



Presents

International Affairs - August 2019

CURRENT AFFAIRS ▾ QUIZ ▾ PREVIOUS PAPER ▾ STUDY MATERIALS ▾ NOTIFICATIONS ▾ RESULTS ▾ ONLINE TEST

Monthly Current Affairs August 2019

International Affairs

Indian tourists exempted from visa fees by Sri Lankan Government

- India is among 48 countries whose citizens have been exempted from visa fees for tourism purposes by Sri Lankan government. Indian tourist constitutes the maximum number with around one fourth of total tourist arrivals. Tourism is Sri Lanka's third largest and fastest growing source of foreign currency.

U.S. Embassy organizes South Asia Air Quality Tech Camp

- The U.S. Embassy in Nepal has organized a South Asia Air Quality Tech Camp in Kathmandu. The aim of camp is to address political, social and scientific facets of air pollution problem.

Japan's cabinet approves removal of South Korea from favoured trade list

- Japan's cabinet approved a plan to remove South Korea from a list of countries that enjoy minimum export controls, a move likely to escalate tensions fuelled by a dispute over compensation for wartime forced labourers.

Indian president's First visit to Guinea

- President Ram Nath Kovind has reached the Guinea capital, Conakry. Mr. Kovind was accorded a warm welcome by President of Guinea Alpha Conde. Our correspondent reports that this is the first-ever state visit by an Indian President to Guinea.

U.S. formally withdraws from INF arms treaty

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Washington's formal withdrawal in a prepared statement at the ASEAN meet in Bangkok, minutes after Russia pronounced the treaty to be "dead". The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty limited the use of medium-range missiles, both conventional and nuclear.

Model village built with Indian assistance inaugurated in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka, the Gandhi Nagar model village built with Indian assistance was inaugurated and the completed houses handed over to the beneficiaries. It is the second of the 100 model villages being built with Indian assistance and is named after Mahatma Gandhi, in his 150th birth anniversary.

United States designates China a "currency manipulator"

- The United States has designated China a "currency manipulator", a move that could escalate the tense trade relations between the two nations.

Japan urged to sign UN nuke ban on Hiroshima anniversary

- The mayor of Hiroshima urged Japan to sign a landmark UN treaty banning nuclear weapons as the city, on August 6, marked 74 years since being targeted in the world's first atomic attack. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led commemorations at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima to remember those killed in the August 6, 1945 bombing.

Trump imposes total U.S. freeze on Venezuelan government assets

- U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a freeze on all Venezuelan government assets in the United States on August 5, sharply escalating a diplomatic and sanctions drive aimed at removing socialist President Nicolas Maduro from power.

Bangladesh signs uranium supply deal with Russia

- Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). Under the deal, Russia will supply the nuclear fuel needed for the plant during its entire life cycle.

India contributes USD 5 million to UN Palestine refugee agency

- India contributed yesterday USD 5 million to the UN Palestine refugee agency and called for ensuring sustained fiscal support for the organisation's work. The UNRWA has been providing health, education, relief and social services, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, across its five areas of operations in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, and the Gaza Strip since 1950.

US ends visa-free entry for visitors to North Korea

- The United States has revoked visa-free entry rights to the country, for foreigners who have visited North Korea in the past eight years. This move may deal a new blow to the isolated country's nascent tourism industry.

US approves sale of helicopters to S Korea

- The US government has approved the sale of 12 multi-mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea worth 800 million US dollar.
- The helicopters bolster anti-surface and anti-submarine missions and can handle secondary missions like replenishment, search and rescue and communications relay. The two countries have been in a security alliance since the 1950-53 Korean war.

India, Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum utilisation of water resources

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum utilisation of Ganges water as being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.
- The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna mega-basin is the second largest hydraulic region in the world.

Newly-discovered lake in Nepal likely to become world's highest

- The Kajin Sara lake in Manang district was discovered about a few months ago by a team of mountaineers. It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality. A newly-discovered lake in Nepal is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest lake replacing Tilicho, which is situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in the Himalayan nation and currently holding the title.

Typhoon Lekima**2019 is the United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Languages**

- The United Nations General Assembly has declared **2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.**
- The Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea has the highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in the world (840), while India stands fourth with 453.

Surabaya scheme in Indonesia

- Indonesia has introduced the Surabaya scheme, by which passengers can swap trash for travel tickets. According to authorities, the scheme is a hit, with nearly 16,000 passengers trading trash for free travel each week.
- Indonesia is the world's second-biggest marine polluter behind China. It has pledged to reduce plastic waste in its waters some 70% by 2025 by boosting recycling, raising public awareness, and curbing usage.

