

## CURRENTAFFAIRS SNIPPETS: JULY 2018

### BUSINESS & TRADE

#### **Wings: BSNL launches India's first internet telephony service**

State-run telecom firm BSNL through its mobile app 'Wings' launched India's first internet telephony service. Through this app, BSNL customers will be able to make calls to any phone number, domestic or international. Before this service, phone calls on mobile apps were possible within users of particular app (such as Whatsapp, Duo etc) and not on telephone numbers.

#### **1st India Tourism Mart to be held in New Delhi in September 2018**

The first India Tourism Mart will be held in New Delhi from 16 September 2018 to create a global tourism mart for India on lines of major international travel marts. It will be organized by Ministry of Tourism in partnership with Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality. India Convention Promotion Board will coordinate the whole event.

#### **Samsung inaugurates world's largest mobile phone factory in Noida**

South Korean technology giant Samsung inaugurated the world's largest mobile manufacturing unit in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

#### **The telecommunication ministry approved merging of Idea and Vodafone**

The Department of Telecommunications approved the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular which will create the country's largest mobile services operator. The department has asked Idea Cellular to pay Rs. 3,926 crore in cash for Vodafone's spectrum and furnish a bank guarantee of Rs. 3,342 crore. The combined operations of Idea and Vodafone will create the country's largest telecom operator worth more than over Rs. 1.5 lakh crore, with a 35% market share and a subscriber base of about 430 million

#### **Reliance Industries becomes India's largest taxpayer in the private sector**

Mukesh Ambani led RIL is India's largest payer of GST, Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector. RIL's consolidated net profit for the fourth-quarter (January-March) of fiscal 2017-18 stood at Rs. 9,435 crore, up by 17.3 per cent on a year-on-year basis

### GOVERNMENT

#### **cVigil: Election Commission launches app to report model code violations**

The Election Commission of India has launched cVigil mobile application for citizens to report any violation of the Model Code of Conduct during elections. The app aims at empowering people across the country to share evidence of malpractice by political parties, their candidates and activists directly with ECI. At present its beta version has been released and will be made available for use during forthcoming Assembly elections Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan.

#### **India's first taxi ambulance services launched in Delhi**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari flagged off taxi ambulance services, offered by a Gurugram-based startup Wagon Cab. The drivers will approach accident victims as soon as they are notified and will get an additional Rs.500 for every victim that they tend to. CEO & Co-founder of Wagon Cab:- Uttam Bose

#### **Bengaluru to get India's first government run eWaste recycling plant**

Union minister of chemicals and fertilisers Ananth Kumar announced that India's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru. Bengaluru is also the third in terms of e-waste generation in the country. The e-waste recycling unit will be set up by the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology.

#### **India to host 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology**

India will host the "International Union of Food Science and Technology 2018" in Navi Mumbai from October 23-27, 2018. The focal theme for this 19th edition of the prestigious congress is 25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe

and Diverse Foods. IAS, Secretary to Govt. of India & CEO of FSSAI - Pawan Agarwal. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries - Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

### **West Bengal Assembly passes resolution to rename state as Bangla**

West Bengal state assembly dominated by Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool **Congress** Government has unanimously passed resolution to change state's name to 'Bangla' in all three languages – Bengali, Hindi and English. The name change will only become official when resolution gets approval from Union Home Ministry and Parliament passes Bill.

### **Atal Innovation Mission: NITI Aayog and MyGov launches Innovate India Platform**

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov have jointly launched '#InnovateIndia Platform', a citizen centric platform that aims to serve as common point for all innovation happening across the nation. It will help those who are searching for critical innovation for benefit of the economy as well as national social needs.

### **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana: Government cuts minimum annual deposit requirement to Rs 250**

The minimum yearly deposit required under popular girl child savings scheme has been reduced to Rs 250 from Rs 1,000. This has been lowered to enable more people to enjoy benefits of this scheme. Sukanya Samridhi scheme was launched in 2015. Till November 2017, more than 1.26 crore accounts were opened across the country securing an amount of Rs 19,183 crore.

### **NCERT to introduce QR code in textbooks**

The process of introducing QR code (Quick Response code) in textbooks is aimed at helping students understand chapters better by watching film or reading additional content on laptops and digital boards.

