

CURRENTAFFAIRS SNIPPETS: AUGUST 2018**BUSINESS & TRADE****Axis Bank is the first to introduce iris authentication for Aadhaar-based transactions**

Authentication feature will be introduced through Axis bank's micro ATM tablets, that are Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) certified & UIDAI compliant registered devices with completely integrated iris sensors

MOPAD: SBI launches unified payment terminal

SBI has launched Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device (MOPAD) for digital payment convenience of merchants and consumers. SBI will roll-out this new initiative on all SBI PoS terminals in a phased manner.

Telangana, Tech Mahindra ink MoU for India's first Blockchain District

Tech Mahindra will provide platform and technology assistance to all incubators in the district. It will also empower accelerators to develop and solve market problems across its global customer ecosystem. Telangana ITE&C Department will provide regulatory and policy support to enable & promote 'Blockchain' growth both in India and globally

Reliance Jio partnered with SBI for digital services

Reliance Jio partnered with SBI to extend the next generation of digital banking & payments services to customers. MyJio platform will enable SBI YONO's digital banking features & solutions for a seamless, integrated & superior customer experience. It will also extend financial services capabilities of SBI & Jio Payments Bank

HDFC and PayPal Bank Partner to offer Seamless Payment Experience

To initiate incremental digital spend, HDFC cards will be presented as a payment option during enrollment & subsequent payments with an facility for consumers to easily open PayPal accounts and set it as their preferred payment method

Navlekha: Google unveiled new platform for Indic language publishers

Project Navlekha will make online content relevant for more Indian users, in local languages. India is the second largest population of internet users in the world. At present, amount of online content in Indian languages is only 1% of what is available in English.

India's first biofuel flight was powered by jatropha seeds

India's first-ever environment friendly biofuel powered flight between Dehradun & Delhi was propelled by blend of oil from jatropha seeds and aviation turbine fuel. The 43-minute flight was operated by SpiceJet's Bombardier Q-400 aircraft, with 20 officials and five crew members on board

India's first interstate connected wind power project commissioned in Bhuj

The 126 MW wind power capacity, inter-state transmission system (ISTS) auction, was commissioned in Bhuj, Gujarat. This was a 1,000 MW bid for projects to be connected on ISTS, wherein power generated from one state (renewable resource rich state) could be transmitted to other renewable deficient states. Mytrah, Inox, Ostro, Green Infa and Adani were winners under this auction

FabCI: IIT Hyderabad launched exclusive incubator to boost chip design

The "Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI)" is first of its kind in India that will focus on creating an ecosystem for start-ups in chip design. It will provide a bouquet of offerings including free software tools with leading technology partners in Electronic Design Automation, a characterization facility for testing chips, and equipment for performing DC and RF characterization. The goal is to incubate at least 50 'Make-in-India' chip design companies that can compete globally and generate Intellectual Property Rights.

Bondi: World Bank launched world's first blockchain bond

'Bond-I' is the first bond to be created, allocated, transferred and managed using distributed ledger technology. It is an acronym standing for Blockchain offered New Debt Instrument and also refers to tourist famous Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. Funds raised from this bond will go towards sustainable development initiatives

RCom sold optical fibre & related infrastructure assets worth Rs. 3,000 crore to Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited

With the conclusion of fiber monetization transaction, 1,78,000 km of fiber stand transferred from RCom to RJio. The company had sold media convergence nodes (MCNs) and related infrastructure assets, worth Rs.2,000 crore, to RJio. The company secured approval of its overseas bondholders to ease the company's debt burden, a move that would help the debt-laden firm avert bankruptcy

PhonePe partnered with IRCTC app Rail connect to facilitate convenient payments

This will enable PhonePe's 100 million-plus users to pay directly from bank accounts using UPI, credit and debit cards and also the PhonePe wallet. IRCTC app will have a trusted digital payment platform for the transactions

