billion** in interest-free and preferential loans.

Amazon hits USD 1 trillion market capitalisation after Apple:

- World's richest man **Jeff Bezos**-led e-commerce major **Amazon** became the 2nd publicly traded US company to hit **\$1 trillion** in market capitalisation after iPhone maker **Apple**.
- Amazon stock has more than doubled in the last 12 months and has gained more than 70% in 2018.

India to buy 18 bullet trains from Japan for Rs 7,000 crore:

- Each train will have 10 coaches and would be able to cruise at the speed of 350 km per hour.
- **Purpose**:- To launch India's first bullet train by 2022.
- The 508-km high speed train corridor between **Mumbai and Ahmedabad** at an estimated cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore is expected to be operational by **2022**.
- **National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)** will be responsible for executing the project of the high-speed train corridor.

Typhoon Jebi: Japan hit by strongest storm of 25 years:

- **Jebi**, Japan's most powerful storm in 25 years, has killed at least 10 people. It recorded wind gusts of up to 216 km/h (135mph).
- In a separate incident, a **6.6 magnitude earthquake** caused a landslide in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

- Japan Prime Minister - **Shinzo Abe**.

Facebook to open its 1st ever Asian data centre in Singapore:

- Facebook will invest over **\$1 billion** to build its first Asian data centre in **Singapore**, which is expected to open in **2022**.
- The new site is at **Tanjong Kling**, located in the western part of Singapore, and in an area formerly known as Data Centre Park.
- Facebook runs **15** other data centres worldwide, mostly in the US and European markets such as Ireland and Sweden.

Qatar 1st Gulf nation to grant permanent residency to expatriates:

- The country's Emir **Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** has issued a decree allowing a maximum of **100 expatriates** (foreigners) to gain permanent residency **each year**.
- Children of Qatari mothers, and skilled expatriates who have lived in the country for more than **20 years** will be given priority.
- Qatar is one of the richest countries in the world with an average income of nearly \$124,000 per year.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

Supreme Court decriminalised a portion of Section 377 of IPC:

- On 6th September 2018, the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India **Dipak Misra** overruled its own 2013 decision and decriminalised a portion of **Section 377** of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), that criminalises private consensual sexual acts between **same sex adults (homosexuality)**.

- Section 377 was introduced in **1861** during the British rule of India, and targeted in particular Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) individuals and communities.
- Modelled on the **Buggery Act of 1533**, it criminalised sexual activities "against the order of nature", including homosexual sex.

Mauritius tops India's FDI charts again in FY18:

- According to RBI data, **Mauritius** remained the top source of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India in 2017-18 followed by **Singapore**.
- The total FDI in the financial year stood at **\$37.36 billion**, a marginal increase from \$36.31 billion recorded in the previous fiscal.
- FDI from Mauritius totalled \$13.41 billion.

Govt to collect data on OBCs for first time in 2021 Census:

- This will be the first general census to collect data on 'Other Backward Classes' (OBC) since **1931**.
- Although a socio-economic caste census (SECC) was conducted between 2011 and 2013 in deference to the demand of the powerful OBC lobby, it was part of the rural development ministry's survey of socio-economic status of households.
- The government has been collecting data on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes since the first census of Independent India in **1951**.
- Notably, **Mandal Commission's** recommendation for reservation of OBCs was broadly based on caste data collected in the 1931 Census.

- Registrar-General of India - Shailesh

Telangana dissolves 1st state assembly 9 months before the tenure ends:

- Based on the recommendation of Telangana Chief Minister and TRS (Telangana Rashtra Samiti) President **K Chandrasekhar Rao** and his Cabinet, the **first state assembly** of Telangana has been dissolved nine months before the term of the House expires.
- This paves the way for early polls in the state.
- Telangana Governor - **ESL Narasimhan**.

Delhi Metro is second-most unaffordable in the world:

- A study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has found that after the fare hike last year, **Delhi metro** has become the **second-most unaffordable** transport network in the world after **Hanoi** in Vietnam.
- The affordability is defined as the percentage of commuters' total income spent on travel.
- Last year, the Metro fares almost doubled after two hikes in May and October. The maximum fares escalated from Rs 30 to Rs 50 and then to Rs 60.

