

**August 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> news:**

**International:**

**Marie Curie tops BBC History poll of women who changed the world**

Marie Curie, the pioneering scientist who was the first person to win two Nobel prizes, has topped a poll asking which woman has had the most significant impact on world history. BBC History magazine compiled a list of "100 women who changed the world", chosen by 10 experts, and asked its readers to help rank them.

Polish-born Curie, who undertook pioneering research into radioactivity in the early 20th century, was voted number one, followed by Rosa Parks, Emmeline Pankhurst, Ada Lovelace and Rosalind Franklin.

**National:**

**Defence Industrial Corridor Launched in UP**

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a defense industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. The move is part of the government's efforts to develop specialized zones dedicated to defense production in the state. Six nodal points, Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi have been identified in state for the corridor. Another defense corridor was also launched in Tamil Nadu.

**Santhali becomes India's first tribal language to get own Wikipedia edition**

Santhali (Santali), a tribal language primarily spoken in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, received global recognition when it got a Wikipedia edition in its own script. The language is been spoken by over 6.4 million people in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam. The initiative to get a Santhali edition for Wikipedia, began six years ago, in 2012. Santhali, written in the Ol Chiki script currently has content of about 70,000 words

**Bilateral:**

**Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018 To Be Conducted in Russia**

As part of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) initiatives, SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conducted biennially for SCO member states. The joint exercise for the year 2018 will be conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia from 22 August to 29 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia. This will be a historic occasion due to the maiden participation of India post becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017. This exercise marks a major milestone in the multilateral relations of SCO member nations

**Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 Begins in Birgunj**

Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 has begun in Birgunj, Nepal. The festival is aimed at strengthening Indo-Nepal ties. Eminent writers from both the countries were also felicitated. Around 250 participants

from India and Nepal attending the two-day festival. The event is organized by Nepal India Co-operation Forum.

#### **Economy:**

##### **Axis Bank Introduced 1st of Its Kind Iris Authentication for Aadhaar-Based Transactions**

Axis bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce *Iris Scan Authentication feature* for Aadhaar -based transactions through its micro ATM tablets. This is being run as a pilot project in 8 branches of rural Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

##### **Piyush Goyal Releases the Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness**

Minister of Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal has released a report on Station Cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI)

This is the third such audit cum survey which has been conducted by Railways to increase level of cleanliness by identifying unclean spots/gaps and to improve cleanliness standards and also to propel healthy competition among railway stations. Rankings...

##### **A1 category stations (out of 75):**

- 1st: Jodhpur/North-Western Railway
- 2nd: Jaipur/North-Western Railway
- 3rd: Tirupati/South-Central Railway.

##### **A category stations (out of a total of 332):**

- 1st: Marwar/North Western Railway
- 2nd: Phulera/North -Western Railway
- 3rd: Warangal/South-Central Railway.

##### **Zonal Railway rankings are:**

- 1st: North Western Railway
- 2nd: South Central Railway
- 3rd: East Coast Railway.

## **Exim Bank Signs MoU With BRICS Development Banks**

Exim Bank of India has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake “collaborative research” in distributed ledger/blockchain technology. The MoU signed by Exim Bank Managing Director David Rasquinha was an outcome of the discussions the member development banks had during their annual meeting, with the objective of strengthening the cooperation under the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.

## **Science and Technology:**

### **India to Launch 2nd 'Chandrayaan-2' in 2019**

India will launch its second lunar mission “Chandrayaan-2” on January 3, 2019, to land on the moon with a lander and rover. According to Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K. Sivan, ISRO is aiming to launch the mission but the window to land on the lunar surface is open till March 2019. The 800-crore rupees is the cost of lunar mission named “Chandrayaan-2”. The 3,890-kg Chandrayaan-2, which will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-3, will orbit around the moon and study its lunar conditions to collect data on its topography, mineralogy and exosphere.

## **Environment:**

### **Centre unlocks over Rs 66,000 crore green fund to increase country's forest cover**

The Central government has unlocked more than 66,000 crore rupees to increase the forest cover across the country. The fund is an accumulated amount of money which user agencies have been depositing as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, including industries and infrastructure, over the last 10 years.

The Centre has finally notified the rules for utilization of the money by states and Union Territories, and for setting up authorities to monitor its use for afforestation and conservation. The rules have been framed two years after a law to this effect was enacted.

The rules, notified, specify that 80 percent of the compensatory afforestation amount will be utilized by states for plantations, assisted natural regeneration of forests, forest fire prevention, pest and disease control in forest, soil and moisture conservation works and improvement of wildlife habitat, among others, in the list of 13 permissible activities.

The remaining 20 percent will be used for 11 listed works to strengthen forest and wildlife protection related infrastructure.

The list includes third-party monitoring of works, forest certification, development of certification standards and casual hiring of local people to assist forest department staff.

## **Sports:**

### **Rafael Nadal Lifts Rogers Cup**

Seventeen times Grand Slam champion winner Rafael Nadal clinched his fourth Canadian Masters 1000 title at the Rogers Cup in Toronto. He defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas. With this win, Nadal clinched his 80th ATP World Tour title and fifth victory of the year.

## **Persons in news:**

**Justice Manjula Chellur:** She took Oath as Chairperson, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, Ministry of Power. Prior to this, she was Chief Justice of Bombay High Court. She was the first woman Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

## **Obituary**

**Somnath Chatterjee:** Former Lok Sabha speaker Somnath Chatterjee passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Chatterjee was the Speaker of the Lower House from 2004-09 when Manmohan Singh-led UPA- 1 (United Progressive Alliance) was in power

He associated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) for most of his life, though he had been a non-affiliated independent during his last decade

**VS Naipaul:** Nobel Prize-winning British author V S Naipaul has died on 11<sup>th</sup> August. His full name is Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul. He was born in Trinidad wrote more than 30 books and won the Nobel Literature Prize in 2001.