Bharti Axa tied up with Airtel Payments Bank to Offer Jeevan Jyoti Bima

The alliance will leverage Airtel Payments Bank's vast network to reach deep rural pockets and serve the under-insured. The Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' provided by Bharti Axa Life Insurance offers Rs 2 lakh life insurance cover for a nominal premium of Rs 330 per annum and can be purchased by all existing or new Airtel Payments Bank savings bank account holders between the ages of 18-50

India Post Payments Bank ties up with PNB, Bajaj Allianz for rural services

India Posts Payments Bank, has started operations in 650 branches from August 21. It has tied up with public sector lender PNB & private insurer Bajaj Allianz to provide third-party services with focus on unbanked areas, especially rural India. The government's payment bank venture is also in talks with the country's largest lender, SBI, for services like loans and mutual funds

GOVERNMENT

NITI Aayog launched 'Pitch to MOVE' competition

'Pitch to MOVE' competition aims to provide budding entrepreneurs of India a unique opportunity to pitch business ideas to distinguished jury. Using this platform, startups working in various fields of mobility can pitch their ideas to industry leaders and venture capitalists to raise investments. It aims to identify and incentivize (also reward) startups that offer innovative solutions to the Government to help it realize its vision of shared, connected, intermodal and environment friendly mobility

Pune topped in Ease of Living Index released by Housing Ministry

Pune topped the list of 116 cities (with 1 million plus population) in Ease of Living Index released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Besides, two more cities, Navi Mumbai & Greater Mumbai figure at the second & third spots. The index exercise was launched in January 2018 by MoHUA with the help of the consortium of IPSOS Research Pvt Ltd, Athena Infonomics, and Economist Intelligence Unit

Jodhpur, Marwar ranked cleanest rail stations in Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness

Union Railway Ministry released Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness which ranked 407 railway stations including 75 A1 category stations & 332 A category stations on basis of cleanliness performance. Jodhpur (Rajasthan) was ranked first in survey A1 category stations, Marwar (Rajasthan) first in A category stations and North Western Railway first among all Zonal Railways

India's first genetic bank for wildlife conservation inaugurated in Hyderabad

National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telanagana. This is where genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.

Delhi Police inducted India's first all-woman SWAT team for anti-terrorist operations

Delhi Police has inducted India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations. The all-woman SWAT team is the brainchild of Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik. It was formally inducted by Home Minister Rajnath Singh

Operation Madad and Sahyog launched to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala

Indian Navy & Army have launched Operation Madad & Operation Sahyog respectively to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala. Both operations will support rescue & relief efforts of civil administration & National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF)

Government launched Niryat Mitra mobile app

Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched Niryat Mitra mobile application for exporters & importers of the country. The app provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade rights from policy provisions for export- import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures. It also sends notifications of export promotion programmes organized by FIEO to enable industry participation

Government approved 122 new research projects under IMPRINT scheme

Union Ministry of HRD has approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under IMPRINT-II (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology) scheme. The project aims to advance research in energy, healthcare, security and defense domains in the high education institutions. Of the selected 122 new projects, 81 are sponsored by industry. The selected proposals include 35 (ICT), 18 (Advanced Materials), 17 (Healthcare Technology), 12 (Energy Security), 11 (Security & Defence), 9 (Sustainable Habitat), 7 Water Resource & River Systems, 5 (Environment & Climate), 4 (Manufacturing) and 4 (Nano Technology)

Move Hack: NITI Aayog launched global mobility hackathon to crowdsource future mobility solutions

'Move Hack' aims the future of mobility in India. It is envisaged as one of largest hackathons globally. It is first platform in the world that has enmeshed public transport, private transport, road safety,

multimodal connectivity and new age transport technologies such as zero emission vehicles and intra city aerial transport spearheaded by Government.

