



Presents

## National Affairs - August 2019

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### Monthly Current Affairs August 2019

#### National Affairs

##### **President Kovind gives assent to Triple Talaq Bill**

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given his nod to the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 that abolishes the practice of instant Triple Talaq. The law comes into force retrospectively from 19th September 2018. The bill seeks to declare the practice of instant Triple Talaq as void and illegal and makes it a cognizable offence.

##### **Postal department decides to convert India Post Payments Bank into SFB**

- The Postal Department has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a small finance bank (SFB), enabling it to offer small loans to customers. It also looks to open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.

##### **One Nation-one Ration Card scheme implemented on pilot basis in four States**

- In a major boost to national food security government, launched the One Nation-One Ration Card scheme on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat from today.

##### **President Kovind inaugurates exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi in Gambia**

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi at the Ebunjan Theatre in The Gambia to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma. These exhibitions starting today will be held till 2nd October.

**MIB launches a competition for designing Postage Stamp**

- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has launched a competition for designing a Postage Stamp along with the First Day Cover to commemorate Golden Jubilee edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

**Pashmina Products Receive BIS Certification**

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published an Indian Standard for identification, marking and labelling of Pashmina products to certify its purity. The certification will help curb the adulteration of Pashmina and also protect the interests of local artisans and nomads who are the producers of Pashmina raw material.

**Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day**

- National Academy of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, celebrated its 65th Foundation Day in New Delhi. Lalit Kala Akademi or National Academy of Art was established in New Delhi in 1954 by the government to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country.

**National Population Register data to be collected in a year**

- The next round of recording biometric and family-tree details of Indian citizens under the National Population Register (NPR) will be conducted in September 2020. The exercise is different from the decennial Census and is not linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

**Govt introduces J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019 in Rajya Sabha**

- Amid Opposition uproar, the government introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 in the Rajya Sabha. It also moved a resolution revoking Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir.

**Rajya Sabha passes Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bil**

- The government announced the repealing of Article 370 which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolutions in this regard were adopted by the Rajya Sabha. The Bill seeks to make Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory with the legislature and Ladakh Union Territory without legislature.

**Sushma Swaraj passes away at 67**

- Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away at the age of 67. Swaraj, who served as the External Affairs Minister in the Modi-led BJP government during 2014-2019, opted out of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and was left out of the new Cabinet. She was the country's first full-time woman Foreign Minister.

**Union HRD Minister to launch 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha'**

- Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' will launch 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' drive on 9th August 2019 in New Delhi to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country.

**e-Rozgar Samachar launched to spread awareness about job opportunities**

- The e-version of Rozgar Samachar has been launched recently by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar. It has been launched with a view to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises.

**CIC to organize Seminar on "Human Resource Development and Right to Information Act 2005"**

- The Central Information Commission will hold a seminar on "Human Resource Development and Right to Information Act 2005" on 09th August 2019.
- The Seminar is aimed at recommending measures for improvement in transparency and accountability with a view to improved governance in Human Resource Development, specific to education sector.

**‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ launched**

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Ram Vilas Paswan launched the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’, a Government of India initiative which enables beneficiaries to procure ration from fair price shop across the country.

**Vikram Sarabhai’s 100th birth anniversary**

- Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is considered as the father of India's space program. Born in Ahmedabad in 1919, Dr. Sarabhai earned his doctorate at Cambridge. He founded the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad in November 1947.
- Dr. Sarabhai established the Indian National Committee for Space Research in 1962, which was later renamed the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). He helped set up the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, with its inaugural flight in November 1963.

**Government to start special hospitals offering Indian system of medicines**

- Special hospitals offering Indian Systems of Medicines like Siddha and Ayurveda will be started in 150 districts across the country. This was stated by Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shri Sripad Yesso Naik, while inaugurating an Ayurveda medical College in Vellore, Tamilnadu.

