

Monthly One Liner Current Affairs August 2018

Financial One liner Current Affairs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in August 2018 **hiked the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent** while maintaining neutral stance on the stability in the market.
- The government in August 2018 **approved Public insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) proposal to acquire 51 per cent stake in IDBI Bank.**
- The **Startup India Yatra** began on July 30, 2018 in **Raipur.**
- The **Supreme Court** overruled its 21-year-old verdict and held that benefit of any ambiguity in notification related to tax exemptions must be interpreted in favour of the State.
- **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to integrate its **MyJio** platform with the latter's **YONO application.**
- Launched in 2015 with great fanfare, **India's payments banking ecosystem has taken a serious hit as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has halted two of the three existing payments bank from enrolling new customers.**
- **NHAI** will tomorrow ink a pact with **State Bank of India (SBI)** for a **long-term unsecured loan to the tune of Rs 25,000 crore.** This is SBI's highest long-term unsecured loan to any entity and also the largest ever loan sanctioned to NHAI.
- The Union Cabinet approved the **first extension of Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) to support Indian Entities** bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for restructuring of **Agricultural Scientists 'Recruitment Board (ASRB).**
- **CCEA approved issue of fresh 13,87,82,700 equity shares to the extent of 15 percent of paid up equity capital efface value of Rs 5 each by Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)** through the Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) route, as per SEBI guidelines.
- **The Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication department (ITE&C)** in August 2018 signed an MoU with **Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district.**
- **The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** on August 3, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **the State Bank of India (SBI) for getting Long Term Unsecured Loan of Rs 25000 crore for 10 years** with 3 years of moratorium on repayments.
- **Meghalaya recently hosted fifth act east business show to strengthen business ties between ASEAN countries northeastern states.**
- Silicon Valley technology giant **Apple** in August 2018 **became the first public company in U.S. history to reach a \$1 trillion market value,** ahead of rapidly rising Seattle-based Amazon, cementing Apple's long-held place as the world's most valuable company.
- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal, who in August 2018 chaired the **29th Goods and Services Tax (GST) council meeting, announced that a committee has been set up to look after the issues of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).**
- Public sector lender **IDBI Bank** has **appointed investment banking outfit RBSA Advisors as financial advisor** for evaluating the potential of an investment proposal by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- The **growing India-Israel relationship took a step further as six Israeli startups with innovative technologies in the fields of healthcare, agriculture and water management interacted with various Indian businesses.**

- **The world's first-ever thermal battery plant will be unveiled in Andhra Pradesh** by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on August 6, 2018.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on 21 August launch long-awaited India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) that will have at least one branch in every district and focus on financial services in rural areas**, a senior official said. "The Prime Minister has given time on 21 August 21 to launch IPPB.
- The government of the **Telangana**, a southern Indian state, is partnering with a major IT firm to **establish a district exclusive to blockchain startups in the state's capital city**.
- Italy-based company **Benelli**, a global leader in the super bike segment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Telangana Government** to set up manufacturing unit in the state in partnership with Adishwar Auto Ride India (AARI), a subsidiary of Mahavir Group.
- The Goods and Services Tax Council on August 4, 2018 formed a **Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla** to address various issues faced by small businesses.
- Startup India has launched the **Startup Academia Alliance programme**, which is a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains, to fulfill the Indian Government's mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country.
- The Union Ministry of Water Resources, the NABARD and the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) on August 6, 2018 signed a revised Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for **funding of central share of 99 prioritised irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**. During 2016-17 and 2017-18, a cumulative loan amount of **Rs 7863.60 crore has been availed from LTIF for funding these projects**.
- The Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari launched the **Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) and Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage portals** on August 6, 2018.
- The state government of **Telangana** on August 6, 2018 launched the first-of-its-kind life insurance programme '**Rythu Bandhu Life Insurance Bonds**' worth Rs 5 lakh for the farmers in the state.
- The Union Government on August 6, 2018 constituted a four-member Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Suresh Prabhu** to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on whether to continue with or withdraw from the 16-member **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** in August 2018 launched the **Multi-Option Payment Acceptance Device or MOPAD**, a unified payment option that accepts multiple payment methods.
- **PayU India** in August 2018 **announced entering into a strategic partnership with Reliance Money**, leading NBFC brands in India, to offer instant app based personal loans, via **LazyPay**.
- **J.P Morgan**, a global banking and financial services provider, along with the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE)** in August 2018 announced **a collaboration to set up a Financial Inclusion Lab**.
- The **Reserve Bank** in August 2018 said it has decided to **pay a dividend of Rs 50,000 crore to the Union government for the year ending June 30, 2018**.
- The **NITI Aayog and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** on August 8, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and entered into a three-year partnership**.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that **India is a source of growth for the global economy for the next few decades**.
- The state government of **Maharashtra** has announced a special assistance worth **Rs 500 crore for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community in the state**.

- The Lok Sabha on August 7, 2018 passed the **Supplementary Demands for Grants for the fiscal year 2018-19**, in which Government had sought additional expenditure of Rs 11,698 crore.
- **Axis Bank** has become **the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication** feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
- President Ram Nath Kovind in August 2018 inaugurated '**One District One Product' (ODOP) Summit organised by the Uttar Pradesh government** to promote traditional industries in every district of the state.
- E-commerce major **Amazon India** in August 2018 signed a MoU with the **Uttar Pradesh government to support MSME entrepreneurs across nine districts** as a part of the state's One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.
- **Exim Bank of India** has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development banks of **BRICS** to undertake "**collaborative research**" in **distributed ledger/blockchain technology**.
- **PayPal**, a global technology platform and digital payments leader, has announced its strategic partnership with and **HDFC Bank to offer safer, faster and convenient payment experiences for the bank's card holders**.
- Digital payments major **Paytm** in August 2018 said it has acquired Bengaluru-based savings management startup, **Balance Technology for an undisclosed amount**.
- The Committee on Fair Market Conduct, headed by former law secretary **T K Viswanathan**, **submitted its report to SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi on August 8, 2018**.
- The state government of Maharashtra has announced a special assistance worth **Rs 500 crore for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community in the state**.
- NITI Aayog will host an **Investors' Conference** on August 10, 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra for the Holistic Development of Islands.
- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**, the National Public Procurement Portal, turned 2 years old on August 9, 2018.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu on August 8, 2018 launched the '**Niryat Mitra**' mobile App in New Delhi. The app has been developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the largest exporters' organisation of the country.
- The Lok Sabha on August 9, 2018 **referred a bill seeking to ban unregulated deposit schemes to the parliamentary standing committee** on the ground that it required thorough deliberations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on August 10, 2018 **said that 12 modern bio-fuel refineries worth Rs 10,000 crore will be established across the country**.
- **The International Monetary Fund says India's GDP is poised to grow by 7.3 per cent in the 2018-19 fiscal and 7.5 per cent in 2019-20** on strengthening of investment and robust private consumption.
- **The Lok Sabha on August 10, 2018 passed the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill (Amendment) 2018**, which provides for time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of the arbitrator.
- NITI Aayog on August 14, 2018 launched '**Pitch to MOVE**', a mobility pitch competition that aims to provide budding entrepreneurs of India with a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury.
- The government proposed a new transaction structure for future of greenfield airports to address the challenges regarding airport infrastructure development. This was proposed **under Nextgen Airports for Bharat (NABH)**, Nirman initiative and its guiding principles are affordability, sustainability and predictability.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on August 13, 2018 **constituted a working group to update the norms for insurance surveyors**.

