

1 August 2018

Banking

Reserve bank of India

Economy

Place

Chandigarh for DNA forensic

Banking

The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the RBI on 1 August 2018 decided to increase the repo rate by 25 basis points. What is the new Repo Rate? – 6.5%

Explanation: The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to increase the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.5% due to inflation concerns. This was announced in the Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy review meeting held on 1 August 2018. Five members of the MPC voted for the rate hike.

Repo Rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. Reverse repo, the rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks within the country, is adjusted to 6.25%.

The RBI has projected the inflation at 4.6 per cent in Q2, 4.8% in H2 of 2018-19 and 5.0% in Q1 of 2019-20 “with risks evenly balanced”.

Science

What is the name given to the brand new shape discovered by the scientists that is being heralded as the newest addition to geometry? – “Scutoid”

Explanation: “Scutoid” is the name given to the newest shape discovered by the scientists in human cells. This discovery was made while studying nature’s way of moulding tissue to form the skin, cavity linings and the building blocks of organs.

The shape has five sides on one end and six on the other and a triangular surface on one of its longer edges. Scientists have referred to it as a twisted prism kind of shape that allows the tissue to mould around organs.

The research that is the result of a US-EU collaboration first discovered the existence of the new shape through computations modelling, which was later confirmed through experiments investigating its presence in different kinds of tissues and animals.

Person

What is the name of the Indian origin woman leader who took over as the CEO of Democratic Party of the United States and thus became the first Indian - American ever to be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of any major US party? - Seema Nanda

Explanation: Indian-American Seema Nanda, who took over as the CEO of the opposition Democratic National Committee, became the first Indian- American ever to be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of either the Democratic National Committee or the Republican National Committee.

In this capacity, she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the powerful Democratic National Committee (DNC).

She would play a key role in party's winning strategy in the mid-term November elections, for which the DNC has set a target of winning back the House of Representatives from the Republicans.

Banking

On 1 August 2018, which bank became the seventh most valued Indian bank by overtaking Yes Bank? – Bandhan Bank

Explanation: Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank Ltd on 1 August 2018 became the seventh most valued listed bank in India, by overtaking Yes Bank.

Data from BSE showed that Bandhan Bank has a market capitalization of Rs. 84,325.35 crore, after its shares moved 1% higher on BSE to record high of Rs. 706.95. Yes Bank’s market cap stood at Rs. 84,262.14 crore

2- 4 August 2018

\$1 Trillion – Apple Inc.
BPL Yojana

Automobile
Maruti Suzuki

Corporate

Which company on 2 August 2018 became the first U.S. company (and also probably of the world) to surpass \$1 trillion in market value? – Apple Inc.

Explanation: American technology giant Apple Inc. became the first-ever U.S. company to surpass \$1 trillion in market capitalization on 2 August 2018. On this day, the shares of the world's most valuable public company rose \$5.89, or 2.9%, to \$207.39, making it worth slightly more than \$1 trillion.

Apple's rise has been propelled by the sustained success of the iPhone developed under late co-founder Steve Jobs, a product visionary who helped revive the company from a death spiral in the late 1990s.

Apple isn't the world's first company to claim the \$1 trillion title. In 2007, PetroChina Co.'s market cap surpassed that level by some measures, though the Chinese oil and gas producer's complicated corporate structure kept most of its shares locked up in government hands.

Outside of the public markets, there is Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Saudi Aramco), the state-owned oil company. It weighed an initial public offering that could value the business at as much as \$2 trillion.

Yojana –BPL

2) Centre's ambitious Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) achieved which milestone target, as was announced on 3 August 2018? – 5 crore beneficiaries

Explanation: Union Minister for Oil and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan on 3 August 2018 announced that Union Government's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has achieved the target of 5 crore LPG connections in less than 28 months. On achieving this milestone figure, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan handed over 5

crore LPG connection under PMUY in the Parliament House.

The Government launched PMUY on 1st May 2016 and it is being implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through its oil marketing companies i.e., IOC, BPCL and HPCL through their network of distributors across the country.

Through PMUY, initially, 5 crore below poverty line (BPL) households were targeted for providing deposit free LPG connections to BPL households by 31 March 2019. In a record time of 28 months for its launch, PMUY achieved the initial target of providing 5 crore LPG connection to BPL households.

Person

Who were appointed as non-official independent directors in Air India on 1 August 2018? - Kumar Mangalam Birla and Y.C. Deveshwar

Explanation: Renowned industrialists Kumar Mangalam Birla and Y.C. Deveshwar were on Wednesday appointed as non-official independent directors in Air India. It is perhaps for the first time that big industrialists like them have been named on the board of a public sector enterprise.

Birla heads the \$44.3 billion multinational Aditya Birla Group, which operates in 35 countries across six continents. Deveshwar is the chairman of ITC, a Kolkata-based company having diversified business in Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector and hotels among others.

Policy

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) during July 2018 banned the use of which three chemicals in printing of packaging materials used for food products? - toluene, titanium acetylacetonate and phthalates

Explanation: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), in an internal meeting on 25 July, decided to restrict use of three chemicals - toluene, titanium acetylacetonate and phthalates in printing of packaging materials used for food products.

Toluene, which is a chemical that is used in paint thinners, is known to migrate between layers of packaging and potentially cause damage to liver and kidneys in humans. Though widely used in

India to print on packaging materials, toluene is banned in food industry across the developed nations.