Rajasthan is the first state to implement national biofuel policy

The policy on biofuels seeks to help farmers dispose off their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence. It has expanded the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials, starch containing materials and damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice and rotten potatoes for ethanol production. Its implementation was approved by high-power Biofuel Authority

Project 'SWAYAM' launched by HRD Ministry

'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM), aims to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. This course covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses. The main objective is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost

World's first thermal battery plant to be unveiled in Andhra Pradesh

The world's first-ever thermal battery plant owned by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited was inaugurated in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh. This plant aims to create new energy storage form that is expected to have commercial applications, while maintaining low carbon footprint, with less dependence on external factors like weather

UIDAI made face recognition feature mandatory for Aadhaar authentication

The facial recognition comes as additional feature along with regular authentication process that includes identification of an individual based on fingerprints or eye scans. It is being used to provide additional security layer and also make Aadhaar process more inclusive

Neta App launched to rate and review elected representatives

Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives. It aims to foster

political accountability and transparency among leaders

IIT Kharagpur to set up Re-Water Research Center

It aims to replenish and rejuvenate water resources. The purpose of this center is to tackle challenge of resolving two burning issues faced by urban India – sewage disposal and access to clean potable water. It will network with government bodies to take up technology developed by it and process and meet the water challenge faced by various cities. The pilot plant is expected to be ready by March 2019.

President appointed Governors of seven states

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Governors of seven states including Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura by exercising his authority under Article 156. The appointments will be effective from the dates the incumbents take charge of their respective offices.

1. Satya Pal Malik - Jammu and Kashmir
2. Lal Ji Tandon- Bihar
3. Ganga Prasad - Sikkim
4. Tathagata Roy - Meghalaya
5. Kaptan Singh Solanki - Tripura
6. Satyadev Narayan Arya - Haryana
7. Baby Rani Maurya – Uttarakhand
8. Anandiben Patel - Madhya Pradesh
(Additional charge of Chhattisgarh)

Home Ministry notifies new SoPS for refilling of ATMs

It comes in view of rising incidents of attacks on cash vans, cash vaults, ATM frauds and other internal frauds leading to increased sense of insecurity. It sets deadline of replenishing cash in ATMs before 9pm in cities and 6pm in rural areas. It will come into effect from 8 February 2019

Insurers to cover mental illness under medical insurance policy: IRDAI

IRDAI has asked insurers to cover mental illness under medical insurance policy from immediate effect, treating it at par with physical illness. At present, insurers exclude mental illness from ambit of medical insurance policies

FSSAI constitutes B Sesikeran committee to review food labeling standards

FSSAI had released draft Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations

2018. It had proposed mandatory red-label marking on such packaged food products which are high in fat, sugar and salt contents. The front-of-the-pack red label mark was aimed to make consumers more aware about healthy food products

Public sector banks to come out of PCA framework by end of 2018: Government

Union Government is expecting that public sector banks PSBs placed under RBI's Prompt Corrective Action framework will come out of it by the end of this year. As many as 11 out of 21 state-owned banks are currently under PCA framework

NPCI launched UPI 2.0 with overdraft facility

NPCI has launched UPI 2.0, an upgraded and renewed version of Unified Payments Interface by adding four new features to make it attractive and safer for users. New features will allow users to link overdraft account to UPI, creation of one-time mandates, pre-authorization of transactions for payment at later date and checking the invoice sent by merchant prior to making payment

FSSAI launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil)

FSSAI launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) initiative to enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel. Under this initiative, 64 companies at 101 locations have been identified to enable collection of used cooking oil

INDIA'S GLOBAL RANKINGS

India ranked 177 on the Environmental Performance Index 2018

According to World Economic Forum ranking, India has been ranked 177th out of 180 countries on the Environmental Performance Index 2018. The Union Environment Ministry has rejected the score by considering it as arbitrary and unscientific. India slipped 36 points from 141 in the 2016 report, prepared by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the WEF

