

## [CURRENT AFFAIRS – 22-AUG -2018]

### 1) Taliban accepted Russias invite for Afghanistan peace talk

The Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Taliban plans to take part in Afghanistan peace talks which will be held in Moscow on September 4. Russia had invited 12 countries, including the U.S., for the international talks, which come as Moscow is taking a more prominent role on Afghanistan. Abdul Kayum Kuchai, Afghanistan's Ambassador in Moscow, welcomed the Taliban's involvement in the talks. Earlier in April 2017, Russia conducted international talks on Afghanistan.

### 2) President Ram Nath Kovind appoints 7 New Governors

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed governors for seven states — Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura. Here is the list of new governors Satya Pal Malik - Jammu & Kashmir (Replaced NN Vohra) Tathagata Roy - Meghalaya (Replaced Ganga Prasad) Lalji Tandon - Bihar (Replaced Satya Pal Malik) Ganga Prasad - Sikkim (Replaced Shriniwas Patil) Kaptan Singh Solanki - Tripura (Replaced Tathagata Roy) Satyadev Narayan Arya - Haryana (Replaced Kaptan Singh Solanki) Baby Rani Maurya - Uttarakhand (Replaced K K Paul)

### 3) Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch India Post Payments Bank on September 1

The launch of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was recently rescheduled in the wake of seven-day national mourning declared after the demise of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. IPPB has permission to link around 17-crore postal savings bank (PSB) accounts with its account.

### 4) Govt Plans to Transfer Air India's Non-Core Assets to Special Purpose Vehicle

In the current financial year, the airline received an equity infusion of Rs 650 crore up to June. TAP and a Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) were approved for Air India by the previous UPA regime in 2012.

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### 5) KRSTC faces Rs.27 lakh revenue loss due Kerala flood

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) suffers an average of Rs.27 lakh revenue loss on account of suspension of services in the Mangaluru-Bengaluru/Mysuru and Puttur-Bengaluru sectors. The road routes to Shiradi and Sampaje ghats have been closed due of the flood in Kerala. KSRTC operates 167 services in these sectors every day. The prime revenue earning sectors for KSRTC is the Bengaluru-Mangaluru sector. It has deployed nearly 40 premium services, including Airavat (Volvo), Airavat Club Class (multi-axle, Volvo and Scania) and AC sleeper coaches.

### 6) International Day of Remembrance and tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on 21 August

This day is observed in order to commemorate the core values of the United Nations and is an indiscriminate threat that affects people and countries across the globe. The first International Day,

the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Belgium, Iraq, Nigeria, and the United States, along with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED) will launch a multimedia exhibit at the Exhibition Hall, Visitors' Lobby at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**7) 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.

**8) VVS Laxman wrote down his autobiography titled '281 and Beyond**

The autobiography will be released by the Westland Publications on November 20, 2018. Indian cricketer VVS Laxman who announced his retirement from international cricket in 2012, played 134 Tests, scoring 8,781 runs at an average of 45.97. He also played in 86 ODIs for an aggregate of 2338 and average of 30.76 in the shorter format.

**9) Shane Warne autobiography No Spin to be released in October**

Australian cricketer Shane Warne's autobiography "No Spin" will have a global release on October 4. The memoir is written with cricketer and TV presenter Mark Nicholas. Warne played his first Test match in 1992, and took over 1,000 international wickets (in Tests and One-Day Internationals). He also captained the Rajasthan Royals to victory in the IPL in 2008. He officially retired from all cricket formats in 2013.

**10) Retd Judge TP Sharma appointed as New chief of Chhattisgarh Lokayukta**

Sharma will head the Chhattisgarh Lok Ayog, set up to deal with corruption cases against public servants. Sharma, the state's fourth chief Lokayukta, will succeed Justice (retired) Shambhu Nath Shrivastava, who was appointed to the post on August 14, 2013. Sharma previously holds the post of Chairman, Chhattisgarh Law Commission.

**11) Greece exits eurozone bailout programme after 8 years**

Greece emerged from the eurozone bailout programme after eight years, successfully completing its third bailout programme worth €61.9 billion. The European Union, European Central Bank and IMF had loaned Greece €289 billion under the three bailout deals, in support of macroeconomic adjustment and bank recapitalization. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), only four countries have shrunk economically more than Greece in the past decade: Yemen, Libya, Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea.