5-7 August 2018

Place

Mughalsarai Junction is now
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction |
Pepsico – Indira Noori
Rajan Nanda
STATES

Place

1) What is the new name of Uttar Pradesh's iconic Mughalsarai Junction railway station after it was officially renamed on 5 August 2018? – Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction

Explanation: Uttar Pradesh's iconic Mughalsarai Junction was on 5 August 2018 formally renamed after RSS ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay as Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction when BJP president Amit Shah, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took part in a grand renaming event at the station.

Upadhyay was found dead in mysterious circumstances near the Mughalsarai station in February 1968. Mughalsarai is also the birthplace of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Mughalsarai Junction is a century-old railway station on the busy Delhi-Howrah route and is famous for having the largest railway marshaling yard in Asia. It is also the fourth busiest railway junction in India.

On paper, Mughalsarai station got a new name after Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik gave his assent to the proposal in June 2018. From 5 August 2018 the new name made its entry into the railway system and on IRCTC site the name was found after entering the initials DDU.

Corporate

Who will replace Indra Nooyi as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PepsiCo Inc., as was announced by the company on 6 August 2018? - Ramon Laguarta

Explanation: PepsiCo Inc. on 6 August 2018 announced that Indra Nooyi would step down as its long-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO), handing over the reins to company veteran Ramon Laguarta. This change is being done at a time the beverage maker navigates a shrinking global soda market.

Under India-born Nooyi's 12-year tenure as CEO, the sales of Mountain Dew and Gatorade boosted to \$63.5 billion, up 80% from when she started. She is also largely credited with re-shaping Pepsi with tactical mergers and shifting to healthier drinks over sugary sodas - moving to juices and teas. She has been associated with the company for last 24 years.

A 22-year veteran of PepsiCo, Laguarta oversaw global operations, corporate strategy, public policy and government affairs in his role as president. He has also served as CEO of the company's Europe Sub-Saharan Africa division. Laguarta will take over on 3 October 2018 and will also join the board. Nooyi will remain chairman of the board until early 2019.

Corporate

Rajan Nanda, who passed away on 6 August 2018, was a noted industrialist associated with which group? – Escorts Group

Explanation: 76-year old Rajan Nanda was Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the Escorts Group, the noted engineering company that operates in the sectors of agri-machinery, construction and material handling equipment, and railway equipment.

Rajan Nanda had been at the helm of Escorts since 1994. He was married to Hindu cinema icon Raj Kapoor's daughter Ritu. He was Amitabh Bachchan's daughter Shweta's father-in-law.

State

Which state replaced Gujarat as the most investor-friendly state in the latest NCAER State Investment Potential Index (N-SIPI) that was released on 3 August 2018? – Delhi

Explanation: Delhi moved one spot up to replace Gujarat as the most investor-friendly state in the latest State Investment Potential Index (N-SIPI) that was published by Delhi-based think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on 3 August 2018.

This index has been constructed on the basis of six pillars that are classified under the following four broad categories - factor-driven (land and labour), efficiency-driven (infrastructure), growth-driven (economic climate, and political stability and governance), and perceptions driven (responses to the surveys).

It is worth mentioning that Andhra Pradesh topped the list in the business reforms action plan ranking released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

8-10 August 2018

Person

Who was elected as the new Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha in a close election held on 9 August 2018? – Harivansh

Explanation: Harivansh, belonging to the Janata Dal (United), was elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on 9 August 2018. He was the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the post. While he secured 125 votes in his favour, 105 members voted against him.

Harivansh's full name was Harivansh Narayan Singh, but he was inspired by Jaiprakash Narayan and dropped his surname. He is preceded by P.J.Kurien, who completed his term as Deputy Chairman on 1 July 2018. The post has been lying vacant since then.

Congress MP B.K. Hariprasad stood against Harivansh in this election. At the last minute, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) withdrew their candidate Vandana Chavan after it learned of BJD's support to the NDA. Vice-President M.Venkiah Naidu is the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Person -Death

M.Karunanidhi, the stalwart of the Dravid politics of the South and a legendary leader of Tamil Nadu, passed away on 7 August 2018. He had been the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for how many terms? – 5 terms

Explanation: M.Karunanidhi was a 5-time Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He became the third Chief Minister of the state in 1969 when he took his first term as Chief Minister after demise of the then CM and his political guru Annadurai. He

became state's CM later in 1971, 1989, 1996 and 2006. He was President of the Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) since last 50 years. Around 5 years back he had declared his son M.K.Stalin as his political heir.

Karunanidhi breathed his last at Kaveri Hospital in Chennai on 7 August 2018. He was a prolific writer and scriptwriter for Tamil films before his entry into politics. He continued writing film scripts even taking plunge into politics. He was a pillar of the Dravid movement started by Periyar. He was one among the so-called Dravid Trinity, the other two being Periyar and Annadurai.

Despite belonging to a regional party, Karunanidhi's political identity was acknowledged across the country. He was perhaps the only leader who was able to part of every type of coalition government at the Centre – be it Congress-led UPA, the BJP-led NDA or the various opposition fronts.

However, an unprecedented political drama took place after his death at the AIADM government rejected DMK's demand of burial of the late leader on the banks of Marina Beach in Chennai. DMK approached the Madras High Court, which on 8 August 2018 gave its ruling in favour of DMK. Later on that day Karunanidhi was cremated with full state honours at the Marina Beach.

