

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JULY 2018

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Current Affairs – July 2018

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **July 2018**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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Appointments

1. Vijay Srinivas Appointed Director & GM of United India Insurance

United India Insurance Company has appointed K B Vijay Srinivas as its Director and General Manager with effect from 1st July. Prior to his appointment, Mr Srinivas was working as Chief Marketing Officer and General Manager with National Insurance Company Ltd.



Mr Srinivas has more than 37 years of experience. He is an associate member of Insurance Institute of India. United India Insurance Company (wholly owned by the Government of India) is the 2nd Largest General Insurance company with a premium of Rs.16000+ Crore in India.

2. P K Shrivastava took over as DG of Ordnance Factory Board

Shri P K Shrivastava, IOFS, has taken over as the new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) with effect from 1st July, 2018. Previously, he was Additional DGOF and Member at OFB and was in charge of Armoured Vehicles, headquartered in Avadi, Chennai.



Mr Shrivastava was the General Manager of Ordnance Factory Varangaon and has very ably led Ordnance Factory Khamaria as the Senior General Manager. He has also authored a book on 'Total Quality Management'.

3. Payments Council of India appointed Vishwas Patel as its new Chairman

Payments Council of India (PCI) has appointed Vishwas Patel as its new Chairman. He is the director of Infibeam Avenues. He will replace Naveen Surya, who has been elevated to the post of Chairman Emeritus. Vishwas has been associated with PCI ever since its inception in 2013 and was serving as its Co-Chairman of Payments Council of India.



PCI also appointed Loney Antony, Managing Director, Hitachi Payment Services, as its new co-chairman. PCI is the apex body representing the companies in the payments and settlement system.

4. Uttam Dhillon appointed as New Acting Administrator of Drug Enforcement Administration

Indian-American, Uttam Dhillon, has been appointed as the Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration in the USA. Dhillon will replace Robert Patterson, who has retired after 30 years of service.



In 2006, Dhillon was confirmed by the Senate as the first Director of the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to DHS, Dhillon served as an Associate Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Justice, where he chaired the Attorney General's Anti-Gang Coordination Committee.

5. Major General José Eladio Alcaín to Head UN Military Observer Group in India, Pakistan

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the appointment of Major General José Eladio Alcaín of Uruguay as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).



Major General Alcaín will succeed Major General Per Gustaf Lodin of Sweden. Major General Alcaín has had a distinguished career with the Uruguayan Army since 1977. Most recently, he held the position of Director of the National Health Service of the Armed Forces.

6. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed Justice AK Goel as new Chairperson of National Green Tribunal. Justice Goel had previously served as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and executive chairman of the Haryana State Legal Services Authority. Justice Goel will have to handle two important issues such as Tamil Nadu's Sterlite plant shutdown and cease of trees cut down in Delhi for construction purpose.



The National Green Tribunal established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010, looks into effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.

7. Dr. TCA Raghavan appointed as Director General of ICWA

The Vice President of India and the President of ICWA, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr. TCA Raghavan (IFS: 1982) as the Director General, ex officio Member-Secretary of the Council, ICWA.



Dr. TCA Raghavan has served as India's High Commissioner to Islamabad and Singapore and has served in missions at London, Thimphu and Kuwait. Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 as non-official, non-political and non-profit organisation. It is devoted exclusively for the study of international relations and foreign affairs.

8. TV Narendran appointed as Chairman of Bhushan Steel

Bhushan Steel has appointed TV Narendran as Chairman and Non-Executive Additional Director of the company. He is currently CEO and MD of Tata Steel. He has more than 30 years of experience in metal and mining industry.



Bhushan Steel Ltd was acquired by Tata Steel Ltd through the new insolvency and bankruptcy process. Tata Steel completed the acquisition of 72.65% stake in the debt-laden firm.

9. Tata AIA appointed Rishi Srivastava as CEO and MD

Rishi Srivastava has been appointed as new chief executive officer and managing director of Tata AIA Life. He replaced Naveen Tahilyani who took over as chief executive officer, group partnership distribution, AIA Group, Hong Kong. However, Rishi Srivastava's appointment is subject to regulatory approval from IRDAI.



