

AUGUST CURRENT AFFAIRS– 2018

ENGLISH VERSION



ASIAN GAMES
2018 | Jakarta
Palembang



- ❖ The International Army Games 2018 are being held at 24 training grounds in seven countries namely Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, China and Russia from July 28 to August 11. It is for the first time that Armenia and Iran are co-hosting events of the Army Games.
- ❖ Karman Kaur Thandi from Delhi has become only the 6th Indian woman tennis player to crack the top-200 rankings in singles and is now ranked exactly 200 in the WTA list.
- ❖ Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), the marketers of the popular Amul brand of milk and dairy products, was awarded the 'Marketer of the Year' award by the International Advertising Association of India (IAAI). The award was received by RS Sodhi, the Managing Director (MD) of GCMMF, on behalf of the 36 lakh milk famers and producers of Gujarat.
- ❖ India's first in-phone tourism guide and mobile application "Go whats That" has launched by Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, at Rock Garden in Chandigarh on July 28, 2018.
- ❖ John Sankaramangalam (84), the Veteran filmmaker and former director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTTI), has passed away in Thiruvalla, Kerala on July 30, 2018.
- ❖ Pradip Choudhury, who formed the central defensive pair with Subroto Bhattacharya when Mohun Bagan took on Pele's Cosmos team in 1977, has been conferred the Mohun Bagan Ratna 2018 at the annual day of the 129-year-old club on July 29.
- ❖ Prabhat Koli (19) from Maharashtra, who crossed the English Channel when he was 16, has become the first Asian to swim the choppy water from Jersey (an Island in the UK) to France in cold weather. The long-distance sea swimmer covered 25km in 6 hours and 54 minutes.
- ❖ The Union Government has constituted a high level empowered committee to address the issues of stressed thermal power projects. The committee will be headed by Cabinet Secretary, Pradeep Kumar Sinha with representatives from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and the lenders having major exposure to the power sector.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government will set up 'iHub' (the intelligent hub), a first-of-its kind global research centre for scientific learning with an initial investment of Rs 245 crore spread over five years. For this purpose, the state government has already collaborated

with UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP).

- ❖ The first 'Nepal-India Think Tank' Summit was held in Kathmandu on July 31 to foster greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the think tanks of the two countries.
- ❖ The Myanmar Government has appointed an independent 4- member commission to investigate alleged human rights abuses against the ethnic Rohingya minority.
- ❖ The Chhattisgarh government has launched a smart phone distribution scheme 'Mobile Tihar' under the Sanchar Kranti Yojna (SKY). The scheme is for distribution of smartphones to women and students, covering over 50 Lakh beneficiaries.
- ❖ The first cow sanctuary in Rajasthan will be situated in Napasar, Bikaner to dedicate the entire area for cows, much on the lines of a wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government will observe the 2018 Independence Day eve as Shahid Samman Divas to honour martyrs. The decision to this effect was taken at a cabinet meeting in Bhopal on July 30, 2018.
- ❖ Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the former West Bengal governor, has been selected for 2018 24th Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award for his outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill.
- ❖ The Meenakshi Amman temple is located on the temple city of Madurai, Tamil Nadu. Recently, it is in news because the famous Goddess Meenakshi temple has got its first non-Brahmin as 'archaka' (priest).
- ❖ The United States has recently granted Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) status to India that will ease export of high-tech items.
- ❖ Rajasthan has become the first Indian state to implement the National policy on bio fuels, which was launched by the Union Government in May 2018.
- ❖ Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, has won the 2018 Fields Medal for his profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics.
- ❖ The Government of Odisha has launched a 360 degree nation-wide publicity campaign "Heartbeats for Hockey" to attract fans for 2018 men's hockey World Cup.