**RPF Launches “Operation Number Plate”**

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways launched a Special Drive with a Code Name Operation “Number Plate” to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parkings and even in the ‘No Parking’ areas for longer duration

**Government to launch Jal Jeevan Mission**

- The government will launch a Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households and resolved to spend more than Rs.3.5 lakh crore in coming years.

**National Tribal Festival “Aadi Mahotsav”**

- Aadi Mahotsav (National Tribal Festival), a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is all set for a colourful start from 17th August till 25th August, 2019 at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh.
- The theme of the festival is : “A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce”. TRIFED essentially is to play the role of a ‘Service provider’ & ‘Market Developer.’

**Four New Products get GI Tag**

- The Geographical Indication (GI) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has recently registered 4 new GIs. Palani Panchamirtham from Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu State, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puancheifrom the state of Mizoram and Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala are the latest additions to the list of registered GIs.

**Union Home Minister lays foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan**

- The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that overall development of North East region is the priority of the Government. He was addressing at the foundation stone laying ceremony of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong, at Dwarka.

**The world's oldest working locomotive**

- To commemorate the 73rd Independence Day celebrations, a Heritage Special Service hauled by EIR-21 was operated from Chennai Egmore to Kodambakkam. EIR-21 is the world’s oldest steam locomotive. The express which is similar to Fairy Queen in appearance, is 164 years old.

**Government to make FASTag mandatory for all vehicles from Dec 2019**

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles from December this year. FASTag enabled vehicles can cruise through the dedicated FASTag lane without stopping at toll plazas on National Highways.

**‘San-Sadhan’ Hackathon**

- The government calls for applications for its latest initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission, called the ‘San-Sadhan’ Hackathon, an initiative to ease lives of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.
- The initiative is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and 91springboard.

**"Fit India Movement"**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch "Fit India Movement". This nation-wide campaign aims to encourage people to inculcate physical activity and sports in their everyday lives. A 28 member committee headed by Sports Minister, Kiren Rijiju has been formed to advise the government on the movement.

**'Mission Reach Out'**

- In Jammu and Kashmir, as part of Mission Reach Out Indian Army distributed Portable Solar Lights to the poor families of village Lapri Top and adjoining villages of Reasi District of Jammu Division. As these villages had limited electric supply therefore, the project of distribution of portable solar lights was undertaken and a total of 180 portable solar lights were distributed by the Army.**Ques 1: In ‘Mission Reach Out’ Indian Army distributed Portable Solar Lights to the poor families in which state?**

**National Food Laboratory of FSSAI**

- First ever state-of-the-art National Food Laboratory-Delhi, NCR of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was inaugurated at Ghaziabad. The Union Health Minister also laid the foundation stone of the FSSAI Tower and released a report “Food Laboratories in India: a Meta Study” and awarded Certificate of Recognition to 13 National Reference Laboratories.

**Memorial in honour of victims of two Air India crashes in France**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a memorial in the honour of the victims of two Air India crashes at the foothills of the Mont Blanc mountain in France in which several Indians, including Homi J. Bhabha, regarded as the father of India's nuclear programme, were killed.
- The memorial at Nid d'Aigle, at the foot of Mount Blanc, was dedicated to Bhabha and several other Indians who were among the passengers and crew of the two Air India planes that crashed in 1950 and 1966.

**Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley passed away**

- Arun Jaitley, 66-year-old BJP stalwart, passed away at the AIIMS in New Delhi on August 24. Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley was cremated at the Nigambodh Ghat with full state honours in the presence of political leaders across party lines and supporters.

**Technological Innovations and Strategies for Farmers' Prosperity in Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh**

- The two day 'Brainstorming Session on Technological Innovations and Strategies for Farmers' Prosperity in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh' was inaugurated in New Delhi by Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. The Minister also launched diagnostic kits, vaccines developed by different ICAR institutes and 8 ICAR mobile Apps during the occasion.