### **SAFAR: Most advanced System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting inaugurated in Delhi**

Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System—SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Delhi. It will monitor all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed and wind direction. It also will measure sun's UV-Index (UVI), PM1, Mercury and Black carbon in real time in addition to regular air quality

and weather parameters like PM2.5, PM10, Sulfur Dioxide, Ozone, Nitrogen Oxides, Carbon Monoxide.

### **NABARD launches South East Asia's first ever Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow**

The first of its kind in South East Asia, centre aims at accelerating concerted climate action by various stakeholders in government, private, financial and non-government sectors.

### **BJP led NDA Government wins No Confidence motion in Lok Sabha**

Moved by TDP, this was first no-trust motion against Narendra Modi government after it came to power in May 2014 and less than year before the next general elections.

### **India to remain fastest growing major economy till 2019-20: ADB**

According to Asian Development Bank, India will continue to be fastest growing major economy, ahead of China, with growth rate of 7.3% in 2018-19 and 7.6% in 2019-20. The growth projections were supplement to ADB's Asian Development Outlook.

### **RBI to issue new 100 rupee notes in lavender colour**

RBI will shortly issue new Rs. 100 denomination banknotes in lavender colour in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The front side of new Rs. 100 note depicts Mahatma Gandhi's face and back side features motif of "RANI KI VAV", highlighting the country's cultural heritage. Rani ki Vav, a UNESCO world heritage step well site in Patan, Gujarat built in memory the 11th century king Bhima.

### **PM lays foundation of first ever Mobile Open Exchange Zone at World Trade Centre, Noida**

UP government had signed MoU with World Trade Centre, Noida at UP Investors Summit to develop Tech Zone which will act as catalyst for growth of mobile and allied sectors in the state.

## INDIA'S GLOBAL RANKINGS

### **Global Innovation Index: India ranks 57<sup>th</sup>**

In recently released Global Innovation Index 2018, India was ranked 57<sup>th</sup> among 130 countries. It was 11<sup>th</sup> edition of GII and was jointly released by Cornell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual

Property Organization. This year, India has moved up 3 places as compared to 60<sup>th</sup> rank in GII 2017 and emerged as top-ranked economy in Central and South Asia.

### **India ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in 2018 AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index**

India has fallen out of top 10 destinations for FDI in terms of its attractiveness according to 2018 Kearney FDI Confidence Index, in which it was ranked 11<sup>th</sup>, down from 8<sup>th</sup> in 2017 and 9<sup>th</sup> in 2016. The index was released by report published by global consultancy firm A T Kearney.

## INTERNATIONAL

### **UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2427 to protect children in armed conflict**

The UN Security Council has adopted Resolution 2427 aimed at providing legal framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle. The resolution has won unanimous approval of the 15 members of the council.

### **6<sup>th</sup> edition of biennial World Cities Summit held in Singapore**

The sixth edition of biennial World Cities Summit was held in Singapore from July 8 - 12, 2018. Its theme was "Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration". The summit was held together with Singapore International Water Week and CleanEnviro Summit Singapore.

### **New Zealand scientists performed the world's first 3D colour X-ray on human body**

With the support of CERN Physics lab, The new colour X-ray imaging technique is able to produce clearer and more accurate images which would help doctors in getting a more accurate diagnoses to the patients

### **Myanmar joins International Solar Alliance**

Myanmar has joined India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), making it 68<sup>th</sup> signatory to Framework Agreement of ISA. The ISA Framework Agreement was handed over by Myanmar Minister for International Cooperation, Kyaw Tin to India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on sidelines of Delhi Dialogue.

### **India to host inaugural 2+2 Dialogue with the US in September 2018**

India is going to host inaugural 2+2 Dialogue with the US in September 2018 in New Delhi. In the inaugural meeting, Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will host US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and US Secretary of Defence James Mattis. The meeting will cover broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interest, with a view to strengthening strategic and security ties between the two countries. Both nations will discuss strengthening of strategic, security and defense cooperation as both nations have committed to jointly address challenges in Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

### **4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in August 2018**

The fourth edition of BIMSTEC will be held in Kathmandu, capital city of from 30 to 31 August, 2018. The main focus of summit will be to increase connectivity between BIMSTEC nations including roads, airways and transmission lines. It will also give top priority connectivity and poverty alleviation.

## AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE

### **ISRO conducts first test of crew escape module for India's manned mission to space**

ISRO successfully conducted test of Crew Escape System that provides escape mechanism for astronauts if the launch operation is aborted. The crew escape system is being developed as part of the he proposed human spaceflight program me. It was first pad abort test critical for future human space mission that demonstrated safe recovery of crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad. The test lasted little more than three minutes and involved aborting space capsule at launch to save astronaut.

### **Tejas: Indigenous fighter aircraft commences operations from Sullur Air Force Station**

Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron of Indian Air Force has formally commenced operations from Sullur Air Force Station in Tamil Nadu. With deployment of Tejas, its squadron 'Flying Daggers' took up active wartime role towards safeguarding national skies.

### **NASAMS-II: India plans to procure advanced air defence system from US**

India is in talks with United States to procure National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II), an advanced air defence system at \$1 billion to defend National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks. The proposal is in Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) stage now which was approved by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

### **Scientists develop world's fastest man-made spinning object**

Scientists have developed world's fastest rotor, which will help in studying quantum mechanics. The rotor can spin at more than 60 billion revolutions per minute,

### **NASA launches Remote Sensing Toolkit to promote commercial use of satellite data**

The toolkit was launched as part of NASA's Technology Transfer program that offers open remote-sensing data benefiting scientific community, other government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

### **SpaceX Falcon 9 successfully launches heaviest communications satellite and sets record**

SpaceX successfully launched communications satellite Telstar 19 VANTAGE to a geostationary transfer orbit. It has set a record as the satellite launch is marked by the heaviest payload that a Falcon 9 has ever carried to a GTO. The satellite weights over 7000 kg.

### **Blood Moon 2018: Century's longest lunar eclipse of 1 hour 43 minutes seen**

Blood Moon 2018 or century's (2001 AD to 2100 AD) longest total lunar eclipse of 1 hour 43 minutes occurred on July 27-28, 2018. The rare celestial event was visible from all parts of India. It was majorly seen in Eastern Hemisphere including Central Asia, Eastern Africa and South East Asia.

## PERSONALITIES

### **Martin Schwenk appointed as new MD and CEO of Mercedes Benz India**

Schwenk will take charge from November 1 by replacing Roland Folger, who will assume a new position for Mercedes-Benz's Thailand and Vietnam markets. Schwenk is currently the CFO of Beijing Mercedes-Benz Sales Service Co. in China.

### **Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif sentenced to 10 years in jail**

Mr. Sharif was disqualified as Prime Minister in July 2017 by the Supreme Court over the purchase of high-end properties in London, worth over £200 million. His daughter Maryam Nawaz was sentenced to seven years in jail and and son-in-law captain (retired) Safdar awarded one-year jail term. The court also imposed a fine of £8 million on Mr. Sharif and £2 million on Ms. Maryam.

## SPORTS

### **Dipa Karmakar: First Indian to win gold in Gymnastics World Challenge Cup**

India's leading gymnasts Dipa Karmakar created history by becoming first Indian gymnast to win gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey. This is her first medal in World Challenge Cup. Dipa Karmakar scored 14.150 to clinch the gold medal. Dipa also topped qualification with score of 13.400.

### **Australian captain Aaron Finch posts highest ever International T20 individual score**

Aaron Finch the Australian captain hit 172 runs, the highest T20I scores, against Zimbabwe in the ongoing tri-series. He broke his own record of 156 runs. Finch and D'Arcy Short shared a 223-run opening stand and created the record for the highest opening partnership in the shortest format of the international-level game. The previous record was held by Martin Guptill and Kane Williamson, 171 runs, between New Zealand and Pakistan in 2016.

### **Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix**

Verstappen (20-year-old Dutch driver) won Red Bull's home Austrian Grand Prix Formula One to claim his first win of the season. KimiRaikkonen was a close second, with teammate Vettel third.

### **Australia won Hockey Champions Trophy Final 2018, India finish Runners Up**

India lost 1-3 to Australia in the final match of "Champions Trophy Hockey 2018" held in Breda, the Netherlands. India captain PR Sreejesh receives

the award for the best goalkeeper of the tournament. The Netherlands beat Olympic champions Argentina 2-0 to win the bronze medal playoff.