- ❖ India has been ranked 96th in the United Nation's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018.
- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched a desktop software 'e-Aksharayan' for converting any scanned or printed Indian language documents into a fully editable text format in Unicode encoding.
- ❖ K. Anvar Sadath, the vice chairman and executive director of the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), has won the 2018 International Contributions Award given by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), USA.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has recently launched a landmark 3-month visa amnesty programme which will benefit hundreds of illegal foreign workers, including Indians, overstaying their permits by allowing them to leave the country without penalties and giving them six months to find a job.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has recently approved an unemployment allowance scheme "Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam" through which an allowance of Rs 1000 per month will be provided to unemployed youth in the state.
- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award (OPA) for the years 2013-2017 in New Delhi on August 1, 2018.
- ❖ The Telangana government will setup a state of the art "B-Hub" for biotech and bio-pharma sector in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.
- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has launched a dedicated portal – Forum of Cargo Owners and Logistics Operators (FOCAL) – to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels.
- ❖ On August 10, the NITI Aayog will host an Investors' Conference for the Holistic Development of Islands at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and will be inaugurated by Amitabh Kant (CEO of NITI Aayog).
- ❖ The Manipur government has constituted two committees – state and district level – to deal with a possible influx of illegal immigrants.
- ❖ Jalees Sherwani (70), the veteran screenplay writer, has passed away in Mumbai.

- ❖ NITI Aayog has launched a global mobility hackathon “Move Hack” to crowd source solutions for future of mobility in India.
- ❖ Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar has won the 2018 Fiji International title.
- ❖ Raveendran Kasthuri, a Kannur native, has assumed charge as new CEO of the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd (ULCCS) on August 6.
- ❖ On August 3, the 10th International conference on oral implantology was held in New Delhi to enhance the awareness and knowledge on the latest innovations and technologies in oral implantology world over.
- ❖ The Karnataka government has launched a rural cleanliness and sanitation campaign “Swachhameva Jayate” to make every citizen in rural Karnataka take a pledge of cleanliness.
- ❖ Molecular biologists at the Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences in China have claimed to create the world’s first single-chromosome yeast while not affecting the majority of its functions.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh government has launched “Horn Not Ok” awareness campaign in Shimla and Mandi along with a statewide mobile application ‘shaur nahin’ (no noise).
- ❖ In Uttar Pradesh, the iconic Mughalsarai junction has been formally renamed after RSS ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU), who was found dead in mysterious circumstances near the station in February 1968.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has conducted the first-ever Orientation Workshop on Election Management for IAS Asst. Secretaries in New Delhi on August 3, 2018.
- ❖ Ranjit Srivastava, the Ranchi-based software developer, has claimed to develop the world’s first Hindi speaking realistic humanoid robot and India’s first lip-synching robot.
- ❖ India has been elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a period of 2 years.
- ❖ The two week-long joint military exercise “Maitree 2018’ has started between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army in Thailand on August 6 with a focus on enhancing anti-terror cooperation between the two sides.
- ❖ The Telangana government has signed pact with Tech Mahindra to establish the Blockchain district in Hyderabad, a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence for Blockchain.

- ❖ The group of computer scientists and a team of students from the IIT- Madras have developed the first of a family of six industry-standard microprocessors 'RISECREEK', under Project Shakti.
- ❖ The Central Government has approved 122 new research projects of Rs 112 crore under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology 'IMPRINT-2' scheme.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed pact with the State Bank of India (SBI) for a long-term unsecured loan to the tune of Rs 25,000 crore.
- ❖ Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain has become the first woman shuttler to win the women's singles World Badminton Championships thrice (2014, 2015, 2018) with an emphatic victory over P.V. Sindhu of India in Nanjing, China on August 5, 2018.
- ❖ Defending champions the Netherlands, has won the 14th edition of Women's Hockey World Cup 2018.
- ❖ Dr. Ajay Data from Jaipur, the Founder and CEO of Data XGen Plus, has become the first Indian to be appointed a council member of ICANN panel Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO).
- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the elephants at the Kanha National Park (KNP) are on a week-long picnic. This picnic, which is arranged every year, includes massaging for the elephants and a delicious menu.
- ❖ The Indian Under-20 football team has created history by winning the 2018 Cotif Cup football tournament by defeating the 6-time U20 World Cup champions Argentina by 2-1 in their final match in Spain on 6 August.
- ❖ The 22nd edition of 'Parampara series – National Festival of Music and Dance' festival will be held at Kamani Auditorim in New Delhi from August 10, 2018.
- ❖ On August 6, the world's first-ever facility to create thermal batteries has been inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati.
- ❖ The Parliament of India has passed the 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill, which grants constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). The bill was passed after the House repealed the NCBC Act, 1993.
- ❖ NITI Aayog's International Conference on "Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions" was held at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi on August 6, 2018.