- The Union Government on August 13, 2018 dismissed **Usha Ananthasubramanian**, former CEO/ MD of Allahabad Bank and scam hit Punjab National Bank (PNB), from service.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in August 2018 launched **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) 2.0**, which among others allows customers to link their overdraft account to UPI, creation of one-time mandates and pre-authorisation of transactions for payment at a later date, and checking the invoice sent by merchant prior to making payment.
- Airtel Payments Bank and Bharti AXA Life Insurance in August 2018 announced a pact to offer **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**, leveraging the payments bank's network in rural pockets.
- **PhonePe** in August 2018 announced entering into a partnership with **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments through PhonePe on the IRCTC Rail Connect Android app.
- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** in August 2018 said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)** to set up bullion spot exchange.
- A recent study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has noted that the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been adversely hit by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) roll-out** and Demonetisation, which had a significant impact on the overall credit of the sector.
- **ICICI Lombard** has launched India's first Artificial intelligence (AI) based technology to facilitate instant health insurance claims approval.
- One97 Communications, the company that owns Paytm, has announced the launch of its artificial intelligence (AI) cloud computing platform **Paytm AI Cloud for developers, start-ups, and enterprises in partnership with global tech giant Alibaba**.
- **YES Bank** has opted for **iCubesWire's** AI enabled solution, **Instatalk**, which provides an accurate platform for the customers to interact instantly with the brand and suits their requirements.
- The Parliament's Committee on Estimates, headed by veteran **BJP leader Murali Manohar Joshi**, looking into the issue of mounting non-performing assets (NPAs), asked **former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan to appear before it and brief it on the matter of NPAs**.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on August 16, 2018 **directed all the insurance companies to make a provision to cover mental illness also in insurance policies**.
- **A Draft Notification proposing amendments in Form No. 13, and Rules 28, 28AA, 28AB, 37G and 37H of the Income-tax Rules, 1962** has been uploaded on the website of the Income Tax Department for comments from stakeholders and general public.
- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** has signed an MoU (memorandum of understanding) with **Coimbatore-based Indian Cotton Federation (ICF)**.
- **No ATM will be replenished with cash after 9 PM in cities and 6 PM in rural areas from next year**. The announcement was made by the Union Home Ministry through a notification. The Ministry said that the deadline for putting money in the ATMs located in Naxal-hit areas will be 4 PM.
- Indian e-commerce major **Flipkart** has augmented its capability to roll out voice-based shopping on its platform to compete with rival Amazon's Alexa by acquiring Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup **Liv.ai**.
- **Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)** along with its knowledge partner and the government **Think Tank, NITI Aayog** are organizing two-day **India Banking Conclave 2018 (IBC)** in New Delhi between August 23-24, 2018.
- Providing its customers with an effective option to take care of their financial requirements, Bajaj Finance Ltd., the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv, **is offering high-value top-up loans of up to Rs. 50**

Lakhs on home loan balance transfer. The amount can be used by the customers for any financial requirement, as and when required.

- IT company **Tech Mahindra** in August 2018 said it will acquire Czech Republic-based engineering services firm **Inter-Informatics** for around Rs 80 million through a wholly-owned subsidiary.
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) on August 20, 2018 released a report titled '**India Wage Report: Wage policies for decent work and inclusive growth**'.
- **The Indian economy is expected to grow by around 7.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019** as it is largely resilient to external pressures like those from higher oil prices, Moody's Investors Service said in August 2018.
- **The World Bank has priced the world's first public bond created and managed using only blockchain in a A\$100 million (\$73.16 million) deal designed** to test how the technology might improve decades-old bond sales practices. Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the sole manager of the deal, said in a statement that the two-year bonds had priced to yield 2.251% and would settle 28 August.
- In a big step forward to strengthen the startup ecosystem in **Rajasthan**, the Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched **India's largest business incubator — the Bhamashah Techno Hub — in Jaipur in August 2018 (August 23)**.
- **Cognizant** has entered into an agreement to acquire Noida-headquartered salesforce consulting firm **SaaSfocus** in its bid to augment its consultancy capabilities in cloud space, apart from expanding its geographical reach in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
- The country's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** will soon be introducing '**multi-modal**' **biometric authentication for its mobile applications**. This means that one of the two factors of authentication would be by using either fingerprint or face recognition or by using voice recognition software on the bank's servers.
- With an objective of raising MSME funds through equity, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between **National Stock Exchange (NSE) and MSME and textiles department of West Bengal government**.
- **Container Corporation of India (CONCOR)** has inked a pact with **KICTPL** for providing rail access to container services.
- **Maharashtra** government has succeeded in efficiently implementing **MUDRA scheme**, an ambitious scheme of the Centre. Over 80 Lakh persons have got sanctioned loans under the scheme in the last three years.
- The **Punjab cabinet** on August 23, 2018 approved a bill for creation of a price stabilisation fund that will ensure state farmers get minimum support price (MSP). The decision was taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.
- The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is developing a **National Logistics Portal to ensure ease of trading in the International and domestic markets**. The portal will link all the stakeholders of EXIM, domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on a single platform.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** in August 2018 said a **Department of Financial Services report has rated it as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions**.
- **State-run Rural Electrification Corporation in August 2018 said it has inked a loan agreement with German bank KfW for EUR 200 million facility** that would be used to finance clean energy projects in India.
- **ICICI Bank**, India's private sector bank, has agreed to a multi-year partnership with **Manchester United**, bringing a range of competitive co-branded credit and debit card to the club's 35 million Indian followers.