### **Hima Das starts favourite to win gold at World U-20 Champion**

Hima Das is an Indian sprinter. She is the first Indian track athlete to win a medal at any global event. Hima Das won gold medal in women's 400m at World U-20 Championships 2018 at Tampere, Finland, Clocking a time of 51.46 seconds

### **France wins 2018 FIFA World Cup football title**

France has won 2018 FIFA World Cup football by defeating Croatia by 4-2 goals in the final match held in Moscow, Russia . It was France's second World Cup crown after it had won it in 1998 (by defeating Brazil) on home soil. With this, victory France joins Uruguay and Argentina in winning World Cup for a second time. It was Croatia's first World Cup final appearance and smallest country ever to reach final in the modern era.

### **Fakhar Zaman becomes the quickest to reach 1000 runs in ODIs**

In the fifth ODI in Bulawayo against Zimbabwe, Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman became the fastest man to reach 1000 runs in one-day internationals. The left-handed opening batsman took 18 innings to reach the milestone and broke record of Sir Vivian Richards and a few others, who completed 1000 ODI runs in 21 innings.

### **Lakshya Sen stuns number 1 ranked Kunlavut Vitidsarn to win Badminton Asia Junior Championship 2018**

The 16 year old Lakshya Sen created history as he became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian to win the Badminton Asia Junior Championship, beating the Junior number 1 ranked Kunlavut Vitidsarn in two straight games at Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **Government selects 734 athletes for Khelo-India scholarships**

Sports Authority of India under Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has cleared 734 athletes for the scholarship under the Khelo India Talent

Development Scheme. They were selected High Powered Committee of SAI. Through this programme, the athletes will get training at government-accredited residential academies. They will be provided with annual stipend of Rs. 1,20,000 on quarterly basis to meet their out of pocket expenses, treatment of injuries and other expenses.

### AWARDS AND HONOUR

#### **Andhra Pradesh tops Ease Of Doing Business Ranking**

Andhra Pradesh with a score of 98.42 per cent, has topped the ease of doing annual business ranking of states and Union Territories, prepared by the World Bank and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Others in the top ten are: 2. Telangana, 3. Haryana 4. Jharkhand, 5. Gujarat, 6. Chhattisgarh, 7. Madhya Pradesh, 8. Karnataka, 9. Rajasthan 10. West Bengal.

#### **The English patient by Michael Ondaatje won the Golden Man Booker International prize 2018**

Michael Ondaatje's best selling novel 'The English Patient' has been crowned as the winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize at the Southbank Centre in London. The prize was instituted as part of celebrations to mark the Booker's having completed 50 years. The novel move between large themes of war, loyalty, love. It is set, during World War II, about Hana, a nurse, who tends to a horribly burned man who finds himself in an Italian villa with three other unlikely characters.

#### **Mumbai's Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Buildings declared World Heritage site by UNESCO**

Two building clusters of Victorian Gothic and Art Deco architectural styles in Mumbai, Maharashtra were jointly inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List. The decision was taken during 42nd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Manama, Bahrain. This recognition will push country's financial capital high on global cultural map

#### **Rahul Dravid becomes the fifth Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame**

Former Team India captain Rahul Dravid (45-year-old) has become the fifth Indian cricketer after Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi and Kapil Dev to be inducted into the ICC Hall of

Fame. He scored 24,208 runs in 509 international matches in his nearly 16-year-long playing career. Australia captain Ricky Ponting and retired England woman wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor are also inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

**2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award: Two Indians Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk awarded**

Two Indians Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among six who have been declared winners of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award, often referred to as Asian version of the Nobel Prize. Bharat Vatwani was awarded for leading the rescue of thousands of mentally ill street paupers to treat and reunite them with their families. Sonam Wangchuk won the award for his contribution in harnessing nature, culture and education for community progress.

**Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala tops list of best governed States for third time**

According to Public Affairs Index 2018, Kerala tops the list as best-governed state in the country followed by Tamil Nadu. The index was released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre. Kerala has topped PAI as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016 among large states

**Gopalkrishna Gandhi to be awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2018**

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Former West Bengal Governor was chosen by the award committee for his outstanding contribution for promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill