

## CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY-AUGUST 2018

- A robotic arms to help firefighters act fast: Delhi fire services is all set to equip itself better by the end of this year to match its infrastructure with most developed countries. It has made a first of its kind plan to buy robotic arm fire tenders to deal with bigger incidents.
- Indian Railways plans to go vegetarian on Gandhi Jayanti. Railways plans to serve only vegetarian food on its premises, stations and on trains on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Are Octopuses aliens? Octopuses are aliens: that's the claim being made by team of 33 researchers published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. They are not referring to aliens in a metamorphical sense but, literal aliens from outer space.
- New York Police Department (N Y P D) has got its first female turbaned sikh auxilliary police officer, whose induction aims to motivate others to join law enforcement help create better understanding of sikhism.
- India-American brain behind key-NASA Project: The main brain behind NASA's latest Physics experiment to create the coldest spot in the universe - Anita SenGupta – an Indian American has a strong connect with India as her father is from West Bengal. The spot created by Cold Atom Laboratory (CAL) is expected to be 10 billion times colder than the vacuum of space.
- Twin satellites to chase water changes on Earth. A pair of identical sports car sized satellites are poised to zoom around the Earth and track changes in water and ice, offering new insights into global warming and sea level rise.
- World's most complicated rescue operation: All twelve soccer player boys and coach successfully rescued from the Thai cave. They were trapped in the cave for 18 days. We are not surprised if this is a miracle, a science or what!!
- 2 great losses for Indians: ISRO scientist Dr. U R Rao died at 85 on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018, who had launched the first Indian satellite Aryabhata. On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018, another Indian scientist Prof. Yashpal died at 90. He was the one who brought science into our living room.
- Young Chess Champion: Chennai boy R Praggnanandhaa has become the world's second youngest Grandmaster ever at 12 years, 10 months and 13 days.  
Indian chess legend Vishwanathan Anand was 18 when he became a grand master.  
Pragga as he is affectionately known, targets to become the world champion.
- At last Saudi women are free to drive now. It was the only country where women were not allowed to drive and were not given any training or driving license.
- 'Chipko Movement' returns to save Delhi's lungs: Taking a leaf out of Sunder Lal Bahuguna's Chipko Movement, protesters opposing the proposed felling of around 16,500 trees in South Delhi did a symbolic act of embracing the trees and tied green ribbons around them. The trees are supposed to be cut for seven housing projects.
- India-Australian, 3 others win 'Nobel of Maths'. New Delhi born Akshay Venkatesh bags Fields Medal for Profound Contribution to Mathematics.
- The Intelligent Hub: Andhra Pradesh government will set up 'I.Hub' for research and scientific learning.
- Madhya Pradesh state will celebrate Independence Day as 'Shahid Samman Divas' to honour martyrs.
- China launches Gaofen-II, an optical remote sensing satellite: It is a high resolution Earth observation satellite. The satellite can be used for land survey, urban planning, road network, design, agriculture planning etc.
- The first 'Nepal-India Think Tank' summit recently held in Kathmandu to foster greater collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Biogas plant to be set up at Golden Temple, Amritsar.
- The Indian Army and its Chinese Counterpart have expressed mutual desire to maintain peace and improve relations at the functional level along the line of LAC (Line of Actual Control).