- ❖ The Indian women chess team has clinched the gold in the Blitz event at the Asian Nations Chess Cup 2018 at Hamadan, Iran.
- ❖ The communication exercise “Pacific Endeavor-2018 (PE-18)” under the Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP) has started in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ The Union government has constituted a 4-member Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu, to look into issues related to the proposed mega free trade agreement Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- ❖ UNESCO has included the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR) in the list of World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR) at the 30th Session of the Man and Biosphere International Coordinating Council (ICC) in Palembang, Indonesia.
- ❖ The Mizoram government will start the repatriation process of Bru (Reang) tribals from Tripura to Mizoram from August 14 to September 10.
- ❖ The 11th edition of the India Art Fair 2019 will be held from January 31 to February 3 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Prof. Talat Ahmad, the renowned earth scientist, has become the new vice chancellor of the University of Kashmir.
- ❖ NDA candidate Harivansh Narayan Singh has been elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha after defeating opposition nominee B K Hariprasad on 9th August 2018.
- ❖ Avi Goel (14), the Indian-American high school student, has won the International Geography Bee World Championship 2018 in junior varsity division in Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ Mathrubhumi, the leading media group of Kerala, has launched its new venture ‘Mathrubhumi Media School’ in Kochi on August 8, 2018.
- ❖ Dr. Ram Sewak Sharma has been reappointed the Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) till 30th September 2020.
- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the ‘One District One Product (ODOP)’ Summit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on August 10, 2018.

- ❖ The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has become the first defence Public Sector Units (PSU) to be activated on the TReDS (Trade Receivable Discounting System) platform.
- ❖ NCW member Rekha Sharma from Haryana has been appointed the new chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).
- ❖ Javelin thrower star Neeraj Chopra from Haryana will be India's flag bearer in the opening ceremony of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ Mahiedine Mekhissi, a French middle-distance runner of Algerian descent, has clinched gold at the men's 3000m steeplechase at the 2018 European Athletics Championships in Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ The Punjab Government will start 'Tatkal Sewa' for property registration across the state from August 13.
- ❖ Annie Zaidi, an Indian author, has won the 2018 Hindu Playwright Award 2018 for her play 'Untitled' at the 14th edition of The Hindu Theatre Fest at the Taj Coromandel.
- ❖ India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations has been inducted in Delhi Police.
- ❖ Axis Bank has become the India's first bank to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
- ❖ Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul (85), the Trinidad-born Indian origin author, has passed away in London, England on August 12.
- ❖ The 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2019 is scheduled to be held between January 18 and 20 in Gandhinagar with Theme: 'Shaping of a New India'.
- ❖ The Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting will offer 3-year Santoor women's scholarship for higher education to girls from economically weaker families in the three southern states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched an initiative "RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil)" that will enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.

- ❖ In Hyderabad, India's first genetic bank for wildlife conservation has been inaugurated by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan at the Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) in CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) to protect India's biodiversity and environment.
- ❖ The Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 was held in Birgunj, Nepal.
- ❖ Michelle Bachelet, the former two-time President of Chile, has been officially appointed new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- ❖ The Indian Army has launched the major rescue and relief operation "Operation Sahyog" at Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Idukki after incessant rain and landslides hit various northern districts of Kerala.
- ❖ The US space agency NASA has successfully launched the Parker Solar Probe mission to send a satellite closer to the Sun than any before.
- ❖ Somnath Chatterjee (89), the former Lok Sabha Speaker & veteran leader, has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ Viraj Madappa (20) from Kolkata has become the youngest Indian golfer to claim the Asian Tour title after lifting the 2018 TAKE Solutions Masters trophy in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of the Madras High Court (MHC) by Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit. She is the third women Chief Justice of the Madras High Court (MHC).
- ❖ Ashish Kumar Bhutani, a 1992 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) till May 9, 2020.
- ❖ Prasar Bharati has tied up with Google and its video sharing platform YouTube to telecast the 72nd Independence Day programme live online on 15th August 2018 to increase digital presence.
- ❖ Hakam Singh Bhattal (64), the Asian Games gold medallist athlete & Dhyan Chand awardee, has passed away in Sangrur, Punjab.
- ❖ The Ease of Living Index 2018 has been launched by Hardeep Singh Puri, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs, in New Delhi on

