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# Monthly GK Mania

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Two Indian-Origin Self-Made Women on Forbes**

On 12th July 2018, Indian-origin technology executives Jayshree Ullal and Neerja Sethi have been listed into the Forbes' list of America's 60 richest self-made women. Ullal is ranked 18th with a net worth of \$1.3 billion while Sethi is ranked 21st with a net worth of \$1 billion. 57 year old Ullal has been president and CEO of a computer networking firm, Arista Networks, since 2008. 63 year old Sethi, is the vice president of IT consulting and outsourcing company Syntel which she founded with her husband Bharat Desai in 1980 in their apartment in Troy, Michigan.

### **The most followed world leaders**

In July 2018, Global communications agency, Burson Cohn & Wolfe (BCW) released report of a study titled 'Twiplomacy' in which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emerged as the third most followed leader on Twitter with 42 million followers while India's external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj got highlighted as the most followed female world leader as well as the most followed foreign minister (more than 11 million followers) in the world. The study registered 951 Twitter accounts, 372 personal and 579 institutional accounts, of heads of state and government and foreign ministers of 187 nation.

### **Yashwant Mahadik : Lupin's Global HR President**

In July 2018, Drug firm Lupin appointed Yashwant Mahadik as President of Global Human Resources. Having 30 years of experience in consumer and healthcare in global organisations, the seasoned HR professional will now report to Lupin CEO Vinita Gupta and its Managing Director Nilesh Gupta in Mumbai. Before this, he was working with Sun Pharmaceuticals as Global Chief Human Resources Officer and has been HR in companies like Philips, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca and Colgate Palmolive.

### **Haryana's new Initiative 'I Am Not Afraid Of English'**

On 14th July 2018, Haryana Education Department announced a new initiative 'I Am Not Afraid Of English' to make primary school students fluent in English. Under the programme, one Junior Basic Training teacher and a Block Resource Person per block will teach one English sentence every day. For this a booklet containing 1,000 sentences and phrases has been prepared. Besides this, six language labs have been established in selected model Sanskriti schools in the state to facilitate digital learning and improving listening and speaking skills of the students.

### **T.V. Narendran: The New Chairman of Bhushan Steel**

In July 2018, Board of directors of Bhushan Steel approved Tata Steel's T.V. Narendran's appointment as their new chairman. The appointee is CEO and MD of Tata Steel, who holds more than 30 years of experience in the metal and mining industry. Through India's new insolvency and bankruptcy process, Tata Steel purchased controlling stake of 72.65% in Bhushan Steel in line with Rs 35,200-crore resolution plan for the bankrupt steelmaker. Besides him, Tata Steel CFO Koushik Chatterjee has also been appointed as non-executive additional director of Bhushan Steel.

### **'British Indian Of The Year'**

On 15th July, 2018, 8-Year-Old Indian-Origin Yoga Champion Ishwar Sharma won the title of 'British Indian Of The Year' in the Young Achiever category at the sixth annual awards ceremony held in Birmingham earlier this week for his accomplishment in both individual and artistic yoga. Recently he won a gold medal while representing Great Britain at the World Student Games 2018 in Winnipeg, Canada, in month of June. He performed Vedic Yoga with choreography to music accompanied with Hatha Yoga postures with Acroyoga and artistic yoga across the UK.

### **University of Houston & IIPE entered a contract**

In July 2018, The University of Houston (UH) has inked a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) to develop scientific and technical knowledge via joint research. IIPE founding director VSRK Prasad and UH vice provost for global strategies and studies, Jaime Ortiz were the signatories. The MoU is about joint research of the two nations in offshore and onshore petroleum engineering, process control systems, process safety in all chemical engineering fields and non-conventional energy areas. The duo will exchange faculty for the purpose.

### **Actress Rita Bhaduri died of kidney ailment**

On 17th July, 2018, actress Rita Bhaduri died at age of 62 in Mumbai. The seasoned actress acted in more than 70 movies like Raja, Julie, Beta, Dil Vil Pyar Vyar, and 30 TV shows including Sarabhai vs Sarabhai, Choti Bahu, Kumkum, Khichdi and many others in her 30 year long career. She was last seen as Imarti Devi in Star Bharat's show Nimki Mukhiya. Besides been a great actress, she was a great human being and a mother to many of tv and film stars on the screen.

### **India's First Defence incubator**

In July 2018, Telangana government proposed to accommodate India's First Defence incubator in Hyderabad, which is India's renowned missile development centre and fast emerging hub for aerospace industries. The proposed incubator will be stationed at T-Hub, which is credited as one of the country's major centres for nurturing start-ups and creative ideas. The incubator will receive funds from the Ministry's Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme for conducting research in the fields of Aerospace & Defence by MSMEs, start-ups, research institutions and educational institutions.

### **India got Oxford awards**

In July 2018, a team of experts from the IIT-Kharagpur and the University of Oxford got rewarded with Oxford awards for developing a unified experimental and theoretical approach to dispense with the arsenic poisoning found in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta in north and northeast India. The awardees include Oxford-based Ian Griffiths and Raka Mondal, and IIT-Kharagpur's Sirshendu De, Sourav Mondal and Krishnasri Venkata. Griffiths developed a mathematical framework which when applied to a new arsenic filtering technology enables engineers to maintain current filters and deploy them in an economical manner.

### **Haryana launched 'Paudhagiri' Campaign**

On July 16, 2018, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar began 'Paudhagiri' Campaign by planting a 'maulsari' sapling in the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex premises of Gurgaon to increase the greenery in the state. Around 22 lakh students from class 6 to 12 of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling in July, August and September of this year and will take care of it for the next three years. Around 2.7 crore saplings will be sown in the next month under the drive.

### **Bihar will provide cheapest drinking water**

On 17th July 2018, under an innovative economic drinking water project, 'Sulabh Jal', Bihar government decided to lower the price of one-litre bottle to 50 paise which turned to be the cheapest price in the world. Sulabh International started the Sulabh Jal project in Darbhanga to convert contaminated pond water into safe drinking water. The project became a self-sustainable project with active participation of the community which also generates employment. Sulabh International is an organisation that introduced the concept of 'Sulabh Shauchalya' in the country.

### **Flipkart's PhonePe purchased Zopper Retail**

In July 2018, to amplify its offline business, Flipkart's digital payment subsidiary, PhonePe bought a hyperlocal Point of Sale (POS) platform of Zopper Retail. This will increase the adoption of digital payments for merchants. With this, Zopper's CEO Neeraj Jain and the engineering leadership team has now become a part of the PhonePe's team. Zopper Retail is meant to cater the needs of millions of small retailers in India, and its strategy rings well with PhonePe's overall vision of making digital payments universally accepted across the nation.

### **IIT-Kharagpur & AIIMS will boost research**

On 17th July 2018, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) inked a memorandum of understanding to promote joint academic programmes like Ph.D, MD-Ph.D, MSc-Ph.D and other courses, coordinated internship programmes for students. The duo will conduct research outreach programme and medical services amongst faculty members, scientists and students.

### **IIT Delhi made silk-based hydrogel**

According to July 2018 publication of Journal of Cellular Physiology, researchers of IIT Delhi have developed a silk-based hydrogel that increases the process of hair growth. It is a move that may help in screening new drugs for treating hair loss without using animal tests. The hydrogel has been made by combining a mixture of silk proteins, isolated from silkworm cocoons and gelatin. And Tyrosinase enzyme has been employed to form a stable hydrogel system. The system created an ideal condition for development of a complete 3D model of hair follicle regeneration.

### **Conclusion of Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan**

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) conducted a week long Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan, 'Shubharambh Saptah' in five main Ganga basin states viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in July 2018. The State Forest Departments of these states acted as the Nodal Agencies for execution of this afforestation drive in which seeds of Kanji, Sheesham, Farmis, Jamun, Arjun, Gatal, Siras, Chhitvan, Mango, Neem, Semal, Jungal Jalebi, Gulmohar, Kadam, Sagwan, Saal, Mahogni, Ber, Bamboo, Karaonda, Ashwagandha, Curry Patta, Jathrofa, Beheda, Dhatura, Sarpgandha etc. were sown.

### **Demise of Noted Poet Gopal Das Neeraj**

On 19th July 2018, Renowned Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj died of prolonged illness at the age of 94 in New Delhi. He belonged to Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh and won several prestigious awards like Padma Shri (1991) and Padma Bhushan (2007) and three Filmfare awards for his famous poetic works like Asawari, Lahar Pukare and Paran Geet and immortal lyrics for films like Prem Pujari, Tere Mere Sapne, Chanda Aur Bijli, Sharmili, Kanya Daan, Mera Naam Joker etc. that include Likhe jo khat tujhe, ae bhai zara dekh ke chalo etc.

### **All-Women Branch opened at J&K Bank**

In July 2018, First Lady, Usha Vohra inaugurated the first All-Women Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank at a function organised at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in presence of the chairman, JK Bank, Parvez Ahmad. It is well equipped with special services and products designed exclusively for women client like Pink Platinum Saving Scheme, Pink Gold Saving Scheme, Pink Gold Debit Card, Pink Platinum Credit Card and Special Loan Facility for Women Entrepreneurs. It is state's new step towards women empowerment.

### **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 got amended**

On July 17, 2018, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified the draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, that mandates FASTags and Vehicle Tracking System device for all commercial vehicles obtaining national permit. The front windscreen of the vehicle will have to be affixed with a sticker confirming fitting of the Fastag. Besides this, the draft amendments state additional conditions for obtaining national permit that include display of the words 'National Permit or N/P' in the front and rear of the vehicles in bold letters among others.

### **Indians, the top skilled visa immigrants in Australia**

In July 2018, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released data on skilled visa immigrants in Australia in which Indians emerged on the top followed by England (160,558) and China (146,842). Around 3,00,000 Indians migrated and settled in Australia from 2000 to 2016 and among them 154,012 individuals have obtained Australian citizenship. While under the family visa programme, China topped the list with 95,532 immigrants followed by UK at 60,108 and India at 56,406.