Supreme Court fined the Income Tax Department Rs 10 lakh:

- A bench headed by Justice **Madan B Lokur** slapped a cost of **Rs 10 lakh** on the IT department for making "misleading statement" about the pendency of an appeal and said that the apex court is not a "picnic place".

- The Income Tax Department had delayed the filing of a petition by **596 days**.

Supreme Court banned all construction activities in Maharashtra, MP, Uttarakhand:

- Supreme Court has banned all the construction activities in **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh** till October 9.
- A bench, led by Justice **Madan Lokur**, announced the ban citing the failure of these States and UT to implement a **solid waste management** policy.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi inaugurates the first luxury cruise 'Alaknanda' in Varanasi:

- The **five-star** luxury cruise, a 30-metre double-decked modern line, is a startup venture of **Varanasi** based **Nordic Cruiseline**.
- It will run between Assi Ghat and Panchganga Ghat for a two-hour ride of around 12 km in the morning and evening.

Jharkhand Govt renames town and railway station after Bansidhar temple of Lord Krishna:

- The town Nagar **Untari** and the railway station would be renamed as **Bansidhar Nagar**, after Bansidhar Temple.
- The union government is looking at proposals for a tie-up with the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)**.

HRD Ministry introduced 'Atal ranking' for higher education institutions:

- Human Resource Development Ministry launched the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements' (ARIIA) to promote innovation and research in **higher education**.
- Named after former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, ARIIA will rank educational institutions for innovation output based on all major indicators and parameters used globally.

Congress won 982 seats in Karnataka urban body polls:

- According to the **Karnataka** state election commission, **BJP** secured **929** seats while **JD(S)** won **325** seats in the elections which were held on August 31.
- **Congress** won the majority of **982** seats across 10 of 22 Karnataka districts during vote count for **105** Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

TCS becomes 2nd Indian company to cross Rs. 8 trillion market cap:

- Mumbai-headquartered **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** became only the second Indian company to cross **₹8 trillion** (Rs 8 lakh crore) in market capitalisation after Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries**.
- Earlier on August 23, Reliance Industries (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross the Rs 8 lakh crore market capitalisation mark.
- TCS CEO - Rajesh Gopinathan.

Union Government approved 36 percent increase in wages of artisans:

- It was proposed by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**.
- The wages will be increased from Rs 5.50 per hank to Rs 7.50 per hank.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first ever Global Mobility Summit 'MOVE':

- On 7th September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **MOVE**: India's ever first Global Mobility Summit organized by NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan.
- **Main focus**:- To make Indian cities pollution free.
- The government is likely to unveil a '**One Nation-One Card policy**' for public transport that will entail connectivity between various modes of transport in the next three months.

Puducherry bagged top position in National Clean School Award given by HRD Ministry:

- **Seven** schools from Puducherry were awarded for cleanliness. As many as 52 schools from across the country were bestowed with **National Clean School Award** in recognition of their efforts in carrying forward **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**.
- **Tamil Nadu** bagged **second** position in National Clean School Award. The **third** position was shared by **Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat**. Fourth position was shared by Jharkhand, Haryana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Nagaland Government declared Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary as an elephant reserve:

- The **Singphan Elephant Reserve** which is the **30th** elephant reserve in India, is located in **Mon** district of Nagaland and spreads over an area of 5825 acres (2357 hac).
- As per recent census report (2017) Nagaland has around **446** elephants. The creation of new Elephant Reserve will result in protection and conservation of the elephants.

SCHEMES:

Germany to give Rs 990 crore loan for Clean Ganga Mission:

- In an effort to clean the river Ganga, **Germany** is providing a **soft loan of euro 120 million** (approx. Rs 990 crore) to India to strengthen sewage water treatment infrastructure in **Uttarakhand**.
- The purpose of the project 'Clean Ganga Mission' is to reduce the inflow of untreated wastewater in River Ganga and, thus, to improve the water quality of the river.
- The initiative also includes construction of 13 sewage pumping stations.

Rajasthan Government to Provide Free Mobile Phones To Women Of BPL Families:

- **Vasundhara Raje**-led government in Rajasthan will soon distribute mobile phones to women who fall under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) under the **Bhamashah Yojana**.
- This initiative is in a bid to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship '**Digital India**' campaign.

