

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 18, 2019**

**STATES**

- ◆ **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy - announced the launch of his government's flagship programme called 'Village Volunteers System' during the independence day speech**



- ✓ The programme aims to explain and provide government services and schemes at doorsteps of people.
- ✓ The scheme would be officially launched on 2 October 2019, which also marks 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ The scheme intends to reach the poor people through the village secretariats, which would be set up in each village to deliver governance to people in 72 hours
- ✓ The scheme will involve more than 2.8 lakh volunteers serving as a bridge between the government and public
- ✓ Each volunteer will cover 50 people and they will receive an allowance of Rs 5000 every month along with identity cards
- ✓ An exclusive toll-free telephone number 1902 would be set up at call centre in Chief Minister Office (CMO) to receive people's grievances

# NATIONAL

## ◆ **Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), a high-performance centre for hockey - was inaugurated at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

- ✓ It was inaugurated by the state's Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik



- ✓ The academy was opened as part of Tata Odisha Hockey Programme, a joint initiative of Tata Steel, Tata Trusts and Government of Odisha to nurture hockey talent in the state
- ✓ As per the agreement, the state will provide the infrastructural support while Tata Trust will provide the coaching and technical support
- ✓ After the initial talent scouting program conducted by the Tata Trusts, around 350 students were shortlisted, out of which 24 junior girls including 18 from Odisha have been identified to join High-Performance Centre (HPC)
- ✓ Initially 10 to 12 grassroots centres will be established in Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts of Odisha
- ✓ State government sports hostels in Bhubaneswar, Rourkela and Sundargarh will become Regional Development Centres (RDCs) for the academy
- ✓ These Grassroots centres and RDCs will ensure a continuous flow of talent into NTHA with the assistance of infrastructural facilities provided by the state government

## ◆ **Union Ministry of Railways - launched CORAS (Commando for Railway Security) of Indian Railways**



- ✓ It is a separate Commando Unit of Railway Protection Force (RPF), created from the members of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF)

- ✓ These CORAS commandos will be posted in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)/Insurgency/Terrorism affected Railway areas where providing security to passengers and railway network remains a challenging task

◆ **40 Indian Origin youth from 9 countries - have taken part in 54th Edition of Know India Programme (KIP), scheduled from 1st August to 25th August, 2019**



- ✓ Punjab and Harayana are partner states for this edition
- ✓ The KIP was launched in 2004, aimed to give a sense of connect to Indian origin youth in age group of 18-30 years with their motherland
- ✓ It is a 25-day orientation programme organized by Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to inspire the students about the transformation in their country
- ✓ During the programme, the students are given exposure to the rich art, heritage and culture of the country apart from educating them on the progress made in various fields such as industry, education, science and technology, information & communication technology (ICT), climate and power and renewable energy etc.,

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

◆ **India and Bhutan - signed 10 MoUs after the talks in the field of space research, aviation, IT, power and education.**

- ✓ Currently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a trip to Bhutan, where he held bilateral talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering in line with the country's 'Neighbourhood First' policy
- ✓ The PM also launched RuPay Card in Bhutan
- ✓ Bhutan is the second country after Singapore where RuPay card was launched.
- ✓ In May 2018, PM Modi had launched three India's payment apps RuPay, BHIM and SBI apps in Singapore
- ✓ With the Card, the PM made a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal, which functions as a monastic and administrative centre and is one of the oldest dzongs (fortified building) in Bhutan.



- ✓ The two leaders jointly inaugurated the ground earth station and Satcom network, developed with assistance from Isro for utilisation of South Asia Satellite in Bhutan
- ✓ The PM also inaugurated the 740 MW Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant, and launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation.



- ✓ With the assistance of India, hydro-power generation capacity in Bhutan has crossed 2,000 MW
- ✓ He also pledged an additional \$100 million under a SAARC standby currency swap arrangement to meet the foreign exchange requirement.
- ✓ The PM also announced to increase the supply of LPG from India from 700 to 1,000 MT per month to meet the growing needs of the people of Bhutan.
- ✓ The two leaders also unveiled an e-plaque of the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network



- ✓ Bhutan was the first country that PM Modi visited as Prime Minister in 2014.
- ✓ RuPay Card was launched on 26 March 2012 by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to have India's own multilateral system of payments

◆ **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurated a ground station in Thimpu as part of India's South Asia Satellite (SAS or GSAT-9).**

- ✓ Launched on May 5, 2017, SAS was Delhi's gift to neighbours Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka who can access India's satellite for their needs

- ✓ The SAS will help these countries in multiple areas such as disaster management, TV broadcast services, meteorological data dissemination, tele-education, tele-medicine, etc.
- ✓ The ground station in Thimpu was installed by Bengaluru firm, Alpha Design Technologies Limited (ADTL)
- ✓ It started working in January after ISRO approved its performance
- ✓ Earlier, ADTL won the Isro contract to establish Ku Band ground stations, installation and commissioning of independent ground networks consisting of earth stations and VSAT user terminals in all the six participating countries and New Delhi in April 2018

## AWARDS

◆ **A smartphone app developed by three Indian girls (hailing from Chennai) - has won the first prize of \$12,000 at a prestigious international competition that invites all-girls teams from across the world to tackle real-world problems.**

- ✓ The three-member team which includes Stella, Ishwarya and Akshara, all between 10 and 14 years old, won the prize at Technovation Girls — an annual competition hosted by Technovation, a nonprofit in the US — for their app, Baton, which provides a collaborative platform for social work initiatives.