Banking

What is the name of latest version of Android operating system that was officially released by Google's parent company Alphabet Inc. on 6 August 2018? – Pie

Explanation: Google officially released the new version of its highly popular Android mobile operating system on 6 August 2018. This new version has been named Android Pie (or simply Android 9).

Google typically names its new flavors of Android alphabetically and after something sugary. For example, the previous Android version was called Oreo. Before that were Nougat, preceded by Marshmallow and Lollipop.

Android Pie mostly focuses on behind-the-scenes improvements designed to make Android phones work faster while saving precious battery life.

Google's Android is the most dominant mobile operating system on the Earth. It powers almost 9 out of every 10 smartphones shipped globally. So updates in the software could eventually signal changes for how most of the world uses its phones.

Automobile

Which is poised to become the first Maruti Suzuki car to be sold as a Toyota, as was reported in media reports on 6 August 2018? - Maruti Suzuki Baleno

Explanation: Suzuki Motor Corp. is likely to supply as many as 25,000 Maruti Suzuki Baleno premium hatchbacks each year to Toyota Motor Corp. as the car gets set to become the first cross-badged product of the auto makers.

Toyota will start hawking the Baleno through its own dealership network from the first quarter of next fiscal year.

11-16 August 2018

AXIS BANK

Person Sir VS Naipaul
Parker Solar Probe

Banking

Which bank became the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets? – Axis Bank

Explanation: Axis Bank became the first bank in India to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.

This service, which requires a customer to scan their iris on a tablet, will boost the bank's financial inclusion efforts by making Aadhaar authentication process hassle-free and offering easier access to digital banking for consumers especially in the rural parts of the country.

Micro ATMs completely eliminate the requirement of debit cards, passwords, PINs, and user IDs, and empower consumers to avail banking services using only their Aadhaar numbers and biometrics (iris scan/fingerprint scan).

Iris scan technology is completely contactless and as per studies done by International Centre for Biometric Research (ICBR) provides up to 98.2% authentication success rate.

Space

NASA on 12 August 2018 launched the highly ambitious robotic spacecraft mission to probe the outer corona of the Sun. What is the name of this mission that will be the closest-ever mission for Sun? - Parker Solar Probe

Explanation: Parker Solar Probe is the name of the ambitious sun probe launched by the US space agency NASA on 12 August 2018. This is the first time the first time a NASA spacecraft was named after a living person, honoring physicist Eugene Parker, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago.

It will be the first spacecraft to fly into the low solar corona. It will assess the structure and dynamics of the Sun's coronal plasma and magnetic field, the energy flow that heats the solar corona and impels the solar wind, and the mechanisms that accelerate energetic particles. This mission has a timeline till December 2025. On the way the mission will attempt flybys of Venus. Its first science observations will start in December 2018.

Person

Nobel Prize winning author Sir VS Naipaul, who was one of the world's most admired and contentious writers, passed away on 11 August 2018. In which year he was conferred with the Nobel Prize for Literature? – 2001

Explanation: Naipaul's full name was Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul. He was a Trinidadian-British writer who won the 2001 Nobel Prize for Literature. He was born in Trinidad in a family with Indo-Nepalese roots. He published more than thirty books, both of fiction and nonfiction, over some fifty years. He was awarded the Booker Prize in 1971 for his novel "A Free State". He died at his home in London on 11 August 2018 at the age of 85.

Naipaul's grandparents had migrated from India to Trinidad to work as labourers on the sugar plantations. His fiction and non-fiction reflected his personal journey from Trinidad to London

and various stops in developing countries. He primarily wrote about, India, Africa, the Islamic world, and South and North America in his works.

He was often hailed as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. From “A Bend in the River” to “The Enigma of Arrival” to “Finding the Centre” and the extraordinary “A House for Mr. Biswas”, Naipaul’s books explored colonialism and decolonization, exile and the struggles of the everyman in the developing world.

Corporate

Bajaj Electricals Managing Director Anant Bajaj, who passed away on 10 August 2018, was known to have introduced which technology in India? – Internet of Things (IoT)

Explanation: 41-year old Anant Bajaj was the first person to set the Internet of Things (IoT) Trusted Platform in India, connecting to a secure cloud to enable a digitally certified eco-system for connected appliances or objects.

He passed away of a cardiac arrest on 10 August 2018. He was the only son of Bajaj Electricals’ chairman Shekhar Bajaj. He was appointed MD of the company just around 2 months back.

Women

Which force inducted India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations during August 2018? – Delhi Police

Explanation: Delhi Police inducted India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations. Home Minister Rajnath Singh formally inducted the unit on 10 August 2018.

This After rigorous training of around 15 months from specialists all across India and abroad, 36 women commandos from the northeastern states have been inducted into India’s first-ever all women SWAT team. While 13 members are from Assam, rest of them hail from Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Manipur. Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik was behind the idea of the SWAT team.

This new SWAT force was deployed at Red Fort and India Gate during Independence Day celebrations on 15 August 2018. Members of this team are experts in building interventions, counter ambush and VVIP security.