- The state government will also provide free Wifi facilities to as many as **5,000-gram panchayats** to ensure that the state is well connected with the outside world.

Smriti Irani inaugurated 'digital village' in Amethi:

- Union **textiles** minister Smriti Irani inaugurated a 'digital village' in **Amethi**, Uttar Pradesh, the parliamentary constituency of Congress president **Rahul Gandhi**.
- Under the digital village project, there would be **206** programmes available for the people including a Wi-Fi Chaupal, LED bulb manufacturing, a unit to make sanitary pads and PM digital literacy initiative.

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS:

RBI announces new rules for exchanging damaged Rs 2000, 200 notes:

- As per the new Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Amendment Rules, 2018, "the undivided area of the single largest piece of the note" for a **damaged Rs 2000** note must be **88** square cm for a **full refund**, and **44** square cm for **half refund**. The Rs 2000 note is 109.56 square cm in dimension.
- For a **damaged Rs 200** note, the criteria is **78** square cm for a full refund, and **39** square cm for half refund.
- Rs 2,000 notes are issued in November 2016 and Rs 2,00 notes are issued in September 2017.

Argentina hikes interest rate to 60%, highest in the world:

- Due to economic crisis, **Argentina's** central bank raised its benchmark interest by 15 percentage points to **60%**, the highest in the world.
- Argentine **peso** is down 50% this year against the dollar and the country's inflation is running at over 30%.
- Argentina President **Mauricio Macri** has asked for an early release of a \$50-billion loan from the IMF (International Monetary Fund).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) on September 1:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the IPPB at Talkatora Stadium in **Delhi**.
- IPPB is the **largest** payments bank in the country by network size.
- It carries out most banking operations but **cannot give loans** or issue credit cards directly.
- It will accept deposits of up to **₹1 lakh**, offer remittance services, mobile payments and other banking services and third-party fund transfers.

RBI buys gold for the first time in 9 years:

- Taking a cue from global uncertainties, market volatility, and rising interest rates in the US, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has added **8.46 tonnes of gold** during the financial year 2017-18, taking the level of gold reserves to 566.23 tonnes as on June 30, 2018.

- RBI last purchased **200 tonnes** of gold from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in November **2009**.

Cabinet doubles Jan Dhan accounts overdraft cap to Rs 10,000:

- The government has doubled the overdraft cap from **₹5,000 to ₹10,000** under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, which provides a bank account to **every individual**.
- The age limit for availing overdraft has been increased from 60 to **65 years**.
- **About PMJDY:**
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana was launched by **Narendra Modi-led government in August 2014**.
 - It was the **first big mission** launched by Modi government after it assumed office in May 2014.
 - It first aimed to provide at least one bank account for every household, along with an overdraft facility of **₹5,000**, a RuPay debit card and a personal accident insurance of **₹1 lakh**.

RBI directs banks with over 10 branches to have an internal Ombudsman:

- The Reserve Bank of India asked all **scheduled commercial banks** with more than **10 branches** to appoint an internal ombudsman. It has excluded regional rural banks (RRB) from its directive.
- RBI has reviewed the arrangement and issued revised directions under **Section 35 A** of the Banking Regulation Act, **1949** in the form of Internal Ombudsman Scheme, 2018.

- An ombudsman is a person officially charged with investigating and **addressing public complaints** or violation of rights.
- The tenure of the IO cannot be more than **five years** and it is not open to reappointment.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

France to collaborate on India's first human space mission 'Gaganyaan':

- **India and France** inked an agreement to collaborate on **Gaganyaan**, ISRO's first human space mission.
- ISRO and **CNES**, the French space agency, will be combining their expertise in fields of space medicine, astronaut health monitoring, life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems.
- These two space agencies also plan to work on Mars, Venus and asteroids.
- India plans to send three humans to space before **2022**. It would make India one of the four countries in the world after Russia, US and China to launch a manned space flight.

ISRO to launch 19 missions in just 7 months:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will conduct **19 missions, including 10 satellites** and nine launch vehicles, in the next seven months between September and March.
- It will include the launch of India's second moon mission **Chandrayaan-2**.