2018 Global Liveability Index: Vienna named world's most liveable city

Austrian capital Vienna was ranked as world's most liveable city among 140 major cities in 2018 Global Liveability Index released by Economic Intelligence Unit. It is first time that European city has topped rankings of EIU annual survey. New Delhi had figured at 112th and Mumbai 117th position in list

INTERNATIONAL

Chinese researchers create world's first single chromosome yeast

Researchers from China's Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences have created the world's first single-chromosome yeast. The experiment was conducted on Brewer's yeast having 16 chromosomes and which shares its one-third genome ancestry with humans. Researchers were able to fit nearly all genetic material of Brewer's yeast into just one chromosome without affecting majority of its functions

Japan overtakes China as World's 2nd biggest stock market

As a result of China's trade war with the US and its campaign to cut debt, the value of China's stock market fell to \$6.09 trillion, losing its position as the world's second biggest stock market to Japan (\$6.17 trillion). The U.S. has the world's largest stock market at just over \$31 trillion. China's stock market overtook Japan's in 2014 and soared to an all-time high of over \$10 trillion in 2015.

World Bank to issue world's first blockchain bond

The World Bank has mandated the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to issue the world's first blockchain-based bond. The Kangaroo bond, referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in the local currency, has been named bond-i, an acronym standing for Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument. (It's also a reference to Bondi Beach, an iconic spot in Sydney.)

Macau set to overtake Qatar as world's richest place by 2020

According to IMF, Macau in China would overtake oil-rich Qatar with the highest per-capita GDP of any country or jurisdiction on earth, by 2020. Macau is the only place in China where casinos are legal and its gross domestic product has more than tripled from about \$34,500 per capita in 2001. Three European countries - Luxembourg, Ireland, and Norway - made the top 10 places expected to be the world's wealthiest by 2020, while the US came in at No. 12.

Apple becomes first \$1 trillion company in the world

Apple Inc. became the first U.S.-based company with a market value of \$1 trillion, four decades after

it was co-founded by Steve Jobs in a Silicon Valley garage and later revolutionized the worlds of computing, music and mobile communications. The iMac desktop computer, the iPod, iPhone, and iPad were smash hits. Apple CEO - Tim Cook

International Buddhist Conclave 2018 held in New Delhi

The International Buddhist Conclave, 2018 was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind. It was sixth edition of International Buddhist Conclave. Its theme was 'Buddha Path – The Living Heritage'

4th BIMSTEC summit was held in Nepal

Important points in BIMSTEC –

- The theme of fourth BIMSTEC summit was 'Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region'
- Though BIMSTEC has 14 priority sectors, this summit integrated two more priority sectors - Blue Economy and Mountain Economy
- A BIMSTEC free trade agreement is under negotiation along with a customs cooperation agreement and a motor vehicles agreement

BIMSTEC is important for India in terms of New Delhi's Act East Policy and Neighborhood First Policy, with northeastern India acting as a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia

Imran Khan elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan

Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan was elected as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan. Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf emerged as the single largest party in the National Assembly

Treasurer Scott Morrison elected as new Prime Minister of Australia

Scott succeeds Malcolm Turnbull, who was ousted from power, after losing support of a majority of the party MPs

AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE

Maitree 2018: India, Thailand joint military exercise held in Thailand

Joint military exercise Maitree 2018 between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army was conducted in Thailand from 6 - 19 August 2018. It contributed immensely in developing mutual understanding and

bonhomie between armies of both countries in order to counter terrorism

INS Vikramaditya for first time to be fitted with marine hydraulic system

A marine hydraulic system will be installed on India's first ever aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya by May 2019 to boost air operations of the ship. The GS-1MF & GS-3 marine hydraulic systems are used for refueling, cleaning and pressurization of hydraulic systems of aircraft and helicopters which form part of the air-capable wing of INS Vikramaditya

ATGM HELINA successfully test fired at Pokhran range

Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' was successfully flight tested from Indian Army Helicopter at Pokhran range. The weapon system was tested for full range. HELINA is helicopter launched version of NAG ATGM, designed and developed indigenously for Indian Army under integrated guided missile development program

ISRO to launch its heaviest satellite GSAT 11 on 30th November

The 5,700 kg heavy GSAT-11 satellite is the ISRO's heaviest satellite. It will carry 40 transponders in Ku-band and Ka-band frequencies. It is capable of providing high bandwidth connectivity up to 14 GBS data transfer speed.

