

## CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

### Exclusive for IBPS PO MAINS aspirants

AUGUST

#### BANKING

- **Bandhan Bank** has surpassed **YES Bank's** market capitalisation (market cap) to become the **sixth** most valuable **private sector bank** and **seventh** most valued **listed lender**.
- **RBI** to ask **Paytm Payments Bank** as well as **Fino Payments Bank** to halt inducting new customers for the time being.
- **HDFC Life Insurance** Company inked an agreement with **Vijaya Bank** to tap customers of the state-owned lender.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on August 21 will launch long-awaited **India Post Payments Bank** (IPPB) that will have at least one branch in every district and focus on financial services in **rural areas**.
- **IFC**, a member of the **World Bank Group**, will invest **Rs. 160 crore** (\$25 million) in **Mahindra Rural Housing Finance** (MRHFL), which is focussed on **rural housing**. MRHFL will use the proceeds to extend **loans** to low-income borrowers in **villages**.
- **PayPal**, a global technology platform and **digital payments** leader, has announced its strategic **partnership** with and **HDFC Bank** to offer **safer, faster** and convenient **payment** experiences for the **bank's card holders**.
- **HSEC** has launched a new digital platform **MyDeal** to simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing **real-time** access to information such as **investors'** feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing.
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has entered into a **bancassurance** deal with **Vijaya Bank**.
- **Axis Bank** has become the **first bank** in the country to introduce **Iris Scan Authentication** feature for **Aadhaar-based transactions** through its **micro ATM** tablets.
- The **RBI** decided to pay **Rs 50,000** crore as dividend to government in line with the **Union Budget** provisions, helping the Centre stick to its fiscal roadmap.
- **Exim Bank of India** has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development banks of **BRICS** to undertake "collaborative research" in distributed ledger/**blockchain technology**.
- **Bharti Axa Life Insurance** and **Airtel Payments Bank** entered into an **alliance** to offer the '**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**' (PMJJBY), a government-backed **life insurance** scheme. With this, **Airtel Payments Bank** also becomes the **first payments bank** in **India** to offer the **Government of India-backed life insurance scheme**.
- **ICICI Bank**, **India's private sector bank**, has agreed to a multi-year partnership with **Manchester United**, bringing a range of competitive co-branded credit and debit card to the club's **35 million Indian** followers.
- The **World Bank** has launched a **blockchain-only** bond. The so-called **bond-I** for "**blockchain** operated new debt instrument" and perhaps also for **Sydney's** famous **Bondi Beach** is a **two-year bond** that was arranged by **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** and raised **110 million Australian dollars** (\$80 million.)

- **Axis Securities** has launched commodity broking services through its membership with **MCX** and become the **first bank subsidiary** to enter the commodity broking business..
- The **Government of India**, the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (**EESL**) and the **World Bank** signed a **\$220 million** Loan Agreement and an **\$80 million** Guarantee Agreement for the **India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up** Program.
- The **World Bank** will provide a **\$250 million** loan facility to **Rajasthan** for improving the performance of its **electricity distribution** sector.
- **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved **USD 620 million** loan to boost **irrigation** projects in **Madhya Pradesh** and supply clean water in **West Bengal**.
- In an effort to clean the **Ganges**, Germany is providing a **soft loan of euro 120 million** (Rs 990 crore approximately) to **India** to strengthen **sewage water** treatment infrastructure in **Uttarakhand**.
- **India** signed a **\$375 million** loan agreement with the **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) for expanding **irrigation networks** and system efficiency in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **The Asian Development Bank** (ADB) and the Government of **India** signed a **\$346 million** loan to finance improvement of over **400 kilometers** of state highways that will enhance connectivity and access to **economic centers** across **12** districts in **Karnataka**.