Prior to this appointment, Rishi Srivastava was Chief of Proprietary Channels, Product, Marketing & Corporate Communication at Tata AIA. He has experience of 20 years in finance and insurance and had joined Tata AIA in 2016. Tata AIA Life Insurance Company provides life insurance solutions to individuals, groups and corporate clients in India.

Awards

1. Artist Anjolie Ela Menon conferred the Kalidas Award

The Madhya Pradesh government has conferred noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon with the National Kalidas Samman for Visual Arts. The award was conferred in recognition of her insightful and sensitive portrayal of the identity and spirit of women through her meaningful paintings in a variety of media.



Menon is recipient of numerous national and international awards including the Padma Shri. She recently received a doctorate from Rabindra Bharati University. Artist A Ramachandran was also conferred with the Kalidas Award.

2. Dr. TK Chand gets Knowledge Excellence Award

Dr. TK Chand received Knowledge Excellence Award from Secretary, Mines, Govt. of India for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain.



Dr. Chand focused on the role of non-ferrous metals in economy and briefed the gathering about the future prospect of Aluminium in India. He appealed to the Government to explore more mineable reserves of bauxite as the current rate is barely 17% of the deposit. A special NALCO booklet on Sustainable Mining titled 'Mine with Mind' was released at the International Conference at Ranchi, which was organized by Corporate Monitor.

3. Aruna Sairam selected for the 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award

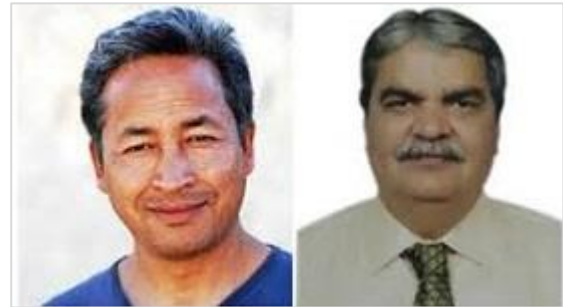
Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam has been selected for the 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award 2018. Veteran Mridangam artiste 'Thanjavur' R Ramadas was selected for the 'Sangita Kala Acharya' award. K Omana Kutty, who taught music for several years, was also selected for the 'Sangita Kala Acharya' award.



Kalyani Ganesan and SRG Rajanna was selected for 'TTK award'. Dr Prameela Gurumurthy was selected for the 'Musicologist' award. Eminent Bharathanatyam exponent and guru Shanta Dhananjayan was selected for the Dance award 'Nritya Kalanidhi'.

4. Two Indians named among Ramon Magsaysay Award winners

Two Indians, Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among the six winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award. The awards declared are regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.



Vatwani is being recognised for his courage in embracing India's mentally-afflicted destitutes. Wangchuk, has been recognised for his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India, improving the life opportunities of Ladakhi youth in Jammu and Kashmir. The others award winners are from Cambodia, East Timor, Philippines and Vietnam.

Books & Authors

1. 'The English Patient' By Michael Ondaatje won Golden Man Booker Prize

The English Patient by Michael Ondaatje won the best work of fiction from the last five decades of the Man Booker Prize. The Golden Man Booker winner was chosen on the basis of public votes. The English Patient opens in an abandoned Italian villa at the end of the Second World War where Hana, a nurse, tends to her sole remaining patient.



Michael Ondaatje is one of the world's foremost writers, whose work has influenced an entire generation of writers and readers. Although he is best known as a novelist, Ondaatje's work also encompasses poetry, memoir, and film.

2. Man Booker Prize Longlist of 13 novels announced

The longlist, or 'Man Booker Dozen', for the £50,000 Man Booker Prize was announced by a panel of five judges. The list was chosen from 171 submissions – the highest number of titles put forward in the prize's 50 year history.

Man Booker 'Dozen', of 13 novels:

Author	Title
Belinda Bauer	Snap
Anna Burns	Milkman
Nick Drnaso	Sabrina
EsiEdugyan	Washington Black
Guy Gunaratne	In Our Mad And Furious City
Daisy Johnson	Everything Under
Rachel Kushner	The Mars Room
Sophie Mackintosh	The Water Cure
Michael Ondaatje	Warlight
Richard Powers	The Overstory
Robin Robertson	The Long Take
Sally Rooney	Normal People
Donal Ryan	From A Low And Quiet Sea

3. Ramachandra Guha authored book titled 'Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World (1914-1948)

Veteran author Ramachandra Guha penned book on the father of the nation titled as "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)". It is expected to be released in September 2018 under publication of Penguin Random House India.