- **Anil D Ambani** has resigned as the Director of Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNAVAL), a company official said in August 2018.
- After hosting big ticket 'UP Investors Summit 2018' and dedicated MSME conclave 'One District One Product Summit', the Yogi Adityanath government is gearing up to organise global farmers meet '**Krishi Kumbh**' on October 26-28.
- Union Minister for Road Transport, Shipping and Highways, Nitin Gadkari on August 24, 2018 announced that **the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will start the construction of the proposed Mumbai-Delhi Expressway by December 2018.**
- As part of rationalisation post-merger of six associate banks with itself, **the country's largest lender SBI has changed names and IFSC codes of nearly 1,300 branches across the country.**
- Private sector banks, which have recently come under the scanner for corrupt activities, have little concern for promoting education and literacy in the country by providing education loans. **A large part of lending to the education sector in the country has been done by public sector banks.** A recent RBI report disclosed that the share of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in lending to the education sector is 91.42 per cent.**
- **India's first flight powered by Biofuel landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on August 27, 2018.** The test flight had taken off from Dehradun.
- **The Union Defence Ministry on August 25, 2018 gave its approval for the acquisition of 111 utility helicopters for Navy** at an estimated cost of over Rs 21,000 crore. The Ministry also approved separate procurement proposals worth nearly Rs 25,000 crore.
- **YES BANK**, India's fourth largest private sector bank has announced its partnership with the **Government of Rajasthan to launch Bhamashah Wallet**, a simple instant payment digital wallet solution for the state of Rajasthan.
- The **government, World Bank** and state-owned **EESL** in August 2018 inked a **\$220 million loan agreement and \$80 million guarantee pact to push energy efficiency programme in India.**
- The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan on August 27, 2018 launched an online portal to enable easy, efficient and transparent booking of common carrier capacity for natural gas transmission services **under GAIL's pipelines.**
- **The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, under the Ministry of Shipping, on August 28, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Railways, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh** for implementation of the 362 km Indore- Manmad New Railway Line Project.
- Readying its digital payment service for India, **Tez**, for a global roll out, Google in August 2018 renamed the app as **Google Pay** and introduced new features that could soon help its Indian users get instant "pre-approved" loans from some banks.
- **Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari** on August 28, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, and Himachal Pradesh for the construction of the Rs 3966.51 crore Lakhwar Multi-Purpose projects** in the Upper Yamuna Basin near Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- **Over 99 percent of the demonetised currency was returned**, as per the Annual Report 2017-18 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The report was released on August 29, 2018.
- The Union Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on August 30, 2018 signed a **USD 375 million loan agreement for 'Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project'.**
- Private sector lender **Yes Bank** in August 2018 said it has received RBI's approval for continuance of **Rana Kapoor as MD and CEO of the bank** till further notice from the central bank.

- **The Union Government, Rajasthan and the World Bank on August 28, 2018 signed a USD 250 million Development Policy Loan (DPL)** to support Rajasthan in improving the performance of its Electricity Distribution Sector under the State's '24x7 Power for All' program.
- **The Union Government and World Bank on August 28, 2018 signed a \$220 million loan agreement and an \$80 million guarantee agreement** for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up programme.
- **Maharashtra Cabinet** cleared a proposal for financing farmers for purchasing farm equipment with an initial corpus of Rs 50 crore.
- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** on August 28, 2018 approved projects worth nearly Rs 150 crores to clean Ganga River and its banks in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal under the Namami Gange programme.
- The **production of foodgrains touched a record high of 284.8 million tonnes in 2017-18 on the back of last year's normal monsoon**, as per the fourth advance estimates of crop production by the Agriculture Ministry, which were released on August 28, 2018.
- The **National Mission on Government e Marketplace (GeM)** will be launched on September 5, 2018 to accelerate the adoption and use of GeM by major central ministries, state governments and their agencies.
- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, along with CEO Amitabh Kant, on August 30, 2018 unveiled a series of events to take place during the '**Mobility Week**' from August 31 to September 6, 2018.
- **India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on August 30, 2018 signed a USD 346 million loan agreement** to finance improvement of over 400 kilometres of state highways under the KSHIP-III Project in **Karnataka**.
- Indian Railways on August 30, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **GAIL (India) Limited to provide infrastructure facilities for supply of Natural Gas to Indian Railways Workshops, Production Units and Depots**.
- The Shipping Ministry on August 30, 2018 signed a new wage settlement agreement for **Group C & D category of Port and Dock Workers in Mumbai, Maharashtra**. The move will benefit around one lakh 35 thousand port and dock workers and pensioners in 12 major ports across the country.

Non-financial One Liner Current Affairs

- The National Health Agency (NHA), under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on July 31, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Common Service Centres (CSC) scheme under the Digital India Programme**.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is celebrating **Swachhta Pakhwada** from August 1 to 15, 2018 under the Swachh Bharat Mission Programme of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
- **Deepak Parekh was re-appointed as a Non-Executive Director on the board of the country's largest mortgage lender HDFC** but nearly 23 per cent of the shareholders voted against his continuation.
- Renowned industrialists **Kumar Mangalam Birla and Y C Deveshwar** were in August 2018 appointed as non-official independent directors in Air India, an official order said.
- ICICI Bank in August 2018 said **the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the Chief Operating Officer with effect from July 31, 2018 for three years**.
- Scientists have discovered a new shape called **scutoid** while studying nature's way of moulding tissue to form the skin, cavity linings and the building blocks of organs.