### ECONOMY

- Air compressor manufacturer **Elgi Equipments** has acquired **Pulford Air and Gas**, an **Australian** company, at a total cost of Australian **\$11.04 million**.
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** is getting an unsecured loan of **Rs 25,000 crore** from **State Bank of India** for **10** years with **3** years of moratorium on repayments. This is the largest amount of loan to have been sanctioned to NHAI in one stroke by any institution.
- **Apple** has become the **world's first** publicly traded company to be valued at **USD 1 trillion**. In **1997** when **Apple** teetered on the edge of **bankruptcy**, with its stock trading for less than **USD 1**.
- State Bank of India (**SBI**) has inked a pact with **Reliance Jio** Infocomm to integrate its **digital** banking solution **Yono** with **MyJio** application to boost **digital payment**.
- The government will soon invite fresh bids for **100%** stake sale in **Pawan Hans** by issuing an addendum to the disinvestment document as **ONGC** is ready to sell its entire stake in the company.
- **IMF forecasts India's GDP to grow at 7.5% in 2019-20 fiscal year.** India's gross domestic product (**GDP**) is poised to grow by **7.3%** in the **2018-19** fiscal and **7.5%** in **2019-2020** on strengthening of investment and robust private consumption.
- **Digital payments** major **Paytm** had acquired **Bengaluru**-based savings management start-up, **Balance Technology** for an undisclosed amount.
- **Competition Commission of India** has approved the **billion-dollar** acquisition of **BPO** firm **Intelenet** by **French** outsourcing firm **Teleperformance** from private equity major **Blackstone**.
- **The Indian economy** is expected to grow at **7.4** per cent for **2018-19**, higher than the previous year as per **FICCI**.
- **Tata Consultancy Services** piped **Reliance Industries Limited** (RIL) to regain the crown of **India's** most **valued company** in terms of **market capitalisation**.
- **Walmart**, the **world's** largest retailer, has completed the acquisition of **majority stake** in **India's** leading **e-commerce** marketplace, **Flipkart**. **Walmart** and **Flipkart** announced the completion of the **\$16-billion** deal that would see the **US** giant taking ownership of **77** per cent stake in the **Indian** firm.
- **One97** Communications Limited has partnered **Alibaba** to launch **artificial intelligence-based** cloud computing platform '**Paytm AI Cloud for India**' for developers, startups and enterprises. The platform offers **business-centric** apps for **organisations** that need **high-quality** solutions for cloud computing, **ready-to-use** services to automate workflow, easy to integrate payments, among others.

- **Reliance Industries** becomes **first Indian company** to cross **Rs 8 lakh crore market capitalization**.
- Retail giant **Walmart-owned** leading **e-tailer Flipkart** unveiled a dedicated portal '**2Gud**' for refurbished goods, including mobile phones, laptops and tablets, a week after shutting its **eBay India operations**.
- **Google** during its annual event, **Google for India**, rebranded its **payments app** for **India Google Tez** as **Google Pay**, and also launched its **new features**.
- **Amazon Pay**, the payments arm of **Amazon India**, will acquire Sequoia-backed **Tapzo** as the **e-commerce** giant looks to strengthen its play in the **country's growing digital** payments space.

### NATIONAL

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **Chadrababu Naidu** unveiled the **world's first-ever high energy storage device in Amaravati**. The **thermal battery**, first-of-its-kind anywhere in the world, is a revolutionary and disruptive technology patented by Dr. Patrick Glynn in 2016 in India.
- Makers of Italian superbike **Benelli** announced a partnership with **Hyderabad's Mahavir Group** arm to set up an assembly plant and plans to explore prospects for a full-fledged manufacturing facility in the State.
- Union Minister for Science and Technology **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated a genetic resource storage facility at the **Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) in Hyderabad**.
- The **Startup India Yatra** was launched in Raipur, the capital city of **Chattisgarh**. The first boot camp saw a large number of students queue up to register themselves.
- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has launched the new scheme namely **Seva Bhoj Yojna** starting first 1 august, with a total outlay of **Rs. 325.00 Crores** for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Power have joined hands under the initiative **SAATHI(Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries)** in order to sustain and accelerate the adoption of energy efficient textile technologies in the power loom sector and cost savings due to use of such technology.
- The **Andhra Pradesh** Government has approved the "**Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam**" scheme that makes unemployed youth in the state, eligible of receiving **Rs 1000 per** month from the government.
- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** launched '**horn not ok**' awareness campaign and '**shaur nahin**' (no noise) mobile application.
- To address the issues, challenges and concerns of the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, the apex decision making body of GST Council in its 29th meeting has decided to create a sub-committee headed by **MoS Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla** to look into various issues and submit a report.
- **Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar** announced that the 122 new research projects had been selected, costing **Rs 112 crore**, under **Impacting Research, Innovation and Technology( IMPRINT-II)** to strengthen research in higher education institutions.
- Amid a barrage of attacks over the **Muzaffarpur sex scandal**, **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** has launched an ambitious scheme '**Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana**' which promises to provide Rs 54,100 from the birth of a girl child till she graduates.
- The iconic **Mughalsarai Railway Junction** in **Uttar Pradesh** has been renamed as **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya** Junction Railway station; BJP National President Amit Shah inaugurated the renamed station.
- The Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation **Shri Nitin Gadkari** launched **Bidder Information Management System (BIMS)** and **Bhoomi Rashi** and **PFMS linkage** - two

IT initiatives of the Road Transport & Highways Ministry that are aimed at expediting pre construction processes relating to bidding and land acquisition respectively.

- The Union Government constituted a **four-member Group of Ministers (GoM)** headed by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Suresh Prabhu**. The **GoM** has been constituted to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on whether to continue with or withdraw from the 16-member **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations**.
- **Goa** Chief Minister **Manohar Parrikar** and Tourism Minister Manohar Aijaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service "**GoaMiles**", in Panaji.
- The **Parliament** passed the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018** which ensures stringent punishment for those convicted of raping girls below 12 years of age.
- The President of India, Shri **Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the centenary celebrations of **St. Thomas' college**, at **Thrissur in Kerala**.
- **Uttarakhand** 1st state to give **ID cards to Gau Rakshaks**. **Gau rakshaks** are protectors of cows who will now be known as **gau sanrakshaks** - which means '**guardians of cows**'.
- **Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu** launched **Niryat Mitra - mobile App** in New Delhi. It provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade right from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff, market access requirements - SPS and TBT measures.
- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** and **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** will launch a defence industrial corridor in Aligarh as part of the government's efforts to develop specialised zones dedicated to defence production in the state.
- The **Southern Naval Command (SNC)** launched '**Operation Madad**' for assisting the state administration and undertaking disaster relief operations due to the unprecedented flooding experienced in many parts of Kerala, owing to incessant rainfall and release of excess water from Idukki and other dams.
- Fertiliser major **IFFCO** announced joint venture with Spains **Congelados De Navarra** to set up a food processing plant at Ludhiana in Punjab with an investment of Rs 325 crore.
- **India** will triple its ethanol production over the next four years till 2022 and this will save <sup>1</sup> 12,000 crore in the country's oil import bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced, which is being celebrated as **World Biofuels Day**.
- To encourage more Indian travellers to visit **Israel**, Embassy of Israel has opened a visa application centre in the city for tourists from **West Bengal and the north eastern states**.
- '**Tatkal sewa**' of property registration to start in Punjab
- the Delhi Police inducted India's **first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)** team for anti-terrorist operations. After rigorous training of around 15 months from specialists all across India and abroad, 36 women commandos from the northeastern states have been inducted into this squad.
- **The Minister of State for Culture** (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated an exhibition entitled '**Prathibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram**' (Freedom Movement through Proscribed Literature) in the premises of National Archives of India, in New Delhi.
- The **Hisar Airport** is all set to become the **first licensed airport** in Haryana once it is inaugurated on August 15 by **Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has given assent to the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018**, that provides for stringent punishment, including **death penalty** for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years.

- The **Civil Aviation Ministry** has approved a proposal for setting up of water aerodromes in the country, with **Chilika Lake in Odisha, Sardar Sarovar Dam and Sabarmati River Front in Gujarat** being identified in the first phase for development of such facilities.
- **Chhattisgarh** is the **first state** in the country to provide **Right to Skills' Development to the youth**. Around 2.7 lakh youth has already been employed in several fields. Trained individuals have also been working in cities like **Bengaluru and Chennai**.
- **Dr. Najma A. Heptulla**, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur will be inaugurating the project "**Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom**" implemented under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism**, The above project is the first project under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** being inaugurated in the country.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **Dial 100 Mobile** app, which will help the needy at the time of emergency.
- Amnesty International India launched a new campaign '**Our Safety, Our Rights**' aimed at creating awareness among children to help them understand and identify sexual abuse.
- **India** banned the import of **petcoke** for use as fuel, but shipments for use as feedstock in some industries was allowed.
- The government has put on hold the draft that proposes red-labelling of packaged food products containing high levels of fat, sugar and salt. The expert panel will be headed by **B Sesikeran**, former director of **National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)** as also the current director Hemalatha, besides doctor Nikhil Tandon.
- **Punjab**, the **first state in India** to launch a mobile app '**i-Hariyali**' to supply free **saplings**, has provided **13 lakh saplings** to people through this endeavour so far.
- **Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD)** has proposed to set up **five member committee to suggest charges to JEE (advanced)** in the wake of an inadequate number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year. The committee will be headed by IIT-Madras director **Bhaskar Ramamurthy**.
- As a mark of respect to former **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, the **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to name the upcoming **Bundelkhand Expressway as 'Atal Path'**.
- The **international water colour festival**, starting aims to bring local artists in touch with the international art and promote the rich art and culture of **Jharkhand**.
- **Punjab Government to make sacrilege of religious text punishable with life imprisonment** The Chief Minister of Punjab, **Amarinder Singh** announced that the state cabinet has approved amendments to the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** to make sacrilege of all religious text punishable with life imprisonment.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi set rolling a new slogan, '**Saaf Niyat, Sahi Vikas**', about his government as he gave away over 1 lakh houses to women under the flagship **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (rural) scheme**, calling it a Rakshabandhan gift.
- **India and Singapore** signed the "**Second Protocol**" amending the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** to boost trade ties between the two countries.

- The **Committee** constituted by Government of India in July 2018 to review the existing framework dealing with offences under the **Companies Act, 2013** and related matters and makes recommendations to promote better corporate compliance, has submitted its report. The committee head is Ministry of Corporate Affairs, **Shri Injeti Srinivas**.
- **No-frills airline SpiceJet** operated **India's first test flight** powered by **biojet fuel**, marking a new chapter in the fast-growing domestic aviation sector. The nearly 45-minute flight from **Dehradun to DELHI** was operated with a Bombardier Q400 aircraft
- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** launched '**Mu Hero, Mu Odisha**' (I am Hero, I am Odisha) campaign to recognise exemplary works by youths towards social transformation in the state.
- The **Narendra Modi Government** has constituted a high power committee to advise it on policy matters related to science, technology and innovation. Named as **PM-STIAC (Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Committee)**, the 21-member committee, including a dozen special invitees, will be chaired by **K Vijay Raghavan**, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government.
- **Google** has launched Project **Navlekha** to expand the reach of Indian content. The project would allow Indian vernacular news publishers to get their content online. Currently, the project has publishers from Delhi and its reach would soon be expanded across India.
- The Centre has sanctioned **Rs 730 crore** for the **Gujarat's Sardar Sarovar Dam project** on the **Narmada** river for the current year and also committed soft loan of **Rs 1,500 crore** for the state's other irrigation projects.
- To provide market link to farmers and make small industries successful in the state, Union Minister Giriraj Singh '**One District One Product**' scheme will soon be launched in **Odisha**.
- Union Minister for **Women & Child Development, Maneka Gandhi** and **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **widows' home 'Krishna Kutir'** at Vrindavan.

### INTERNATIONAL

- **India** imposed safeguard duty on **solar panels** imported from **China** and **Malaysia** for **2** years.
- **World's first intertidal art gallery opens in Maldives.**
- **India** was elected as the **president** of the **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development**, a regional inter-governmental organisation **established in 1977** under the auspices of **UNESCO**.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** embarked on a **three-nation visit** to Central Asia region. Sushma Swaraj will be visiting **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan**.
- The **first** set of **U.S.** sanctions against **Iran** that had been eased under the **landmark nuclear** accord have gone back into effect.
- As part of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** initiatives, **SCO Peace Mission** Exercise is conducted biennially for **SCO** member states. The **joint exercise** for the year **2018** will be conducted by **Central Military Commission of Russia** from **22 August to 29 August 2018** at **Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia**.
- **Iran** unveiled its **first domestic fighter jet** at a defence show in **Tehran**. It is a **fourth-generation fighter**, with "**advanced avionics**" and **multi-purpose radar**, adding that it was "**100-percent indigenously made**".
- For the **first time**, the **militaries** of **India** and **Pakistan** are taking part in a **mega anti-terror drill** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** in **Russia** aimed at expanding cooperation among the member countries to deal with the growing menace of **terrorism** and **extremism**.

