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AUGUST – CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **International Affairs**

1. Google announced Project Navlekha at its 4th edition of Google for India Event

Held in New Delhi. Project Navlekha has been launched to enable Indian publishers of regional languages to publish their content online, without facing the trouble of selling printed copies. The official website of Navlekha can be easily interpreted by users. Users can also obtain help from experts to set up their publication website.

2. 4th BIMSTEC Summit 2018 Starts in Kathmandu

The 4th BIMSTEC Summit began in Kathmandu, Nepal. The two-day Summit will be held with the main focus on countering terrorism, enhancing regional connectivity and boosting trade. The theme of the summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks with leaders of BIMSTEC countries on the sidelines of the summit. The group was formed in 1997 and it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. The grouping accounts for 22 per cent of the global population. Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.

3. EIU Releases Global Liveability Index 2018: Vienna tops, Delhi Stands 112th

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index 2018, the ranking of 140 global cities based on their living conditions. The EIU is part of UK magazine 'The Economist' and provides forecasting and advisory services through research and analysis.

4. BBC's 'Women Who Changed The World' List: Marie Curie Tops, Mother Teresa 20th

BBC History Magazine conducted a reader's poll of 100 women who changed the world. In this poll, Marie Curie has been voted the woman who made the most significant impact on world history. Women from several fields in areas like politics, science, sports, technology and literature were shortlisted. Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel prize in physics, first female professor at the University of Paris, and the first person to win a second Nobel prize.

Top 3 from the BBC History Magazine's '100 Women Who Changed The World':

1. Marie Curie,
2. Rosa Parks,
3. Emmeline Pankhurst.

5. Japan Pips China To Become World's 2nd Largest Stock Market

Japan has pipped China as the world's number two stock market, according to a Bloomberg report. At one of the time, the Chinese market was worth \$6.09 trillion next to Japan's \$6.17 trillion. Both markets are ranked after the US which is the world's largest at just over \$31 trillion. China lost to Japan after Chinese stocks and currency fell this year amid a trade spat with the US.

6. G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting Held in Argentina

The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting was held in Salta, Argentina. It took place as part of Sherpa Track for 2018 G20 Leaders' Summit, which is to be hosted by Argentina by end of 2018. The theme of the meeting was 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development'.

Its three key issues for the agenda were future of work, infrastructure for development, and sustainable food future.

The G20 comprises of total 19 countries plus European Union (EU), representing 85% of global GDP, 80% of international trade, 65% of the world's population. In 2008, the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held in Washington DC, US.

Launch of Parker Solar Probe

Launched by : NASA

Launched on : 11 August 2018

Launched from : Cape Canaveral

Launch Vehicle: Delta IV-Heavy with Upper Stage

Purpose: To probe the outer corona of the Sun. It will be the first spacecraft to fly into the low corona. It will fly as close as 3.8 million miles from the Sun's surface.

7. Forbes Released List Of Highest Paid Female Athletes: Serena Williams Tops, PV Sindhu Ranks 7th

Serena Williams (with earnings of \$18.1 million) was the highest paid female athlete for a third consecutive year in 2018, according to "List Of Highest Paid Female Athletes 2018" published by Forbes.

Dane Caroline Wozniacki, who captured her maiden grand slam title at Australian Open 2018, was second on the list with combined earnings of (\$13 million). Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu was at seventh place with earnings of \$8.5 million.

The Top 3 Highest Paid Female Athletes On The List Are:

1. Serena Williams (\$18.1 million),

2. Dane Caroline Wozniacki (\$13 million),

3. Sloane Stephens (\$11.2 million).

8. Blockchain Bond - Bond-i

Launched by: World Bank

Name: Bond-i, (Blockchain Operated New Debt Instrument)

Points to remember

1. Blockchain platform built by: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
2. Tenure of the bond: 2 years from 28 Aug 2018 to 28 Aug 2020.
3. Rate of interest: 2.20%
4. Amount raised: \$80.4 million.
5. Technological support for running the bonds: Microsoft's Azure cloud computing service
4. Google Unveils New Platform Named 'Navlekha' For Indian Publishers

- **National AFFAIRS**

9. Rajasthan 1st State to Implement Bio fuel Policy

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels unveiled by the Centre this year. The desert State will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources. The policy on biofuels seeks to help farmers dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence.