**12) PV Sindhu only Indian in Forbes list of top paid female athletes 2018**

With earnings of \$8.5 million (nearly ₹60 crore), Rio Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu is the only Indian to feature in Forbes' list of top 10 highest-paid female athletes of 2018. Placed seventh, Sindhu is the only badminton player in the list, which features eight tennis players and one race car driver- Danica

Patrick. Twenty-three-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams tops the list, with \$18.1-million total earnings.

**13) Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet named Kowsar**

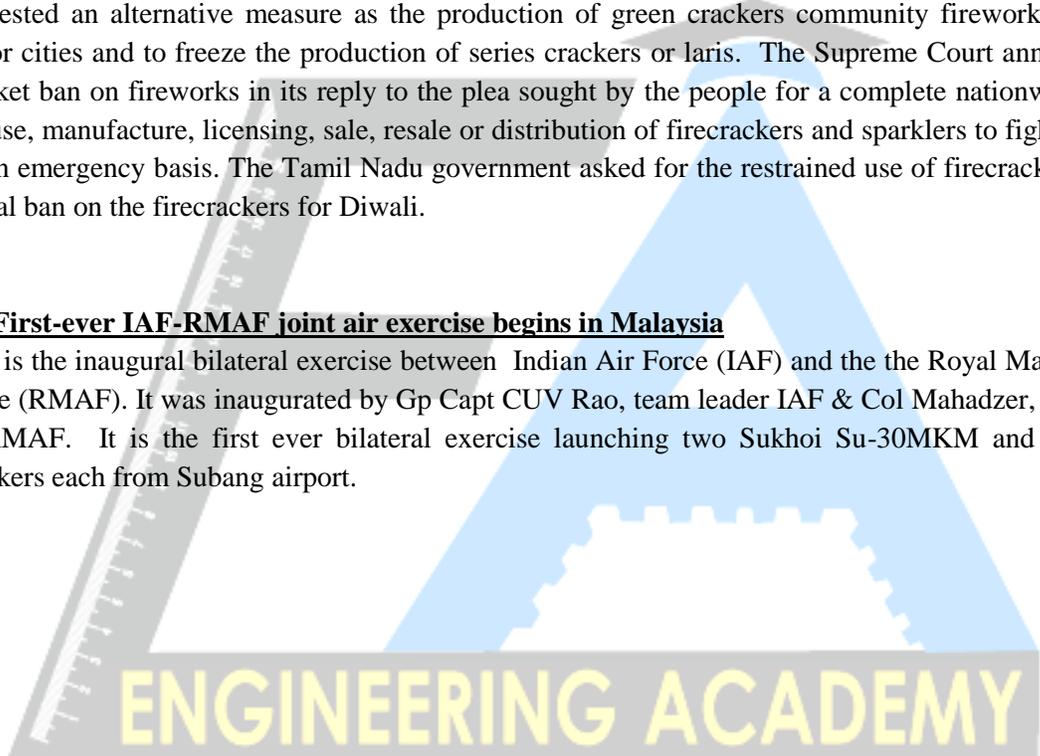
The aircraft is nicknamed 'Kowsar', which in Islam is a river in paradise and also the title of a chapter in the Koran. This defence programme was motivated by repeated threats from Israel and the US. Iran celebrates National Defence Industry Day on August 22. Iran President - Hassan Rouhani

**14) Centre ruled out the ban on fire crackers on Diwali**

The Centre announced a national ban on firecrackers in order to combat pollution during Diwali. It also suggested an alternative measure as the production of green crackers community fireworks events in major cities and to freeze the production of series crackers or laris. The Supreme Court announced the blanket ban on fireworks in its reply to the plea sought by the people for a complete nationwide ban on the use, manufacture, licensing, sale, resale or distribution of firecrackers and sparklers to fight pollution on an emergency basis. The Tamil Nadu government asked for the restrained use of firecrackers but not a total ban on the firecrackers for Diwali.

**15) First-ever IAF-RMAF joint air exercise begins in Malaysia**

This is the inaugural bilateral exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and the the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). It was inaugurated by Gp Capt CUV Rao, team leader IAF & Col Mahadzer, Ex director of RMAF. It is the first ever bilateral exercise launching two Sukhoi Su-30MKM and Su-30MKI Flankers each from Subang airport.



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