August 13. In it, Pune has been ranked first, followed by Navi Mumbai, Greater Mumbai, Tripuri, Chandigarh, Thane, Raipur, Indore, Vijaywada and Bhopal.

- ❖ Santhali has become the first Indian tribal language to get a Wikipedia edition in its native script.
- ❖ Rafael Nadal, a Spanish professional tennis player, has clinched the 2018 men's singles Rogers Cup tennis tournament at the Aviva Centre in Toronto, Canada.
- ❖ The 2018 cleanliness survey for Indian Railways has been conducted by the Quality Council of India. Jodhpur has been declared the cleanest railway station in the A1 category, followed by Jaipur and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh).
- ❖ China has successfully tested its first cutting-edge wave rider hypersonic aircraft "Xingkong-2 (or Starry Sky-2)" which could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defense systems.
- ❖ Film Actor Akshay Kumar has been appointed the brand ambassador for Government of India (GoI)'s special road safety awareness campaign.
- ❖ D Bala Venkatesh Varma, a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed India's new ambassador to Russia.
- ❖ Ramesh Powar, the former Indian off-spinner, has been appointed the head coach of the Indian Women's National Cricket team on an interim basis till 30th November 2018.
- ❖ The Rajasthan government has decided to observe September as the "month of nutrition" to create awareness among people living in the state.
- ❖ On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day 2018, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao launched three new schemes viz. free life insurance for farmers (Rythu Bima), 'Kanti Velugu' eye care scheme and an economic support programme for backward classes.
- ❖ The Central government has constituted a coordination committee headed by the Central Water Commission Chairman "Narendra Kumar" to coordinate the discharge of floodwaters from inter-State projects involving Kerala and Tamil Nadu, including Mullaperiyar and Aliyar.

- ❖ The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched a VOIP based service “WINGS”. In WINGS, there is no SIM or cable wiring as is a VOIP service through an app.
- ❖ On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day 2018, the special film festival on the theme “Freedom Struggle and Freedom Fighters” has started in Mumbai.
- ❖ Mario Abdo Benítez has been sworn in as the new President of Paraguay.
- ❖ Atal Bihari Vajpayee (93), the veteran leader, prolific writer and former Prime Minister of India, has passed away in New Delhi on 16th August 2018. Born on 25th December 1924 in Gwalior, he was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957 and had a long parliamentary experience spanning over four decades. He was elected to the Lok Sabha nine times and two times for the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ China is hosting the 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) 2018 in Beijing from August 13 with theme “Learning to Be Human”.
- ❖ Austrian capital Vienna has been ranked as the world’s most liveable city in a list of 140 global cities at the 2018 Global Liveability Index. Delhi (112) and Mumbai (117) are only two Indian cities that are included in the index.
- ❖ Nihal Sarin (14) from Kerala has become the 53rd Grandmaster of India and the 12th youngest grandmaster in chess history.
- ❖ The 10-day festival of the historic Esala Maha Perehera has started in Kandy, Sri Lanka on August 17 with a grand procession.
- ❖ On August 17, the 2018 International Conference on Recent Advances in Food Processing Technology (iCRAFPT) has started at Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT), Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Teen cyclist Esow Alben (17) has scripted history by winning the India’s first junior cycling World Cup medal — a silver at the men’s keirin event in the UCI Junior Track Cycling World 2018. Alben, who hails from Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The IIT Kharagpur has decided to set up a Re-Water Research Center to replenish and rejuvenate water resources.
- ❖ KS Srinivas, a 1997 batch IAS officer of the Kerala cadre, has been appointed the new Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