10. Mughalsarai Junction Renamed As Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction

The iconic Mughalsarai Railway Junction in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station. BJP National President Amit Shah inaugurated the renamed station. A goods train with an all-woman crew was also flagged off. A smart yard project was also launched on the occasion. The bi-weekly Ekatmata Express, train connecting Lucknow and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction was also flagged off.

11. GST Council Announces Cashback For Digital Transactions

In the 29th meeting, GST council approves cash incentives to promote Digital transactions. Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announces 20% Cashback upto Rs 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupay or USSD mode. The meeting was held in **New Delhi**. The meeting was chaired by Finance Minister **Piyush Goyal**.

12. Indo-Thailand Joint Exercise 'Maitree 2018' Begins in Thailand

Exercise 'Maitree' is a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Royal Thai Army which is running on in Thailand. It is a platoon level exercise which comprises of infantry component. The exercise will emphasize to hone the tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter-terrorist operations in the rural and urban scenario under UN mandate.

13. 1st Thermal Battery Plant Inaugurated In Andhra Pradesh

The world's first-ever thermal battery plant was unveiled in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST), the first-of-its-kind batteries will aim to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.

14. India Successfully Tests Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'

India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' from Pokhran in Rajasthan. The weapon system tested for its full range was released smoothly from the launch platform. The missile hit the target with high precision. The indigenously designed and developed guided bombs Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) was also successfully flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer.

15. President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurates 'One District One Product' Summit

The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 'One District One Product' Summit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The special emphasis was laid on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Under the 'One District One Product' scheme, the state government has set a goal of providing employment to 25 lakh people in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.

16. Arunachal Pradesh is threatened by high water discharge from China

River Siang:

- The Brahmaputra enters India in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, where it is called Siang.
- It makes a very rapid descent from its original height in Tibet and finally appears in the plains, where it is called Dihang.
- It flows for about 35 km (22 miles) and is joined by the Dibang River and the Lohit River at the head of the Assam Valley.

17. 3rd Indian Ocean Conference

Venue: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Dates: 27 and 28 August 2018

Chairperson: Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, PM of Sri Lanka

Inaugurated by: Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India

Theme: Building Regional Architectures

18. Mahabaleshwar beats Cherrapunji to become India's wettest place this year

19. Neta App

Purpose: To rate and review political representatives.

Launched by: Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Former President of India

Developed by: Pratham Mittal of Outgrow.co

Platforms: Android, iOS

Languages available: 16

20. Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport is now the World's second fastest growing airport

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru is next to Tokyo's Haneda Airport which is the world's fastest growing airport, in terms of actual growth in number of passengers. KIA opened in May 2008 was initially named Bangalore International Airport. The Government of India has granted Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) to operate KIA airport for 30 years.

21. Santhali Becomes India's 1st Tribal Language To Get Own Wikipedia Edition

Santhali (Santali), a tribal language primarily spoken in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, received global recognition when it got a Wikipedia edition in its own script. The language is been spoken by over 6.4 million people in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam. The initiative to get a Santhali edition for Wikipedia, began six years ago, in 2012. Santhali, written in the Ol Chiki script currently has content of about 70,000 words.

- **Business affairs**

22. PepsiCo's Indra Nooyi To Step Down As CEO

PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi will step down in October after serving for 12 years as the top boss at the global beverage giant, PepsiCo. Indian-origin Indra Nooyi was the first ever woman to be appointed the CEO at PepsiCo, in the year 2006. She will be succeeded by company President Ramon Laguarta, who has held the post since 2017. She will remain chairman till 2019.

23. Apple Becomes 1st US-Based Company with Market Value of \$1 trillion

Apple Inc. became the first US-based company with a market value of \$1 trillion, four decades after it was co-founded by Steve Jobs in a Silicon Valley garage. The consumer-technology giant briefly touched the milestone in New York, based on share count data the company disclosed in a recent regulatory filing. PetroChina Co. briefly crossed that valuation in late 2007 but slumped quickly as oil prices collapsed in the financial crisis.

24. HSBC Launched Online Platform 'MyDeal' To Raise Funds Via Capital Markets

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has launched a new digital platform 'MyDeal' to simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing real-time access to information such as investors' feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing. The platform contains all the information relating to a client's capital markets transaction and is updated on real-time basis.

- HSBC Headquarters in London UK.
- Surendra Rosha is the Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India.

