

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 1ST TO 7TH AUGUST 2019

NATIONAL NEWS

WorldSkills International Competition 2019

- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under MSDE has been leading India's delegation at the event since 2011.
- India won one silver, one bronze and nine medallions of excellence during **the last edition at Abu Dhabi in 2017.**

India's First National Time Release Study (TRS)

- The Time Release Study (TRS) is advocated by the **World Customs Organization**, and it is an internationally recognized tool to measure the efficiency of international trade flows.
- The initiative will strengthen governance over cargo trade and has the aim to identify/address bottlenecks of border procedures and benefitting **export-oriented industries and MSMEs.**

UGC issued a List of recommended Institutions of Eminence

- The recommendations were made by the government as per the **empowered committee** under the **chairmanship of N Gopalaswami.**
- The **HRD Ministry** has announced a scheme in 2018 to select **20 IoEs - 10 public and 10 private** that will enjoy **complete administrative and academic autonomy.**

Government abolished Article 370

- Article 35A **denies property rights to a woman who got married to a person residing out of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- Incorporated in the Constitution on October 17, 1949, **Article 370 exempts J&K from the Indian Constitution and allows it to draft its own Constitution.** All the provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to J-K.

Biggest Fall of Rupees in 6 years

- The reasons for the downfall of the rupee is said to be the souring US-China trade relations resulting in **Yuan's slide to record low** as well as the Indian government's move to end **Jammu and Kashmir's special status.**
- A free fall has been seen in the global currency markets after China's central bank agreed on the Yuan to slide to a **record low against the dollar.**

Consumer Protection Bill 2019

- The Bill seeks to the settlement of **consumer disputes** and establishes authorities for timely and effective administration.

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- The Bill includes setting up of a **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** to make interventions to protect consumers from unfair trade practices.

BANKING

SEBI examining Feasibility of Intangibles

- SEBI will also look into an **exchange-traded fund** (ETF is market security that tracks an index, bond, basket of assets or commodity, In this case, ETF is a commodity).
- It will increase the **hedger's participation** and increase delivery based settlement.

RBI 'Fit and Proper' Criteria for Elected Directors of PSB

- **All the banks are required to constitute a Nomination and Remuneration Committee** consisting of a minimum of three non-executive directors, of which not less than one-half shall be independent directors.
- The committee should include **at least one member from the risk-management committee** of the board to establish 'fit & proper' status of applicants.
- **The Government of India nominee director and the nominee director on behalf of the RBI shall not be part of the committee.**

RBI slapped 11 Banks with Rs 8.50 Crore Fine

- The banks are fined for violating provisions of RBI norms on **"frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select Financial Institutions"**.
- The RBI observed that the banks didn't report fraud in the backdrop of **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) criminal proceedings** resulting in non-compliance with RBI's directions.

LIC launched 'Jeevan Amar'

- The second one is **increasing sum assured** in which the death benefit first increases after 5 years than after 10 years and then 15 years or till the end of the policy term.
- The plan offers policy term from **10 years to maximum 40 years**, with a maximum age of maturity at **80 years** and is available for the **18-65 age group**.

REPORTS

World Gold Council (WGC) report on Global Gold Demand

- The **key drivers for the increase** are sustained growth in **gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs)** and continued **central bank buying**.
- According to the report, the overall jewellery demand in the 2nd quarter is pushed by **12% to 168.8 tonnes** due to a strong recovery in India's jewellery market.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	Awardee
Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019	Ravish Kumar

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IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 st Aug to 7 th Aug 2019	World Breastfeeding Week	Theme: "Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding".
7 th August 2019	5 th National Handloom Day	--

MOU'S SIGNED

MoU signed between India and Guinea

- The MoUs have signed between the two countries Cooperation in the Field of **e- Vidhyabharati - e- Aarogya Bharati** e-VBAB Network Project, Traditional System of Medicine and Renewal Energy.
- Both the countries agreed to hold the first session of the **Ministerial level India-Guinea Joint Commission** at an early date.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)

- **PRAGATI** is an **ICT based multi-modal platform** for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.
- The Prime Minister also called for use of technology to evolve a mechanism to collect feedback from **Divyang-Jan under Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan**.

One Nation-One Ration Card

- The government has implemented One Nation-One Ration Card on a **pilot basis** in **four states-** Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana from 1st August 2019.
- The only requirement is that the **Aadhaar card should be linked to the ration card** to avail of this service.

Vhali Dikri Yojana' Launched by Gujarat CM

- The scheme has been launched to mark the **63rd birthday of the Chief Minister Rupani**.
- Under the scheme, the state government would pay to every girl child an amount of Rs 4000 at the time of admission to **4th Standard**, Rs 6000 during admission in **9th standard**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Technical Liaison Unit at Moscow Approved by Cabinet

- ISRO Technical Liaison Units (ITLU) is instituted with the **prime objective** to enhance coordination with the Russian Government and space agency.
- Department of Space has earlier instituted ISRO Technical Liaison Units (ITLU) at **Washington, USA and Paris, France** for increasing international level technical collaboration.

IIT Kharagpur Developed New Technology for Solid Waste

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- The solid waste energy conversion technology-**Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC)** is developed by researchers of IIT Kharagpur to convert solid waste to soil amendment and absorbent and **biofuel**.
- In this process, **the moisture in the waste** is used for the reaction to convert it into biofuels and also helps to curb air pollution.

DBT will Scan 20,000 Indian Genomes

- It is a **two-phase exercise** and would scan the genome of nearly **20,000 Indians** in the next 5 years.
- The first phase involves the sequencing of **10,000 Indians** to capture the biological diversity of India.

MasterCard Identity Check Express

- MasterCard has launched the **Identity Check Express**, a mobile-first authentication solution for **online payment security**.
- The initiative has been taken as it was found that about **20%** of mobile e-commerce transactions are abandoned mid-way, in an analysis done by MasterCard.

DEFENCE

Indian Air Force Facilitation-cum-Publicity Pavilion

- The Pavilion was inaugurated at **National Bal Bhawan** and was set up by **Indian Air Force** to motivate students **to join Indian Air Force** and develop a love for the country.
- At the event, Air Chief Marshal Shri **B. S. Dhanoa** launched "**Indian Air Force: A Cut Above**" an official **mobile gaming application**.

SPORTS

Vinesh Phogat won Third Successive Gold in 53kg

- Vinesh Phogat won gold in **53 kg women's category** of the **Poland Open wrestling tournament**.
- She won over local wrestler **Roksana** in the final of the competition by 3-2 and had earlier beaten the Rio Olympics bronze medalist, **Sofia Mattson** of Sweden, in the quarterfinals.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

22nd National Conference on e-Governance, 2019

- The conference is to be organized by the **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)**, in association with **MeitY**.
- The **theme** of the NCEG is "**Digital India: Success to Excellence**".
- The event will be held for the **first time in the north-eastern region**.