17 – 20 August 2018

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

KOFI ANNAN

Corporate – Bajaj group

National Ease of Living Index

Personality

One of the greatest statesmen of the present Indian era Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away at the age of 93 on 16 August 2018. He was a 3-time Prime Minister of India and one of the founders of the BJP. What was an important fact associated with his term as country’s PM? – He was the first non-Congress Prime Minister to complete a full term

Explanation: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who led the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to path-breaking electoral victories, headed coalitions at the Centre from 1998 to 2004 and became the first non-Congress PM to complete a full term, passed away at the age of 93 on 16 August 2018. He was considered the tallest leader of the present Indian politics and was respected far and wide across party lines.

Vajpayee thrice served as the Prime Minister of India, first for a term of 13 days in 1996, for a period of eleven months from 1998 to 1999, and then for a full term from 1999 to 2004.

He was known for his bold initiatives such as privatization of around 30 public sector undertakings (such as VSNL, BALCO, Modern Foods, Hindustan Zinc, Indian Petrochemicals, etc.), his willingness to take a new approach to Indo-Pak relations, his emphasis to develop basis infrastructure of the country with historic projects like Golden Quadrilateral and PM Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan and his decision to go ahead with nuclear tests in 1998 knowing fully well about the Western response.

Vajpayee was 12-time parliamentarian (10 Lok Sabha terms and 2 Rajya Sabha terms) and took retirement from active politics in 2009 after suffering a stroke. He was admitted to the

All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi with a kidney tract infection and chest congestion on 11 June 2018. He passed away on 16 August 2018.

He was conferred India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee in 2015. He was cremated with full state honours at Rashtriya Smriti Sthal near Rajghat in Delhi on 17 August 2018.

Person

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan passed away on 18 August 2018. In which year he shared the Nobel Peace Prize? – 2001

Explanation: Kofi Annan was a national of African country Ghana and was the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2006. He was the 7th Secretary-General of the body and was the first black African to be appointed to this prestigious post.

He shared the 2001 Nobel Prize for Peace with the UN "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world".

Under his leadership, the UN introduced the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, in which countries of the world committed to ending poverty within 15 years.

Corporate

Which industrial group dethroned the Aditya Birla Group from the fourth position to emerge third most valued group in India (based on market capitalization) during August 2018? - Rahul Bajaj Group

Explanation: Thanks to an amazing stock market ride by Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv, the Pune-based Rahul Bajaj group grabbed third spot, pushing the Aditya Birla group down to fourth position.

On 14 August 2018, the market cap of the Bajaj group's listed companies reached Rs 3.9 trillion compared to the Rs 3.02 trillion of the Aditya Birla group.

The group is, of course, far still behind the top two family group listed companies: the Tatas (market cap of Rs 11.4 trillion) and the Mukesh Ambani group (market cap Rs 7.8 trillion).

The last few years have been unbelievably impressive for Bajaj Group. On 14 August 2013, it was only the eighth largest family business group in the country in terms of market cap, far behind the Tatas, Mukesh Ambani, Mahindra, Vedanta, Sunil Mittal, Aditya Birla, and Sun Pharma.

Living Index 2018

Which city was ranked at top spot in the National Ease of Living Index for 2018 that was released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 13 August 2018? – Pune

Explanation: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Monday released the Ease of living index which ranks 111 cities. The index was topped by Pune. Besides Pune, three other cities in Maharashtra - Navi Mumbai (2nd), and Greater Mumbai (3rd) are the other cities in top 3.

Tirupati, Chandigarh, Thane, Raipur, Indore, Vijayawada and Bhopal also figure in the top 10 list in that order. Among other major cities, Chennai holds 14th rank, Ahmedabad 23rd, Hyderabad 27th, Bengaluru 58th and Delhi 65th.

Rampur in Uttar Pradesh has ranked the worst on the scale with Kohima and Patna on the bottom two and three ranks while Varanasi stands at 33. The index captures the quality of life based on the data collected from the urban local bodies on four parameters, which were further broken down into 15 categories.

Person

Legendary Indian cricketer and former captain Ajit Wadekar passed away on 15 August 2018 at the age of 77. Under his captaincy India had recorded historic Test victories over West Indies and England in which year? – 1971

Explanation: Ajit Wadekar, who deployed his famous spinners to devastating effect and recorded historic series wins in the West Indies and England in 1971, passed away in Mumbai on 15 August 2018. He was 77.

He will always be known for the way he marshalled his spin resources, especially the likes of Bishen Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna and S.

Venkatraghavan who, between them, captured 48 wickets on the 1971 West Indies tour.

In the English summer of 1971, Wadekar employed leg-spinner Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and a strong close-in field, led by the sharp Eknath Solkar, astutely as India stunned the hosts for the first time at The Oval. He also led India to a 2-1 win against England at home in the 1972-73 series.

21 August 2018

Key Words

18th Asian Games
Bajrang Purnia
Neeraj Chopra
Keral
Vinesh Phogat

18th Asian Games

18th Asian Games, the pan-Asia multi-sport event, was inaugurated in a grand opening ceremony held at the Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta in Indonesia on 18 August 2018. The event was officially opened by Indonesia President Joko Widodo. Who was the flag-bearer for the Indian contingent in the march past held during the opening ceremony? – Neeraj Chopra

Explanation: Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the players' march past in the opening ceremony of the 18th Asian Games that was held in Jakarta on 18 August 2018. The Indian players arrived in blue suits, smiling and with small flags in their hands, waving to the crowd. India has sent a contingent of 569 athletes who will participate in a total of 36 sports.