The book takes the reader through Gandhi's life, from his departure from South Africa to his dramatic assassination in 1948, the history of our freedom movement and new stances of his arguments with BR Ambedkar, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Subhash Chandra Bose. Ramachandra Guha has also penned various other books such as "India After Gandhi" and "Gandhi Before India".

Committees

1. Sunil Mehta Panel on NPAs submitted its report with recommendations to FM

The Sunil Mehta committee which was formed with a view to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and creating credit capacity submitted its report with recommendations to Finance Minister Piyush Goyal.

The Sunil Mehta panel presented project 'Sashakt' and has recommended a five-pronged strategy to deal with stressed assets. The plan focuses on turning around assets in a manner that will create additional jobs by reviving businesses and prevent job losses from foreclosures.



2. Government forms panel to upgrade norms for computation of economic data

The government has set up a 13-member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year to 2017-18 for National Accounts or GDP calculation.

The Committee for Sub-National Accounts will be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad. The panel has been asked to review the concepts, definitions, classifications, data conventions, data sources and data requirements for preparation of State Domestic Product (SDP) and District Domestic Product (DDP) and to lay down revised guidelines.



3. Law Commission recommended regulating betting

The Law Commission recommended that gambling and betting on sports, including cricket, be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

The commission's report is titled Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including Cricket in India. The commission has also recommended linking Aadhar or PAN card of an individual indulging in betting and gambling, and making the transaction cashless to regulate illegal activities such as money laundering.



4. Union Government constituted task force to suggest ways on reducing import dependence

The Union Government has constituted a high-level task force to identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on imports. The panel will be chaired by Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha.

The panel will advise ways to cut import of those items which can be manufactured or explored in the country. It will also consist of secretaries from Departments of Commerce, Industrial Policy and Promotion, Skill Development, Revenue, Defence Production, Steel, Petroleum, Electronics and Telecommunications.



5. MCA constituted a 10-Member Committee to review the offences under the Companies Act, 2013

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a 10 Member Committee, headed by the Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, for review of the penal provisions in the Companies Act, 2013.

The MCA seeks to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013 as some of the offences may be required to be decriminalised and handled in an in-house mechanism, where a penalty could be levied in instances of default. The Committee shall submit its report within 30 days.



6. Committee on Resolution of Stressed Assets suggests a Five-Pronged Approach for Stressed Assets Resolution

The Committee on Resolution of Stressed Assets has given its Report suggesting a five-pronged approach for stressed assets resolution by the banking industry in the areas of SME resolution.

Banks have initiated steps for taking forward the suggestions with due approvals: Banks may put in place a Robust Monitoring Process, Bank-Led Resolution, AMC/AIF-led resolution, resolution through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and an asset trading platform. Also, six new Debts Recovery Tribunal have been established to expedite recovery.



7. Recommendations of Shekatkar Committee

The Shekatkar Committee to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure submitted its report in December 2016. Measures as recommended by the Committee and taken up for implementation include:

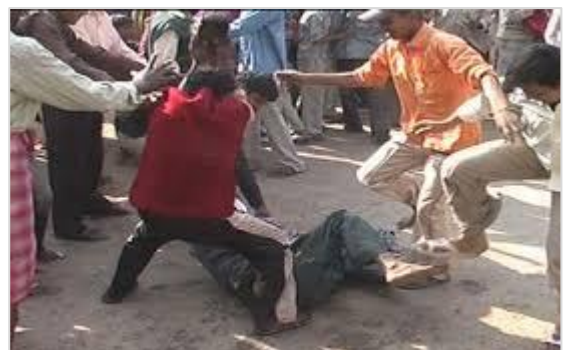
1. Optimization of Signals Establishments
2. Restructuring of repair echelons in the Army
3. Redeployment of Ordnance echelons
4. Better utilization of Supply and Transportation echelons and Animal Transport Units
5. Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations
6. Enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army
7. Improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps



8. Government sets up high-level committee to check mob lynching

In order to formulate appropriate measures to address the situation of mob lynching, the Union Government has set up a high level committee chaired by the Union Home Secretary to deliberate in the matter and make recommendations. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Government within four weeks.