- ❖ Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected as the new President of Mali for a five-year term after winning a landslide in a runoff ballot.
- ❖ The 11th World Hindi Conference 2018 (WHC) has started in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, with theme “Hindi World and Indian Culture” on August 18.
- ❖ For the first time, the International team of scientists including 18 from India cracked the genetic code of wheat, the world’s most widely cultivated crop.
- ❖ The “Panini Language Laboratory” has been inaugurated by Sushma Swaraj, the Union Minister of External Affairs (MEA), during the 11th World Hindi Conference (WHC) 2018 at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) at Port Louis in Mauritius on August 19.
- ❖ On August 19, Wrestler Bajrang Punia clinched India’s first gold medal in the 18th Asian Games after defeating Takatani Daichi of Japan in the men’s 65 kg freestyle title bout in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ Kofi Annan (80), the former UN secretary-general and a Ghanaian diplomat, has passed away in Switzerland on August 18, 2018. He served two terms as UN chief from 1997 to 2006.
- ❖ On 16 August, the Amnesty International India (AII) has launched a new campaign “Our Safety, Our Rights” to create awareness among children to help them understand and identify sexual abuse.
- ❖ Indian Women National Football team has clinched the 2nd edition of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women’s Championship 2018 after defeating Bangladesh in the final in Thimpu, Bhutan.
- ❖ Vinesh Phogat has created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games. In the final match in freestyle 50 kg category, she defeated Japan’s Yuki Irie in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ Former Indian Army chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag has been awarded the United States (US) ‘Legion of Merit (Degree of commander)’ on August 17, 2018, at Pentagon, Washington DC.
- ❖ Indian Shooter Deepak Kumar claimed Silver in the Men’s 10-metre Air Rifle event with a score of 247.7 points at the Jakarta Asian Games 2018 in Indonesia.

- ❖ Uri Avnery (94), a trailblazing Israeli journalist & peace activist and one of the first to openly advocate for a Palestinian state, has passed away in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- ❖ SK Arora, the Delhi government's additional director of health, has been honoured with the prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has become the first Public Sector Unit (PSU) to make a transaction on the "TReDS platform". The transaction was financed by Bank of Baroda (BoB) and since stands settled.
- ❖ Shooter Saurabh Chaudhary (16) has clinched gold in the Men's 10m Air Pistol event at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games in Indonesia
- ❖ Indian Shooter Sanjeev Rajput clinched a Silver in the men's 50-metres Rifle 3 Positions event at the 18th Asian Games in Palembang.
- ❖ Satya Pal Malik has been appointed the new Governor of Jammu & Kashmir. He will replace N N Vohra. Prior to this post, Malik was the Governor of Bihar. On 21 August, other governors of states appointed were Lal Ji Tandon for Bihar, Satyadev Narayan Arya was appointed as the Governor of Haryana.
- ❖ Indian Wrestler Divya Kakran clinched bronze in the 68 Kg Freestyle wrestling event at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ❖ Using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft that was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2008 NASA Scientists have confirmed the presence of frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's Polar Regions.
- ❖ Indian shooter Rahi Sarnobat has become the first-ever Indian woman to win an individual shooting medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. She bagged gold in the 25m pistol final event at the Jakabaring Shooting Range in Palembang.
- ❖ The 2018 International Buddhist Conclave (IBC) will be inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind with theme "Buddha Path – The Living Heritage" in New Delhi.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh government has decided to re-name state's new capital city of Naya Raipur as "Atal Nagar" in memory of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