### **Ramchandra Singh Deo is no more**

Chhattisgarh's first finance minister Ramchandra Singh Deo died in July 2018. He was once the king of an erstwhile Koriya kingdom i.e. present-day Koriya district of Chhattisgarh state bordering with Madhya Pradesh where he was born on February 13, 1930. Hailing from Indian National Congress, he won legislative seat on five occasions from his hometown. He worked for the rehabilitation of the people who got displaced on account of dam constructions. He penned books on economy and also addressed the issue of Bastar's Naxal-hit area.

### **19th Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations began**

The three day celebrations of the 19th Kargil Vijay Diwas began on 24th July 2018 at Drass War Memorial in Jammu and Kashmir. The festivity began by paying tributes to 17 war heroes, including Colonel Sachin Nimbadkar Veer Chakra and Colonel Dr Rajesh Adatao via laying wreath at the memorial in Kargil town. To commemorate India's emphatic victory against Pakistan and recall the sacrifice of war heroes, various cultural programmes and briefing over Operation Vijay Battles and Laser Show are in store for future celebration.

### **Guha's "Gandhi: the years that changed the world (1914-1948)" is in print**

Penguin Random House India is publishing eminent historian Ramachandra Guha's new ambitious book "Gandhi: the years that changed the world (1914-1948)" in July 2018. It is the most definitive new biography of Gandhi that reveals the story of Gandhi's life along with his arguments with B.R. Ambedkar, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Subhas Chandra Bose. The book holds relevance in the context to religious tensions and communal disharmony that engulfed the country in contemporary times. Prior to this, Guha had authored "India After Gandhi" and "India Before Gandhi".

### **Assam will set up separate directorate for Divyangs**

On 25th July 2018, the Assam government has decided to set up a separate directorate for the Divyangs. Social Welfare minister of state, Pramila Rani Brahma said that "appointment to Divyangs will be given at around 4500 posts by December 2018". Apart from this, the Social Welfare Department will also give Rs 1000 per month to all Divyangs as a stipend. The minister also said that the new Anganwadi centres will be constructed for the benefit of women and children.

### **“Green Mahanadi Mission” launched in Odisha**

On 24th July 2018, the Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has launched the “Green Mahanadi Mission”. The main objective of this mission is to stop soil erosion on river banks and recharge the groundwater reserve and to protect the Mahanadi River and keep it alive. Under this mission, more than 5 crore saplings will be planted over an area of 41,000 hectares. The estimated expenditure for this plantation drive is Rs. 5000 crore.

### **Rishi Srivastava: CEO and MD of Tata AIA Life**

On 24th July 2018, Rishi Srivastava has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director(MD) of Tata AIA Life. He will succeed Naveen Tahilyani who takes over as Chief Executive Officer, group partnership distribution, AIA Group, Hong Kong. Currently, Srivastava is a Chief of proprietary channels, product, marketing & corporate communication at Tata AIA. He has more than 20 years of experience in finance and insurance. He joined Tata AIA in 2016.

### **Vodafone-Idea merger won Govt. approval**

Government gave nod to Vodafone India and Idea Cellular merger in July 2018. The duo jointly paid an amount of Rs. 7,268.78 crore 'under protest' to the Department of Telecom (DoT). The merged identity will be India's largest mobile-phone company, 'Vodafone Idea'. Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, Kumar Mangalam Birla, will be the Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea while COO of Vodafone India, Balesh Sharma will be the CEO. Vodafone & Idea will hold 45.1: 26.1% ratio of shares in the combined entity.

### **IT Returns without quoting Aadhaar**

In July 2018, Madras High Court permitted filing of IT Returns without quoting Aadhaar to nine petitioners for the assessment year 2018-19. The Court gave this verdict as a big question mark looms over the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar. The petitioners had earlier pleaded for it on account of Apex Court's decision that made Aadhaar purely voluntary until the question of its Constitutionality gets solved. However, as per Section 139A of the IT Act, the assesseees are required to quote their Aadhaar number while filing ITRs.

### **India's first state-run all-woman hotel**

In July 2018, The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) will manifest country's first state-run all-woman hotel 'Hostess' at the Kerala Transport Development Finance Corporation (KTDFC) Complex at Thampanoor in Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran conducted the inaugural ceremony for this project. The proposed hotel will feature state-of-the-art facilities viz. automated security features, technology-oriented check-ins and check-outs, laundry service, complimentary breakfast, microwave oven and fitness centre. The hotel will serve women officials, researchers, sportspersons, teenage girls, business women and pilgrim groups who will pay flying visit to the city.

### **Karnataka topped in renewable energy sector**

In July 2018, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) released a report in which Karnataka has emerged as the leading state for renewable energy in India this year with 12.3 gigawatts (GW) of total installed capacity as of March 2018, having added 5 GW in year 2017-18 alone. It has surpassed Tamil Nadu on account of rapid building of 5 GW of solar capacity, 4.7 GW of wind capacity and generation of 2.6 GW renewable energy via small hydro and biomass.

### **West Bengal will soon be known as 'Bangla'**

In July 2018, West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution to change the name of the State as 'Bangla' in three languages viz. Bengali, English and Hindi. The change of name will bring West Bengal forward in the alphabetical sequence of names of states as currently 'West Bengal' appears last in the row. The resolution is lying in wait to get Union Home Ministry's approval. Prior to this, there were proposals of changing the name as Paschim Bango, Bangla (in Bengali), Bengal (in English) and Bangal (in Hindi) which were dismissed by the Centre.

### **The PMRF scheme will reach all researchers**

In July 2018, Union Government has freed the Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme from clutches of privileged IISc, IITs, NITs, IEST and IISERs candidates, making it available to all the potential researchers from year 2019. The scheme was announced in the Budget Speech 2018-19 for period of seven years beginning 2018-19 at total cost of Rs. 1650 crore. The scheme permits direct admission of meritorious students of PG courses in PhD programmes.

### **Shivangi scripted a new record**

In July 2018, Shivangi Pathak of Haryana conquered Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro. The 17-year-old scaled the peak in three days. Earlier, she had become the youngest Indian woman to reach the peak of Mount Everest. Arunima Sinha has been her source of inspiration for all these feats. She wants to be a role model for other girls as she said, "Girls need to convince their parents that they can achieve their goals. Parents, in turn, should support their daughters in every way possible. There is nothing that women can't do"

### **National Viral Hepatitis Control Program**

On July 29, 2018, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda began the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program to weed out viral hepatitis by 2030. The program advocates decrease of mortality and morbidity by ensuring sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water supply, infection control and immunization as well as implementing preventive interventions with focus on awareness generation, safe injection practices and socio-cultural practices. Viral hepatitis B and C have posed major health challenges and are the root causes of liver cancer.

### **29th July 2018: Mohun Bagan Day**

Mohun Bagan Day is celebrated annually on July 29 to commemorate the Mariners' victory over East Yorkshire Regiment 2-1 in the IFA Shield final which was held on 29th July 1911. This was 129th anniversary of the club at which Pradip Choudhury was presented the Mohun Bagan Ratna 2018 worth ₹1 lakh. He formed the central defensive pair with Subroto Bhattacharya when Mohun Bagan defeated Pele's Cosmos team in 1977. He became the 18th recipient of this award. Sudip Chatterjee (Best Cricketer), Sourav Das (Best Youth Footballer), Rahim Ali (special award) were the other awardees.

### **ONGC got INFRA Icon Award**

In July 2018, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was presented INFRA Icon Award in the 'Global Energy' category at the mid-day 'INFRA Icons' which was organized on 'Smart cities envisages to take infrastructure development to a next level' theme. This top corporate level award acknowledged valuable contribution of ONGC in upgrading India as a whole in presence of industry veterans from key infrastructure sectors. The 'INFRA Icons', is an initiative by mid-day, meant to bring a change with trendsetters associated with the infrastructure of India.

### **Surendra Roshia became the new CEO for HSBC India**

On 30th July 2018, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) appointed company's Head of Financial Institutions Group (FIG) for Asia-Pacific as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for HSBC India. He joined HSBC's India operations in 1991 and earned 27 years of rich experience in financial services sector. The alumnus of IIM-Ahmedabad has succeeded Jayant Rikhye.

### **Preparations for a new Guinness World Record**

According to Chetan Singh Solanki of Department of Energy Science & Engineering of IIT-Bombay, 100,000 students in 100 schools across India are planning to take part in assembling solar lamps worth Rs 500/- per kit on 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd of October 2018. The aim of this event will be to promote solar energy for sustainable future on Earth. Under the IIT-B's Solar Urja through Localisation for Sustainability (SoULS) programme, the workshop is being billed as the largest such initiative which could qualify for a Guinness World Record entry.

### **Reliance emerged as the most valued firm of India**

In July 2018, Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) once again became the most valued firm of India as the RIL shares rose 2.4% to record high of ₹ 1177.80, with a market cap of ₹ 7.46 trillion. According to Q1 results its standalone net profit increased 18% to ₹ 9,459 crore. It left behind India's biggest software services, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) which displayed ₹ 1930 per share, valued at ₹ 7.39 trillion.

### **“When Coal Turned Gold: The Making of a Maharatna Company”**

July 2018 unveiled former chairman of Coal India Ltd (CIL), Partha Sarathi Bhattacharyya 's book “ When Coal Turned Gold: The Making of a Maharatna Company” that speaks about how the huge loss making company turned into a profitable Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking. The book reveals the struggle of the company with the Dhanbad coal mafia, trade unions and the government. It gives insight how the industry was perceived and most importantly it shows scripting of one of the greatest success stories that the country had ever seen. CIL contributes to 82% of India's coal production.

### **Launch of desktop software e-Aksharayan**

On July 30, 2018, the Union IT ministry launched a desktop software 'e-Aksharayan' to enable editing of text printed on scanned documents at a FICCI event. The edited text can also be saved separately. The software can convert scanned printed Indian language documents into a fully editable text format in Unicode encoding. Presently, e-Aksharayan can do editing in seven Indian languages like Assamese Bangla, Gurmukhi, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil. The software can be downloaded for free from its website.

### **Repo Rate hiked by 25 Bps to 6.5%**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve bank of India raised policy rates by 25 basis points to 6.5% in third Bi-monthly Policy Statement. MPC has done this because of inflationary pressures arising due to hike in minimum support price. It has increased the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.5% as a result the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 6.25%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75%.