The 18th edition of Asian Games is being co-hosted in two Indonesian cities - Jakarta and Palembang from 18 August to 2 September 2018. This is the first time that two cities are co-hosting an edition of Asian Games, which is held every 4 years.

The motto of these games is "Energy of Asia" in which around 45 Asian countries are participating. Around 11,500 athletes are expected to take part in this multi-sport extravaganza. "Bhin Bhin" - a greater bird-of-paradise, "Atung" - a Bawean deer, and "Kaka" - a Javan rhinoceros, are the official mascots of these games.

Sports

Who won India's first gold medal in the 18th Asian Games on 19 August 2018? – Bajrang Punia

Explanation: Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia bagged country's first gold medal of the 18th Asian Games on 19 August 2018. He defeated Japanese wrestler Takatani Daichi in the 65 kg final by 11-8 in a fascinating bout.

Bajrang, the 24-year old wrestler from Haryana, is India's fastest, most powerful and focused wrestler at the moment. His fitness has been a revelation over the past few seasons, something that keeps him in the game until the last second. The medal is Bajrang's second in Asian Games history, after having clinched silver in the 2014 edition.

However, India's first medal in these games came in the form of a bronze medal that was won in mixed team rifle event (shooting) by Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar.

International

Former cricketer Imran Khan was on 18 August 2018 sworn-in as Pakistan new Prime Minister. Overall he is thePrime Minister of the country – 22nd

Explanation: Former cricketer Imran Khan was sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Pakistan on 18 August 2018, more than two decades after he entered politics. He is the 22nd Prime Minister of the country.

Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party had emerged as the single largest party with 116 seats in the general elections held on 25 July 2018. On 17 August 2018, Khan was elected as the new prime minister of Pakistan by the National Assembly lawmakers, defeating his PML-N rival Shehbaz Sharif.

While he bagged 176 votes, Sharif, the PML-N president and the brother of jailed former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, managed to secure just 96 votes.

Person

What is the name of the author of a landmark report on the conservation of the Western Ghats

who has claimed that the ongoing Kerala floods is partly man-made and had in 2011 predicted such type of calamity for the state? - Madhav Gadgil

Explanation: Madhav Gadgil, who headed the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel formed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2010, has claimed that at least a part of the Kerala floods was "man made".

He has in 2011 also predicted that Kerala is on the verge of facing a major flood calamity as environmental laws are not being followed in the state. Gadgil said that he was quite convinced that the last several years' developments in Kerala have materially compromised its ability to deal with events like this and greatly increased the magnitude of the suffering that we are seeing today. He is also warning that Goa could also face similar conditions in the future.

In its detailed report submitted in 2011, the Gadgil panel had suggested measures for the preservation of the natural environment of the ecologically fragile Western Ghats region. The report had recommended that the entire Western Ghats, spread over six states, including Kerala, be declared ecologically sensitive - and had assigned three levels of ecological sensitivity to regions within the Ghats.

Sports

Who created history on 20 August 2018 by becoming the first-ever Indian woman to win a wrestling gold medal in Asian Games? – **Vinesh Phogat**

Explanation: Vinesh Phogat became the first woman wrestler from India to win a gold medal in Asian Games as she beat Japan's Yuki Irie in Women's Freestyle 50 kg gold medal match on 20 August 2018. Vinesh completely dominated the contest, taking a 4-0 lead initially before stretching it further to 6-2 to pocket the gold medal.

Vinesh had earlier registered a very comfortable 10-0 win in semi-finals against Daulatbike Yakshimuratova of Uzbekistan. She had scored 11-0 victory over South Korea's Kim Hyungjoo in the quarter-finals, after defeating China's Sun Yanan by technical superiority 8-2 in the 1/8 finals. She had won a bronze medal in 2014 Asian Games in Incheon (South Korea).

22 August 2018

Most Important Key Words

One Road One Belt - OBOR
CHINA - MALAYSIA
Saurabh Choudhary
National Sadbhavna Award |

International

Which South-East Asian country on 21 August 2018 announced cancelling major Chinese-backed infrastructure projects thus giving a huge blow to China's ambitious "One Road One Belt" (OBOR) initiative? – Malaysia

Explanation: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on 21 August 2018 that the Chinese-funded \$20 billion East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project and a natural gas pipeline project in Sabah will be canceled for now.

Mahathir made the comments while addressing the media in Beijing during his five-day trip to China. He said the projects, would be canceled until such time as Malaysia can afford it.

The ECRL project was the centerpiece of China's infrastructure push in Malaysia but work has been suspended pending discussions over pricing and graft accusations.

International

Which country unveiled a homegrown fighter aircraft named "Kowsar" on 21 August 2018 to show its prowess in developing indigenous defence technology? – Iran

Explanation: On 21 August 2018 Iran revealed "Kowsar", what it claims is a new domestically-produced fighter jet at a ceremony in Tehran.

Designed and manufactured solely by Iranian military experts, the "Kowsar" is described as a fourth-generation fighter jet, which classifies it among military fighters in service from approximately 1980 to the present day. Much of Iran's weaponry is produced in the country because of international sanctions.

Sports

16-year old Saurabh Chaudhary clinched India's first shooting gold of the 18th Asian Games on 21

August 2018. He achieved this coveted medal in which event of shooting? – Men's 10m air pistol

Explanation: Debutant teenager Saurabh Chaudhary clinched India's first shooting gold of the 18th Asian Games, fetching the top honours in the men's 10m air pistol event on 21 August 2018.