- **The Indian government** and the **European Union (EU)**, **joined hands** for **Rs. 240** crore research programme to develop a **Next Generation Influenza Vaccine** to protect citizens **worldwide**.
- The **maiden two-plus-two dialogue** between **India** and the **United States** scheduled in **New Delhi** is an indication of the deepening **strategic partnership** between the two **countries**. **U.S. Secretary** of State **Mike Pompeo** and the Defence Secretary **Jim Mattis** are set to fly to **New Delhi** for the talks.
- **China** will restrict the number of **video games** and take steps to curb playing time by minors to address growing rates of childhood visual impairment as the government steps up its crackdown on the **world's biggest** online gaming market.

### PERSONS IN NEWS

- **PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi** will step down after 12 years of leading the food and beverage giant. Ramon Laguarta, a 22-year PepsiCo veteran who was promoted to president last year, will take over as the CEO.
- **Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson** has become the **best-paid female actor in the world**, according to Forbes magazine.
- **Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson** announces **retirement** from **all forms of cricket**
- The State government has appointed actor **Raveena Tandon** as the brand ambassador of the **Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)**.
- Senior diplomat **Ruchi Ghanashyam** has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

### PLACES IN NEWS

- **Delhi** will celebrate its **first-ever dragonfly festival** starting. The festival — jointly being organized by **WWF India** and the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**
- India Baja 2018, the Indian edition of the greatest challenge of all extreme motorsport competitions in the world, will be organised from August 17-19 among the dunes of **Jaisalmer**.
- The **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR)** of **Sikkim**, the highest biosphere reserve in the country that includes the third highest mountain peak in the world, **Kanchenjunga** (8,586 m), has been included in the **UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WHBR)**.
- **A special film festival** on the theme "**Freedom Struggle and Freedom Fighters**" began in Mumbai. The festival is organized by the Films Division to mark India's 72nd Independence Day.
- The **Odisha government** has decided to set up a state-of-the-art interpretation centre at **Bhitarkanika National Park** to showcase its **flora, fauna and rich biodiversity**.
- **Chhattisgarh** government decided to name **Naya Raipur**, the upcoming capital city of the state, as '**Atal Nagar**' in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje** opened the **country's biggest incubation centre, Bhamashah Techno Hub**, in **Jhalana Industrial Area of Jaipur**, which will provide start-ups with a unique platform to evolve into accomplished organisations.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Ranchi man Ranjit Srivastava** 38, has developed Indian version of 'Sophia,' a social humanoid robot developed by a Hong Kong based company, named **Rashmi** which can speak Hindi, Bhojpuri and Marathi along with English.
- Indian-origin U.S. astronaut **Sunita Williams** is among the nine astronauts named by NASA who will fly the first missions into space on commercially provided rockets and capsules, starting next year.
- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe**, mankind's **first mission** to 'touch' the Sun, has been

launched on a seven-year long journey to unlock the mysteries of our star's fiery outer atmosphere and its effects on space weather.

- **Iran's defence minister** unveiled the next generation of Tehran's **Fateh Mobin short-range ballistic missile**.
- The multi-purpose **Barak 8** missile defence system, jointly developed by **India and Israel**, will be procured by the Israeli Navy to protect its economic zones and strategic facilities from diversified threats and the sales for it have exceeded \$5 billion.
- **Aditya-L1** is India's first mission to study the Sun
- Indigenously-developed guided bombs — **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons** — and **anti-tank guided missile Helina** were successfully flight tested at separate firing ranges in Rajasthan.
- **OSIRIS-REx is NASA's** first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid, survey the surface, collect a sample and deliver it safely back to Earth. The spacecraft has traveled approximately 1.1 billion miles (1.8 billion km) since its Sept. 8, 2016, launch and is scheduled to arrive at Benu on Dec. 3.
- **DBS Bank** has been named the world's best bank by Global Finance magazine, in a reflection of its ability to invest in digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers.
- Search engine giant **Google** has unveiled **Project Navlekha** to make online content relevant for more Indian users especially in local languages. It was unveiled along with host of upgrades of **Google's** other products at fourth '**Google for India**' event held in New Delhi.
- India's first manned space flight — **Gaganyaan** — will send three humans into space for **five to seven days** and the spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit of **300-400 k m** from the earth's surface.