- The indigenously built **Advanced Air Defence (AAD) Interceptor Missile** was on August 2, 2018 successfully test fired from Abdul Kalam Island.
- Federal think-tank NITI Aayog has launched **Move Hack**, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
- **India and Germany** on August 1, 2018 signed an agreement on financial and technical cooperation, with a special focus on sustainable urban development and renewable energy.
- The Union Ministry of Culture on August 1, 2018 launched a scheme **Seva Bhoj Yojna** to reimburse central share of CGST and IGST on food, prasada, langar or bhandara offered by religious and charitable institutions.
- **Telangana** police is now equipped with another 'powerful' tool - '**Facial Recognition System**' (FRS) that would help them prevent crime and identify criminals/suspects at lightning speed.
- **Rajasthan** Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on August 1, 2018 approved a **proposal to set up 55 courts under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the state.**
- **The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee (SGPC)** has decided to install a biogas plant at the community kitchen of the **Golden Temple** here in an effort to reduce its carbon footprint.
- **The Union Cabinet approved raising funds up to Rs 15000 crore as Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM (G))** during the financial year 2018-19 through NABARD.
- The Union Cabinet approved the policy to permit exploration and exploitation of unconventional **hydrocarbons such as Shale oil/gas, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) etc.**
- CCEA approved the proposal for opening of **13 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in seven States.**
- The Union Cabinet on August 2, 2018 approved a **bill provisioning death penalty or life imprisonment to those involved in piracy at sea.**
- On 1 August, India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a sub-agency of the Ministry of Power, released **the country's first energy efficiency index for Indian states prepared by the body in conjunction with Niti Aayog**, India's policy incubator. Kerala and Rajasthan achieved "front-runner" category on the index, along with **Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab.**
- **China** on July 31, 2018 launched **Gaofen-11**, an optical remote sensing satellite, as part of the country's high-resolution Earth observation project.
- The US Congress on August 1, 2018 **passed a defence spending bill capping its security-related aid to Pakistan at 150 Million dollars**, significantly below the level of more than one billion US dollars per year.
- The **US** on August 2, 2018 advised its **citizens to reconsider their visit to Pakistan** and asked them not to travel to Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province due to threat of possible terror attacks.
- **Boat racing team is set to be added to Indian contingent** for next month's Asian Games in Indonesia following Delhi High Court orders.
- Noted ghazal singer and composer from Kerala, **Umbayee**, passed away.
- **Jalees Sherwani**, who had penned lyrics for several of Salman Khan hit films such as Dabangg, Wanted and Tere Naam, passed away on August 1, 2018.
- Andhra Pradesh Government approved **Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam**, an unemployment allowance scheme to provide Rs 1000 per month to unemployed youth in state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project **Ujjwala Yojana** achieved its target of providing **5 crore free LPG connections to poor families.**
- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu on August 2, 2018 **launched the tricolour logo and a tagline for Geographical Indication (GI) certified products.**

- The **Lok Sabha** in August 2018 unanimously passed a constitutional amendment **to give statutory status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**. With all parties supporting the Bill, the government could push it for passage in the Rajya Sabha next week.
- **Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh** has received **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** from Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.
- 141st birth anniversary of freedom fighter and **designer of Indian National Flag Pingali Venkayya was observed on August 2, 2018**.
- For the first time in its history, **Railway Board is all set to have a member to exclusively focus on safety issues of the national transporter**, sources in the ministry said.
- **The dragonfly festival** is being organised from August 3 to September 1, 2018 at World Wide Fund (WWF) auditorium, New Delhi.
- Zimbabwe President **Emmerson Mnangagwa**, a former ally of ousted President Robert Mugabe, won country's landmark Presidential elections.
- With an aim to promote skills through ITI, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in August 2018 inaugurated **India's first Skill Museum at the State-run Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Cuttack**.
- After Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) inducted 500 women personnel in Kashmir, **Kerala police formed its first all-women battalion with 578 members on August 1, 2018**.
- **P V Sindhu finished second best yet again in a major tournament final as she went down tamely to Carolina Marin in the World Championships'** women's singles title clash
- **Clark Kent Apuada of California** has grabbed attention in his sport after finishing first in seven events at the Far West International Swimming Championship, and breaking Michael Phelps's record in the 100-meter butterfly.
- The Lok Sabha on August 3, 2018 passed the **National Sports University Bill, 2018 that seeks to establish a National Sports University in Manipur** as part of a vision to enhance country's standing in sports.
- **India** was on August 3, 2018 elected **as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** for a period of two years.
- Researchers from **China** have claimed to **have created the world's first single-chromosome yeast while not affecting the majority of its functions**.
- With a vision to build an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in defence sector and make India self-reliant for meeting defence requirements, **Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman launched defence India start up challenge in Bengaluru**.
- **Uttarakhand High Court (HC)** on August 3, 2018 banned the commercial use of elephants in the state and directed the state forest department to rescue the elephants deployed for commercial purposes within a time span of 24 hours.
- The Union Government has approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology '**IMPRINT-2**' scheme.
- The iconic Mughalsarai Railway Junction of Uttar Pradesh was on August 5, 2018 renamed as **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station**.
- NITI Aayog's International Conference on "**Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions**" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi on August 6, 2018.
- Citing an order of the Supreme Court, **the Rajasthan Information Commission has asked all courts in the state, including the High Court to reduce RTI application fee**.

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2018, which seeks to **empower district magistrates to pass orders for adoption of children to reduce the time taken for issuing such directions**, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 6, 2018.
- The US space agency **NASA** on August 3, 2018 introduced to the world the crew of nine astronauts who will fly on American-made spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) from the US soil for the first time since the space shuttle's retirement in 2011.
- **Japan** marked the 73rd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 2018.
- **China** on August 6, 2018 announced that it has successfully tested its **first cutting-edge hypersonic aircraft**, which could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence systems.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) postponed the launch of **Chandrayaan 2 Mission**, India's second mission to moon, to January 2019.
- Bihar CM **Nitish Kumar** recently launched the '**Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana**'.
- The Centre has appointed **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh(RSS)-affiliate Swadeshi Jagaran Manch co-convenor Swaminathan Gurumurthy** and businessman **Satish Kashinath Marathe** to the **Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Justices Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran and K M Joseph** were on August 7, 2018 **sworn in as judges of Supreme Court** in the order of seniority notified by the Centre.
- The nominating committee of **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)** has **selected Ajay Data as new Council Member** of Country Code Supporting Organisation (ccNSO).
- **Saudi Arabia** announced to end its all new trade and investment ties with Canada over its interference in its internal affairs.
- **China** recently launched a prototype exascale computing machine, the next-generation supercomputer, according to the developers.
- DMK patriarch **Muthuvel Karunanidhi**, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, passed away on August 7, 2018 after battling a brief illness at the Kauvery hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on August 7, 2018 integrated the **TRAI Mobile Apps namely DND 2.0 and MyCall with UMANG Platform**.
- The Supreme Court on August 8, 2018 said that it would constitute **a committee under the chairmanship of its retired judge to look into the problems in jails**.
- Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar on August 7, 2018 flagged off the **Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service in Panaji**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has announced that it will **appoint interns in every block of the state for publicity of the welfare schemes of government**.
- Seeking to promote tourism, the government has extended e-visa facility for citizens of **165 countries at 25 airports and five seaports**.
- **Justice Shripathi Ravindra Bhat** was on August 7, 2018 **appointed as the acting chief justice of the Delhi High Court**.
- **Beijing successfully tested its first hypersonic aircraft which has the ability to carry nuclear warheads** and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence system owing to its high speed and 'unpredictable trajectory'.
- **Chinese** astronomers have discovered **the most lithium-rich giant star ever known**, which could shed new light on the evolution of the universe.
- A new study has warned **that Earth is at the risk of entering an irreversible 'hothouse' condition**, where the global temperatures will rise by four to five degrees and sea levels may surge by up to 60 metres higher than in August 2018, even if the targets under the Paris climate deal are met.