### **Demise of FTII director Sankaramangalam**

In July 2018, Veteran film personality and former Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) director John Sankaramangalam died of age-related illness at 84. He entered FTII as a student in 1962 and did four films besides several documentaries for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. 'Saramsham', 'Samandaram', 'Aval Alpam Vaikippoyi' and 'Janma Bhoomi' are some of the famous films which got his



directions. He had won two National and four Kerala State Film Awards. He had been chairman and member of jury for several national and international film festivals.

### **Renowned ghazal singer Umbayee passed away**

On 1st August 2018, Melodious ghazal singer and composer from Kerala, Umbayee died of cancer at age of 68 at Aluva in Ernakulam district of Kerala. His real name was Abu Ibrahim. The deceased was well known for his unique style of singing ghazals not only in India but also in abroad particularly in the Gulf countries. He had mastery over tabla and harmonium and was adept in Hindustani music. He was a popular non-movie musician who carved music out of the poetry of greats like ONV Kurup.

### **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award**

The Advisory Committee of Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award chose Gopalkrishna Gandhi for the award to acknowledge his outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill. He will be awarded at a special ceremony on August 20, 2018 at Jawahar Bhawan. The award consist of a citation and cash amount of Rs 10 lakh which was instituted to commemorate the lasting contribution made by late Rajiv Gandhi towards establishment of peace, communal harmony and his fight against violence.

### **Healthcare Technologies via IITH Startups**

On 1st August 2018 i.e. 'Second Graduation Pitch Day 2018', two startups from CfHE, IIT Hyderabad pitched their ideas about healthcare technologies to save lives of babies and help bed-bound individuals. 'HEAMAC Healthcare' has developed a device to provide sufficient illumination to newly born babies suffering from physiological jaundice via graded phototherapy. And another startup, 'Kvayat Medical' has developed a non-invasive and hygienic faecal management system for improving the quality of life of bed-bound individuals.

### **Launch of logo with tagline for 'GI' certified products**

On August 2, 2018, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched the tricolour logo with a tagline "Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India" for Geographical Indication (GI) certified products. The chosen logo and tagline depict the labour and creativity of artisans from several parts of India. The GI logo will also function as a certifying mark to identify all registered GIs irrespective of the categories. The GI tag will render artisans and the place of origin their rightful share in intellectual property.

### **Death of screenplay writer Jalees Sherwani**

On 1st August 2018, Renowned screenplay writer Jalees Sherwani died of prolonged illness at 70. He wrote lyrics for movies like "Dabangg", "Wanted", "Tere Naam", "Partner", "Garv" and "Hello Brother" and songs of Salman Khan's Tiger Zinda Hai were his last lyrics. He also wrote dialogues for "Sangam" and "Loafer". He had been the president of Film Writers' Association for sometime. Raza Murad, music composer duo Sajid-Wajid, writer Dilip Shukla, Faiz Anwar, Wasim Siddique and many of his colleagues from the industry registered their presence in his funeral.

### **IIMB Students hosted 'Eximius 2018'**

IIM Bangalore's students hosted the biggest B-School entrepreneurship summit of the country 'Eximius 2018' on 4th and 5th of August, 2018. Entrepreneurship & Innovation Cell organized this event in collaboration with India's 3rd largest incubator, NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL). Mr. Parth Jindal (MD, JSW Cements), Mr. Yashish Dahiya (Founder-CEO, PolicyBazaar), Mr. Ananth Narayanan (CEO, Myntra & Jabong), Mr. Deepak Ohri (CEO, Lebua Hotels), One of India's youngest CEOs, Ms. Ira Singhal (AIR 1, UPSC 2014) and many more were the orators who spoke on venture capitalists, unconventional startups, social entrepreneurship, services and The Viral Fever (TVF).

### **New Appointments of Air India**

In August 2018, Noted industrialists like Kumar Mangalam Birla and Y.C. Deveshwar got appointed as non-official independent directors in Air India. It is the first time a public sector enterprise got privilege of having such big industrialists on its board. It is worth knowing that Birla heads the \$44.3 billion multinational Aditya Birla Group that operates in 35 nations across six continents. While Deveshwar is the chairman of ITC, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector and hotels among others.

### **BIS banned three chemicals**

In July 2018, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) banned the use of three chemicals viz. toluene, titanium acetylacetonate and phthalates in printing of packaging materials used for food products. These chemicals were found to damage health of people in some or other way. For example paint thinner Toluene, migrates between layers of packaging and causes damage to liver and kidneys in humans. Among these toluene has already been banned in food industry across the developed nations.

### **National Sports University Bill, 2018**

On August 3, 2018, Lok Sabha passed National Sports University Bill, 2018 to set up a National Sports University in Manipur. The university will grant degrees, diplomas and certificates as well as provide facilities through a distance education system. The university will prescribe courses of study, conduct training programmes, strengthen sports training programmes and collaborate internationally in the field of physical education. This bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports on July 23, 2018 and now it will replace the National Sports University Ordinance, 2018.

### **Universities will run distance education courses**

In August 2018, Delhi University, Anna University, University of Madras and many more got permit of conducting distance education programmes under umbrella of UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations. The universities will run around 651 courses for the academic session 2018-19. Special centres will be made for offering 20% of the total courses in a specific programme in a semester through the Online Learning courses/Massive Open Online Courses. However conduction of courses in engineering, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy are still away from range of Open and Distance Learning.

### **Resignation of Indra Nooyi**

On August 6, 2018, Indra Nooyi decided to resign from post of CEO of food and beverage giant PepsiCo on October 3, 2018, after serving on the post for the last 12 years. Ramon Laguarta will succeed her. Laguarta who has been with the company for 22 years has got unanimously elected to the position by PepsiCo's Board of Directors. With this appointment, he will be the sixth CEO of the company in its 53-year old history. Although Nooyi has decided to resign as CEO, yet she will continue to serve as the Chairman of the company till early 2019.

### **Demise of DMK Chief M Karunanidhi**

DMK Chief and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi died at the age of 94 on 7th August 2018 in Chennai. He began his career as a screenwriter in Tamil film industry and had been five-term CM of the state. He was a doyen of public life who contributed to the development of Tamil Nadu. He was mass leader, prolific thinker, renowned writer and a stalwart who dedicated his life in welfare of the poor. He gave full support to regional and national progress and made Tamil Nadu's voice audible.

### **6 Central Universities will have Yoga department.**

In August 2018, names of six central universities like Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Uttarakhand, Visva Bharti Shantiniketan, West Bengal, Central University of Rajasthan, Central University of Kerala, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur University have been recommended for addition of Yoga Department. The proposed yoga departments will promote five yoga courses viz. B.Sc (Yoga) of 3 to 6 years; M.Sc (Yoga) of 2 to 4 years; PhD (Yoga); PGDY of 1 to 2 years and PGDYT of 1 to 2 years as specified by UGC.

### **National Handloom Day**

The 4th edition of National Handloom Day was celebrated on August 7, 2018 to acknowledge the handloom weavers in the country and to promote India's handloom industry. The celebration was for purpose of increasing the income of the weavers. It was instituted in year 2015. On this occasion, a documentary 'Bunkar – The last of the Varanasi Weavers' was released that depicted how the art of handloom is slowly dying in Varanasi as machines have taken over hands, compelling artisans to quit the art and take refuge in other professions.

### **The new Supreme Court judges**

In August 2018, Justices Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran and KM Joseph sworn-in as judges of Supreme Court in the order of their seniority as notified by the Centre. Chief Justice of India Justice Deepak Misra administered their oath. Among them, Justice Indira Banerjee was appointed as Madras High Court judge on 5 February 2002, Justice Vineet Saran became Orissa High Court judge on 14 February 2002 and Justice KM Joseph was appointed Uttarakhand High Court judge on 14 October 2004.

### **Nikhil Nanda: The new chairman and MD of Escorts**

In August 2018, Alumnus of Wharton Business School, Philadelphia, Nikhil Nanda got unanimously appointed as the chairman and MD on the Escorts board. The new appointee has taken place of his late father Rajan Nanda in the Farm and construction equipment maker company. Escorts is on purpose of transforming agriculture by empowering farmers with mechanized, precision-based autonomous technology. Besides this, the company has coupled with nation to build smart and safe infrastructure. Nikhil has been an important member of the company's board since 1997.

### **76th anniversary of Quit India movement**

India observed the 76th anniversary of Quit India movement as 'August Kranti Day' on 9th August 2018. On this day in year 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave the clear call of 'Do or Die' to all Indians for freedom of the nation. The movement started from Gawalia Tank in Mumbai. To mark this day, the News Services Division of All India Radio has planned a special live bilingual Radio Bridge Programme on 'NEW INDIA & RELEVANCE OF FREEDOM' on the FM Gold channel from 9:30 PM today.

### **Integration of DND 2.0 & MyCall mobile apps with UMANG Platform**

On August 7, 2018, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and National E-Governance Division (NEGD) integrated the TRAI Mobile Apps, 'DND 2.0' and 'MyCall' with UMANG Platform to increase reachability and facilitate citizens. With this, these TRAI apps will be available on Umang Platform. DND 2.0 is for reporting spam messages or calls to avoid Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC), telemarketing calls or even SMSes. While MyCall is an intuitive and user friendly application for Crowdsourced Voice Call Quality Monitoring.

### **650 new branches of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**

According to Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 650 branches of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) across the nation on 21st August 2018. These IPPB will grip the huge network of the Department of Posts with 1.55 lakh access points, three lakh postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks. IPPB will provide a range of services viz. Savings and Currents Accounts, money transfer, Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) and merchant payments

### **India extended e-visa facility for 165 nations**

In August 2018, Indian government announced extension of e-visa facility for citizens of 165 nations at 25 airports and 5 seaports to encourage tourism in country. As per Tourism Minister K. J. Alphons an 'Incredible India 2.0' campaign has been launched to signal a shift from generic promotions to market-specific promotional plans. For this a 24X7 toll free multilingual tourist helpline has also been installed. In addition to this, the Union Tourism Ministry has provided central financial aid to states and UTs to organise fairs, festivals and tourism-related events.