Government has further decided to constitute a Group of Ministers headed by the Union Home Minister to consider the recommendations of the high level committee. The Group of Ministers will submit their recommendations to the Prime Minister.



9. Government to constitute committee to facilitate expeditious resolution of transporters' demands

The government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Road Transport and Highways to facilitate expeditious resolution of the demands of the transport fraternity.

Government will notify a National Permit Scheme to facilitate seamless movement of tourist vehicles across the country. With regard to toll collection, the government has agreed to put in place a mechanism to ensure seamless movement of transport vehicles across toll plazas with the help of technology within six months.



10. IRDAI forms panel for transparency in motor insurance

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a seven-member committee to suggest ways to bring transparency in payouts made to the auto dealers by the insurers for getting motor insurance business. IRDAI Member - Non Life P.J. Joseph is the Chairman of the committee.

The panel will also examine the deviations from the existing norms. The committee has been asked to submit its report within two months. The IRDAI regulations do not allow any person other than insurance agents and insurance brokers, to sell vehicle insurance policies.



11. NGT forms monitoring committee to clean Yamuna

The National Green Tribunal formed a monitoring committee to clean Yamuna. NGT appointed retired expert member B S Sajwan and former Delhi Chief Secretary Shailaja Chandra as members of the committee. The committee has been asked to submit action plan by September and a detailed report in the matter by December 31.

67% of the pollutants that enter the Yamuna would be treated by two sewage treatment plants at Delhi Gate and Najafgarh under the first phase of the 'Maili se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalisation Project'.



12. Government constituted High Level Empowered Committee to address the issues of stressed thermal power projects

In order to resolve the stress and revive Thermal Power Assets, the Government has set up a High Level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary with representatives from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and the lenders having major exposure to the power sector.



The Committee would look into the various issues with a view to resolve them and maximise the efficiency of investment including changes required in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and any other measures proposed for revival of stressed assets so as to avoid such investments becoming NPA.

13. Justice Srikrishna committee submits report on data privacy

The Justice Srikrishna committee has submitted the 'Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018 to the Union Minister for Electronics and IT, law and justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad. The Bill could form the basis of India's first data privacy law.



The Bill aims to protect the digital rights of Indian citizens and addresses issues such as consent, protecting children's rights in the digital age and at empowering citizens to fight for their digital rights.

Deaths

1. Liliane Montevecchi, Tony Winner, passed away

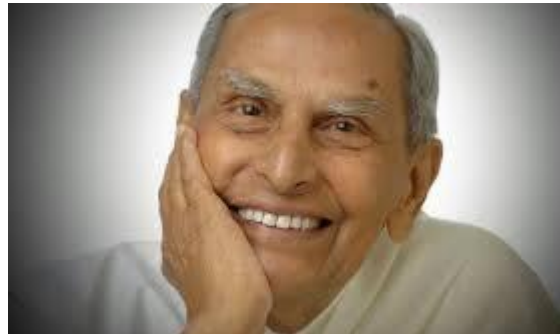
Liliane Montevecchi, the French-born actress, singer and dancer who won a Tony Award for her showstopping role as the producer in "Nine," passed away at the age of 85 years. She earned another Tony nomination, for a 1989 musical adaptation of "Grand Hotel".



Her last film was "4 Days in France" (2016). Before that, she appeared in "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" (2003). She was honored in 2013 by the French Minister of Culture as an Officer of Arts and Culture to France and the world at large.

2. Spiritual leader, head of Sadhu Vaswani mission Dada JP Vaswani passed away

Spiritual leader and head of Sadhu Vaswani mission Dada JP Vaswani passed away in Pune at the age of 99 years. He was born in Hyderabad, Sindh (Pakistan) on 2nd of August 1918.



Dada JP Vaswani was a world renowned spiritual leader known for promoting vegetarianism and animal rights. He is credited to have written over 150 self-help books. He was the recipient of the 1998 U Thant Peace Award, given by the United Nations. Dada Vaswani's birthday is celebrated as a Global Forgiveness Day.

3. Kannada poet Vyasa Rao passed away

Noted Kannada poet and film lyricist MN Vyasa Rao passed away at the age of 73 years. Vyasa Rao entered Kannada film industry as a lyricist in 1975 in the hit film Shubhamangala.