### AWARDS & HONOURS

- **K. Anvar Sadath**, vice chairman and executive director of **Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE)** as he has become the first Indian to receive The **International Contributions Award**.
- Former West Bengal Governor **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** has been chosen for this year's **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award** for promoting communal harmony and peace. The award carries a citation and a cash award of Rs. 10 lakh.
- **Akshay Venkatesh**, a renowned **Indian-Australian mathematician**, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious **Fields medal**, known as the Nobel prize for maths.
- **Santhali becomes India's first tribal language to get own Wikipedia edition**
- **Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie tops 'women who changed the world' list**
- **Annie Zaidi wins The Hindu Playwright Award 2018**
- Oscar-winning director **Ang Lee** will be one of the recipients of the annual **Directors Guild of America (DGA) honours** at its ceremony.
- **General Dalbir Singh Suhag** awarded **US Legion of Merit 2018**
- Delhi government's additional director of health **S.K. Arora** bags **WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award**
- "**Xhoixobote Dhemalite**" (Rainbow fields), an **Assamese film** dealing with the sensitive issue of children growing up in violent times, has bagged the best screenplay award at **Treasure Coast International Film Festival in Florida** .
- Former England captain **David Beckham** will be presented the **2018 UEFA President's Award**, in recognition of his remarkable career and humanitarian efforts.
- **PepsiCo's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi** to get **Asia Game Changer** award by global cultural organization.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Organisation	Head
Director (Fin) of HAL	<b>C B Ananthakrishnan</b>
Non-Executive Director on the board of HDFC	<b>Deepak Parekh</b>
High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Rwanda	<b>Oscar Kerketta</b>
Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD) New President	<b>Fayyaz Sheheryar</b>
Uttarakhand High Court Chief Justice	<b>K.M. Joseph,</b>
Madras HC Chief Justice	<b>Indira Banerjee</b>
Orissa HC Chief Justice	<b>Vineet Saran</b>
United India Insurance as Director & GM	<b>S Gopakumar joins</b>
Colombia's youngest 60th President	<b>Ivan Duque</b>
part-time Directors on RBI board by CAC	<b>S Gurumurthy &amp; Satish Marathe</b>
chairperson of National Commission for Women (NCW)	<b>Rekha Sharma</b>
TRAI chairperson till 2020	<b>Ram Sewak Sharma</b>
Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha	<b>Harivansh</b>
First woman Chief Justice of J&K High Court	<b>Gita Mittal</b>
Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court	<b>Aniruddha Bose</b>
Chief Justice of Patna HC	<b>M R Shah</b>
Madras High Court Chief Justice	<b>Justice Vijaya Tahilramani</b>
Orissa HC Chief Justice	<b>Justice Kalpesh Satyendra Jhaveri</b>
Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) Chairperson	<b>Manjula Chellur</b>
CEO of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).	<b>Ashish Kumar Bhutani</b>
Head Coach of India Women's Cricket team	<b>Ramesh Powar</b>
Ambassador to Russia	<b>D Bala Venkatesh Varma</b>
Ambassador of India to Ukraine	<b>Partha Satpathy</b>
Governor of Chhattisgarh	<b>Anandiben Patel</b>
50th President of Paraguay	<b>Mario Abdo Benitez</b>
Independent Director of Indiabulls Housing Finance	<b>Subhash Sheoratan Mundra</b>
Jammu-Kashmir Governor	<b>Satya Pal Malik replaces N N Vohra</b>
Assocham Secretary General	<b>U K Varma</b>
Australia's 30th Prime Minister	<b>Scott Morrison</b>
Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	<b>Dr G. Satheesh Reddy</b>
Indian Banks Association (IBA) Chairman	<b>Sunil Mehta</b>