- ✓ The competition is divided into two categories — senior division that includes girls aged 15 to 18 and the junior division with those between 10 and 14.
- ✓ The Baton team won the first place in the junior category overcoming stiff challenges from other countries
- ✓ Baton is designed to maximize the social impact of initiatives started by social work interns or students in underserved communities.
- ✓ It hands over incomplete social work initiatives from one intern to another, collaborating with NGOs, institutions and corporations.
- ✓ Ishwarya and Stella stay in a home run by an NGO Paadhai in Chennai that houses destitute children

- ✓ Akshara is a Class VI student at Chennai's Padma Sheshadri Bala Bhavan Sr Sec School.
- ✓ The trio came together to form Team Social Relay, which they say is a team for equality and inclusiveness.
- ✓ The girls were mentored by Tanya Elizabeth Ken, a Class XI student at Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav SS School, Chennai.
- ✓ Tanya herself has built an app called LakshyaShala that helps students get mentorship from professionals and was among the finalists at the Technovation challenge in 2017.
- ✓ Another app, Maitri, developed by Indian girls was also among the top 12 finalists in the senior division.

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Deepa Malik - became the first woman and the second Indian Paralympian to be recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award**



- ✓ Her name was proposed by the 12-member selection committee
- ✓ Deepa won silver medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games in the shot put F53 category (for para-athletes who execute seated throws and have full muscle power in their shoulder, elbow and wrist in the throwing arm).
- ✓ Devendra Jhajaria, who bagged the honour in 2017, is the only other para-athlete to have won the coveted award
- ✓ Deepa is the only Indian woman to win medals at three consecutive Asian Para Games (2010, 2014, 2018)
- ✓ Deepa, 48, was previously honoured with the Arjuna award in 2012 and Padma Shri in 2017.
- ✓ Earlier, wrestler Bajrang Punia was nominated for the award.
- ✓ The committee also picked 19 sportspersons for the Arjuna award, including cricketers Ravindra Jadeja and Poonam Yadav, track and field stars Tejinder Pal Singh Toor, Mohammed Anas and Swapna Barman, footballer Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, hockey player Chinglensana Singh Kangujam and shooter Anjum Moudgil.

- ✓ Marzban Patel, the acclaimed grassroots coach from Mumbai who has moulded the careers of several India players, was awarded the Dronacharya award in the lifetime category.
- ✓ Other coaches recommended for the Dronacharya award include Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi) and Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket)
- ✓ Gaurav Gill could become the first-ever from the motor sport category to be named for the Arjuna Award
- ✓ Chennai's Bhaskaran would be the fourth bodybuilder to get the award and the first in 31 years, since T.V. Pauly in 1988
- ✓ Rider Fouaad Mirza, was also named in Arjuna award list for equestrian for the first time since 2004.
- ✓ The 12-member committee was headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Mukundakam Sharma and included the likes of Mary Kom, Bhaichung Bhutia, Anjum Chopra, Anju Bobby George and Kamlesh Mehta besides representatives from Sports Authority of India and the sports ministry
- ✓ The final recommendations of the committee include a massive 19-member list for Arjuna Awards and six for Dronacharya Award for coaching – three each in regular and lifetime categories.
- ✓ The awards are presented every year on August 29, Major Dhyan Chand's birthday, observed as the National Sports Day.

### **LIST OF RECOMMENDED AWARDEES**

- ✓ **Khel Ratna** - Bajrang Punia (wrestling) and Deepa Malik (para-athletics)
- ✓ **Arjuna award** - Tejinder Pal Singh Toor (athletics), Mohammed Anas Yahiya (athletics), S Bhaskaran (body building), Sonia Lather (boxing), Ravindra Jadeja (cricket), Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (hockey), Ajay Thakur (kabaddi), Gaurav Singh Gill (motor sports), Pramod Bhagat (para sports-badminton), Anjum Moudgil (shooting), Harmeet Rajul Desai (table tennis), Pooja Dhanda (wrestling), Fouaad Mirza (equestrian), Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (football), Poonam Yadav (cricket), Swapna Burman (athletics), Sundar Singh Gurjar (para sports-athletics), Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (badminton) and Simran Singh Shergill (polo)
- ✓ **Dronacharya award (regular category)** - Vimal Kumar (badminton), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis) and Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics)
- ✓ **Dronacharya award (lifetime category)** - Marzban Patel (hockey), Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi) and Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket)
- ✓ **Dhyan Chand award** - Manuel Fredricks (hockey), Arup Basak (table tennis), Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and C Lalremsanga (archery).
- ✓ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** – Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation, Go Sports, Rayalseema Development Trust
- ✓ **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy** – Punjab University (Chandigarh)

◆ **Dev Javia and Rashmikka Bhamidipaty - won the boys' and girls' title respectively in the 27th adidas MCC National junior Under-18 clay court championship**



- ✓ In the boys' category, 17-year-old Dev, the top seed from Gujarat, defeated the unseeded 16-year-old Arjun Sriram
- ✓ In the girls' final, 18-year-old Rashmikka of Telengana defeated the 16-year-old Reshma Maruri of Karnataka

◆ **Indian men's cyclist team - clinched the Team Sprint gold medal at World Junior Track Cycling Championships in Frankfurt, Germany**



- ✓ This is India's historic first ever gold win at any world cycling event, senior or junior
- ✓ The team comprised of Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh, James Singh and Rojit Singh
- ✓ Currently, the Indian men's junior team is ranked No. 2, behind Malaysia
- ✓ In individual Men's Keirin Event at the Championships, Esow Alben of India won bronze medal
- ✓ At present, Esow Alben, the cycling star from Andaman and Nicobar Islands is top-ranked junior cyclist in world in sprint and keirin events
- ✓ Earlier in 2018, he became the first Indian to win a medal at the Junior Track Cycling World Championships when he won silver in men's Keirin event