- ISRO planned to launch two satellites within 30 days consecutively for months.
- The services would be resumed on September 15 with the **PSLV C42 mission**, which will carry UK satellites - **Novasar and S1-4** - as the main payload.
- Then, ISRO will launch **GSLV Mk III-D2**, also known as **'Bahubali'**.
- ISRO Chairman - K Sivan.



2 LAUNCHES IN EVERY 30 DAYS

SEPT 15: Novasar & S1-4 (UK sats; fully commercial launch of PSLV-C42)	DEC: Emisat from India and Gsat-31 from French Guiana
OCT: HySIS (Hyperspectral imaging sat) and Gsat-29 (to be launched by heaviest rocket GSLV Mk II D2)	JAN: Chandrayaan-2 mission and Risat2-B
NOV: Gsat-7A (Dedicated sat for IAF) from India & Gsat-11 (heaviest sat) from French Guiana, Nov30	FEB: Cartosat-3 (Remote sensing sat) and NEMO-AM (earth monitoring & observation sat)
	MARCH: Risat-2BR1 (reconnaissance sat)

ISRO plans to set up its First Overseas Ground Station at North Pole:

- The ground station will augment the **Indian Remote Sensing** (Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) operations crucial not just for civilian needs like disaster management but also for the armed forces.
- However, ISRO has already two ground stations-**IMGEOS** at **Shadnagar** and **AGEOS** in **Antarctica**.

UAE revealed the names of its first 2 astronauts for the space mission:

- The **United Arab Emirates** has disclosed its first two astronauts to go on a mission to the **International Space Station**.
- Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates - Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed al-Maktoum named the new astronauts as
 - **Hazza al-Mansouri**, 34-year-old, and
 - **Sultan al-Neyadi**, 37-year-old.
- The UAE has its sights set on space with a programme worth 20 billion dirhams i.e, \$5.4 billion.
- UAE has announced its plans to become the **first Arab country** to send an unmanned probe to orbit Mars by **2021**. The probe is named as "**Hope**".

World's first lion cubs born via artificial insemination:

- In a world first achievement, a lioness at the **Ukutula Conservation Center and Biobank in South Africa's** North West province has given birth to two cubs conceived via non-surgical artificial insemination, using fresh semen from an adult male lion at the same facility.
- The research is a breakthrough for **saving endangered species** like tiger and snow leopard.

Google launched new search engine for scientists:

- Google launched a new search engine called '**Dataset Search**', which works in multiple languages, to help scientists, data journalists and others find data required for their work.

- The new search engine will work like **Google Scholar**, the company's popular search engine for academic studies and reports.

DEFENCE NEWS:

India ranks 19th in 'Theft Rankings' regarding Nuclear Materials Security:

- Nuclear Security Index (NSI) published a report on theft rankings of 'weapon-usable' nuclear materials, in which **India** holds a score of **46** out of 100. It is followed by **Pakistan** on the 20th position with 44 points.
- **Australia and Switzerland** are on the first position with a score of 94 each, followed by Canada with 89, Germany and Japan with 88 out of a total of 100.
- The report noted that except in **North Korea**, all the other countries had shown improvement in minimizing and eliminating the world's deadliest materials.

Indian Navy beats 22 other teams to win KAKADU Cup 2018 in Australia:

- Kakadu Cup 2018 was organised by the **Australian Navy** as part of its multi-nation maritime exercise.
- **INS Sahyadri** had participated in the Kakadu Cup 2018 which involved swimming, running, crossing water and land obstacles.
- The name KAKADU is derived from **Kakadu National Park**, a protected area in the northern territory of Australia, 171 km south-east of Darwin.

Bangladesh Naval Ship Somudra Joy arrives at Visakhapatnam on a goodwill visit:

- **BNS Somudra Joy**, a Hamilton Class frigate commissioned on 23 December 2013, is one of the **largest** ships of the Bangladesh Navy.
- The ship earlier visited Visakhapatnam in Feb **2016** and participated in the International Fleet Review hosted by Indian Navy.