- World Champion weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** pulled out of the Asian Games after failing to recover from a lower back injury.
- The Union Sports Minister, Rajyavardhan Rathore announced on August 6, 2018 that **a games period will be made mandatory in all schools from 2019 onwards**. Along with this, the Minister said that the Ministry of Education will ensure a 50 per cent reduction in the syllabus.
- **Delhi Police gets India's first all-women SWAT team**. The 36 women underwent 15 months of rigorous training in weapons handling, counter-terrorism and **Krav Maga** - the military self-defence technique pioneered by Israel's security forces - to enter the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.
- **Santhali has become the first Indian tribal language to get a Wikipedia edition** in its own script after the Santhali Wikipedia went live earlier this month.
- The state government of **Karnataka** in August 2018 launched "**Swachhameva Jayate**", a campaign to make people in rural Karnataka take a pledge on cleanliness. Primary and high school students, who attended the event to launch the campaign here, took the pledge.
- **India's Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, one of the highest ecosystems in the world**, has been added to UNESCO's list of World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR).
- Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs, **will launch the Swachh Survekshan 2019 on August 10, 2018 in New Delhi**.
- The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation announced the winners for **the first fortnight of the Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao contest that was launched on July 10, 2018**.
- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)** under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on August 9, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **with the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH**.
- The Union Cabinet was apprised of joint issue of Postage Stamps on India-South Africa on the theme, **"20 Years of Strategic Partnership between India and South Africa"**.
- JDU's **Harivansh Narayan Singh** was elected as the **new deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha on August 9, 2018**.
- The central government in August 2018 appointed **R Madhavan as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** for the next five years.
- India's champion shooter **Abhinav Bindra has been appointed as a member of the prestigious Athletes' Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**, the rare honour adding another feather to his illustrious cap.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has **re-appointed R S Sharma (pictured) chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)**.
- The United Nations on August 8, 2018 announced that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen former **Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to be the UN's new human rights chief**.
- **The 11th edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018 was launched in India on August 8, 2018**. The index was based on the theme— 'Energizing the World with Innovation'. In this year's edition of GI, **India's rank has jumped to 57** from 60 in 2017.
- The **World Bio-Fuel Day was observed across the world on August 10, 2018** with an aim to create awareness about non fossil-fuels (green fuels).
- The **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was observed across the world on August 9, 2018** with theme '**Indigenous peoples' migration and movement**'.
- Indian-American high school student **Avi Goel** won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division which was held in Berlin in July 2018.

- The Lok Sabha on August 10, 2018 passed the **Arbitration and Conciliation Bill (Amendment) 2018, which provides for time-bound settlement of disputes** as well as accountability of the arbitrator.
- The state government of Haryana has announced that it **will be launching the Ayushman Bharat-Haryana Health Protection Mission on August 15, 2018.**
- **The National Green Tribunal** has formed a committee to look into whether sub regional plans for protection of **Natural Conservation Zones (NCZs)** were consistent with the regional plan prepared by the National Capital Region Planning Board.
- In its nine decades-long history, **the Jammu and Kashmir have got its first woman Chief Justice as well as the first woman judge. Justice Gita Mittal**, the acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court.
- **Justice Rajendra Menon was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court** by Lt Governor Anil Baijal at a ceremony held at the Raj Niwas in New Delhi on August 9, 2018.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in August 2018 launched the **Parker Solar Probe spacecraft.**
- England fast bowler **James Anderson** in August 2018 became the first bowler to take 100 Test wickets here at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground.
- **V S Naipaul**, the Nobel laureate who documented the migrations of peoples, the unraveling of the British Empire, the ironies of exile and the clash between belief and unbelief in more than a dozen unsparing novels and as many works of nonfiction, died in August 2018 at his home in London.
- The Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri on August 13, 2018 announced **the Top 10 cities rankings on Ease of Living Index 2018. Pune** emerged as the top-ranked city in the Ease of Living Index.
- Country's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand**, according to a survey, followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.
- In the aftermath of Kurangani forest fire in March, which claimed more than 20 lives, **Tamil Nadu State forest department** will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to get faster fire alerts.**
- With a view to ensure proper monitoring of all government schemes in a transparent manner, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in August 2018 launched "**CM Dashboard**", an electronic window.
- Civil Aviation Minister **Suresh Prabhu** on August 11, 2018 **approved a proposal for setting up water aerodromes in the country.**
- India's second moon mission **Chandrayaan-2 will now be launched in the January-March window in 2019 instead of later in 2018.**
- The **Kerala government will foot the bill for transgenders willing to undergo sex change operations**, CM Pinarayi Vijayan has announced.
- The Union Government has unlocked green **funds worth over Rs 66,000 crore to increase the country's forest cover.**
- The US Defence Department will create a **Space Force as the sixth branch of the military by 2020**, Vice President Mike Pence announced.
- **Pakistan** on August 13, 2018 **released 30 Indian prisoners as a goodwill gesture.** The prisoners, including 27 fishermen, were handed over to Indian officials at Wagah border.
- **Iran's** Defence Minister unveiled the next generation of Tehran's **Fateh Mobin short-range ballistic missile on August 13, 2018.**
- Former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, Justice **Manjula Chellur** was appointed as the **Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)** on August 13, 2018.