**HRD Ministry launches National Digital Library of India**

- Human Resource Development Ministry under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, NMEICT has launched the National Digital Library of India project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility.

**IIP sets up plant to turn plastic waste into diesel**

- Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated a waste plastics to diesel plant in Dehradun. The plant has been set up in Indian Institute of Petroleum whose scientists will process waste plastics into fuel. It has the capacity to produce 800-litre diesel from one tonne of plastic.

**World's First Ever Facial Bio-Metric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document**

- India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers launched the project in New Delhi today. He also handed over the new BSID cards to five Indian seafarers
- The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based biometric data, with modern security features. It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy. India had made a presentation on this technology at ILO .

**Jharkhand government launches direct money transfer scheme for small farmers**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the Jharkhand government's 'Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana' under which money will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of farmers in the state. Under the scheme, beneficiaries having farm land of less than one acre to five acres, will get 5,000 to 25,000 rupees in their bank accounts.

**Nagaland State Police Dept gets first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre**

- Nagaland State Police Department got its first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre for Prevention of Cyber Crime against Women and Children. IGP, CID, Nagaland, Zekotso Mero informed that the training will commence immediately where 50 police personnel from different police units will be trained.

**Integrated Textiles Tourism Complex in Meghalaya**

- In Meghalaya, the Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani laid the foundation stone of the Integrated Textiles Tourism Complex at Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi district in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma.



**Meghalaya CM launches 'walk to work' campaign in state**

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma took the lead to launch the campaign of Fit India Movement which has been launched in the country by the Prime Minister. The idea of 'walk to work' will have multiple benefits, cuts the cost of fuel including reduction of CO2 emission, reduce congestion in the city and more importantly for health and fitness, the Chief Minister said.

**'Listening, Learning and Leading' book chronicling Vice President's two years in office**

- The Book "Listening, Learning and Leading" was released by Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu received the first copy. The event was hosted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

**Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation**

- The "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2019 has been awarded to 96 Police personnel. This medal was constituted in 2018 with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such excellence in investigation by investigating officers.

**National Youth Awards**

- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju conferred the National Youth Awards for 2016-17 on twenty individuals and three organisations at a function in New Delhi today on the occasion of International Youth Day.
- During the National Youth Awards Function, Shri Kiren Rijiju also inaugurated a Photo Exhibition on "China through Eyes of Indian Youth - 2019". It was an exhibition of photos taken by youth delegates who participated in the recent Youth Exchange Program to China.

**The Diary of Manu Gandhi**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel will launch the book 'the Diary of Manu Gandhi' (1943-44) at a function in the auditorium of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.
- The book has been brought out by National Archives of India, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press. The Diary of Manu Gandhi originally in Gujarati has been edited and translated by Dr Tridip Suhrud. Manu Gandhi (Mridula) was a grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Smart Policing Awards at the Homeland Security 2019 conference**

- Dr Jitendra Singh presents Smart Policing Awards at the Homeland Security 2019 conference. 35 Smart Policing awards were given to the officers for working in the areas of anti-insurgency, child safety, community policing, crime investigation & prosecution, cyber crime management, emergency response, human trafficking, road safety & traffic management, smart police station, surveillance & monitoring, training & capacity building, women safety and other police initiatives.

**4th edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards**

- The 4th edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards will be held in November this year. In total as many as 45 specially designed awards - 39 Enterprise Awards and 6 Awards for Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builders will be bestowed. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has called for nominations from the entrepreneurs for the National Entrepreneurship Awards.

**PM to present Yoga Awards**

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will present Yoga awards to the winners of *PM's Award for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga*, which were announced during the International Day of Yoga, 2019 at Ranchi, along with the two winners of the previous year in an event being organized by the Ministry of AYUSH at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. On this occasion, the Prime Minister would also release 12 commemorative postal stamps to honour eminent scholars, Practitioners and great Master Healers of AYUSH Systems.

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