India successfully carried out first ever mid-air refuelling of Tejas combat jet:

- A Russian-built **IL-78 MKI** tanker transferred fuel to **Tejas MK I** aircraft.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) currently operates nine Tejas fighters built to an Initial Operating Clearance (IOC) standard. These jets are being flown by No. 45 Squadron, the Flying Daggers, based at Sulur Air Force Station in Tamil Nadu.

Indo-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND 2018:

- KAZIND 2018 will be held in **Otar region**, Kazakhstan from 10 to 23 September 2018.
- This is the **third** joint military exercise between the two countries.
- The second edition of the KAZIND exercise was held in India in 2017.
- **Aim**:- To build and promote bilateral Army to Army relations and also exchange skills and experiences between Kazakhstan Army and the Indian Army.

India-Sri Lanka Joint Naval Exercise SLINEX-2018 began in Sri Lanka:

- The **sixth** edition of **SLINEX** 2018 held at Trincomalee from September 7 to 13.
- Indian Naval Ships **Kirch, Sumitra and Cora Divh** are taking part in the exercise.
- SLINEX series of bilateral **maritime** exercises were initiated in **2005** and were initially held every two years.
- It has been converted to an annual event from this year onwards.
- This comes even as the Indian Navy is participating in Exercise **KAKADU** off Darwin, **Australia**.
- KAKADU, a biannual joint exercise, this year involves **27 nations** and India is represented by **INS Sahyadri**. The ship was deployed in the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean for over four months, which included representing the Navy in multinational exercises MALABAR 18 at Guam and RIMPAC 18 at Hawaii.

AWARDS:

Two Indians, Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk, received Magsaysay Award:

- **Bharat Vatwani** and **Sonam Wangchuk** are among six individuals who received this year's **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, popularly known as **Asia's Nobel Prize**.
- The other recipients of the award are
 - ◆ Youk Chhang,
 - ◆ Filipino Howard Dee,

- ◆ Vietnam's Vo Thi Hoang Yen and
- ◆ East Timore's Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz.

Luka Modric was awarded the UEFA Player of the Year:

- **Luka Modric** of Real Madrid and Croatia was awarded the **UEFA** (Union of European Football Associations) **Player of the Year** (2017-2018).
- The 32-year-old helped Real Madrid won the Champions League for a third season running and then led **Croatia** to the World Cup final.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** was awarded in the last year (2016-2017).

Ulka Maha conferred with Praful Bidwai memorial Award 2018:

- **Ulka Mahajan** is one of the three founders of Sarvahara Jan Andolan.
- The Praful Bidwai Memorial Award, instituted in the memory of journalist and social activist who died in Amsterdam in **2015**, and was committed to radical social transformation, justice for all and gender equality, seeks to recognise the efforts of individuals and institutions that strive for similar ends.

Nehal Chudasama to represent India in Miss Universe 2018:

- Mumbai-based Nehal Chudasama had won the **Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Universe India 2018** title to become the representative of India at Miss Universe 2018 that will be held at **Bangkok** in December.

- While Indore's **Aditi Hundia** was crowned Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva **Supranational** 2018, Lucknow's **Roshni Sheoran** was crowned Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva 2018 **Runner-Up**.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

Pakistan gets its first woman High Court Chief Justice:

- Justice **Syeda Tahira Safdar** was sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of a Pakistani High Court.
- Safdar, who took over as the **Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court**, is also the first woman civil judge in the province.
- She was part of a three-judge special court hearing the treason case against former President **Pervez Musharraf**.

Dipak Misra recommends Ranjan Gogoi as next Chief Justice of India:

- Present Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra, who is set to retire from the post on October 2 this year, recommended senior Supreme Court judge **Ranjan Gogoi** to be the **next** Chief Justice of India.
- Justice Ranjan Gogoi who hails from **Assam** was appointed as a judge in Gauhati High Court on February 28, 2001. He later became the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on February 12, 2011. Then he elevated to the **Supreme court** in April **2012**. Justice Gogoi is slated to retire on November 17, 2019.

Sunil Mehta elected as New chairman of Indian Bank's Association for 2018-19:

- Sunil Mehta serves as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Punjab National Bank**.
- **Dina Bandhu Mohapatra**, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of India, was elected as the body's **Deputy** Chairman.
- **Shyam Srinivasan**, Managing Director & CEO, Federal Bank and **Rajnish Kumar**, Chairman, State Bank of India, continue to be Deputy Chairmen.