NASA launched Parker Solar Probe towards the Sun

NASA launched off a \$1.5 billion spacecraft towards the Sun to unveil the mysteries of dangerous solar storms. The probe is designed Sun's mysterious atmosphere known as corona, coming within 3.83 million miles (6.16 million kilometers). It is the first major mission under NASA's living with a star program with 1.5 billions

SPORTS

Tokyo 2020: First Olympics to deploy facial recognition technology to increase security

A facial recognition system will be used across an Olympics for the first time as Tokyo organizers work to keep security tight & efficient at dozens of

venues during the 2020 Games. The NeoFace technology developed by NEC Corp. will be customized to monitor every accredited person - including athletes, officials, staff and media - at more than 40 venues, games villages and media centers

P V Sindhu wins silver World Championship 2018 of Badminton

Ace Indian shuttler P V Sindhu won silver medal at Badminton World Championships 2018 in women's singles category held at China. It makes Sindhu only Indian to have four world championships podium finishes. Earlier she had won two bronze medals at 2013 (Guangzhou) and 2014 (Copenhagen) editions

Netherlands crowned as world champions for the eighth time at Women's Hockey Tournament

Netherlands were crowned Women's Hockey World Cup winners for a record eighth time as a crushing 6-0 victory over Ireland

Rafael Nadal won Rogers Cup 2018

Rafael Nadal defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas. He clinched his fourth Canadian Masters 1000 title at the Rogers Cup in Toronto

18th Asian Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia

The 18th edition of Asian Games concluded in Jakarta, Indonesia

Motto: Energy of Asia

Mascots:

Bhin Bhin - a greater bird of paradise

Atung - a Bawean deer

Kaka - a Javan rhinoceros

Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra - Indian contingent flag bearer during opening ceremony

Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Rani Rampal - Indian Flag bearer during closing ceremony

Rikako Ikee (Japan) - Most valuable player
Teenage swimming sensation won 6 gold medals

Final medals tally

China - 289 (132 Gold, 92 Silver, 65 Bronze)

Japan - 205 (75 G, 56S, 74 B)

South Korea - 177 (49G, 58S, 70B)

India - 69 (15 Gold, 24 Silver, 30 Bronze)

India's best ever performance in any Asian Games in terms of total medals

BOOK RELEASES & AUTHORS

'Atal Ji Ne Kaha' a book on AB Vajpayee launched by Brijendra Rehi

"Atal Ji Ne Kaha" is the latest book on BJP patriarch and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The book is authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi. Brijendra Rehi is noted Doordarshan producer and senior journalist. The book published by Darpan Publication

VVS Laxman wrote his autobiography titled '281 and Beyond'

The autobiography will be released by the Westland Publications on November 20, 2018. Indian cricketer VVS Laxman announced his retirement from international cricket in 2012, played 134 Tests, scoring 8,781 runs at an average of 45.97. He also played in 86 ODIs for an aggregate of 2338 and average of 30.76

Shane Warne autobiography 'No Spin' to be released in October

Australian cricketer Shane Warne's autobiography "No Spin" will be global release on 4th October 2018. The memoir is written with cricketer and TV presenter Mark Nicholas. Warne played his first Test match in 1992, and took over 1,000 international wickets (in Tests and One-Day Internationals). He also captained Rajasthan Royals to victory in the IPL in 2008. He officially retired from all cricket formats in 2013

AWARDS & HONORS

Seven Indian firms named in Fortune 500 list, IOC remains top ranked Indian company

Seven Indian companies featured in the US magazine Fortune 500 list of the world's largest firms, with state-run Indian Oil Corp remaining the top-ranked Indian company at 137th position in World Level in the 2018 rankings. American retail giant Walmart topped the latest Fortune listing.

