



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, VARANASI

GK SEMESTER 1

Current Affairs July and August 2018 -

1. India becomes regional head of **ASIA PACIFIC REGION** in **World Customs Organization, WCO**. WCO represents **182** customs administrations that collectively process **98%** of the World Trade.
2. Tokyo Olympics 2020 organizing committee launched its Olympic mascots '**MIRAITOWA**' and '**SOMEITI**' where the former means "*promoting future full of eternal hope*" and the latter represents *Paralympics mascot*.
3. NASA announced to launch the **PARKER SOLAR PROBE**, a robotic **car sized** spacecraft to reveal the Sun and multiple mysteries behind the star.
4. **BRICS** nations i.e., **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** convened for the **10th BRICS summit** from **July 25 - July 27** in **Johannesburg**, South Africa.
5. Ace fast bowler Imran Khan's **Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaaf (PTI)** emerged as the single largest party in National Assembly with a total of **116** seats.
6. **STARTUP INDIA** launches '**Startup Academia Alliance**' Program to fulfill government's mission to promote spirit of **entrepreneurship** in the country.
7. **World Bio-fuel Day** was observed on **August 10** to create awareness about the importance of renewable '**green fuels**'.
8. **International Youth Day** was observed on **August 12** to get set of cultural and legal issues surrounding the youth. Theme of this year is '**Safe spaces for youth**'. It signifies safe places where youth can come together, engage in activities related to their diverse needs, participate in decision making processes and freely express themselves.
9. **Delhi police** has inducted India's first **ALL WOMEN SWAT** team for anti-terrorist operations.
10. First of its kind, '**National Wildlife Genetics Resource Bank**' was inaugurated at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's Laboratory (of conservation of endangered species facility) in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
11. Former prime minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** passed away on **August 17** at the age of **93**. He was a veteran political leader and a prolific writer & poet. He was elected **thrice** as prime minister of India to serve the nation during his life time.

12. 11th Vishwa Hindi Sammelan(World Hindi Conference) was held in **Mauritius** in its capital city, **Port Louis**. Mauritius Prime Minister **Praveen Kumar Jagannath** inaugurated the Conference which was attended by our external affairs minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

13. India's teen cyclist **Esow Alben** (17), of Andaman and Nicobar, created history by winning India's **first ever medal** at **world level** in **track cycling** category.

14. A team of international researchers, including **18 Indian scientists**, have decoded **wheat genome**. In this research, the DNA sequence of bread wheat was successfully ordered which represents **highest quality genome sequence** generated till date.

15. Former secretary general of the UN, **Kofi Atta Annan** passed away on **August 18**. Annan and the UN were the **co-recipients** of **2001 Nobel Peace Prize**.