He shot a Games record score of 240.7 to pip Japan's Tomoyuki Matsuda (239.7) in an exciting final. Hobby shooter Abhishek Verma, also making his Asian Games debut at 29, settled for the bronze medal in the same event with a score of 219.3.

Awards

Which former General of the Indian Army was presented awarded with United States (US) 'Legion of Merit' during August 2018 with which he became the second Indian to get this prestigious award? - Dalbir Singh Suhag

Explanation: Former Indian Army chief Gen. Dalbir Singh (retd.) has been awarded with United States (US) 'Legion of Merit' for exceptionally meritorious service as Chief of Army Staff from August 2014 to December 2016.

With this, he became second Indian to get this award, the first being General Rajendrasinghi Jadeja in 1946. 'Legion of Merit' is a military award of United States Armed Forces given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services and achievements. It is awarded to members of the seven uniformed services of the United States as well as to military and political figures of governments.

Awards

Who was honoured with the "Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award" for promoting communal harmony and peace on 20 August 2018? – Gopalkrishna Gandhi

Explanation: Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi was honoured with the "Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award" for 2018 for promoting communal harmony and peace. The award was presented by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 20 August 2018.

This award was constituted in 1992 by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) and carries a

citation and Rs. 10 cash prize. This was the 18th edition of the award.

23 August 2018

Economy

What is the name of the new e-commerce portal launched by Flipkart on 22 August 2018 to sell only unused and returned products or used refurbished products? - 2GUD

Explanation: 2GUD is the name of the new portal launched by Indian e-commerce behemoth Flipkart on 22 August 2018. This portal will only sell unused and returned products or used products which are restored to full functionality by professionals. All products are certified to be fully functional.

At present it is selling mobile phones, laptops, smartwatches, tablets, etc. In the future 2GUD will launch speakers, power banks, smart assistants, hair dyes, hair straightener, TV sets and other 400 product categories.

2GUD has been rolled out on mobile website initially and will be available on desktop soon. Flipkart is also coming out with a mobile app.

State –Policy

Who was appointed as the new Governor of Jammu & Kashmir by the President Ram Nath Kovind on 21 August 2018, to replace N.N. Vohra who held the post for over 10 years? – Satya Pal Malik

Explanation: Satya Pal Malik, the Governor of Bihar, was on 21 August 2018 appointed the new Governor of Jammu & Kashmir by the President Ram Nath Kovind. He replaced Narinder Nath Vohra (N.N. Vohra) who had been holding this post since 25 June 2008.

The appointment of Malik as new J&K Governor assumes importance as the state is under President's rule after the fall of chief minister Mehbooba Mufti-led Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alliance government.

Apart from this important appointment, 6 more new Governors were announced. Lalji Tandon, senior BJP leader from Uttar Pradesh, was appointed as the governor of Bihar; senior BJP leader from Bihar Satyadev Narayan Arya as the governor of Haryana; party colleague Baby Rani

Maurya from Uttar Pradesh as the governor of Uttarakhand.

Ganga Prasad, the governor of Meghalaya, was appointed as governor of Sikkim; Tathagata Roy, the governor of Tripura was named the governor of Meghalaya; and Kaptan Singh Solanki, the governor of Haryana, was made the governor of Tripura.

Sports

On 22 August 2018 who became the first Indian female shooter to win a gold at the Asian Games? - Rahi Sarnobat

Explanation: Rahi Sarnobat achieved a rare feat of becoming the first Indian female shooter to win a gold medal at the Asian Games as she won the gold medal after a nerve-wracking women's 25m air pistol final in Palembang, Indonesia on 22 August 2018.

27-year old Kohlapur-born Rahi held her nerve to pip Thailand's Naphaswan Yangpaiboon in a heart-stopping contest after both were tied at 34 points following 10 series of five shots each, taking it to a shoot-off. The bronze went to South Korea's Kim Minjung.

Place

What will be the new name of Chhattisgarh's Naya Raipur, as was announced by state's Chief Minister Raman Singh on 21 August 2018? – Atal Nagar

Explanation: In the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Government has decided to rename Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar. This was announced by Chief Minister Raman Singh on 21 August 2018.

Naya Raipur is the name of the newly developed administrative capital of Chhattisgarh that is about 17 km south-east of the current capital Raipur. It is India's sixth planned city after Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Chandigarh (Punjab & Haryana), and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra). Vajpayee, the 10th Prime Minister of India, was cremated on 17 August 2018 with full state honour at Smriti Sthal in New Delhi.

24 August 2018

Economy

Which company on 23 August 2018 became the first Indian company to cross Rs. 8 trillion (Rs. 8 lakh crore) market capitalization? - Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)

Explanation: The Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on 23 August 2018 became the first Indian company to cross Rs. 8 trillion (Rs. 8 lakh crore) market capitalization. This happened as company's share prices rose 1.31% to hit a record high of Rs. 1,262.50 on the day. With this company's value reached Rs. 8.01 trillion.

Bullish trend in RIL's shares was partly due to the data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) that showed Reliance Jio continued to add subscribers at a healthy pace.