Other Indian companies that featured in the Fortune 500 list were: 1) Reliance Industries Ltd - 148; 2) ONGC - 197; 3) SBI - 216; 4) Tata Motors - 232 rank; 5) BPCL - 314; 6) Rajesh Exports - 405

Reliance Industries Ltd was the most profitable Indian firm on the list. On the globally most profitable list, it secured 99th position. This list was topped by Apple

PV Sindhu seventh in Forbes list of highest paid women sportspersons

India's ace Shuttler & Rio Olympics silver medalist PV Sindhu was ranked seventh on Forbes list of highest-earning women sportspersons in the world. The list was topped by tennis legend Serena Williams with total earning of USD 18 million. Eight of the 10 top highest-earning women sportspersons were tennis players, remaining two were badminton player and professional racing driver

Two Indian actors ranked among top 10 positions in Forbes' 2018 list of world's 100 highest-paid Actors

Akshay Kumar (USD 40.5 million) ranked at 7th position & Salman Khan (USD 38.5 million) ranked at 9th position. American Actor George Clooney ranked at the top position in 2018 world's highest-Paid Actor list

Gopalkrishna Gandhi conferred with 2018 Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award

Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi was honoured with 2018 Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award for promoting communal harmony and peace

President Ram Nath Kovind approved 131 Gallantry Awards

On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind approved 131 Gallantry Awards to members of Armed Forces personnel and Paramilitary Forces, which include 1 Kirti Chakra, 3 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 3 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 20 Shaurya Chakras & 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry). Brave heart hailing from J&K, Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh was posthumously awarded Kirti Chakra

PERSONALITIES

Akshay Kumar appointed as brand ambassador for Government's Road Safety campaigns

As part of the road safety campaign "Sadak Suraksha - Jeevan Raksha", three short films starring Akshay as traffic police inspector have

been released to generate public awareness towards road safety

Rekha Sharma appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Women

Prior to this appointment, Rekha was member of the Commission and was holding the additional charge of chairperson after Lalitha Kumaramangalam had demitted office in September 2017

Ms. Nooyi resigned as Pepsico CEO

Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi, resigned her position as CEO of PepsiCo. She has been leading the company since 2006

R S Sharma re-appointed TRAI chairperson till 2020

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved reappointment of Ram Sewak Sharma as chairperson of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India till September 2020

Dr G. Satheesh Reddy appointed Chairman, DRDO

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet appointed missile scientist Dr. G Satheesh Reddy as Secretary of Department of Defense R&D (DDR&D) and Chairman of DRDO. Prior to this appointment, he was scientific adviser to defense minister and director general, Missiles & Strategic Systems (DG MSS).

NDA candidate Harivansh Singh elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman

The BJP-led NDA candidate and JD(U) member Harivansh Narayan Singh was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, securing 125 votes as against 105 polled by opposition candidate BK Hariprasad. The post of the deputy chairman was lying vacant since July retirement of P J Kurien

Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee passed away

Former Lok Sabha Speaker and veteran communist leader Somnath Chatterjee passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was Speaker of Lok Sabha (House of the People) in first five-year term (2004-2009) of United Progressive Alliance Government.

Five time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi passed away

DMK chief, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, passed away. He served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu five

times. He also became a popular screenwriter for Tamil films. Widely known as 'Kalaingar', meaning artist in Tamil, he was one of the pioneers of Dravidian movement in the state

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away

'Bharat Ratna' awardee Late Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee served thrice as Indian Prime minister. He was one of the pioneer members & first President of Bharatiya Janata Party. He was Member of Parliament for over Four decades & the first Non-Congress Prime Minister to complete full term