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Books	Authors
<b>"Untold Story of Broadcasting"</b>	Dr. Gautam Chatterjee
<b>'Bebak Baat'</b>	Vijay Goel (launched by Vice president Venkaiah Naidu)
<b>'Exam Warriors'</b>	PM Narendra Modi
<b>'No Spin'</b>	Shane Warne
<b>281 and Beyond</b>	VVS Laxman
<b>Sea Prayer</b>	Khaled Hosseini
<b>Atal Ji Ne Kaha: A book on Atal Bihari Vajpayee</b>	Brijendra Rehi

**SEMINARS AND MEETINGS**

Seminars and Meetings	Place
India, US hold military cooperation meeting	New Delhi
51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meet	Singapore
'One District One Product' Summit	Uttar Pradesh
24 <sup>th</sup> World Congress of Philosophy Congress	Beijing, China
11th World Hindi Conference	Mauritius
sixth edition of International Buddhist Conclave 2018	New Delhi
India Banking Conclave 2018	New Delhi
Indian Ocean conference	Vietnam
Fourth Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV)	Colombo in Sri Lanka
8th India – Kenya Joint Trade Committee meeting	Nairobi, Kenya
First SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum	Kathmandu
third edition of 'Smart India Hackathon'	New Delhi
6TH RCEP Ministerial Meeting	Singapore

**SURVEYS**

- India has jumped 22 places to **96th rank** to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's **E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018**. **Denmark**, with an index topped the **2018 E-Government Development Survey**.
- **Seven Indian** companies have made it to the latest **Fortune 500 list of the world's** biggest corporations in terms of revenue. In the list **topped by retail giant Wal-Mart**. **Indian iol corp (IOC)** with 23 per cent rise in revenues at \$ 65.9 billion was ranked **137<sup>th</sup>**.
- **India's** rank on the **Global Innovation Index (GII)** has improved from 60th last year to **57th** this year. **Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Singapore, the United States of America, Finland and Denmark** lead the 2018 rankings in GII.
- **Pune** is the most **liveable** city, followed closely by **Navi Mumbai** and **Greater Mumbai** in a ranking of 111 Indian cities with the national capital ranked at a lowly 65 on the Ease of Living Index released by the government.
- **Jodhpur** has emerged as the **cleanest railway stations** in the third cleanliness survey.
- **Mukesh Ambani**-led **Reliance Jio** has been ranked the top company globally in the **Fortune's fourth annual "Change The World"** list released.
- **Akshay Kumar** has emerged as the **seventh highest-paid actor** in the world. He earned \$40.5 million in 2018, according to Forbes magazine. **Salman Khan** in the ninth place. **No. 1 is George Clooney (earnings \$239 million)**
- **Serena Williams** with earnings of **\$18.1 Million** was the highest paid female athlete for a third consecutive year in 2018 according to list of highest paid female Athletes 2018 published by Forbes. **Indian badminton player P. V. Sindhu 7<sup>th</sup> rank in the list.**
- **A central government** report has **ranked Punjab National Bank (PNB)** as the best PSU bank in the overall **digital transactions category in India.**

**SPORTS**

- **Reigning Formula One** champion **Lewis Hamilton** of **Britain** (Mercedes) won the **Hungarian Grand Prix** for the **sixth** time of his career, increasing his lead in the **2018** driver standings to **24** points ahead of his **German** rival **Sebastian Vettel** (Ferrari).
- **Indian** golfer **Gaganjeet Bhullar** to claim his **maiden European Tour title** with a one-stroke win over a charging Anthony Quayle of **Australia** at the **Fiji International**.
- **Ireland's** first **Women's World Cup** field hockey final ended in defeat as the **Netherlands** retained the **title** with an emphatic 6-0 victory.

