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Current Affairs: - July 14 – July 24, 2018

- ➤ The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in Delhi. The objective of SSG 2018 is to undertake a ranking of states and districts on the basis of their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative SBM-G parameters.
- ➤ The Odisha Government constituted Heritage Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to preserve the history and culture of Odisha. Note: Ganeshi Lal is the present Governor of Odisha.
- ➤ India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years (from July 2018 to June 2020). Note: Kunio Mikuriya (Japan) is the Secretary-General of WCO. World Customs Organization Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- ➤ The first of world's cheapest drinking water project was launched in Darbhanga district, Bihar.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a 10 Member Committee, headed by the Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs Mr. Injeti Srinivas, for review of the penal provisions in the Companies Act, 2013.

- It has been setup to examine 'de-criminalisation' of certain offences.
- ➤ Haryana has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST and is also the fourth highest generator of e-way bills in the country.
- ➤ Militaries of India and Pakistan will be part of a mega antiterror drill in Russia named "Peace Mission" in August 2018 which is being organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The exercise will be joined by all SCO member countries including Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It will be for the first time since Independence that India and Pakistan will both be part of a military exercise.
- ➤ State Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Telangana.
- ➤ Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki was given the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh by President Ram Nath Kovind. He has been appointed during the absence of Himachal Governor Acharya Devvrat, who is on leave.
- The 21st edition of the FIFA World Cup concluded in Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital of Moscow. 32 nations, divided into eight groups, battled it out for the coveted trophy in the quadrennial month-long event. France emerged as the champion team of the FIFA World Cup 2018. It defeated Croatia in a thrilling final by 4-2. It was the second world cup win for France; it first won in 1998.
- The 2018 Wimbledon Championships is a Grand Slam tennis tournament which took place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom. Novak Djokovic won the men's singles

- Title for the fourth time. Angelique Kerber won the Ladies' Singles title, defeating Serena Williams.
- ➤ President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015, converting it to an Act, almost three years after it was passed by the state Assembly. The Act, aimed at eliminating the superstition from the society, imposes a punishment of up to seven years and a fine of up to Rs.5 lakh.
- ➤ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Paudhagiri' campaign with an aim to increase the green cover in Haryana. Under this plantation drive, 22 lakh students from class 6 to 12 of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling each during three months of monsoon ie July, August and September.
- ➤ Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country. He laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ➤ IIT Madras has launched "world's first" remotely operatable microscope that would enable a precise atomby-atom view of a material. The 'Local Electrode Atom Probe' (LEAP) was developed at a cost of Rs.40 crore.
- ➤ The government has decided to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Anil Swarup, former Secretary, School Education to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).
- JK Rowling will come out with the fourth novel titled 'Lethal White' in the series about the exploits of private investigator Cormoran Strike, in September 2018

- under her pseudonym Robert Galbraith. The three previous Strike novels of JK Rowling are The Cuckoo's Calling (2013), The Silkworm (2014) and Career of Evil (2015).
- ➤ The Forbes has released the 'Celebrity 100' list of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers. Boxer Floyd Mayweather captured the top spot.
- ➤ According to the 2018 'Soft Power 30' index, the UK has topped an annual global ranking of nations' soft power.
- ➤ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's GDP growth forecast by 10 basis points to 7.3% in the year 2018 and by 30 basis points to 7.5% in 2019, as the international body expects the central bank to tighten the monetary policy faster.
- ➤ India has been elected new President of Asian Tug of War Federation. India's Gautam Kaul won the prestigious post in the Federations' Executive Committee elections held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The post of Secretary-General has also gone to India.
- ➤ India's star shuttler PV Sindhu suffered a defeat to Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to settle for runners-up spot in the Thailand Open at the Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok.
- ➤ Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold at the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid, in the women's 50 kg freestyle category.
- ➤ Veteran actor Rita Bhaduri passed away after fighting a kidney-related ailment for many days.
- ➤ UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has entered into a partnership with search engine giant Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools.

- Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 is observed internationally on 18th July. This year marks 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela (18 July 1918). The Nelson Mandela Foundation is dedicating this year's Mandela Day to 'Action Against Poverty'.
- ➤ Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Saran Singh is set to be named the Chef de Mission of the Asian Games-bound Indian contingent.
- ➤ Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has clinched a gold medal at the Sotteville Athletics Meet in France.
- The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs.100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of Dr Urjit R. Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India. The new denomination has Motif of "RANI KI VAV" on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. The base colour of the note is Lavender.
- ➤ E-commerce giant Amazon briefly crossed \$900-billion market cap for the first time in its history becoming only the second company after Apple to achieve this milestone. Apple is currently the world's most valuable company with a market cap of \$935 billion.
- ➤ The European Union regulators have slapped Alphabetowned Google with a record 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) antitrust fine for abusing the dominance of its Android mobile operating system. According to the EU, Google's parent company has unfairly favoured its own services by forcing smartphone makers to pre-install Google apps Chrome and Search in a bundle with its app store, Play.
- Jana Small Finance Bank announced the commercial launch of its banking operations, the last microfinance company to convert itself into a small finance bank (SFB), three years after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its

- in-principle approval. Note: Ajay Kanwal is the MD and CEO of Jana Small Finance Bank.
- ➤ Jammu & Kashmir's first all-women branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank was inaugurated. Note:Parvez Ahmad is the chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has added seven medal events to the 2022 Beijing Winter Games. The next Winter Olympics will now include: women's monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerials and snowboardcross. Note: International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- ➤ US State Department has announced that the inaugural 'two-plus-two dialogue' between India and the United States will be held in New Delhi in September 2018.
- An agreement was signed between IIT Delhi and the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under which projects would be launched that would aim to give "scientific validation" to the ancient medical science and integrate it with technology.
- ➤ Repco Micro Finance Ltd, a non-banking finance company promoted by Repco Bank, received Nabard 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.
- ➤ Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away. He won 3 Filmfare awards and penned some of the all-time hits like *Likhe jo khat tujhe*. He was conferred with Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in 2007.
- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu launched 'e-Pragati core platform' at Undavalli. e-

- Pragati, a forward-looking digital initiative, is aimed at connecting the citizen to 34 departments, 336 autonomous organisations and 745-plus services.
- ➤ The Indian Government has announced the launch of a new MicroDot Technology that would help check on vehicle thefts. Under this, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including its engine.
- ➤ The 4th BIMSTEC Summit will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Note: BIMSTEC stands for Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation. The group was formed in 1997 and it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.
- Facebook has confirmed that it is working on a new satellite project, named Athena, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas. The company aims to launch satellite in early 2019.
- ➤ Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan has unveiled the first of a kind Air Quality and Weather Forecast System, SAFAR at Chandni Chowk in New Delhi. The giant true colour LED display will give real-time air quality index on the 24x7 basis with colour coding along with 72-hour advance forecast.
- ➤ The All India Football Federation (AIFF), the governing body of football in India named India and Bengaluru FC Captain Sunil Chhetri as the AIFF Player of the Year in the Federation's Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai.
- Fakhar Zaman recently scored a double century for Pakistan against Zimbabwe and he became the first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a one-day

- international. He also became the quickest player in history to reach 1,000 runs in the format. Fakhar Zaman took 18 innings to reach the 1000 mark.
- ➤ Indian badminton player Lakshaya Sen bagged the gold medal after defeating Indonesia's top-seeded Kunlavut Vitidsaran in the final match of the Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ➤ The Lok Sabha passed the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which has the provision of allowing a court trying an offence related to cheque bouncing, to direct the drawer to pay interim compensation to the complainant. The interim compensation will not exceed 20% of the cheque amount and will have to be paid by the drawer within 60 days of the trial court's order to pay such a compensation.
- ➤ The Union Government has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from Rs.1000 to Rs.250. The Sukanya Samriddhi scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, as a part of the Union Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.
- A Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme. As per the terms of the SoI, Lupin Foundation, with the NITI Aayog, will work in three states Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan to facilitate the creation of an ideal template to develop economic strength, technological viability and moral leadership across three districts in these states.
- The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee officially launched its Olympic mascots 'Miraitowa' and Paralympic mascot

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