- **Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani** was on August 12, 2018 sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, Tamil Nadu.
- **International Youth Day** was observed on 12 August, 2018. The theme of 2018 was **"Safe Spaces for Youth"**.
- Former Lok Sabha speaker **Somnath Chatterjee** passed away on August 13, 2018 morning after suffering a heart attack at a hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Minister of Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal on August 13, 2018 released **the Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness**. **Jodhpur** ranked best while **Shahganj** ranked worst.
- In a first of its kind ruling, **Uttarakhand High Court on August 14, 2018 invoked the 'parens patriae' doctrine and declared itself as a legal guardian** of members of the bovine family across the state.
- Ministry of AYUSH has introduced new **Central Sector scheme for promoting pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) Drugs**.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded approval for the procurement of six indigenously designed and manufactured **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs. 4941 crore**.
- **942 personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Independence Day this year**.
- Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched road safety awareness video with Brand ambassador of road safety campaign actor **Akshay Kumar** in New Delhi.
- The **Shaheed Saman Diwas** will be observed in all districts of **Madhya Pradesh** on August 14, 2018.
- **Akshay Kumar Singh** has joined as Director (Pipelines) of state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the country's biggest firm.
- Chhattisgarh Governor **Balramji Das Tandon** passed away on August 14, 2018 following a cardiac arrest at Dr B R Ambedkar Memorial Hospital in Raipur.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2018 **addressed the country on the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day at Red Fort, Delhi**.
- PM Modi announced manned space mission taking Indian astronauts to space on board **'Gaganyaan'** by 2022.
- With the help of scientists, India will be launching **'NAVIC'** which will be very useful for the fishermen and others.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced the start of **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)**, an universal health coverage scheme, in the state from in August 2018 while unfurling the national flag at Mahatma Gandhi Road here during a drizzle.
- The Union Ministry of Railways on August 15, 2018 launched **'Digital Screens'** to spread awareness about Indian Railways Heritage.
- Rajasthan will observe September as the **"month of nutrition"** to create awareness among people living in the state.
- The Supreme Court on August 13, 2018 approved a proposal **to have hologram-based coloured stickers on vehicles which would indicate the nature of fuel being used in Delhi- National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched **RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil)** initiative for collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) on August 14, 2018 released the **Global Liveability Index 2018**, the ranking of 140 global cities based on their living conditions. **Delhi was ranked at 112th position and Mumbai fetched 117th spot**.

- **Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel** was given the additional charge of Chhattisgarh following the death of Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Dass Tandon on August 14, 2018.
- Colorado Party's **Mario Abdo Benitez** was sworn in on August 15, 2018 as the new President of Paraguay for a five-year term.
- Former India spinner **Ramesh Powar** was on August 14, 2018 named head coach of the Indian women's national cricket team till the ICC World T20, which is scheduled to be held in November 2018.
- **India released additional Rs 470 million for Phase I of Postal Highway Project being constructed in Southern Plains of Nepal.**
- The **24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP)** was held in Beijing, China from August 13 to 17, 2018.
- **Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, who had been admitted to the AIIMS hospital in New Delhi for the past few weeks, died in August 2018.
- The **11th World Hindi Conference was inaugurated in Mauritius** on August 18, 2018 with the theme 'Hindi World and Indian Culture'.
- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) **Aditya-L1 mission**, originally named as the Aditya-1 mission, is a satellite designed to study the solar corona (outer layers of the Sun) which is quite similar to NASA's Parker Solar Probe.
- Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) in August 2018 said it has decided to set up **the country's largest pump storage hydel power project of 1,500 MW at an estimated cost of Rs 52 billion.**
- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh on August 16, 2018 wrote to Jose Graziano da Silva, the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) to declare the upcoming year as the '**International Year of Millets**'.
- US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo on August 16, 2018 announced the formation of the **Iran Action Group (IAG)** to coordinate and run the country's policy towards Iran.
- **Pakistan** on August 16, 2018 paid tribute to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee hailing him as a 'statesman' after he passed away.
- The world's oldest cheese was recently discovered inside an **Egyptian tomb.**
- China has unveiled **Chang'e 4** lunar rover to explore the far side of the moon by the end of 2018.
- **Imran Khan**, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former cricketer, was sworn in as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan on August 18, 2018.
- Indian scientist and academician **Nandula Raghuram** was on August 13, 2018 elected as the Chair of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), a global policy making initiative.
- Former United Nations chief and Nobel Peace Prize laureate General **Kofi Annan** passed away at the age of 80, following a short illness.
- US singer **Aretha Franklin** passed away recently at the age of 76.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj in August 2018 inaugurated '**Panini Language Laboratory**' at **Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in Mauritius.** The lab, gifted by the Indian government, will help MGI in teaching Indian languages in Mauritius.
- The Indian and Thai armed forces in August 2018 concluded a two-week long platoon level military exercise called '**Exercise Maitree 2018**' in Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar.
- **Government of Telangana** launched for the first time Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in the Hyderabad city in August 2018.
- **Asian Games 2018: Bajrang Punia wins wrestling final; India gets first gold**
- **Subhash Sheoratan Mundra** has been appointed as Independent Director on the Board of Indiabulls Housing Finance for a period of three years, effective August 18 onwards.

- The **World Humanitarian Day** was observed across the world on August 19, 2018 with theme campaign **#NotATarget**.
- **India and Japan** have decided to further expand their defence ties, with more bilateral combat exercises, military exchanges and top-level visits as well as collaboration in maritime security and defence production, with an eye firmly on an aggressive and expansionist China.
- Indigenously developed Helicopter launched **Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'** was on **August 19, 2018** successfully flight tested from Army Helicopter in the ranges of Pokhran. The test was conducted by the DRDO and the Indian Army.
- **Israeli Navy announced to procure multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system.**
- The Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI) announced phased roll-out of face recognition for carrying out **Aadhaar authentication from September 15, 2018 as additional security layer.**
- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has **proposed to set up five-member committee to suggest changes to JEE (Advanced)** in the wake of an inadequate number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on August 17, 2018 constituted a **group of experts from health and nutrition sector to look into the issue of food labelling.**
- Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani's telecom unit **Reliance Jio has been ranked as the top company globally on Fortune's 'Change The World' list** that ranked companies using the profit motive to help the planet and tackle social problems.
- **Indian shooter Deepak Kumar** claimed **the silver medal in men's 10m air rifle event** after producing excellent scores at crucial junctures, pipping fancied teammate Ravi Kumar at the 18th Asian Games here in August 2018.
- **Vinesh Phogat** in August 2018 clinched a gold by beating Yuki Irie of Japan in the final of the women's wrestling at the Asian Games 2018. **She also became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games.**
- **Exercise Pitch Black 2018**, a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise, was hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) from July 24, 2018 to Aug 18, 2018 in Darwin, Australia.
- Researchers from the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) have successfully developed the **world's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics** that can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.
- Delhi government's Additional Director of health, SK Arora was awarded with prestigious World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
- **National Renewable Energy Day** was observed on 20 August 2018.
- **Using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft that was launched by India 10 years ago**, NASA on August 21, 2018 said that scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions.
- **India** has asked **WhatsApp** to set up a local entity in the country and find a technological solution to trace the origin of fake messages.
- The Chief Ministers of four Northern States on August 20, 2018 **unanimously decided to set up a joint secretariat at Panchkula, Haryana** for data and information sharing to effectively tackle the issue of drug menace in their respective states.
- The Supreme Court on August 21, 2018 ruled that the **'None of The Above' (NOTA) option will not be applicable for voting in the Rajya Sabha elections.**
- The Madras High Court on August 20, 2018 ordered the Central Board of Secondary Education to publicise in media that stringent action would be taken against institutes not following the board's **'no homework' rule for class I and II students.**