### **Khangchendzonga biosphere reserve in UNESCO list**

In August 2018, Sikkim's Khangchendzonga biosphere reserve got added in UNESCO's list of World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR). Situated at 1, 220 metres above sea-level, Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve of India is one of the highest ecosystems in the world accommodating a range of ecoclines varying from subtropical to arctic and vast natural forests in numerous biomes that support an immensely rich diversity of forest types and habitats resulting in high species diversity and endemism. It has temperate broadleaf, oaks, fir birch, maple and willow as flora and has some 550 bird species.

### **Rajendra Menon : Chief Justice of Delhi HC**

In August 2018, Justice Rajendra Menon sworn in as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and his oath was administered by Lt Governor Anil Baijal at the Raj Niwas in New Delhi. Prior to this, he was the Chief Justice of Patna High Court and now he has succeeded Justice Gita Mittal, who got elevated to head the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. He will get retired on June 7, 2019. Currently, the Delhi High Court has 35 judges and it can have maximum 60 judges.

### **MBA Course in St. Xavier's**

The St Xavier's University of Kolkata has won approval of the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to conduct the MBA course in August 2018. The university has begun the course under Xavier's Business School. The starting strength of students in the first batch is 80 students. The university is offering the course in four streams. The residential MBA course will be of two years. An old graduate of the St Xavier's College and School, Sanjiv Goenka has been related with the project.

### **The constitution of BCCI**

In August 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) won the apex court's approval for its constitution with modifications. Besides this, full permanent membership is given to the Railways, the Tri-Services, and Association of Indian Universities among others. Bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra, justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud modified the prior verdict on the 'One State, One Vote' policy for BCCI members. The voting rights of the cricket associations of Gujarat and Maharashtra including Baroda, Saurashtra, Vidarbha have been kept intact among other modifications.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **First Colour X-Ray performed on a Human**

On 13th July 2018 Researchers of New Zealand performed the first-ever 3-D, colour X-ray on a human, using particle-tracking technology which was developed by universities of Otago and Canterbury. The technology showed clearer and more accurate pictures of bone, muscle and cartilage as well as the position and size of cancerous tumours that helped doctors in more accurate diagnosis. New Zealand company MARS Bioimaging commercialized this technology which works like a camera detecting and counting individual sub-atomic particles as they collide with pixels while its shutter is open.

### **Trump demanded double defence expenditure**

In July 2018, US President Donald Trump raised the demand of doubling their defence spending commitments in front of NATO allies at a summit in Brussels. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders informed that Mr Trump suggested the nations to fulfil their commitment of 2% of their GDP on defence spending as well as increase it to 4%. Over this, Bulgarian President Rumen Radev cleared that NATO is an alliance of sovereign countries united by strategic targets and common values and it is not a stock exchange where one can buy security.

### **Century's longest Total Lunar Eclipse**

On 14th July, 2018, Scientists have predicted Century's (2001 AD to 2100 AD) longest total lunar eclipse of 1 hour 43 minutes on July 27-28, 2018. In this specific eclipse, the Moon will pass through the central part of the Earth's umbral shadow and will be at farthest point from the Earth in its orbit on July 27 moving at a slower speed in its orbit. Besides this, the Mars will come close to the Earth, causing it to appear brighter than normal.

### **BBC launched its first Gujarati news bulletin**

BBC World Service has launched its first Gujarati language television news bulletin on 17th July, 2018. Live broadcast of 'BBC Samachar' will be conducted five days a week from Delhi and will air on the broadcaster's partner station GSTV at 8 pm. This inauguration is part of a wider BBC World Service expansion, which led to launch of 12 new language services across the globe in the past 12 months. BBC started four new language services viz. Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Telugu in India.

### **News from the 7th World Junior Wushu Championships**

In July 2018, Iran won 14 medals in World Junior Wushu Championships in Brazil. Iranian wushu practitioner, Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini won gold medal in the Daoshu form of the boys' 15-18 age group while his Malaysian rival won silver medal. Besides them, Zahra Botshekan claimed a bronze in the Daoshu form of girl's 9-12 age group. In Nandao form of men's 12-15 age bracket, Mehdi Khani coined a silver medal for Iran while Nazanin Bazdar and Mina Panahi won two bronze medals in girls' 12-15 and 15-18 age brackets of the same event respectively.

### **Global Ranking Of Nations' Soft Power**

In July 2018, UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland and the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy released the fourth edition of 2018 'Soft Power 30' index. UK, France, Germany and USA emerged as top four in this annual global ranking of nations' soft power, while India failed to secure place among top 30 nations. However, India did manage to book the 8th rank in list of top 10 Asian countries in this context. China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore have shown improvement in the aggregate rankings from 2015 to 2018.

### **Walmart & Microsoft partnered against Amazon**

On 17th July, 2018, Walmart and Microsoft cracked a deal to compete with Amazon. In order to transform its digital operations, Walmart wishes to deploy Microsoft's cloud services and work on artificial intelligence and machine learning projects with this firm. It has shifted a vital portion of walmart.com and samsclub.com to Microsoft's cloud business, 'Azure'. While Microsoft is busy giving competition to best known online retailer Amazon in field of cloud computing with the help of Macy's (M), Mars Drinks and department store chain Marks & Spencer for the purpose.

### **UNEP & Google got tied up for global ecosystem**

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has inked a deal with search engine giant Google in a High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York to monitor effects of human activity on global ecosystems. The partnership is meant to develop platform to enable governments, NGOs and public to register specific environment-related development targets with Google's user-friendly front-end. The duo will begin the assignment with surveillance of freshwater ecosystems like mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

### **Israel embraced Jews and estranged Arabs**

On July 19, 2018, Israel approved a controversial bill giving right of self-determination to Jews that brewed feeling of alienation among Arab minority of the nation. The bill enjoyed support of 62 votes of PM Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government in the 120-member parliament. The bill declares Israel as historic homeland of the Jewish community and Jerusalem as "whole and united" capital. It strips Arabic of its designation as an official language alongside Hebrew, offending the Arabs in the nation, who have long complained of being treated as second-class citizens.

### **Amazon.com's stock market value touched \$900 billion**

On 18th July, 2018, Amazon.com's stock market value reached \$900 billion for the first time achieving a major milestone in its 21-year trajectory as a publicly listed company. It is giving a tough competition to Apple as Wall Street's most valuable jewel. Amazon's stock has brimmed over more than 57% in 2018. It is worth knowing that an investor who purchased 1 share of Amazon for \$18 in the IPO would now have an investment worth more than \$22,200, including three stock splits in the 1990s.

### **Ed Husain's "The House of Islam: A Global History"**

In July 2018, Self-proclaimed former Islamist radical, Ed Husain's "The House of Islam: A Global History" became talk of the town. The book analyzes intricacies of Islam and the inner psyche of the Muslim world. It suggests pacifying the hatred in the Islamic world, creating a Middle East union, implementing a Muslim Marshall plan and expelling of extremists from within Islam. Hussain feels that Islam will be on world's target as long as it continues to provide refuge to Salafi-jihadis who claim to be the truest of true Muslims.

### **Facebook's own Internet Satellite**

According to the 20th July 2018 report of WIRED, Facebook is planning to launch a satellite, 'Athena' in 2019 for connecting billions of people who are still offline. It has filed an application with the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the name PointView Tech LLC, the project meant to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved areas across the globe. Besides Facebook, Elon Musk's SpaceX and Softbank-backed OneWeb also have the same ambition of increasing internet accessibility through satellites in low Earth orbit.

### **The 'Celebrity 100' List Of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers**

In July 2018, Forbes has released the 20th annual 'Celebrity 100' list of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers. In this world's 100 top-earning celebrities, Boxer Floyd Mayweather notched the top rank with \$285M, George

Clooney (British liquor giant, \$239M) grabbed the second and Kylie Jenner (Founder, Kylie Cosmetics, \$166.5M) secured the third spot. From India, Akshay Kumar with 40.5 million dollars was ranked 76th and Salman Khan with 37.7 million dollars was spotted on the 82nd position.

### **Justice Safdar: Pakistan's first woman CJ of high court**

On 24th July 2018, Pakistan's Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar appointed Justice Tahira Safdar as country's first-ever woman Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court. She will succeed Justice Mohammad Noor Muskanzai, who will get superannuation on the 31st of August 2018. Earlier also, Justice Safdar had made history in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan. Presently, she is a member of the three-judge special court conducting the trial of former President Pervez Musharraf for committing treason by proclaiming a state of emergency in November, 2007.

### **Sri Lanka welcomed an ambulance service**

In July 2018, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an India-assisted emergency ambulance service in Jaffna of the Northern Province, Sri Lanka. For this Indian government has sanctioned a grant worth \$22.8 million to \$7.6 million for the first phase and \$15.2 million for the nation-wide expansion. This is the largest Indian grant project in Sri Lanka after Indian housing project, under which besides the purchase of ambulances, training of manpower and meeting operational costs for a year are also included.

### **Deshna of MP wore Miss Asia Deaf 2018 crown**

In July 2018, Miss India (Deaf) 2018, Deshna Jain from Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh won Miss Asia (Deaf) title and was third runner-up in the Miss International (Deaf) contest in Taipei, Taiwan. The 20 year old was also the youngest contestant in the pageant which witnessed participants from more than 20 nations across the globe. It's the first time since 2009 that an Indian has clinched much coveted Miss Deaf International pageants. She studies in Indore's Deaf Bilingual Academy.

### **NASA's Parker Solar Probe**

In July 2018, the US space agency NASA announced launching of a robotic car-size spacecraft, Parker Solar Probe in August 2018 on the United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy from Cape Canaveral in Florida. In this planned seven-year mission, the craft will fly into the Sun's corona within 3.8 million miles (6.1 million km) from the solar surface. Equipped with FIELDS suite, WISPR instrument, SWEAP suite and ISOIS suite, the probe will provide new data on solar activity and will assist scientists in forecasting major space-weather events and the Sun-Earth system.