Vyasa Rao was also a novelist and had authored several detective and literary novels in Kannada, apart from writing short stories. He was also a recipient of Karnataka Rajya Sahitya Academy award for his short story collection "Maleyalli Neneda Maragalu".

4. Veteran actor Rita Bhaduri passed away

Veteran actor Rita Bhaduri passed away at the age of 62-years. She was best known for her roles in films like "Hero No 1" and "Beta". She was from the 1973 batch of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.

Bhaduri, who was last seen in television show "Nimki Mukhiya", had also featured in films like "Ghar Ho Toh Aisa", "Anth", "Virasat". Her TV serials include "Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai", "Amanat" and "Kumkum".



5. Poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away

Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away at the age of 94 years. Neeraj, who has also penned songs for Hindi films, was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri award in 1991 and was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2007.

Neeraj's style of poetry is easy to understand and considered to be high-quality Hindi literature. Some of his works as a poet include Prem Pujari, Tere Mere Sapne, Chanda Aur Bijli, Sharmili and many more.



6. Veteran politician Ramchandra Singhdeo passed away

The former and first finance minister of Chhattisgarh, Ramchandra Singhdeo, passed away at the age of 88 years. He served as the Minister of Water Resources before Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000.

Deo won his legislative seat on five occasions. He also authored books on economy and the issue of Bastar (Naxal-hit area) at large. He belonged to the Indian National Congress. He belonged to the royal family of the erstwhile Koriya kingdom.



7. Pulitzer Prize-winning restaurant critic Jonathan Gold passed away

Pulitzer Prize-winning restaurant critic Jonathan Gold passed away at the age of 57 years. He became the first restaurant critic to win a Pulitzer for criticism in 2007.

The self-described “belly of Los Angeles” also won numerous James Beard Foundation journalism awards during his career, including the MFK Fisher prize for distinguished writing and the Craig Claiborne Distinguished Restaurant Review Award. His reviews were compiled into a book, “Counter Intelligence: Where to Eat in the Real Los Angeles,” in 2000.



8. World's oldest person, Chiyo Miyako, passed away

The world's oldest known person, Chiyo Miyako, passed away at the age of 117 years, 81 days. The Guinness World Records had officially declared Miyako the world's oldest person in April 2018, after the death of fellow Japanese citizen Nabi Tajima, who also was 117.



115-year-old Kane Tanaka of Fukuoka, southern Japan, is the new oldest person. The world's oldest man is Masazo Nonaka of Hokkaido in northern Japan at the age of 113 years.

Defence

1. Tejas commences operations from Sulur Air Force Station

Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron 'The Flying Daggers' formally commenced operations from the Air Force Station at Sulur near Coimbatore under Group Captain S Dhankhar.



Tejas is the first advanced fly-by-wire fighter aircraft designed, developed and manufactured in India by Bengaluru headquartered HAL. It is equipped with a satellite aided Inertial Navigation System. It can fire Air-to-Air Missiles, carry bombs and Precision Guided ammunition.

2. BrahMos supersonic missile successfully test-fired

India's indigenously developed surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully test-fired from the Chandipur Test Range off the Odisha coast. The missile, developed with the help of Russia, has a 290-km target efficiency, which is going to be extended upto 400 kilometres.



The previous test firing of the missile was conducted on 21st May when it was launched from a mobile launcher under life extension program. BrahMos is the first Indian missile whose life has been extended from 10 to 15 years.

3. Indo-US delegation meeting on Defence Cooperation

As part of Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, the 7th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting was held between India and the US delegation in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by, Secretary (Defence Production), Dr Ajay Kumar and Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment, DoD, US Government Ms Ellen M Lord.



The meetings are held twice a year, alternately in India and the USA with the aim to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.

4. IAF participated for the First Time in Exercise Pitch Black

An Indian Air Force contingent, for the first time, participated in a multinational air exercise called Exercise Pitch Black-18 in Australia with Royal Australian Air Force. This exercise involves over 100 aircraft from around the globe and will provide a unique opportunity to the air-warriors to operate in a dynamic warlike environment.

The IAF had participated in the recently concluded Exercise Gaganshakti-2018, with Indonesian and Malaysian Air Forces.



End of ebook preview

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