- The Centre in August 2018 appointed **Satya Pal Malik as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The Day 3 of Asian Games 2018 began with shooters **Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma and Sanjeev Rajput adding three more medals to India's medal account**, taking the total medal tally to 8, comprising 3 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- Teen cyclist **Esow Alben has created history by claiming India's first ever medal - a silver- at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships** in Aigle, Switzerland.
- Spin legend **Shane Warne** will talk about his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography "**No Spin**" which will be published this October
- Former West Bengal Governor **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** was on August 20, 2018 conferred with Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award on the occasion of 74th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- **Turkey** has initiated a dispute complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the United States for imposing additional tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from Turkey.
- Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Massachusetts General Hospital in the United States have developed a wireless '**in-body GPS**' system that can track tumours and pinpoint the location of ingestible implants inside the body.
- The state government of **Chhattisgarh has decided to rename the state's new capital city Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar** in the memory of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The decision was taken during the state's cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Raman Singh on August 21, 2018.
- The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to set up a **Cyclone Warning Centre in Thiruvananthapuram**. The centre is expected to come up by October.
- Online travel firm **MakeMyTrip** in August 2018 said it has signed an agreement with **Indonesian tourism ministry** to promote the Southeast Asian country as a preferred destination in India.
- The Union Government on August 22, 2018 unveiled a draft scheme for extending the affordable air travel programme- **UDAN** to international circuits, with state governments identifying the routes for operation.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on August 20, 2018 notified **new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs**.
- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the '**International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018**' in **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on August 23, 2018**. The Minister of State (Independent charge), KJ Alphons will preside over the inaugural function.
- The UIDAI has directed the Aadhaar enrolment agencies in Kerala, including banks and post offices, **to facilitate retrieval of the 12-digit number and provide free printouts to Aadhaar-holders** who have lost their document in the flood-hit state.
- **India wins first ever bronze medal in sepak takraw in Asian Games 2018.**
- The Day 4 of Asian Games 2018 has taken off for India with shooter **Rahi Sarnobat winning the 4th gold in the finals of women's 25m pistol event**. With the feat, she has become **the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games**.
- The NASA scientists, using data from the **Chandrayaan-I spacecraft**, on August 21, 2018 confirmed that there are frozen water deposits in the darkest and coolest parts of Moon's Polar Regions.
- For the first time in its 20-year history, an executive **Dheemanth Nagaraj** at the Intel India Design Centre has earned the distinction of being **designated an Intel Fellow**.
- **Asian Games gold medalist athlete Hakam Singh passed away** on August 14, 2018 at a private hospital in Sangrur, Punjab.
- **Senior Congress leader Gurudas Kamat passed away** on August 22, 2018 after a brief illness.

- To promote the tribal handicraft and handloom products of the region and to showcase it to the world the essence of ethnicity, the northeastern province of **Nagaland** hosted the first ever '**Aadi Mahotsav**' under the aegis of the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **inaugurated various projects in Junagadh district**.
- Justice Dipak Misra, the Chief Justice of India, on August 23, 2018 **launched three applications for the benefit of the litigants and lawyers during an event at the Supreme Court of India**.
- The Chief Minister of Punjab, Amarinder Singh on August 21, 2018 announced that the state cabinet has **approved amendments to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to make sacrilege of all religious text punishable with life imprisonment**.
- The NITI Aayog on August 23, 2018 released the **five Thematic Reports on Sustainable Development in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)**, listing the challenges in all the defined 5 thematic areas.
- Young Indian shooter **Shardul Vihan has won India's 17th Asiad medal on Day 5 of Asian Games 2018**. The 15-year-old won silver in the finals of the men's double trap event. Earlier in the day, **Ankita Raina** won bronze in tennis women's singles event, after she lost to 4-6, 7-6 against China's Zhang Shuai in the semifinals.
- Veteran India pacer **Jhulan Goswami** in August 2018 announced her retirement from T20 Internationals with immediate effect.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** on August 23, 2018 **reassigned the Finance and Corporate Affairs portfolios to Union Minister Arun Jaitley**.
- Veteran journalist, author and human rights activist, **Kuldip Nayar** passed away on August 23, 2018.
- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has announced a **new measure that seeks to facial recognition mandatory for every authentication that requires Aadhaar**. The information was shared by UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey on August 24.
- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das on August 23, 2018 inaugurated **the five-day International Colour Festival** in which artists would depict the state's image in their canvases.
- Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat has said that **Election Commission is ready for hundred per cent use of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines (VVPAT)**.
- The Supreme Court on August 24, 2018 **turned down the pleas seeking cancellation of elections to over 20,000 uncontested local body seats in West Bengal**.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) issued an advisory on August 21, 2018, directing all **the universities and higher education institutions to ban sale of junk food on their campuses**.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on August 23, 2018 announced that the School of Management and Entrepreneurship will be renamed to '**Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship**', as a tribute to the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **India and China** on August 23, 2018 decided to work towards a new bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Exchanges and Cooperation to replace the MoU signed in 2006.
- **Prasar Bharati and Mizzima Media of Myanmar** signed a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2018. This will boost centuries old ties between India and Myanmar. It will also strengthen India's soft power in its neighbourhood.
- **The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Exercise** began in August 2018, bringing Indian and Pakistani militaries to participate for the first time in a joint exercise under the anti-terror setting.
- **Sweden** on August 23, 2018 released a handbook of its "**feminist foreign policy**" for rights groups and foreign governments, showcasing lessons from the nation's flagship approach to promote women's rights globally.