Person -Policy

Veteran journalist, human rights activist and political commentator Kuldip Nayar passed away on 23 August 2018 at the age of 95. What was the name of his iconic column which used to publish in a number of newspapers and journals? – "Between the Lines"

Explanation: Eminent Indian writer and journalist Kuldip Nayar passed away in New Delhi on 23 August 2018 following a brief illness. He was 95. As a journalist, he had documented in detail, human rights violations by the State. He was also the High Commissioner of India to the U.K. and nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.

He was best known for his syndicated column titled "Between the Lines" which was extremely popular and was published for decades in numerous newspapers and journals. His autobiography was titled "Beyond the Lines" and was published in 2012.

When the Emergency was declared in 1975, Kuldip Nayar was one of the first journalists to be put in jail. Every year since 2000, Nayar had been leading peace activists to light candles on the Independence days of Pakistan and India (14/15 August) at the Attari-Wagah India-Pakistan border near Amritsar.

Banking

The two-day banking event "India Banking Conclave 2018" started from 23 August 2018 at which place? – New Delhi

Explanation: "India Banking Conclave 2018", the 2-day event to dwell on issues including bad loans, plaguing the Indian banks, started from 23 August 2018. Government think tank Niti Aayog and the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) are the host of the event.

The conclave was inaugurated by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who resumed his duties as Finance Minister after a 3-month layoff due to kidney transplant. It is witnessing panel discussions on NPAs, development of banks with changing times, privatisation versus merger and the future of banking, among other issues.

Place

On 23 August 2018 who became the youngest-ever Indian shooter to win a medal at the Asian Games? – Shardul Vihan

Explanation: 15-year old Shardul Vihan, a Class IX student from Meerut, on 23 August 2018 became India's youngest-ever medal at the Asian Games as he won a silver medal in the men's double trap shooting event at the ongoing 18th Asian Games.

Vihan's final score of 74 was just one short of gold medal winner Hyunwo Shin of South Korea. A slight error in judgment cost him the gold in the end but he still made history, becoming the youngest Indian to win a medal in shooting in the Asian Games.

25-27 August 2018

Neta app |

UIDAI |

Maruti Suzuki |

2GUD |

Neta

Former President Pranab Mukherjee on 24 August 2018 launched the National Electoral Transformation or NETA mobile application, a

platform where voters can review and rate their elected representatives and hold them accountable as well. This unique type of app is the brainchild of which 27-year old entrepreneur? – Pratham Mittal

Explanation: NETA or National Electoral Transformation mobile app was launched by former President Pranab Mukherjee on 24 August 2018. This app is the brainchild of 27-year-old entrepreneur Pratham Mittal.

Inspired by the US' approval system, the app seeks to let users rate their MLAs and MPs. It is also being viewed as an instrument to gauge voter sentiment across constituencies in the country. To ensure participation, the app requires a combination of mediums like the app itself, IVR calls, SMS and even offline activation leveraging ASHA and anganwadi workers to collate data on evolving political inclinations.

The platform, in its beta version, has already registered over 1.5 crore verified voters rating and reviewing their local leaders across 543 parliamentary constituencies and 4,120 assembly constituencies over the last eight months. It is available on Android and iOS and web in 16 languages to cater to a diverse user profile.

International

Who was chosen as the new Prime Minister of Australia after winning a three-way battle for the leadership of the Liberal party on 24 August 2018? - Scott Morrison

Explanation: Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison will become Australia's new Prime Minister after winning a Liberal party leadership vote on 24 August 2018. He emerged victorious from a three-way race with former home affairs minister Peter Dutton and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

Morrison became country's 30th Prime Minister. Incumbent Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who called the leadership meeting after losing the majority support of the party, opted not to contest the vote.

The Liberal party is the senior partner in the ruling conservative coalition. The Liberal-National government has consistently trailed opposition Labor in opinion polls in recent months.

Automobile

Which car manufacturer launched a first-of-its-kind motorcycle-based roadside service initiative for car owners on 24 August 2018 that is designed to reach the car owner in a shorter time? – Maruti Suzuki

Explanation: Country's biggest car maker Maruti Suzuki on 24 August 2018 rolled out a motorcycle-based roadside service initiative for car owners, a first by any carmaker. Designed to reach the car owner in a shorter time, the initiative complements the existing roadside assistance that runs on 415 vans.

The Suzuki owned company flagged off a fleet of 350 Suzuki bikes that will service customers in 251 cities. The number of cities will be expanded to 500 by 2020.

Maruti Suzuki claimed that the service is equipped to cater to 90% of the problems faced by a customer on roads. The company is of the view that in many cases the heavy traffic in cities does not allow vans to reach customers on time and causes stress and anxiety.

UIDAI

What will be an essential security feature to get a new SIM card on or after 15 September 2018, as was announced by the UIDAI during August 2018? – Facial Verification

Explanation: The face-recognition will be an additional security feature for obtaining a new SIM card in India on or after 15 September 2018. This feature will be mandatory along with the already available fingerprint and iris (eyes) verification.

According to the media reports of 24 August 2018, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has proposed a two-factor authentication for use of face recognition by telecom companies. Where an individual provides Aadhaar number, the authentication will be done using fingerprint or iris and face. For individuals providing Virtual ID, the authentication can be on basis of fingerprint or iris.

In case an individual is unable to authenticate fingerprint or iris, face authentication can be used as an additional mode.