Unexploded Second World War bomb found in Kremlin

- An unexploded World War II bomb was found in the grounds of the Kremlin in Moscow during construction works. Kremlin was bombed between 1941 and 1942.

Severe Tropical Storm Krosa

- A powerful tropical storm lashed Japan, bringing strong winds and torrential rain. Severe Tropical Storm Krosa, which is one notch below a typhoon, slammed into the southern Hiroshima region, packing wind gusts of up to 126 kilometres per hour

Iceland's Okjokull glacier commemorated with plaque

- In Iceland, people will gather to commemorate the loss of the glacier Okjokull, which was officially declared dead in 2014 at the age of 700. The glacier was officially declared dead by the Icelandic Meteorological Office when it was no longer thick enough to move.

PM Modi to embark on 3-day visit to UAE, Bahrain

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-nation tour of France, UAE and Bahrain on 22nd of this month. This will be the first-ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Japan has a robot priest in Temple

- A 400-year-old temple in Japan is attempting to hot-wire interest in Buddhism with a robotic priest. The android Kannon, based on the Buddhist deity of mercy, preaches sermons at Kodaiji temple in Kyoto, and its human colleagues predict that with artificial intelligence (AI), it could one day acquire unlimited wisdom.

Bavar-373 missile defense system of Iran

- Iran displayed a domestically-built long-range, mobile surface-to-air missile system Bavar-373. Iran developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes barring it from importing many weapons.
- This long-range air defense system can detect targets or planes at more than 300 km (190 miles), lock it at about 250 km, and destroy it at 200 km.

India, U.S. to hold 2+2 dialogue

- Amid increased India-Pakistan tension, the United States will host an intersessional meeting of the US-India 2+2 Dialogue in California to discuss ways to advance cooperation on critical diplomatic and security priorities. The intersessional meeting is aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership.

Nepal bans single use plastics on Everest region

- Nepal will make the Everest region a plastic-free zone by 2020 by banning single-use plastics, a move that will curb excessive pollution on the highest point of the Earth's surface. The new rule will come into effect from January 1, 2020.

India, France plan satellite surveillance of ships

- India and France have formalised the development and launch of a unique constellation of around 10 low-earth orbit satellites that will continuously provide maritime surveillance and security. Ten low-earth orbit satellites will track aggression, terrorism, piracy, smuggling, source of oil slicks, especially in the Indian Ocean Region.

Iran to let women attend football World Cup qualifier

- In Iran, women fans will now be allowed as spectators into the stadium for next football World Cup qualifier match in October. Iran barred women spectators at matches since the 1979 Islamic revolution, with clerics arguing that women must be protected from the masculine atmosphere.

Democratic Republic of Congo announces new government

- In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a coalition government was announced, seven months after the inauguration of new President Felix Tshisekedi. Mr Tshisekedi emerged victorious in elections that marked the Democratic Republic of Congo's first peaceful transition of power since the mineral-rich nation gained independence from Belgium in 1960.

Bus service between Nepal's capital Kathmandu to India's Siliguri started

- A bus service between Nepal's capital Kathmandu and India's Siliguri in West Bengal has started. Nepal's Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transportation Raghbir Mahaseth and Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri flagged off the bus from Kathmandu.

Kazi Nazrul Islam's 43rd death anniversary being observed in Bangladesh

- The 43rd death anniversary of the rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam is being observed on August 27 in Bangladesh. Known as the Rebel Poet or Bidrohi Kobi Nazrul wrote nearly 3000 songs and composed many of them which are known as Nazrul Geeti. His poems were a source of inspiration during the liberation war of Bangladesh.

Russia set to offer submarines during Modi-Putin summit

- Russia is likely to offer India its conventional submarines on the government-to-government route under the Navy's Project-75I at the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin at Vladivostok next week.

India, Nepal organize training programme on EXIM Bank's guidelines

- The Embassy of India in Nepal and National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) of Nepal organized a two-day training programme in Kathmandu on the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India's Line of Credit guidelines and procedures. Senior experts from the EXIM Bank of India conducted the training programme which was attended by 27 officials from Government of Nepal.

Bangladesh Government to set up Model mosques in the country

- Bangladesh government will set up 560 model mosques and Islamic cultural centres in districts and upzilas across the country. These centres will have a library and arrangement for Quran recitation in them. Government of Bangladesh intends to make the model mosques centres for preaching "accurate and correct" information of Islam to prevent militancy and extremism being spread in the name of religion.

General Knowledge Study Materials [Click Here for Download](#)

All subject Study Materials [Click Here for Download](#)

2019 Current Affairs Download – [Click Here](#)

Whatsapp Group  [Click Here](#)

Telegram Channel  [Click Here](#)