### **Michael Ondaatje in Man Booker Prize Long List 2018**

Michael Ondaatje, the famous fiction writer, novelist and filmmaker of Canada, has again got a place in the Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel "Warlight," weeks after his book "The English Patient" was named the best work of fiction from the last five decades of the literary prize. The organizers announced the 13 books in the long list for the prestigious award, chosen from 171 submissions this year. The long list are Belinda Bauer- Snap, Anna Burns - Milkman, Nick Drnaso - Sabrina, Esi Edugyan- Washington Black, Guy Gunaratne- In Our Mad And Furious City, Daisy Johnson- Everything Under, Rachel Kushner- The Mars Room, Sophie Mackintosh- The Water Cure, Michael Ondaatje- Warlight, Richard Powers- The Overstory, Robin Robertson- The Long Take, Sally Rooney- Normal People, Donal Ryan- From A Low And Quiet Sea.

### **First time Indian Air Force in 'Pitch Black Exercise'**

For the first time, Indian Air Force will take part in Australia's 'Pitch Black Exercise-2018'. The Indian Air Force contingent consists of 145 personnel, including four Sukhoi Su-30 MKIs, an Ilyushin tanker, an

Ilyushin Il-78 tanker, a Lockheed Martin C-130J-30 Super Hercules, and a Boeing C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft. The contingent will undertake simulated air combat exercises in a controlled environment. The three week exercise will take place from 27th July to 17th August 2018.

### **BRICS Summit 2018 starts in Johannesburg**

The 10th edition of BRICS summit has started in Johannesburg, South Africa on 25th July 2018. The theme for this 3 day long summit is 'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'. In this summit, the BRICS leaders are expected to discuss global hotspot issues, international peace and security, global governance, trade issues during the restricted session. Other top agenda of the summit is - threat of a worsening global trade war.

### **Mars showed lake of liquid water**

In July 2018, Scientists proclaimed presence of lake of liquid water on Mars for the first time. Under a layer of Martian ice, the discovered lake is about 20 kilometres wide which became the largest known liquid water body so far found on the Red Planet. It raised the possibility of presence of more water and existence of life on this planet. It is believed that 3.6 billion years ago the planet was reservoir of plenty of liquid.

### **Announcements of Magsaysay award**

In July 2018, Asian version of the Nobel Prize, Ramon Magsaysay awards were presented to Cambodian genocide survivor who helped in documentation of the Khmer Rouge cruelty, a Filipino who led peace negotiation with communist insurgents, a polio-stricken Vietnamese who fought for discrimination against the disabled, an East Timorese who erected care centers for the poor amid civil strife as well as two Indians viz. Bharat Vatwani who treated numerous mentally ill street beggars and reunited them with their families and Sonam Wangchuk for his contribution in utilizing nature, culture and education for community progress.

### **News of Pakistan Elections 2018**

On July 26, 2018 Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party popped up as the single largest party in the Pakistan Elections 2018 that took place on 25th July 2018. Although only half of the votes got counted yet the party has touched 119 seats in the National Assembly. The party is just 18 seats away from touching the majority mark of 137 seats in the National Assembly. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, headed by Shahbaz Sharif is on second spot while Pakistan Peoples party, led by the son of Benazir Bhutto, Bilawal Bhutto, has grabbed the third place.

### **Sierra Leone shocked with new strain of Ebola virus**

According to the July 2018 publication of joint US-West African study, Scientists have discovered new strain of Ebola virus, 'Bombali' in bats in northern Bombali region of Sierra Leone. It is overall sixth known virus strain of Ebola virus. Zaire, Sudan, Tai Forest, Bundibugyo and Reston are the five other previously known strains of the virus. The newly discovered virus causes highly fatal hemorrhagic fever that is transmitted through contact with bodily fluids from infected persons and animals which include non-human primates, bats and forest antelope.

### **World's longest Lunar eclipse of the century**

On 27th and 28th July 2018 globe saw the longest Lunar eclipse of the century. The 1 hour 43 minute eclipse was visible in Europe, West Asia, Africa, Australia, most of Asia and South America. In India, it was visible in several parts in the cloudy night. In this total lunar eclipse the Earth came between the Sun and the Moon, and covered the Moon with its shadow. This turned the Moon red or ruddy brown that is why the phenomenon was addressed as 'blood moon'.



### **Tanishq Abraham : 15 year old engineer**

In July 2018, 15 year old Indian-American Tanishq Abraham, graduated from the University of California, Davis with the highest honours of summa cum laude. Hailing from Kerala, he accomplished this feat in his academic journey by completing his graduation in biomedical engineering and now he is ready get enrolled for PhD in US. Besides this, he has also designed a device to measure the heart rate of burnt patients without touching them. He dreams of developing advanced treatments for cancer.

### **UN's E-Government index**

In July 2018, United Nations released the 2018 edition of UN's E-Government index 'Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'. It provides measure of countries' use of information and communications technologies in public services. It has been made after evaluation of Telecommunications Infrastructure, Human Capital and Online Services across the globe. Denmark topped the list with an index value of 0.9150 followed by Australia (0.9053), Republic of Korea (0.9010), United Kingdom (0.8999) and Sweden (0.8882). India got 96th rank in this biennial ranking.

### **Anti-piracy HQ of EU Now in Spain**

In July 2018, European Union countries announced shifting of headquarters of the bloc's anti-piracy Atalanta patrols from London to the Spanish port of Rota by March 29, 2019. Under the Atalanta command, the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa informs shipping about piracy threats. The security centre was started by EU in 2008 to combat brazen acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia, that included the spectacular hijacking of a Spanish tuna boat in year 2009.

### **Rohingya human rights abuse probe**

On July 30, 2018, Myanmar government appointed independent commission panel to probe Rohingya human rights abuses. It is a four member panel with former Japanese ambassador to the United Nations, former UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Kenzo Oshima, former Philippine Vice Foreign Minister Rosario Manalo, former Chief of Myanmar's Constitutional Court Mya Thein and Aung Tun Thet, an economist and former UN official as its members. Myanmar's security forces are blamed of massacres during a crackdown following attacks on police posts by a Rohingya armed group in 2017.

### **Venezuela will remove five zeroes from currency**

An "economic recovery" program involving "monetary reconversion" will be conducted in Venezuela on August 20, 2018. A week before in July 2018, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro had unveiled a bank note of the new Venezuela's currency Bolivar Soberano (Sovereign Bolivar) during a meeting with ministers at Miraflores Palace in Caracas, Venezuela. He announced the removal of five zeroes from the country's currency which are two more than originally planned amid hyperinflation for a new, stable financial and monetary system.

### **Mnangagwa: The New President of Zimbabwe**

On 2nd August, 2018, Emmerson Mnangagwa of ZANU-PF party won the landmark Presidential election with 50.8% of votes while the opposition leader Nelson Chamisa of MDC party received 44.3 % of votes. The new President is former friend of sacked President Robert Mugabe. As per Zimbabwe Electoral Commission by winning over 50% of the vote, Mr Mnangagwa avoided a second run-off election against Mr Chamisa. However, the opposition refused to accept the poll results.

### **Space unveiled 348-year-old Radioactive Molecule**

In July 2018, Using the ALMA and the NOEMA radio telescopes, the astronomers claimed to have found the first molecule bearing an unstable radioisotope outside our solar system. They noticed a bright and red 'new star' formed in 1670 as a result of a spectacular collision of two sun-like stars spilling a radioactive molecule.

It is said to be a 348-year-old radioactive version of aluminum ( $^{26}\text{Al}$ , an atom with 13 protons and 13 neutrons), bound with atoms of fluorine, forming the rare 26-aluminum monofluoride ( $^{26}\text{AlF}$ ) detected in the interstellar merger 'CK Vulpeculae (CK Vul)' approximately 2000 light-years away from the Earth.

### **UAE's amnesty programme for foreign visa violators**

On August 1, 2018, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) began a landmark three-month visa amnesty programme to benefit numerous illegal foreign workers, who are overstaying their permits in the gulf nation. The programme will let the workers of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and the Philippines leave the UAE without paying penalty and it will also give them six months to find a job. The programme is the third such amnesty announced by the UAE government in just more than a decade which is valid till October 31, 2018.

### **The World Rangers Day**

31st July 2018 was celebrated as the World Rangers Day (WRD) to applaud the crucial services rendered by rangers who protect, conserve and preserve the biodiversity of our forests at the cost of their lives. 63 member associations of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and the IRF partner, the Thin Green Line Foundation promoted this day which marks establishment of IRF. The World Ranger Day was observed for the first time in 2007 on the 15th anniversary of IRF.

### **India: The new president of AIBD**

In August 2018, India got elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) at the 44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo for upcoming two years. F. Sheheryar, Director General of All India Radio got re-elected as chair of the executive board. Sri Lanka was elected as vice-chair of AIBD. This unique regional inter-governmental organisation maintains a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development. Broadcasters from 26 nations in the region are full members of the organization.

### **Apple: First \$1 Trillion Company of the globe**

On 2nd August, 2018, American company, Apple achieved milestone of \$1 trillion market cap mark. It is worth knowing that Apple's \$1 trillion cap is equal to about 5% of the total gross domestic product of the United States in 2018. The launch of iPhone on June 29, 2007 had turned the Cupertino, California-based Apple into a financial juggernaut. The growth graph of the company showed that in 2007, Apple's market value rose from \$72 billion to \$173 billion. By 2010, its value was approximately \$300 billion. It reached \$500 billion in 2012; then \$600 billion in 2016.

### **World's first Hindi speaking robot, 'Rashmi'**

38 year old Ranchi man, Ranjit Srivastava developed humanoid robot 'Rashmi' which is said to be the Indian version of 'Sophia'. Developed in Hong Kong based company, the social humanoid robot uses linguistic interpretation (LI), artificial intelligence (AI), visual data and facial recognition systems to speak Hindi, Bhojpuri, Marathi along with English. Srivastava has earned MBA and holds expertise in software development of over 15 years, has developed the speaking robot in time period of two years at expenditure of Rs 50,000. The robot is likely to get employed as bank receptionist.

### **Mauritius's SBM won RBI approval**

In August 2018, Mauritius-based SBM Group became the first foreign lender to get approval of Reserve Bank of India to operate in India through a wholly-owned subsidiary route. It will operate in India under the name of SBM Bank (India) Ltd. SBM has been in India since 1994 and currently it has operations in four branches viz. Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ramachandrapuram. It is further planning to open six new branches in Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Pune, Ahmedabad and Jaipur by 2019.