The move is aimed at curbing the possibility of fingerprint spoofing or cloning, and seeks to

tighten the audit process and security around issuance and activation of mobile SIMs.

28 August 2018

Sports

Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin-thrower to win an Asian Games gold medal as he shattered his own national record at the ongoing 18th Asian Games in Jakarta on 27 August 2018. What is his new record? – 88.06m

Explanation: 20-year old Neeraj Chopra's winning throw came in his third attempt. He began with 83.46m and fouled the second attempt. With this golden performance Chopra became the first Indian javelin-thrower to win an Asian Games gold medal.

Liu Qizhen of China was a distant second, with a best throw of 82.22m, while Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the bronze with a 80.75 effort.

Chopra's gold is only the second medal India has won in javelin throw in Asian Games history after Gurtej Singh won bronze in 1982 in New Delhi. He was India's flag bearer in the opening ceremony of the Games.

Airways

India's first-ever biofuel run flight was successfully tested on 27 August 2018 with a Bombardier Q400 flight from Dehradun to Delhi. Which airline conducted this flight? – SpiceJet

Explanation: A 72-seater SpiceJet Bombardier Q400 aircraft created history of sorts as it completed its flight from Dehradun to Delhi successfully on 27 August 2018. This was India's first biofuel-powered flight that aims to reduce costs of air travel by replacing the costly aviation turbine fuel.

SpiceJet's biofuel is a mix of the oil extracted from the seeds of Jatropha plant and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). Five hundred farmer families in Chhattisgarh are involved in the production of the partially-refined biofuel used in this flight. The biofuel used for this trial flight, developed by Dehradun-based Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), was rigorously tested to ensure flight safety.

While 25% of the right engine of the aircraft will have the biofuel mix, the left engine will run on aviation turbine fuel. The efficiency of the engine

running on biofuel is expected to be slightly higher than that of the other engine.

State

A local authority of which state had launched the bonds titled 'Amaravati Bond 2018', which were listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on 27 August 2018? – Andhra Pradesh

Explanation: To raise funds to build Andhra Pradesh's capital Amaravati, the state government has tapped the capital markets with the listing of bonds issued by AP Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for Rs. 2,000 crore on 27 August 2018 on the BSE.

These bonds are being touted as the largest bonds issue in the country from a local authority. Earlier bonds worth Rs. 2,000 crore were floated by the APCRDA. The bonds were lapped up in a one-hour offer window on the BSE's electronic platform on 14 August 2018.

Space

What is the name of the world's first satellite capable of wind-sensing that was launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) during August 2018? – Aeolus

Explanation: "Aeolus" is the name of the first-of-its-kind wind-sensing satellite that was launched by the European Space Agency (ESA). This satellite was launched through the Vega rocket from ESA's French Guyana-based launch station on 24 August 2018.

Aboard this satellite is a laser that will measure wind speeds across the globe. Aeolus could vastly increase the data scientists have on wind speeds, improving weather forecasting and providing new resources to climate researchers.

The ESA began the Aeolus project way back in 2002, but the laser instrument was more challenging to design than anyone expected. It was supposed to launch in 2007 originally.

31 August 2018

International Summit

The 4th Summit of BIMSTEC nations was held in which city on 30-31 August 2018? – Kathmandu (Nepal)

Explanation: Nepalese capital Kathmandu hosted the 4th Summit of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) on 30-31 August 2018. The theme of this summit was 'Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region'.

BIMSTEC comprises of seven countries lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The bloc brings together 1.5 billion people, or 21% of the world's population, and has a combined GDP of \$2.5 trillion.

It was established on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration and its main objective is technical and economic cooperation among South Asian and Southeast Asian countries along the rim of the Bay of Bengal.

Climate

Which place became the wettest place in India during 2018, leaving behind Meghalaya's Cherrapunjee, as was disclosed in the data released by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on 29 August 2018? - Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra)

Explanation: Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar has become the wettest place in India this year, leaving behind Meghalaya's Cherrapunjee.

Between 1 June and 28 August 2018, Cherrapunji received 4,730.2 mm rainfall as compared to 6,960 mm in the same period last year. Mahabaleshwar has received 5,619 mm rainfall between the same period, which is 100 mm more than the entire season last year.

In over two decades, such an instance happened in the monsoon of 1994, 2006, 2013 and now in 2018. Mawsynram and Cherrapunji, both in Meghalaya, are generally considered the wettest places on earth because of the amount of rain they receive.

Currency

Indian rupee breached which mark for the first (in comparison to the U.S. dollar) on 31 August 2018? – Rs. 71 per dollar

Explanation: The Indian rupee breached the Rs. 71 mark for the first time in the morning trade on 31 August 2018. The value of the Rupee has

depreciated around 11% year to date. Higher crude oil prices, demand from defense and oil marketing firms have contributed to the latest bout of weakness.

Apart from domestic dollar demand, weakness in Asian currencies also weighed on the rupee.

Sports

Who became the first-ever cricketer in history to feature in each of his team's first 100 ODIs? - Mohammad Nabi (Afghanistan)

Explanation: Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi became the first cricketer in history to feature in each of his team's first 100 one-day internationals (ODIs), achieving the feat in the second ODI against Ireland on 29 August 2018.

Nabi had made his debut in Afghanistan's first-ever ODI on 19 April 2009 and has since featured in country's every ODI. No other player has featured even in each of his country's first 50 ODI matches.

EDGE ACADEMY