Twitter India Director Taranjeet Singh quits:

- Taranjeet Singh, who was elevated as Twitter's Country **Director** for India in **May 2017**, has quit the company. He worked for Twitter India for close to **four** years.
- **Balaji Krish**, Twitter's Global Head of Revenue Strategy and Operations, will become the interim country head.

Dr Poonam Singh Nominated For 2nd Term As Regional Director WHO South-East Asia:

- Dr **Poonam Khetrupal Singh** unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another **five-year** term beginning February 2019.
- She is the first woman to have been elected to the position of Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region after an illustrious career in the Indian civil service, World Bank and WHO.
- **About World Health Organisation:**

- World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health.
- It has 11 Member States.
- Established on 7th April 1948.
- Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

China's richest man Jack Ma retires from Alibaba at 54:

- Chinese billionaire and **Alibaba** Co-founder **Jack Ma** step down from the post of Executive Chairman to pursue philanthropy in education.
- Ma, a former English teacher who co-founded Alibaba in **1999**, has a fortune of about \$40 billion.
- He will be succeeded by the current CEO **Daniel Zhang**.

Amitabh Chaudhry of HDFC Life appointed as CEO & MD of Axis Bank:

- He will take over as Axis Bank's MD & CEO for **3 years** from January 1, 2019 and will remain in office till December 31, 2021.
- Chaudhry will replace outgoing MD & CEO **Shikha Sharma** whose term ends on December 31.
- Chaudhry has been associated with HDFC Life since January 2010 and had earlier held senior management positions in Bank of America, Calyon Bank and Infosys BPO.

SBI appointed Anshula Kant as Managing Director:

- Anshula Kant is at present the **Deputy** Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of SBI.

- SBI's MD post fell vacant after resignation of **B Sriram**, who took over as the MD and CEO of IDBI Bank.
- With this appointment SBI now has **four MDs**, the other 3 MDs are PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu.

SPORTS NEWS:

Rikako Ikee who bagged 6 golds named 2018 Asiad's Most Valuable Player:

- Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee (18-year-old), who bagged **six gold** and **two silver** medals at the Asian Games 2018, has been named as the quadrennial event's **Most Valuable Player**.
- She became the **first female** athlete to bag the award in the history of Asian Games.
- Ikee also received a cheque of \$50,000 (₹35.5 lakh).

Anjum, Apurvi become first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for 2020 Olympics:

- **Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela** achieved this by winning a silver and finishing fourth respectively in the women's 10m air rifle event of the **ISSF World Championship** on September 3, 2018.
- The International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) premier tournament assumes added significance as it is the **first Olympic quota event** for the 2020 Tokyo Games, offering as many as 60 berths across 15 events.

Lucknow to host 1st International cricket match after 24 years:

- Lucknow's **Ekana International Cricket Stadium** is set to host its first international cricket match as the stadium has been announced as the venue for the second T20I between **India and West Indies** on November 6.
- West Indies' tour of India, which consists of two Tests, five ODIs, and three T20Is begins on October 4.

Novak Djokovic Won US Open Tennis Men's Singles Title:

- He defeated **Juan Martin del Potro** of Argentina.
- It was Djokovic's 14th Grand Slam title and the third US Open title.
- Further, he became the seventh man to win US Open singles title at least thrice in the Open Era.

Naomi Osaka defeated Serena Williams to win U.S Open Tennis women's Singles Title:

- Naomi Osaka became the **first Japanese** woman to win a Grand Slam title after she registered an emphatic win over Serena Williams in the finals of the U.S Open.

Triple jumper Arpinder Singh creates history by becoming first Indian to win a medal in IAAF Continental Cup:

- He clinched a **bronze** with a modest effort of 16.59m.
- Arpinder had won a gold in the Asian Games in Jakarta.