25. Google Releases 'Android 9 Pie'

Google's latest Android operating system update, Android 9 Pie, was officially released to customers following a beta testing period that started earlier this year. Android Pie introduces a new gesture-based system interface that's similar to the interface of the iPhone X, with iPhone-like swipes for navigating through the operating system.

26. PayPal, HDFC Bank Partner to Offer Seamless Payment Experiences

PayPal, a digital payments platform has announced its strategic partnership with and HDFC Bank to offer safer, faster and convenient payment experiences for the bank's cardholders. The partnership will create a number of joint growth opportunities that will advance PayPal and HDFC Bank's shared vision of offering consumers greater choice and flexibility in managing their money.

27. Fortune 500 List of World's Largest Companies Released

Seven Indian companies have been listed in Fortune's 500 list 2018 of world biggest corporations. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is the highest ranked company from India followed by RIL which jumped 55 places. The US-based retail company, Walmart has topped the list. IOC ranked 137th in 2018 with a significant jump from 168th position from 2017. RIL is the top private sector company in India. It ranked 148th in 2018 from 203rd from 2017. ONGC ranked 197th in 2018 which not even featured in 2017. SBI got 216th rank 1 place higher than 217th in 2017.

The Top 3 companies on the list are:

1. Walmart (the USA),
2. State Grid (China),
3. Sinopec Group (China).

28. Vodafone-Idea merger completed, becomes India's biggest telco

Idea Cellular and Vodafone have merged their operations and have officially become operational as a single entity under the name 'Vodafone Idea Limited'. After National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cleared the merger on August 31, Vodafone Idea topples Bharti Airtel as the largest telecom service provider in India with a subscriber base of over 408 million. The Board has appointed Balesh Sharma as the CEO of Vodafone-Idea.

29. Google Launches Video Q&A App Cameos Aimed At Celebrities

Google has launched a new video-based Q&A app called 'Cameos' on the App Store, which allows people to answer questions about themselves, then share those answers directly on Google. The app is aimed at celebrities and other public figures, who are often the subject of people's Google searches.

30. BSNL Launches VOIP Based WINGS Service

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched BSNL WINGS a VOIP based service. In WINGS, there is no SIM or cable wiring as is a VOIP service through an app. The WINGS service offers unlimited free audio/video calling for one year. The service can be activated BSNL WINGS a VOIP service with a one-time fee of Rs. 1,099 (Rs 1,297 with GST). Calls can be made using any data connection such as wired broadband, Wi-Fi, 3G or 4G network of any any operator.

31. SBI Ranked As India's Most Patriotic Brand: Survey

Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, according to a survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov, followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali,

Reliance Jio and BSNL. The survey, which covered 152 brands across 11 categories, is based on data collected online by YouGov Omnibus among 1,193 respondents in the country using its panel of an online representation of India.

32. Tez rebranded as Google Pay to offer Instant Bank Loans

Google recently partnered with HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. And Federal Bank Ltd. to offer instant, pre-approved loans to customers. About Tez Release date: September 19, 2017 Tez got about 8.5 million installations. Over 30 million transactions were made on the app as of October 27, 2017.

33. PNB Gets Top Rank in Digital Transaction

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced that the Department of Financial Services report has rated it as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions. The bank is also rated as the sixth overall amongst all banks in India for digital performance. The bank is rated as 'Good' by the government with a score of 71 which is the highest category of performance.

34. Smitha V. Crishna Tops List of India's Wealthiest Women

Smitha V. Crishna, a third-generation heir of the Godrej family, ranks first in the Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women 2018 list with an estimated wealth of Rs 37,570 crore. Ms. Smitha owns one-fifth of the Godrej Group. Roshni Nadar, CEO and executive director at HCL, ranks second in the list with an estimated wealth of Rs30,200 crore. She also heads the Shiv Nadar Foundation. The chairperson of the Times Group, Indu Jain, ranks third in the list. Her wealth is estimated at Rs 26,240 crore.

35. Ambani's Reliance Jio tops Fortune's 'Change the World' list

Mukesh Ambani-led telecom company Reliance Jio secured the top spot in Fortune's global 'Change the World' list released on August 20. American pharma company Merck ranked second while Bank of America ranked third on the list. Chinese group Alibaba is ranked 5th on the list.