- **PV Sindhu** once again faltered at the **final** hurdle losing to **Carolina Marin** in the **BWF World Championships**. With this victory Marin created history as the only woman to win **three World titles**. This is **Sindhu's** second **silver** and **fourth medal** at the **Worlds**.
- **England** fast bowler **James Anderson** became the **first bowler** to take **100 Test wickets** here at the iconic **Lord's Cricket Ground**.
- The young **javelin thrower**, **Neeraj Chopra** carried the **Indian flag** at the opening ceremony of **Asian Games 2018**.
- **Sebastian Vettel** won the **Belgian Grand Prix 2018** at **Spa-Francorchamps** Track in **Belgium**. **Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton** finished in the **second position**.
- **Virat Kohli** becoming the **second fastest Indian** to reach **6000 Test runs**. Kohli reached the milestone in **119 innings** which is quicker than legendary **Sachin Tendulkar** (120) and **Sir Vivian Richards** (120). **Sunil Gavaskar** is the fastest after he did so in **117 innings**.
- ❖ **Asian Games 2018 Important Highlights:**
- India's final tally at the **18th Asian Games** in **Jakarta and Palembang**, Indonesia read **69 medals – 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze** to surpass the medal count from 2010 Games in Guangzhou, China and match the gold medal tally from the first-ever Asian Games in 1951. India **8<sup>th</sup> rank** in **18th Asian Games**. **FIRST Rank China**.
- The Games got underway with **Neeraj Chopra** as the **flagbearer** at the **opening ceremony**. **Rani Rampal** was the **flag bearer** at the **closing ceremony**.
- 1st medal in Sepak Takraw, **Rahi Sarnobat** became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian woman to win Asian Games gold in shooting,
- **Vinesh Phogat** became 1st Indian woman to win gold in Wrestling
- **Swapna Barman** became 1st Indian to win an Asiad gold in the women's heptathlon event.
- **Neeraj Chopra** became 1st Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold.
- **Bajrang Punia (Wrestling)** won 1st Gold Medal for India in Asian Games 2018.
- **GOLD MEDALS WON BY INDIA IN ASIAN GAMES 2018**

<b>ATHLETICS</b>	
Men's Shot put	Tajinderpal Singh Toor
Men's Javelin Throw	Neeraj Chopra
Men's 800m	Manjit Singh
Men's Triple Jump	Arpinder Singh
Women's Heptathlon	Swapna Barman
Men's 1500m	Jinson Johnson
Women's 4x400m Relay	M. R. Poovamma, Saritaben
<b>WRESTLING</b>	
Men's freestyle 65 kg	Bajrang Punia
Women's freestyle 50 kg	Vinesh Phogat
<b>SHOOTING</b>	
Men's 10-metre air pistol	Saurabh Chaudhary
Women's 25-metre pistol	Rahi Sarnobat
<b>ROWING</b>	
Men's Quadruple Sculls	Sawarn Singh, Dattu Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash, Sukhmeet Singh
<b>BRIDGE</b>	
Men's Pair	Pranab Bardhan, Shibnath Sarkar
<b>BOXING</b>	
Men's Light Fly (49kg)	Amit Panghal
<b>TENNIS</b>	
Men's Doubles	Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan

**SPECIAL DAYS**

Day		Theme
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Earth Overshoot Day	-
7 <sup>th</sup> August	National Handloom Day	-
9 <sup>th</sup> August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous peoples' migration and movement
10 <sup>th</sup> August	World Biofuel Day	-
12 <sup>th</sup> August	18 <sup>th</sup> International Youth Day	"Safe space for Youth".
12 <sup>th</sup> August	6th World Elephant Day	-
---	India pitches for declaring 2019 as	International Year of Millets
19 <sup>th</sup> August	World Photography Day	-
20 <sup>th</sup> August	World Mosquito Day	-
21 <sup>st</sup> August	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	-
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition celebrated	-
29 <sup>th</sup> August	International Day against Nuclear Tests	-
29 <sup>th</sup> August	National Sports Day	-
30 <sup>th</sup> August	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	-

**OBITUARY**

Name of the Persons	Name of the Field
Krishna Shripadrao Deshpande	library scientist
'Kalaingar' M. Karunanidhi	former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief
Former The Hindu BusinessLine journalist	Mony K. Mathew
Sumatheendra R. Nadig	Kannada writer, poet, critic and translator
Jarrod Lyle	Australian golfer
Nobel prize winning author	V S Naipaul
Somnath Chatterjee	Communist veteran and former Lok Sabha Speaker
Balramji Dass	Chhattisgarh Governor
Chemmanam Chacko	Noted Malayalam poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee
Ajit Wadekar	Former India Test captain
Kofi Annan	former Secretary-General of United Nation
MP Kuldip Nayar	Veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha
Neil Simon	Broadway's master of comedy
John McCain	influential US senator and presidential candidate