VISITS:

President Ram Nath Kovind on a 3-nation tour from September 2 - 9:

- On September 2, President **Ram Nath Kovind** embarked on a 8 day three-nation tour to Europe - **Cyprus, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic**.
- Cyprus is the **eighth** largest investor in India with a cumulative investment of over \$9.2 billion.
 - ◆ Cyprus President - Nicos Anastasiades
 - ◆ Bulgarian president - Radev and Prime Minister - Boyko Borissov.
 - ◆ Czech President - Milos Zeman and Prime Minister - Andrej Babis

Other important Current Affairs - Headlines:

- ★ Binoy Kumar assumed Charge Of Secretary In Steel Ministry.
- ★ Indian boxer **Mary Kom** signed as brand **ambassador** by **BSNL** for 2 years.
- ★ For the first time, US India Business Council (USIBC) organised 2-day **India Idea Summit** in **Mumbai**. The theme of the conference is 'US and India connecting our future'.
- ★ India Blue defeated India Red and won 57th **Duleep Trophy**.



QUIZ CORNER:

1) Who is awarded as the UEFA Player in the Year (2017-2018)?

- A. Luka Modrić
- B. Cristiano Ronaldo
- C. Franck Ribéry
- D. Lionel Messi

Answer:- A

2) How much amount has been pledged by Germany to India for Clean Ganga Mission?

- A. Rs 890 crore
- B. Rs 990 crore
- C. Rs 790 crore
- D. Rs 590 crore

Answer:- B

3) Due to economic crisis, Argentina raised its benchmark interest by 15 percentage points to _____, the highest in the world.

- A. 65%
- B. 50%
- C. 55%
- D. 60%

Answer:- D



4) Who has been recommended as the next Chief Justice of India, by Dipak Misra?

- A. Uday U. Lalit**
- B. Ranjan Gogoi**
- C. Sharad Arvind Bobde**
- D. N. V. Ramana**

Answer:- B

5) Rikako Ikee (18-year-old) has been named as the Most Valuable Player of Asian Games 2018. Which country does she belong to?

- A. China**
- B. Indonesia**
- C. Japan**
- D. Thailand**

Answer:- C

6) Which country remained the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18?

- A. Sri Lanka**
- B. Mauritius**
- C. Singapore**
- D. Maldives**

Answer:- B

7) For the first time in independent India, Census 2021 will collect data on _____.

- A. OBC
- B. Disability status
- C. Mother tongue
- D. Worker/non –worker status

Answer:- A

8) With which company did Wipro sign a \$1.6 billion contract for 10 years?

- A. Alight Solutions LLC
- B. Upp Technology
- C. Abbott Solutions Ltd
- D. Mondel Az International

Answer:- A

9) Two Indians who received this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award are:

- A. Gethsie Shanmugam and Abdon Nababan
- B. Sanjiv Chaturvedi and Anshu Gupta
- C. TM Krishna and Bezwada Wilson
- D. Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk

Answer:- D

10) Who has been elected as New chairman of Indian Bank's Association (IBA) for 2018-19?

- A. Sunil Mehta**
- B. Dina Bandhu Mohapatra**
- C. Rajnish Kumar**
- D. Shyam Srinivasan**

Answer:- A

11) 'Alaknanda' is the first five-star luxury cruise in _____.

- A. Vishakapatnam**
- B. Kolkata**
- C. Varanasi**
- D. Mumbai**

Answer:- C

12) On September 2, President Ram Nath Kovind embarked on a 8 day three-nation tour to Cyprus, Bulgaria and _____.

- A. Malta**
- B. Czech Republic**
- C. Greece**
- D. Ukraine**

Answer:- B

13) How much tonnes of gold has been added by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the financial year 2017-18?

- A. 5.37 tonnes
- B. 6.28 tonnes
- C. 7.82 tonnes
- D. 8.46 tonnes

Answer:- D

14) Which party won Karnataka urban body polls that were held for 2,662 seats on August 31?

- A. Janata Dal (Secular)
- B. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- C. Indian National Congress (INC)
- D. Karnataka Janata Paksha

Answer:- C

15) Which company becomes 2nd Indian company to cross ₹8 trillion (Rs 8 lakh crore) in market capitalisation after Reliance?

- A. HCL Technologies
- B. Bharti Airtel
- C. Infosys
- D. Tata Consultancy Services

Answer:- D

16) The Indian Navy has defeated teams from 22 other nations to win Kakadu Cup 2018 which was organised by the _____.