- The United States had imposed **25 percent tariffs on 16 billion dollar worth of Chinese goods coming into the US**. China immediately imposed retaliatory taxes on the same value of American products.
- **The fourth Summit of Heads of State/Government of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal on August 30-31, 2018.**
- The Indian tennis duo of **Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan clinched the 6th gold medal for India on Day 6 of Asian Games 2018**, after they beat Kazakhstan's Denis Yevseyev and Aleksandr Bublik 6-3, 6-4 in the men's doubles tennis event.
- **Former India opener Lalchand Rajput** has been appointed as the head coach of Zimbabwe's national team. Zimbabwe Cricket made the announcement on their official Twitter handle.
- Veteran Marathi actor **Vijay Chavan**, known for his comic roles, passed away at a hospital in Mumbai on August 24, 2018 after a prolonged illness. He was 63.
- Former President Pranab Mukherjee on August 24, 2018 launched the **National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application to rate Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)**.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in August 2018 said 126 MW wind power capacity, **part of country's first inter state transmission system (ISTS) auction, is commissioned in Bhuj.**
- A very relentless **Japanese side overpowered Spain to lift their first ever Under 20 Women's World Cup**, beating Spain 3-1 in France in August 2018.
- **Fouaad Mirza became the first Indian to win an Asian Games individual medal in the equestrian event since 1982** besides guiding the country to a second-place finish in the team competition here.
- The Government in August 2018 appointed eminent scientist **Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy** as the Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **"Atal Ji Ne Kaha"** is Authored and compiled by **Brijendra Rehi** on the BJP patriarch and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched in August 2018 with a message by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- PepsiCo's India-born **CEO Indra Nooyi will be honoured with the Game Changer of the Year award** by a global cultural organisation in recognition of her business achievements, humanitarian record and advocacy for women and girls around the world.
- The Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the state's Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- **India has finally approved guidelines to bring the use of drones under a legal framework. If all goes well, from December**, drones can be used for purpose like mapping, surveying and photography, which till now was illegal due to absence of any guidelines.
- **Airtel and Netflix in August 2018 announced an expansion of their partnership in India through which subscribers of select Airtel Postpaid and V-Fiber Home Broadband plans will receive a three-month gift of a Netflix subscription.**
- **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the second phase of the FAME India scheme on September 7, 2018.** The scheme offers incentives for mass adoption of electric vehicles with an outlay of Rs 5,500 crore.
- **Global investment bank Goldman Sachs** in August 2018 said it has appointed **Prachi Mishra** as the managing director and chief India economist.
- **Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin-thrower to win an Asian Games gold medal** as he shattered his own national record by clearing a distance of 88.06m in Jakarta in August 2018.

- **India's medal account opened on Day 9 of the 18th Asian Games with star shuttler Saina Nehwal winning a historic bronze** after losing to World No.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in women's singles semifinals.
- **Former Bengal opener and captain Gopal Bose passed away at Birmingham on August 26, 2018.** Bose passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest at a Birmingham hospital.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda on August 27, 2018 announced that 29 States and Union Territories (UTs) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY)**.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation on August 27, 2018 issued the **Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)** or regulations for civil use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) commonly known as drones.
- The Supreme Court ruled that the vision document on protection and preservation of the Taj Mahal in Agra should be prepared taking into account issues like pollution in the **Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) and industries operating there.**
- Veteran Indian development **economist Satya S Tripathi has been appointed as the Assistant Secretary General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** by UN Chief Antonio Guterres.
- India's gold account opened on Day 10 of the 18th Asian Games with **Manjit Singh**, who came first in the men's 800m final with a timing of 1.46.15. **Jinson Johnson** followed close behind with a timing of 1.46.35 to finish at the second place. The Indians secured the gold and silver medals.
- European Space Agency (ESA) successfully launched **wind-sensing satellite** named '**Aeolus**' into **orbit on board of Vega rocket from French Guyana.**
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on August 28, 2018 unveiled the details of the **Gaganyaan mission** for manned space flight before 2022.
- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued advisory to all states and Union Territories **to not allow manufacture, sale and advertisement of e-cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).**
- Union Government and European Union (EU) collaborated for research programme named '**Horizon 2020**' to develop Next Generation Influenza Vaccine to protect citizens across the globe.
- **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, India's Ministry of Science and Technology, and the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which aims at enhancing innovation for the clean energy transition. The parties signed the agreement in New Delhi.
- Search engine giant Google launched **Project Navlekha** to make online content relevant for more Indian users especially in local languages.
- The Assam government on August 29, 2018 issued a notification declaring the entire state as "**a disturbed area**" and extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for six more months in the state.
- The third edition of world's biggest open innovation model '**Smart India Hackathon 2019**' was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi on August 29, 2018.
- **Google** on August 28, 2018 said it has partnered with **Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Ltd (APSFNL)** to facilitate Internet access to more than 12,000 villages, benefitting around 10 million people.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on August 29, 2018 gave its approval for implementation of an umbrella scheme '**Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)**'.

- **The Union Government has constituted a 21-member science and technology council** to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on matters related to science, technology and innovations.
- The Punjab state assembly on August 28, 2018 passed the Police (Amendment) Bill 2018 that would pave way for setting up of a **State Security Commission for selection of the director general of police (DGP)**.
- **India's gold medal account on Day 12 of the 18th Asian Games opened with Jinson Johnson**, who with a time of 3:44:72 finished first in the men's 1500m final. Johnson, who had won the silver in 800m, took the gold this time, **while Manjit Singh, who had won the gold in 800m, finished fourth**.
- The **6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting** began in **Singapore** on August 30, 2018.
- The **4th BIMSTEC Summit began on August 30, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal**. The two-day Summit will be held during August 30-31, 2018 with the main focus on countering terrorism, enhancing regional connectivity and boosting trade.
- **Russian military** successfully conducted a test launch of a **new interceptor missile for Russia's missile defense system**.
- The **first South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum** began in Kathmandu on August 28, 2018.
- **French Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot resigned** on August 28, 2018 in frustration over sluggish progress on climate goals and nuclear energy policy, dealing a major blow to President Emmanuel Macron's already tarnished green credentials.
- **India on August 29, 2018 observed the National Sports Day 2018** to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand who was born on August 29, 1905.
- Pindara Thakur village under coveted **Amethi parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi would go fully digital from September 1, 2018**.
- The Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar on August 30, 2018 launched the **Innovation Cell and Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) in New Delhi**.
- The Supreme Court on August 31, 2018 adjourned hearing on petitions challenging constitutional validity of **Article 35 A to second week of January 2019**.
- **Sunil Mehta**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Punjab National Bank has been elected as the new **Chairman of Indian Bank's Association (IBA) for 2018-19**.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** on August 30, 2018 nominated senior IAS officer **Anand Kumar** as the **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Rajasthan replacing Ashwini Bhagat**.
- **Defending champion Nitu (48kg)** claimed her second successive gold at the world youth boxing championships with a gritty performance in the **final in Budapest on August 30, 2018**.
- India clinched three medals in sailing on Day 13 of the 18th Asian Games with **Varsha Gautham and Sweta Shervegar winning silver in the 49er FX women's event**, **Harshita Tomar** claiming bronze in the Open Laser 4.7 event and **Varun Thakkar Ashok and Chengappa Ganapathy Kelapanda** settling for bronze the 49er men's event.