### **NASA chose 9 astronauts for human spaceflight**

On 4th of August, 2018, NASA selected 9 astronauts for human spaceflight, 'Boeing CST-100 Starliner' to the International Space Station which is scheduled to take place in 2019. Sunita Williams of Indian origin has also been chosen for this first test flight of Boeing programme. Besides her, Victor Glover, Robert Behnken, Michael Hopkins, Douglas Hurley, Eric Boe, Christopher Ferguson, Josh Cassada, and Nicole Mann are the other eight NASA astronauts including one former astronaut turned corporate crew member who will together launch this mission.

### **World's first single-chromosome yeast**

As per 2nd August 2018 research publication of journal 'Nature', Chinese molecular biologists from the Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences in China created world's first single-chromosome yeast without altering majority of its functions. It is eukaryote Brewer's yeast with 16 chromosomes whose one-third of genome share ancestry with humans. Using CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing, scientists have removed the centromeres and have fitted nearly all its genetic material into just one chromosome. The research has lent a new perspective for studying aging and diseases in humans.

### **Masterchef Australia season 10**

In August 2018, Indian-origin Sashi Cheliah grabbed the title of Masterchef Australia season 10. Originally hailing from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, he works as a prison guard in Adelaide in Australia. Prior to this, he has also worked as a police officer in Singapore for 12 years. He won a prize money of AUD 250,000 which is equivalent to Rs 1.26 crore in this season of Masterchef Australia by defeating his fellow contestant Ben Borsht by scoring 93 out of 100.

### **World's first thermal battery plant**

On August 6, 2018, Andhra Pradesh's CM N Chandrababu Naidu opened world's first thermal battery plant to encourage renewable sources of energy production and decrease the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation. Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited will produce the first-of-its-kind batteries that can be customised to get charged in four or eight hours, depending on the source. The plant will provide output ranging between 5 Kwh and 1 Mwh. This thermal plant is expected to start by May 2019.

### **'Android 9 Pie', the new delight of Google**

On 6th August 2018, Google launched its latest Android operating system update, Android 9 Pie after a successful beta testing period. The new updation features a new gesture-based system interface which shares resemblance with the interface of the iPhone X, with iPhone-like swipes for navigating through the operating system. It has Android Dashboard to track the spent time, Do Not Disturb option called "Shush" for silencing Android devices, a Wind Down option to discourage smartphone usage at night, an Adaptive Battery feature that maximizes battery power, App Actions and many more.

### **Israel Vs Gaza**

In August 2018, Israel has launched airstrikes on self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, Gaza after dozens of rockets were fired from the enclave into its territory in the ongoing border clash protests. For months, Palestinians in Gaza have been protesting against Israel's decade-long blocking of the territory. Palestinians are fighting for their right to return to lands they fled or were driven from during the war surrounding the creation of Israel in year 1948.

### **International Geography Bee World Championship**

In August 2018, 14-year old Indian-American high schooler Avi Goel won International Geography Bee World Championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division which took place in Berlin last month. The tenth class student of Silver Creek High School in California coined gold medal in 7 out of the 10 medal events, and a silver medal in two of the events, topping the overall medals table. Besides this, he also emerged as topper in all the three events viz. the International Geography Exam, the International Geography Showdown, and the International Geography Bee.

### **International Day of the World's Indigenous People**

On August 9, 2018, Globe observed the International Day of the World's Indigenous People to boost international cooperation for dissolving education, environment, health, human rights and social development problems confronted by native people. 'Indigenous peoples' migration and movement' was the theme for this year that drew attention towards the root causes of migration of native people, their trans-border movement and displacement. It presented opportunity to explore the challenges and solutions to re-establish indigenous peoples' identities and encourage the protection of their rights.

### **Discovery of lithium-rich giant star**

In August 2018, Astronomers from the National Astronomical Observatories of China discovered a lithium-rich giant star bigger than our sun in the direction of Ophiuchus, on the north side of the galactic disk, at a distance of 4,500 light years from Earth. It has a mass almost 1.5 times of our sun and contains 3,000 times more lithium than a normal star. The discovery can reveal facts regarding evolution of the universe as lithium is one of the three elements synthesized in the Big Bang.

### **Global Innovation Index 2018**

On August 8, 2018, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) launched the 11th edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018 in India. 'Energizing the World with Innovation' was the theme of the year. Switzerland with 68.40 score topped this index followed by Netherlands (63.32), Sweden (63.08), United Kingdom (60.13), Singapore (59.83), USA (59.81), Finland (59.63), Denmark (58.39), Germany (58.03) and Ireland (57.19) in the top ten list. India secured 57th Spot in this index.

### **Michelle Bachelet: The next UN human rights chief**

On August 8, 2018, former Chilean President, Michelle Bachelet got chosen as the next UN High Commissioner for Human Right by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. She will succeed Jordanian diplomat Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein. The 66-year-old lady had served as the President of Chile twice, from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018. She was the first woman in her nation to reach the top position. She has been a strong advocate for women's rights. She was the first-ever Executive Director of the UN gender equality and women empowerment office, UN-Women, between 2010 and 2013.

### **Demise of golfer Jarrod Lyle**

In August 2018, Australian professional golfer, Jarrod Lyle died of leukaemia at 36 years. He was diagnosed with cancer at 17 years of age and had fought a long battle with it. In 2004, he began playing golf as a professional player. In 2008, he won two events on the Web.com Tour, a feeder for the PGA Tour. In all, he had played in more than 120 P.G.A. tournaments. It is worth knowing that world number two, Justin Thomas dedicated his WGC tournament triumph last week to Lyle.

### **Israel's visa application centre now in Kolkata**

In August 2018, a release on behalf of the embassy of Israel informed that the embassy has begun Visa Application Centre in Kolkata to encourage Indian travellers to visit Israel from West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. Besides B2 visa for business, tourism, meeting or conference, the embassy will also issue B1 visa for employment, and A2 visa for students. Apart from this, the Visa applications in jurisdiction under the New Delhi centre will also be accepted at the new Kolkata Centre.

### **The oath ceremony in Pakistan**

On 13th of August, 2018, the newly chosen members of the 15th National Assembly took oath at the Parliament House in Islamabad. Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan assemblies were summoned in the inaugural sessions. Besides this, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party has popped up as the largest party in National Assembly with 158 seats including reservation seats for women and minorities. However, the party is yet to prove its majority in the house of 342. Imran Khan will soon become the 21st Prime Minister of Pakistan.

### **HSBC's MyDeal platform**

In August 2018, world's largest banking and financial services organisation, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has begun an online platform MyDeal to generate funds through capital markets. The new platform will have all the information regarding client's capital markets transaction like investors' feedback, profiles, client orders, deal pricing etc. and will be updated on real time basis. In its pilot phase, the platform managed to raise over \$25 billion in the first seven months through over 30 transactions globally.

## Sports News

### **Hima Das won Under-20 World Athletics**

On 12th July, 2018, the 18-year-old, Indian athlete Hima Das won gold medal in the final of the women's 400m at the IAAF World Under-20 Championships in Tampere, Finland. The sprinter clocked 51.46 seconds to claim the top position and became the first Indian athlete to win gold in a track event at U-20 Worlds. Andrea Miklos of Romania emerged as the first runner up with a timing of 52.07 seconds winning silver while USA's Taylor Manson claimed bronze after clocking 52.28 seconds becoming the second runner up.

### **France won their second World Cup Football title**

On 15th July 2018, France defeated Croatia by 4-2 in thrilling final of World Cup Football at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. Antoine Griezmann, Paul Pogba, Kylian Mbappe scored goals for the winning team while Mario Mandzukic and Ivan Perisic were the strikers for Croatia. England's Harry Kane got World Cup Golden Boot Award; Croatia's Luka Modric won the Golden Ball award; Kylian Mbappe of France won the Young Player of the Tournament Award and Belgium's Thibaut Courtois won the Golden Glove award. Qatar will be hosting the next FIFA World Cup of year 2022 and with this it will become the first Arab country to do so.

### **Novak Djokovic won men's singles Wimbledon title**

On 15th July, 2018, Serbian tennis player, Novak Djokovic defeated Kevin Anderson of South Africa by 6-2,6-2,7-6 at the men's singles title of the Wimbledon in London. It is Djokovic's 22nd Grand Slam final and 13th major title which places him just one behind Pete Sampras who retired in 2002 with most men's singles majors to his name. Djokovic past record says that he has a 13-9 win-loss record in major finals and has conquered three of his four previous Wimbledon championship matches.

### **England won three-match series of ODI**

On 17th July 2018, England defeated India by 8 wickets in final of three-match series of ODI at Leeds. India batted first and posted 256 runs in 50 overs. Skipper Virat Kohli posted maximum 71 runs. In reply, England achieved the target in 44.3 overs at loss of two wickets. In this Joe Root contributed a century and Eoin Morgan made unbeaten fifty. With this, England has won the ODI match series by 2-1. Now the five-match test series between India and England will begin from 1st August at Birmingham.

### **Marc Marquez won German Grand Prix**

In July 2018, Honda's Marc Marquez won German Grand Prix for the ninth consecutive time and with this, his MotoGP lead continues to stay intact. The Spaniard succeeded in winning the top category at Sachsenring for the past six years and three times in the smaller classes earlier. Seven-time world champion Valentino Rossi finished second while his Yamaha team-mate Maverick Vinales finished third. Marquez now leads the championship by 46 points.

### **Neeraj Chopra won gold in javelin throw**

On 18th July, 2018, India's javelin star, Neeraj Chopra won Gold in the Meeting International de Sotteville-les-Rouen in France. He threw javelin at a distance of 85.17 metres to claim the top prize and won the gold medal with a difference of 3.69 m from the silver medallist Adrian Mardare of Moldova. Edis Matusevicius of Lithuania won the bronze medal with 79.31 m throw. Earlier this year, Neeraj had won a gold medal at Commonwealth Games as well.