- ❖ Prof. Chander Mohan, an Indian-American scientist, has identified as many as 50 protein biomarkers that can non-invasively detect Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) – a gut disorder that leads to diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, and weight loss.
- ❖ The 4th summit of Heads of State/Government of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held at Kathmandu in Nepal.
- ❖ Iran has launched its first state-of-the-art domestic fighter jet “Kowsar” at a defense show in Tehran.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government has appointed actor Raveena Tandon as the brand ambassador of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) to spread environmental awareness among citizens.
- ❖ In Rajasthan, India’s largest Startup incubation and acceleration- Bhamashah Techno Hub – was inaugurated by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje in Jaipur.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has launched an exclusive incubator “Fables Chip Design Incubator (FabCI)” to boost chip design. It is a first of its kind in India that will focus on creating an ecosystem for start-ups in chip design.
- ❖ Indian Tennis player, Ankita Raina has won a bronze after losing a hard fought women’s singles semifinal 4-6, 6-7 in straight sets against Shuai Zhang of China at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ❖ The 2018 India Banking Conclave (IBC) was held in New Delhi to address issues of India’s Banking Sector.
- ❖ The 9-member Steering Committee, headed by Stanford University Prof. AJ Paulraj, has recently submitted its 5G high level forum report titled ‘Making India 5G Ready’ to Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has lifted ban on retail sale of life saving drug ‘Oxytocin’ with effect from 1st September 2018, which was restricted to retail sale from July 2018.
- ❖ The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched a wind- sensing satellite “Aeolus” into orbit from French Guyana to track global winds. The satellite will be placed at an altitude of 320 Km above the Earth.

- ❖ Vijay Chavan (63), the veteran Marathi actor who was known for his comic roles, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on August 24, 2018.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice S J Vazifdar as head of a 3-member committee to decide mining company Vedanta Limited's plea challenging the Tamil Nadu government's order to close the Sterlite copper plant at Thoothukudi.
- ❖ The book "No Spin" is the autobiography of renowned Australian bowler Shane Warne, which will release on October 30. It is the true story behind the headlines, in Warne's own voice, and challenges some of the enduring myths and untruths that surround him.
- ❖ The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has launched a Kerala Heritage Rescue Initiative to assess damage to rich cultural and built heritage in flood-devastated Kerala. ICOMOS, which is headquartered in Paris.
- ❖ On August 23, the International Water Colour Festival 2018 has started at Audrey House in Ranchi, which is organized by the Jharkhand Art Culture and Tourism Department in Audrey House. The aim of the 5-day fest is to promote the rich art and culture of Jharkhand.
- ❖ Renowned aerospace scientist Dr G Satheesh Reddy, who is scientific adviser to the Defence minister, has been appointed new chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for a period of two years.
- ❖ On August 23, the annual festival at Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil has started in Jaffna, Sri Lanka with the sacred flag hoisting ceremony and is attracting thousands of Hindu pilgrims from within the country and abroad.
- ❖ The 2018 Krishi Kumbh International Conference and Exhibition will be held at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (Telibagh) in Lucknow from October 26, which will be organized by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh government has decided to organize a youths' conclave "ATAL – Arunachal Transformation & Aspirational Leadership" in Itanagar on 22nd September 2018.
- ❖ Indian shot putter Tejinder Pal Singh Toor from Punjab has clinched Gold in men's Shot-Put event with a record-shattering throw at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.

- ❖ The world's first blockchain bond "bond-i" has recently launched by World Bank (WB), which is to be created, allocated, transferred and managed through its life cycle using distributed ledger technology.
- ❖ The National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application has been launched by former President Pranab Mukherjee wherein voters can review and rate their elected representatives (MPs & MLAs) as well as hold them accountable.
- ❖ The multi-nation counter-terror exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018 has started at Chebarkul, Russia on August 24 to provide an opportunity to the armed forces of SCO nations to train in counter terrorism operations in urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.
- ❖ Prasar Bharati has recently signed MoU with Mizzima Media Group of Myanmar to realize cooperation and collaboration in broadcasting and content sharing.
- ❖ The Integrated Defence Staff of the Defence Ministry and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up satellite-enabled telemedicine nodes to improve emergency medical support to Indian soldiers posted in high-altitude areas, especially Siachen.
- ❖ Budget passenger carrier SpiceJet has successfully conducted India's first-ever test flight powered by biojet fuel between Dehradun and Delhi on August 27, 2018.
- ❖ For the first time, India's only aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya will be fitted with marine hydraulic systems "GS-1MF and GS-3" to boost the air operations of the ship. The systems would be fitted by Russia's Rostec State Corporation through its subsidiary "Technodinamika" by May 2019.
- ❖ The 3rd edition of Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) 2018 has started in Hanoi, Vietnam on August 27 with theme 'Building Regional Architectures'.
- ❖ The committee, chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, has recently submitted final report on review of penal provisions of Company Act 2013 to the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley.
- ❖ Olympic Silver Medalist PV Sindhu has created history by becoming the first-ever Indian shuttler to enter a badminton final at the Asian Games.