- A. Egyptian Navy

- B. Iranian Navy**
- C. Australian Navy**
- D. Russian Navy**

Answer:- C

17) World's first lion cubs born via artificial insemination in _____.

- A. South Africa**
- B. Kenya**
- C. Zimbabwe**
- D. Mozambique**

Answer:- A

18) Which of the following book is the compilation of the speeches made by PM Narendra Modi?

- A. Abode of Love**
- B. Jyotipunj**
- C. Exam warrior**
- D. Setubandha**

Answer:- C

19) Which company became the 2nd publicly traded US company to hit \$1 trillion in market capitalisation after iPhone maker Apple?

- A. Walt Disney**
- B. Microsoft**
- C. Facebook**



D. Amazon

Answer:- D

20) From October 4, India will play two Tests, five ODIs and three T20Is against _____.

A. West Indies

B. Zimbabwe

C. England

D. Australia

Answer:- A

21) Who is the elected as the President of Pakistan?

A. Imran Khan

B. Arif Alvi

C. Maulana Fazlur Rehman

D. Aitzaz Ahsan

Answer:- B

22) Which state Government provides Free Mobile Phones to Women of Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families?

A. Bihar

B. Tamil Nadu

C. Kerala

D. Rajasthan



Answer:- D

23) On 6th September 2018, Supreme Court decriminalised a portion of Section 377 of IPC. What is Section 377 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) for?

- A. To Criminalize gambling**
- B. To Criminalize money laundering**
- C. To Criminalize sexual activities ‘against the order of nature’, arguably including homosexual acts**
- D. To Criminalize murder**

Answer:- C

24) India’s first bullet train is likely to start running between Mumbai and _____ by the end of 2022.

- A. New Delhi**
- B. Kolkata**
- C. Lucknow**
- D. Ahmedabad**

Answer:- D

25) Who is appointed as the brand ambassador by BSNL for 2 years?

- A. Harmanpreet Kaur**
- B. Mary Kom**
- C. Sunil Chhetri**
- D. P.V Sindhu**



Answer:- B

26) Japan recently hit by strongest storm of 25 years, called Typhoon _____.

A. Shanshan

B. Haiyan

C. Jebi

D. Maria

Answer:- C

27) What is the position of India in the list of 'Theft Ranking' of nuclear weapons, released by Nuclear Security Index?

A. 19th

B. 20th

C. 16th

D. 14th

Answer:- A

28) India successfully carried out first ever mid-air refuelling of _____.

A. HAL Dhruv

B. HAL Tejas

C. HAL Cheetah

D. HAL Chetak



Answer:- B

29) Facebook will invest over \$1 billion to build its first Asian data centre in ____.

- A. India**
- B. Russia**
- C. China**
- D. Singapore**

Answer:- D

30) The government has doubled the overdraft cap under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) from ₹5,000 to ____.

- A. ₹9,000**
- B. ₹10,000**
- C. ₹15,000**
- D. ₹7,000**

Answer:- B

31) Recently, which country inked an agreement to collaborate on 'Gaganyaan', ISRO's first human space mission?

- A. US**
- B. Russia**
- C. France**
- D. China**

Answer:- C



32) The top position in ‘National Clean School’ Award given by HRD Ministry is bagged by _____.

- A. Puducherry**
- B. Tamil Nadu**
- C. Andhra Pradesh**
- D. Maharashtra**

Answer:- A

33) Who had won the ‘Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Universe India 2018’ title to become the Representative of India at Miss Universe 2018 that will be held at Bangkok in December?

- A. Shraddha Shashidhar**
- B. Roshni Sheoran**
- C. Nehal Chudasama**
- D. Aditi Hundia**

Answer:- C

34) Who is the first Indian to win a medal in IAAF Continental Cup?

- A. Arpinder Singh**
- B. Sharad Kumar**
- C. Suresh Babu**
- D. Varun Bhati**

Answer:- A

35) Who has been appointed as SBI Managing Director, after the post fell vacant B Sriram's resignation?

- A. Arijit Basu**
- B. DK Khara**
- C. PK Gupta**
- D. Anshula Kant**

Answer:- D

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