

Daily Current Affairs – July 31 2019**NATIONAL****Karnataka****Vishweshwar Hegde all set to become new Speaker**

- After the resignation of Speaker Ramesh Kumar, the six-time MLA from Sirsi Assembly constituency and senior BJP leader Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri is all set to become the new Speaker of the state Assembly.

Maharashtra**Mumbai receives over 72% average rainfall of the season**

- Mumbai has so far received almost more than 72 per cent average rainfall of the season.

INTERNATIONAL**Ethiopia plants more than 200 million trees in 1 day**

- Ethiopians planted more than 200 million trees on July 29, which officials stated will be a world record. Ethiopia is in the midst of a tree planting campaign in which it aims to plant 4 billion trees between May and October. It is the ambitious initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

China bets big on 5G, to spend \$150 billion in next 6 years

- China is planning to spend \$150 billion on 5G wireless technology in the next six years a move to jump-start automated manufacturing and enable Beijing to emerge as a world leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

480 million dollar aid to Sri Lanka

- The United States (US) has asserted that the Millennium Challenge Corporation's 480 million US dollar aid to Sri Lanka was a gift from the people of the US and not a loan.

Tropical storm Erick grows into hurricane

- In the US, the National Hurricane Center has said that tropical storm Erick has grown in strength to a hurricane in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**RBI relaxes External Commercial Borrowing norms for corporates, non-banking lenders**

- Reserve Bank has liberalised the end-use stipulations for the External Commercial Borrowings both for corporates as well as liquidity starved non-banking lenders. This will be applicable to External Commercial Borrowing (ECBs) taken for working capital, general corporate purpose loans or repayment of rupee loans.

Indian IT companies contributed 57.2 billion dollars to US' GDP in 2017

- India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that Indian IT companies contributed 57.2 billion dollars to the GDP of the US in 2017.

RANKINGS & INDEXES**Sai Praneeth enters top 20 in World Badminton Rankings**

- Indian shuttler B.Sai Praneeth has jumped four places to enter in the top 20 players in the latest World Badminton Rankings. Praneeth is now World No.19 in Men's Singles badminton ranking. Kidambi Srikanth has maintained his tenth position while Sameer Verma retains his 13th position.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 to be held at Shillong**

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the State Government of Meghalaya will organize the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya. This is the first time the event is being organized in North-Eastern region of the country. The theme of this Conference is “Digital India: Success to Excellence”.

APPOINTMENTS**Senior IAS officer Rajiv Kumar to be new Finance Secretary**

- Senior IAS officer Rajiv Kumar will be the new Finance Secretary. The approval was given by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Presently he is serving as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services.

SCHEMES**Atal Innovation Mission to launch new programme for Community Innovation**

- NITI Aayog's flagship initiative, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) will launch a new programme for Community Innovation in New Delhi. The new initiative aims to encourage the spirit of innovation in the country.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS**Parliament passes Companies (Amendment) Bill**

- Parliament has passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013. It aims to tighten Corporate Social Responsibility-CSR compliance, transfer certain responsibilities to National Company Law Tribunal and recategorise certain offences as civil offences.

SPORTS

Thailand Open Badminton Tournament

- The Main draw in Thailand Open badminton tournament will begin in Bangkok. India's Saina Nehwal, Sai Pranneeth, Kidambi Srikanth, H S Prannoy, Parupalli Kashyap to play their opening match in the tournament.

BCCI suspends Prithvi Shaw for doping violation

- Indian Test opener Prithvi Shaw has been suspended by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) till November 15, 2019, for a doping violation. His Urine sample was subsequently tested and found to contain Terbutaline. Terbutaline, a specified substance, is prohibited both In & Out of Competition in the WADA Prohibited List of Substances.

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