- ❖ The Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018 eliminates leprosy as a ground for dissolution of marriage or divorce. It is an attempt to end the discrimination against leprosy persons in various central laws: The Divorce Act, 1869; the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939; the Special Marriage Act, 1954; the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act of 1956. The Bill is meant to provide for the integration of leprosy patients into the mainstream.
- ❖ On August 23, the 4th edition of Asian electoral stakeholders' forum (AESF-IV) has started in Colombo, Sri Lanka to discuss the state of elections and democracy in the region.
- ❖ Satya S Tripathi, the veteran Indian development economist and UN official, has been appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The appointment was made by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- ❖ Dr. Ravinder Kumar Singhal (53), the Maharashtra cadre IPS officer & presently Nashik Police Commissioner, has successfully completed the immensely difficult "Ironman triathlon" in 15 hours and 13 minutes as against the stipulated time of 17 hours in France on August 26, 2018.
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra has created history by becoming the first-ever Indian javelin-thrower to win an Asian Games gold medal.
- ❖ The book "Atal Ji Ne Kaha" is authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi, who is Doordarshan producer & senior journalist. It is a book on the BJP patriarch and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which was launched by Prime Minister Modi.
- ❖ The Odisha government has launched a programme "Mu Hero, Mu Odisha" (I am Hero-I am Odisha)" to identify and to give recognition to the young achievers of the state. The initiative is to be conducted by the Biju Yuva Vahini (BYV) members.
- ❖ The Japan Women's National Team has won the 9th edition of 2018 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup tournament by beating the Spanish team 3-1 at the final in France.
- ❖ On August 28, the Government of India (GoI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chief Ministers of 6 Upper Yamuna basin states for the construction of Lakhwar multipurpose project in Uttarakhand. The states are Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.

- ❖ Indian sprinter Dutee Chand from Odisha clinched silver in women's 100m dash in the 18th Asian Games 2018 to win the country's first medal in 20 years in this event.
- ❖ IIT-Kharagpur has recently conducted study on River Ganga that indicates that river is drying up in summers due to groundwater depletion.
- ❖ Manjit Singh clinched gold in the men's 800 metres event at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, which was India's first gold in the event since Charles Borromeo won in 1982 Asiad.
- ❖ North Korea will host the 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in its capital Pyongyang from October 27.
- ❖ Ulka Mahajan, who is one of the three founders of Sarvahara Jan Andolan (SJA), has been conferred Praful Bidwai Memorial Award for 2018. The award was presented to Mahajan by social activist Medha Patkar.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has decided to launch 'Gaganyaan — India's first human spaceflight programme' by 2022. The mission will aim to send a 3-member crew to space for a period of 5 to 7 days.
- ❖ The National Sports Day (NSD) is celebrated every year in India on August 29 to mark the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. He won gold medals in Olympics for India in the years 1928, 1934 and 1936.
- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a 21-member committee to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on policy matters related to science, technology and innovation. The committee, dubbed as Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Council (PM-STIAC), will be headed by K Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific adviser to the GoI.
- ❖ Emmerson Mnangagwa was officially sworn-in as the new President of Zimbabwe on August 26, after narrowly winning the 2018 Zimbabwean general election. It was the country's first election since the ousting of strongman Robert Mugabe.
- ❖ The first-ever SAARC Agriculture Cooperative Business Forum has started in Kathmandu, Nepal on August 29, 2018. It is co-organized by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Asian Farmers' Association (AFA) with the support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

