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### **Current Affairs:- July 25 – August 04, 2018**

- The 10th edition of BRICS Summit concluded in Johannesburg, South Africa. The theme for this summit was '*BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution*'. Note: BRICS is made up of China, Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa. The summit saw the BRICS leaders come together and discuss various international and regional issues of common concern and adopt the 'Johannesburg Declaration' by consensus.
  - The hotel named '*Hostess*' was launched by Kerala Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran. India's public sector hotel run entirely by women for women is claimed to be the first such in the country.
  - India on July 26 celebrated the 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to mark the success of 'Operation Vijay' and to remember the supreme sacrifice of the Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil War.
  - The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched the '*Green Mahanadi Mission*', by planting a sapling on the bank of river Mahanadi. The main objective of the mission is to stop soil erosion on river banks and recharge the groundwater reserve. Note: Hirakud Dam built over Mahanadi River is situated in Odisha.
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- The Department of Telecom (DoT) has given final approval to the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular. The combination will be known as Vodafone Idea. It will create India's largest mobile-phone company.
  - Renowned historian and author of several bestselling books Ramachandra Guha has penned a new book titled "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" on the father of the nation. Ramachandra Guha had also penned down highly acclaimed books like "India After Gandhi" and "Gandhi Before India".
  - The Parliament approved a legislation to help the government bring back fugitives involved in white-collar crimes to stand trial in India. The fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 will become law after the President's assent and will empower the government to seize both local and overseas assets of alleged offenders, such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.
  - Insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20. IRDAI Member P.J. Joseph has been appointed as the Chairman of the committee. Note: IRDAI stands for Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. Subhash Chandra Khuntia is Chairman of IRDAI.
  - Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Rs.300 crore '*Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project*' in Sundargarh district.
  - According to the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation. It
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has surpassed Tamil Nadu that had for quite some time been India's best renewable market.

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society. Two Indians, Bharat Vatwani (for Restoring Health & Dignity to troubled lives) and Sonam Wangchuk (for Harnessing nature, culture & education) made the country proud as their names figured in the list of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award winners.
- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched the Meghalaya Milk Mission in Shillong. The mission will facilitate in achieving the Centre's goal of doubling farmer's income by 2022 through the promotion of milk business in the state.
- The Indian Railways launched 'Mission Satyanishtha' and a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event, at a day-long function held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi. The Satyanishtha mission aims to sensitise all railway employees about the need to adhere to good ethics and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.
- July 28 marks World Hepatitis Day 2018, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness of the disease and focus on how it can be treated, and eliminated. WHO will focus on the theme: "Test. Treat. Hepatitis" for World Hepatitis Day 2018 events.
- International Tiger Day was celebrated on 29 July to raise awareness about tiger conservation.
- World Day against Trafficking in Persons is organized across the world by the United Nations on 30 July to

Combat Trafficking in Persons. The theme for World Day against Trafficking in Persons is '*Responding to the trafficking of children and young people*'.

- In Wrestling, Bajrang Punia has won his second consecutive international gold at the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey.
  - Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma lifted the Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok.
  - Rajasthan Government signed an MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladeviji Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows. The cow sanctuary will be spread over an area of more than 220 hectares in Bikaner district. Note: India's first cow sanctuary was set up by the government in September 2017 in Madhya Pradesh's Agar Malwa district.
  - The United States has eased export controls for high-technology product sales to India by elevating its status to a Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) country. With the move, the United States has granted India the same access as NATO allies, Australia, Japan and South Korea.
  - India's richest person Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) beat Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the most valued company in India.
  - India has jumped 22 places to 96th rank to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018. Denmark topped the 2018 E-Government Development Survey.
  - In 3rd Bi-monthly Policy Statement, the Reserve bank of India's (RBI's) monetary policy committee (MPC) raised policy rates by 25 basis points to 6.5%. The committee has increased the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment
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facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.5%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 6.25%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75%.

- Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for the 24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill.
  - Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in the Savo Games in Lapinlahti, Finland.
  - Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for Math. 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.
  - World Junior Squash Championships 2018 was held in Chennai, India. Egypt national junior squash team defeated England 2-0 in the final and emerged as the 2018 World Junior Squash Champions. India finished in 11th position.
  - A National Viral Hepatitis control programme aimed at eliminating the deadly condition by 2030 was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Health Organisation.
  - Shivangi Pathak, who became the youngest Indian woman to reach the peak of Mount Everest, has added another feather to her cap by scaling Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro in 3 days.
  - Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched a logo and tagline for Geographical Indications (GI) to increase awareness about intellectual property rights (IPRs)
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in the country. The slogan for the GI tag is- '*Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India*'. A GI product is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

- Ranchi-based software developer Ranjit Srivastava is developing the world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot, claimed to cost just Rs.50,000 so far. Named Rashmi, the AI-powered robot can also speak Bhojpuri, Marathi, and English, and is equipped with facial expressions and recognition systems.
  - 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. The US-based retail company, Walmart has topped the list. IOC ranked 137th in 2018. RIL is the top private sector company in India. It ranked 148th in 2018.
  - President Ram Nath Kovind presented the *Outstanding Parliamentarian Award* for the years 2013-2017. Winners of the award are:
    1. Dr Najma Heptullah (for year 2013),
    2. Hukum Dev Narayan (for year 2014),
    3. Ghulam Nabi Azad (for year 2015),
    4. Dinesh Trivedi (for year 2016),
    5. Bhartruhari Mahtab (for year 2017).
  - Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan handed over 5 crore LPG connection under *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)* to Smt. Takirdiran of Delhi in the Parliament House. The 5 crore feat has been achieved in the time period of over 2 years. PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) on 1st May 2016 and it is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through its Oil Marketing Companies.
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Uttar Pradesh has got the maximum number of LPG connections (87 lakh) followed by West Bengal (67 lakh) and Bihar (61 lakh).

- Apple Inc. became the first US-based company with a market value of \$1 trillion.
  - Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels unveiled by the Centre this year.
  - The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) for getting Long Term Unsecured Loan of Rs.25000 crore for 10 years with 3 years of moratorium on repayments. This is the SBI's highest long-term unsecured loan to any entity.
  - The Supreme Court will have three serving women judges for the first time, after the Centre cleared the elevation of Madras High Court Chief Justice Indira Banerjee. The other two judges are R. Banumathi, appointed in August 2014, and Indu Malhotra, appointed in April 2018.
  - CHILDLINE is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance.
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