### **2022 Beijing Winter Games program witnessed addition**

In July 2018, International Olympic Committee (IOC) added some medal events to 2022 Beijing Winter Games program under an economic drive. Executive Board gave nod to new events like women's monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerials and snowboard cross. With this, now the number of gold medals in the event will be 109. At the same time the Board did agree at reducing the number of participating athletes.

### **Asian Junior Wrestling Championships**

In the ongoing Asian Junior Wrestling Championships of July 2018, India had won 4 medals viz. 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze on day one. On day two 20-year old, Greco Roman wrestler Viresh Kundo originally hailing from Uttar Pradesh, clinched a Bronze medal after defeating South Korea's Jeongyul Kwon, 14-5 in the 97 kg Bronze medal play-off to conquer his first international medal.

### **Allison Becker, the world's most expensive goalkeeper**

According to Daily Mail, Brazilian goalkeeper Alisson Becker has inked a club record £66m deal to play for Premier League club Liverpool on 21st July, 2018. With this he has become world's most expensive goalkeeper beating Brazilian footballer Ederson Moraes (£34.7 million, Manchester City club), Italian footballer Gianluigi Buffon (£33 million, Juventus club), English footballer Jordan Pickford (£27 million, Everton club) and Italian footballer Meret Alex (£19.6 million, Napoli club). The star keeper was bullied in his childhood for being too short and fat to make it as a professional footballer.

### **Lakshya Sen registered a historic win**

On 22nd July 2018 Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen coined a gold medal after beating Thailand's top-seeded Kunlavut Vitidsaran in the final match of the Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia. This win has been termed as historic because Lakshya Sen has won India's first men's singles gold in 53 years. Gautam Thakkar was the last Indian to win the Asian junior men's singles gold in 1965. Sen had outshone the second seed Li Shifend in the quarter-finals and the fourth seed Ikhsan Rumbay in the semis in this tournament.

### **Miraitowa and Someity: 2020 Summer Olympics mascots**

On July 22, 2018, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee launched its Olympic mascots Miraitowa and Someity for the international multi-sport event, the 2020 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXII Olympiad which will take place from 24th July 2020 to 9th August 2020 in Tokyo, Japan. 'Miraitowa' is the name of the blue-checked mascot that symbolizes promotion of a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people across the globe, while the pink-checked 'Someity', is name of a type of cherry tree blossom that signifies enormous mental and physical strength.

### **Olympic medalists will receive pension**

In July 2018, Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has revised the pension rates for retired sportspersons under 'Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons' scheme. The revised pension rates proclaim Rs 20,000 per month for Olympic and Para Olympic medallists; Rs 16,000 per month for gold medallists at international events; Rs 14,000 per month for Silver and bronze medallists at international events and Rs 12,000 per month for Silver and bronze medallists of the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para Asian Games. These rates will be effective from April 1st.

### **Dhanvir & Vishnu Priya made records in National Youth Athletics Championships**

In July 2018, Punjab shot-putter Dhanvir Singh and Kerala 400m hurdler Vishnu Priya won gold medals and made new records in the 15th National Youth Athletics Championships in Vadodara. Dhanvir threw 19.69 metre and broke the 2011 year record of 19.34m of Navtejdeep Singh. In women's 400 metre hurdles, Vishnu Priya from Kerala crossed the finish line in 1:02.52 seconds breaking the previous meet record of 1:02.58 seconds of P O Sanya in Bambolim in 2015.

### **Jehan Daruvala Won 2018 Formula 3**

In July 2018, Indian driver Jehan Daruvala finished his maiden pole to flag victory in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium. The Sahara driver driving for Carlin Racing began the race on pole and this was the second win of his career as last year's Norisring round was his first victory. Palou and Ralf Aron finished second and third while Red Bull protege Dan Ticktum finished fourth, ahead of Mick Schumacher, who stood fifth in this race.

### **Russian Open Badminton trophy**

In July 2018, Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma won Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok. He defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe by 18-21, 21-12, 21-17 and won his first title of the season. Past reveals that in 2016 Sourabh had won the Chinese Taipei Masters and finished runners-up at Bitburger Open the same year. In Mixed Doubles, the Russian-Korean team of Vladimir Ivanov and Min Kyung Kim claimed edge over Indian pair Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg by 19-21 17-21.

### **P V Sindhu lost the World Championship**

On 5th August 2018, the Olympic silver medallist and star Indian shuttler P V Sindhu got defeated by Spanish shuttler Carolina Marin by 19-21, 10-21 in the World Championships' women's singles title clash at Nanjing, China. Last year also Sindhu had lost an epic final to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara at Glasgow. On the other hand with this win, Marin has become the first woman shuttler to win the world championships thrice. She had won the title in 2014 and the 2015 Jakarta edition.

### **Bajrang Punia won gold again!**

In July 2018, wrestling champion Bajrang Punia conquered the second consecutive international gold at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey. Indian wrestlers won total 10 medals in this championship and among them 7 were medals were clinched by women. Vicky won a bronze in the 57 kilogram category. In the women's competition, Pinki coined gold medal in the 55kg category by defeating Ukraine's Olga Shnaider in the final by 6-3 win. In the women's 53 kilogram and 57 kilogram categories, Seema and Pooja Dhanda won silver. In the 62 kilogram, Sarita won a bronze.

### **Geraint Thomas, winner of France cycling race**

On 29th July 2018, Geraint Thomas of Wales became the first-ever Welshman to win the 105th edition of iconic cycling race -Tour-de-France 2018. The 3,351 km race began on 7 July 2018 from Noirmoutier-en-l'Île island in Northwestern France and ended on 29 July 2018 at the famous Champs-Élysées stage in Paris. Racing for Team Sky, Thomas defeated Dutchman Tom Dumoulin by 1 minute 51 seconds, while four-time Tour champion Chris Froome of Britain finished third in this race.



### **Jordan Table Tennis meet 2018**

In July 2018, Indian juniors clinched six medals at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open 2018 in Jordan. In an all-India final of the junior girls' category Prapti Sen, Swastika Ghosh and Surbhi Patwari of India 2 won a gold. In the junior boys' Jeet Chandra, Manush Shah and Snehit Suravajjula of India 1 team won a silver medal. In the cadet girls' competition, the pair of Diya Chitale and Trisha Gogoi won a silver. In an individual event Trisha won another silver while a team of Ankuram Jain, Parth Virmani and Sarthak and another team of Payas Jain and H Jeho were the bronze winners.

### **Neeraj Chopra won another gold for India**

In July 2018, the reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallist and Asian season leader, Neeraj Chopra defeated his Chinese Taipei rival Chao-Tsun Cheng by his spectacular performance and won a gold in the Savo Games at Lapinlahti, Finland in Asian Games 2018. The Star Indian javelin thrower, threw 85.69m to grab the first place where as Cheng managed 82.52m to take the second place. Neeraj is leading the Asian charts for this season with season best 83.71m, ahead of Cheng and Ahmed Bader Magour of Qatar.

### **Lewis Hamilton Conquered Hungarian Grand Prix**

In July 2018, Lewis Hamilton not only claimed a convincing victory for Mercedes but also increased his championship lead to 24 points by clocking 17.123 seconds ahead of title rival and fellow four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari in the Hungarian Grand Prix. This was Lewis's record sixth win in Hungary, his fifth this season and the 67th of his career. Kimi Raikkonen finished third ahead of Daniel Ricciardo who grabbed fourth spot for Red Bull ahead of Bottas, who finished fifth.

### **World Junior Squash Championships 2018**

End of July 2018 witnessed conclusion of World Junior Squash Championships 2018 in Chennai, India. A total of 171 players including 116 men and 55 women from 28 countries participated in the Championship. Egypt national junior squash team outshone England by 2-0 in the final and emerged as the 2018 World Junior Squash winner. India grabbed the 11th position. In Men's Individual event Mostafa Asal (Egypt) was the winner and in Women's Individual Event Rowan Elaraby (Egypt) was the winner.

### **Gaganjeet Bhullar won his maiden European Tour title**

On 5th August, 2018, Indian Golfer, Gaganjeet Bhullar clinched his maiden European Tour title at the Fiji International in Natadola Bay. Bhullar secured one-stroke win over a charging Anthony Quayle of Australia. This was his first win on the European Tour, ninth Asian Tour title and 10th crown overall. With this, he has become the most successful Indian player on Asian Tour, overtaking the tally of eight tour wins by Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa.

### **Netherlands : champions of Women's Hockey**

On 5th August 2018, Netherlands have got crowned as the world champions for a record eighth time in the summit clash at London. The defending champions registered a stunning 6-0 victory over Ireland to extend their unbeaten run in all competitions to 32 matches. Kitty van Male became the the top scorer with eight goals in the tournament. Spain grabbed the third spot after defeating Australia by 3-1 to claim their first ever World Cup medal. India signed off the tournament at the 8th spot.

### **News from Asian Nations Cup**

In first week of August 2018, Indian women earned gold in the blitz event, scoring 13 points, followed by Vietnam (12 points) and China (9 points). In Asian Nations Cup chess tournament Indian men clinched the silver while the Indian women settled for bronze. In final standings Iran Green topped with 13 points followed by India, China, Kazakhstan, Iran Red, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Syria, Iran White, Vietnam and Iraq who stood on second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh positions respectively.

### **Mario Gomez announced Retirement**

In August 2018, 33-year-old, German footballer Mario Gomez proclaimed his retirement from International Football. He made his debut for Germany in 2007 and scored 31 goals in 78 international appearances. He represented German sports club Bayern Munich at the FIFA World Cup in 2010 and 2014 and the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012. Gomez had won the golden boot as the top scorer at Euro 2012. He got his first chance at a World Cup in Russia after missing out through injury in 2014.

### **Neeraj Chopra : India's flag-bearer at Asian Games**

In August 2018, Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra proclaimed Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra as Indian flag-bearer at upcoming Asian Games scheduled from August 18 to September 2, 2018 in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia. Neeraj had won gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast earlier this year. The national record of throwing 87.43 m is also his credential which he accomplished during the first leg of the Diamond League Meeting in Doha in May.