- ❖ Swapna Barman from West Bengal clinched gold in the women's heptathlon with 6026 points at the 18th Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta.
- ❖ In Argentina, the G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting 2018 was held in Salta with theme 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development' on August 23-24. It took place as part of Sherpa Track for 2018 G20 Leaders' Summit, which is to be hosted by Argentina by end of 2018.
- ❖ Arpinder Singh clinched India's first men's triple jump gold in 48 years, with a jump of 16.77m in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. With this, he became the 2nd Indian sportsman to achieve this landmark. Before him, Mohinder Singh Gill won gold medal in triple jump event in 1970 Bangkok Asian games event.
- ❖ The Government of India has signed a \$375 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project (MPIEIP). The aim of the pact is to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.
- ❖ The 6th edition of RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting 2018 has started in Singapore on August 30, which consists of 10 ASEAN countries and six ASEAN FTA partners namely, India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. In it, the Indian delegation is led by Suresh Prabhu, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation.
- ❖ Ruchi Ghanashyam, the 1982 batch IFS officer, has been appointed India's new High Commissioner to United Kingdom (UK). She succeeded Y K Sinha.
- ❖ The 14th edition of multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise "KAKADU 2018" has started in Darwin, Australia from August 29 and will continue till September 15. It is hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- ❖ The Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows set up by the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD) under the Swadhar Greh scheme. It is said to be the largest-ever facility of its kind created by a government organization, which will be inaugurated by Maneka Sanjay Gandhi and UP CM Yogi Adityanath at Vrindavan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh on 31st August 2018.
- ❖ Germany has sanctioned a soft loan of euro 120 million (Approx Rs. 990 crore) to India for National Clean Ganga Mission & to strengthen sewage water treatment

infrastructure in Uttarakhand. The purpose of the project is to reduce the inflow of untreated waste water in River Ganga & to improve the water quality of the river.

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government has organized an interactive programme “Mil -Banche” in government schools of state. It is a first of its kind initiative i.e. being organized for multi-dimensional development of children through language skill up-gradation, reading other books in addition to textbooks, developing other co-curricular activities.
- ❖ Indian sprinter Jinson Johnson from Kerala clinched gold with a timing of 3 minutes 44.72 seconds in men’s 1500m race at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. He also holds the credit of winning silver in the 800m track event at the ongoing event, finishing behind compatriot Manjit Singh, who won the Gold.
- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$346 million million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Karnataka State Highways Improvement III Project (KSHIP-III). Under KSHIP-III, about 419Kms of state highways will be upgraded to two- and four-lane roads.
- ❖ India has signed MoU with International Energy Agency (IEA) on enhancing innovation for the Clean Energy Transition on August 30, 2018.
- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has announced new ranking system – named Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) – for higher educational institutions to promote culture of innovation and research in higher education at AICTE in New Delhi. The new ranking system will be formally launched on October 15, the birth anniversary of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ The 4th edition of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit 2018 was successfully concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal with Kathmandu declaration on August 30 to 31. The BIMSTEC, comprising India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- ❖ In New Delhi, Indian Railways has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GAIL India Ltd for use of environment-friendly fuel ‘Natural Gas’ in Railway workshops and production units.
- ❖ NITI Aayog will organise MOVE: India’s First Global Mobility Summit 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on September 7. The aim of the summit is to showcase innovation and build a platform to shape the future of mobility.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- ❖ 73rd Hiroshima Day – August 6
- ❖ National Handloom Day (NHD-2018) - August 7
- ❖ 73rd Nagasaki Day – August 9
- ❖ Quit India Day (Kranti Diwas) - August 9
- ❖ International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples - August 9
2018 theme: “Indigenous people’s migration and movement”.
- ❖ World Biodiesel Day (WBD) - August 10
Narendra Modi unveiled a Booklet on “National Policy on Biofuels 2018”.
- ❖ International Youth Day (IYD) - August 12
2018 theme: “Safe Spaces for Youth”.
- ❖ World Elephant Day (WED) - August 12
- ❖ World Organ Donation Day (WODD) - August 13
- ❖ 72nd Indian Independence Day – August 15
- ❖ World Photography Day (WPD) - August 19
- ❖ World Humanitarian Day (WHD) - August 19
- ❖ World Mosquito Day - August 20
- ❖ World Senior Citizen Day - August 21
2018 theme : “Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.”
- ❖ International Day of Remembrance and tribute to the Victims of Terrorism – August 21
- ❖ National Sports Day – August 29
To mark the birthday of the hockey player Dhyan Chand