- **Sports**

36. Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold Medal at Savo Games in Finland - Made a throw of 85.69 metres

37. Lewis Hamilton Wins 6th Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix

38. Gaganjeet Bhullar Wins His Maiden European Tour Title

39. Netherlands Wins Women's Hockey World Cup 2018

40. Neeraj Chopra India's Flag Bearer At Asian Games 2018 Opening Ceremony

41. Women's Hockey World Cup 2018

Venue: Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, London

Dates: 21 July to 5 August 2018.

Winner - Netherlands (record 8th time)

Runner-up – Ireland

42. Jinson gives India 1st men's 1500m gold at Asiad in 56 years

43. Women's 4x400m Relay Team Wins Gold

India won gold in the women's 4X400 metre event. The Indian quartet of Hima Das, Raju Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad and Vismaya Koroth registered a time of 3 minutes and 28.72 seconds to finish at the top of the podium. India clinched the silver medal in the men's 4X400 metre event.

44. Swapna Barman, 1st Indian Heptathlete To Win Gold In Asian Games

45. Asian Games 2018: Manjit Singh Wins Gold In 800m Race

46. Asian Games 2018: Neeraj Chopra Wins India 1st Javelin Gold in Asiad History

47. Asian Games 2018: PV Sindhu Wins India's 1st Asian Games Silver In Badminton

48. Tejender Pal Singh Toor Wins Historic Gold in Shot Put

49. Dutee Chand won India's first Asian Games medal in the 100m event after 20 years - women's 100m dash

50. Rahi Sarnobat 1st Indian Female Shooter To Win Asiad Gold

51. Saurabh Chaudhary Wins 10m Air Pistol Gold

52. Vinesh Phogat, 1st Indian Woman Wrestler To Bag Gold At Asian Games

53. Asian Games 2018: Wrestler Bajrang Punia Wins 1st Gold For India

- **Awards & Honour**

54. Gopalkrishna Gandhi to Get 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award

Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for the 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill. Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former governor of West Bengal.

55. Indian-Origin Mathematician Akshay Venkatesh Wins Prestigious Fields Medal

Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math. New Delhi-born Venkatesh, 36, who is currently teaching at Stanford University, has won the Fields Medal for his profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics. Each winner receives a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize. The other three winners are: Caucher Birkar, a Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin; Germany's Peter Scholze, who teaches at the University of Bonn and Alessio Figalli, an Italian mathematician at ETH Zurich.

56. Indra Nooyi to get Asia Game Changer of the Year award

PepsiCo's India-born Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi will be honoured with the 2018 Asia Game Changer of the Year award by global cultural organisation Asia Society, in recognition of her business achievements, humanitarian record and advocacy for women and girls around the world. Nooyi recently announced her retirement from PepsiCo's CEO position.

- **Important Days in August**

- **National Handloom Day:** 7 August
- **World Bio fuel Day:** 10th August 2018
- **International Youth Day:** 12 August 2018
Theme: Safe Space for Youth
- **National Sports Day:** 29 August - The National Sports Day is celebrated on 29th August every year to mark the birthday of legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand.

- **Books in News**

- **Moving On, Moving Forward** - Shri Venkaiah Naidu
- **Atalji ne Kaha** - Brijendra Rehi
- **VVS Laxman Pens Autobiography '281 And Beyond'**

- **Appointments**

New Governors

- Jammu and Kashmir: Shri Satya Pal Malik
- Bihar: Shri Lalji Tandon.
- Tripura: Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki
- Haryana: Shri Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Meghalaya: Shri Tathagata Roy
- Sikkim: Shri Ganga Prasad
- Uttarakhand: Smt Baby Rani Maurya

57. S Gopakumar Appointed Director and General Manager in UIIC

Public sector non-life insurance firm United India Insurance Company announced the appointment of S Gopakumar as its Director and General Manager with immediate effect.

58. Chile's Michelle Bachelet To Be Next UN Human Rights Chief

The United Nations announced that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to be the UN's new human rights chief. Bachelet would be succeeding Jordanian diplomat Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein. Bachelet's name will now go forward for consideration and approval by the 193-member UN General Assembly.

59. Balesh Sharma Appointed Vodafone Idea's 1st CEO

Balesh Sharma takes over as Vodafone Idea's first CEO. He was the Chief Operating Officer of Vodafone India and a member of its executive committee.

60. G. Satheesh Reddy Appointed New DRDO Chairman

61. Treasurer Scott Morrison Elected New Prime Minister of Australia

62. Imran Khan becomes the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan

63. Infosys CFO MD Ranganath Resigns

64. Arun Jaitley returns as Finance Minister three months after kidney transplant