### **India U-19 won ODI series**

On 10th August, 2018, India U-19 team defeated Sri Lanka by eight wickets to conquer the five-match one-day Cricket series by 3-2 in Moratuwa, Colombo. Sri Lanka batted first and posted 212 runs for 9 in 50 overs. Madhushka Fernando made 95 runs and Keshava Fernando scored 56 runs. For India, Mohit Jangra took 2 wickets giving 30 runs. In Indian innings, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal struck an unbeaten hundred with help of eight fours and three sixes.

### **England won the second Cricket Test**

On 12th August 2018, England outshone India by 159 runs in the second cricket test at Lord's, London. The hosts posted 396 runs in their first innings at loss of seven and Chris Woakes stayed unbeaten on 137. While India got bundled at 130 in 47 overs. James Anderson took four wickets giving 23 runs, that took his match tally to nine. Stuart Broad proved equally effective with an analysis of 4 for 44. Presently, India trails with 0-2 in the five-match series. The third test will begin on August 18 at Nottingham.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. In July 2018, Reserve Bank of India launched Rs \_\_\_\_\_ denomination Banknote.  
(a) 5 (b) 20 (c) 1000  
(d) 100 (e) None of above
2. Who among the following wrote the book “The House of Islam: A Global History”?  
(a) Aamer Hussein (b) Abdullah Quilliam (c) Ayaan Hirsi Ali  
(d) Abdur Rahman (e) Ed Husain
3. Under which Article of the Constitution, the President has nominated Classical dancer Sonal Mansingh to the Rajya Sabha?  
(a) Article 80 (b) Article 84 (c) Article 81  
(d) Article 85 (e) Article 82
4. Which celebrity topped the Forbes 2018 'Celebrity 100' List Of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers?  
(a) Floyd Mayweather (b) George Clooney (c) Kylie Jenner  
(d) Lionel Messi (e) Cristiano Ronaldo
5. In July 2018, which among the following states has launched World's 1st Cheapest Clean Drinking Water Project?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Uttar Pradesh  
(d) Bihar (e) Punjab
6. Which among the following missiles of India is a “Supersonic cruise missile”?  
(a) BrahMos (b) Agni-V (c) Agni-IV  
(d) Prithvi-III (e) None of these
7. Who has been honored with Mohun Bagan ‘Ratna’ award 2018?  
(a) Sudip Chatterjee (b) Sourav Das  
(c) Pradip Chowdhury (d) Shilton Paul (e) None of above
8. Which two Indians have won the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2018?  
(a) Sanjiv Chaturvedi and Nileema Mishra  
(b) Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk  
(c) Bharat Vatwani and Sanjiv Chaturvedi  
(d) Sonam Wangchuk and Sanjiv Chaturvedi  
(e) None of above
9. Dhivya Suryadevara, the CFO of \_\_\_\_\_ has been ranked fourth in the list of Fortune's 40 Young Influential People.  
(a) Robinhood (b) Coinbase (c) Vimeo  
(d) General Motors (e) Instagram
10. In July 2018, acid attack victims of which state have been included under disability and will be eligible to get all benefits as per Disabilities Act 2016?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Odisha  
(d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Assam

11. Which bank was awarded as the best performing primary lending institution in Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) IDBI Bank  
(d) Bank of India (e) Bank of Baroda
12. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former governor of \_\_\_\_\_, has been selected for Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2018.  
(a) Assam (b) West Bengal (c) Bihar  
(d) Himachal Pradesh (e) Uttar Pradesh
13. Ramapada Chowdhury, the famous \_\_\_\_\_ writer, passed away in July 2018.  
(a) Punjabi (b) Tamil (c) Telugu  
(d) Bengali (e) Kannad
14. In August 2018, India and which country have signed an agreement on financial and technical cooperation?  
(a) Russia (b) France (c) Finland  
(d) Japan (e) Germany
15. Who became the first Asian to swim UK-France channel?  
(a) Swapan Kumar (b) Prabhat Koli (c) Sharad Tiwari  
(d) Sourabh Verma (e) None of these
16. Which Javelin thrower has won gold medal at Savo games 2018 in Finland?  
(a) Chao-Tsun Cheng (b) Ahmed Bader Magour  
(c) Julius Yego (d) Neeraj Chopra (e) None of above
17. In August 2018, which gulf country has launched an amnesty program to assist foreign visa violators?  
(a) Qatar (b) Oman (c) Bahrain  
(d) Saudi Arabia (e) United Arab Emirates
18. In July 2018, which country has launched high-resolution earth observation satellite "Gaofen-11"?  
(a) Japan (b) United States (c) China  
(d) Germany (e) Russia
19. Which Indian-origin mathematician has won the prestigious Fields medal?  
(a) Narendra Karmakar (b) Akshay Venkatesh (c) Shakuntala Dev  
(d) C.S. Seshadri (e) Mahendra Agarwal
20. In August 2018, which state has become the first state in the country to implement biofuel policy?  
(a) Bihar (b) Jharkhand (c) Rajasthan  
(d) Gujarat (e) Madhya Pradesh

## ANSWERS

- 1.(d)** The Reserve Bank of India launched Rs 100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has Motif of “RANI KI VAV” on the reverse, portraying the cultural heritage of the country. The base colour of the note is Lavender and the dimension of the banknote is 66 mm × 142 mm.
- 2.(e)** The book “The House of Islam: A Global History” has been written by former Islamist radical Ed Husain. The book explores the intricacies of Islam and the inner psyche of the Muslim world. Through the book, he makes three suggestions to help heal the rancour in the Islamic world – create a Middle East union, implement a Muslim Marshall plan and expel extremists from within Islam
- 3.(a)** Classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, columnist Rakesh Sinha, Sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra and farmer leader Ram Shakal have been nominated by the President Ram Nath Kovind to the Rajya Sabha. Under Article 80 of the Constitution, the President can nominate 12 members to the Rajya Sabha “from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.”
- 4.(a)** Floyd Mayweather, famous boxer of America, topped the Forbes 2018 'Celebrity 100' List Of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers with a net worth of \$285 million. In the list, American actor, George Clooney with a net worth of \$239 million and Kylie Jenner, founder of Kylie Cosmetics, with the net worth of \$166.5 million were at the second and third positions respectively.
- 5.(d)** The world’s first cheapest Clean drinking Water Project was launched in Darbhanga district of Bihar. The name of the project is “Sulabh Jal”. The project was launched by Sulabh International. With the help of this project, the people will easily be able to get pure and clean water only at 50 paise/litre.
- 6.(a)** India’s supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. The test was conducted in order to increase the longevity of its life. BrahMos is a joint venture between India’s Defence Research and Development Organisation and NPOM of Russia. The missile can cruise at speeds of up to Mach 3.0, or three times the speed of sound.
- 7.(c)** Pradip Chowdhury, the former Mohun Bagan captain, has been honored with the Mohun Bagan ‘Ratna’ award, the highest honour of Mohun Bagan club. He is the 18th recipient of Mohun Bagan ‘Ratna’ award. Besides this, Goalkeeper Shilton Paul has won “Best Footballer award” for the year 2017-18. Mohun Bagan’s special award is given to Rahim Ali for his performance in the U-17 World Cup.
- 8.(b)** India's Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk won the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2018. Bharat Vatwani is a psychiatrist who works for the mentally-ill street persons. While, Sonam Wangchuk works to harness science and culture creatively for economic progress that has improved the lives of the Ladakhi youth.
- 9.(d)** Dhivya Suryadevara, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of General Motors has been ranked fourth in the list of Fortune's 40 Young Influential People. Instagram Co-founder and CEO, Kevin Systrom and Facebook founder, Mark Zuckerberg, both 34, are tied for first place in the list.
- 10.(d)** Acid attack victims of Madhya Pradesh have been included under disability and they will be eligible to get all benefits of various schemes of the government as per Disabilities Act 2016. Now,

21 types of disabilities including acid attack have been included in place of 7 types of disabilities mentioned earlier in the Disabilities Act 2016.

- 11.(a)** HDFC Bank was awarded as the best performing primary lending institution in Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) and LIG (Low Income Group) category.
- 12.(b)** Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former governor of West Bengal, has been selected for Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2018 for his outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill. The award carries a citation and cash amount of Rs. 10 lakh.
- 13.(d)** Ramapada Chowdhury, the famous Bengali writer passed away in July 2018 at the age of 95 years. His story 'Abhimanyu' was made into a Hindi movie 'Ek doctor ki maut'. He was honored with the Sahitya Academy award for 'Bari badle jay' in 1988. He was also the recipient of Rabindra Puraskar, Ananda Puraskar and Rabindranath Tagore Memorial International Prize.
- 14.(e)** India and Germany have inked an agreement on financial and technical cooperation focusing on sustainable urban development and renewable energy. The government-to-government Umbrella Agreement on Financial Cooperation and Technical Co-operation 2017 is worth about 5,000 crore rupees.
- 15.(b)** Prabhat Koli of Maharashtra has become the first Asian to swim the choppy water from Jersey (an Island in the UK) to France in cold weather. He covered 25 Kilometers distance in 6 hours and 54 minutes. He started off from La Coupe Point of Jersey, behind St Catherine's backwater and touched the shore of St Germain Plage on the Normandy coast of France.
- 16.(d)** Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has won gold medal at Savo games 2018 in Finland. He made a throw of 85.69 metres. Chao-Tsun Cheng of Chinese Taipei made a throw of 82.52m and won a silver medal.
- 17.(e)** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a landmark 3 months visa amnesty program. This program will benefit hundreds of illegal foreign workers, including Indians, who are overstaying their permits in the gulf nation. The program will allow the workers to leave the country without paying penalty and it will also give them six months to find a job.
- 18.(c)** China has launched an optical remote sensing satellite "Gaofen-11". It is a part of the country's high-resolution Earth observation project. The satellite was launched on a Long March 4B rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province. The satellite can be used for land survey, urban planning, road network design, agriculture, and disaster relief.
- 19.(b)** Akshay Venkatesh, famous Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal. The medal is also known as Nobel prize for math. 36-year-old, Venkatesh is currently teaching at Stanford University. He won the fields medal for his intense contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics. Each winner receives a cash prize of 15,000 Canadian-dollar.
- 20.(c)** Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels. The desert state will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.