**CURRENT AFFAIRS AUGUST ‘2019**

* Shalija Dhami becomes a first female flight commander
* Indian Institute of Petroleum to turn plastic waste into diesel -It was inaugurated by the Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan.This plant will produce800 liters of diesel from one tonne of plastic waste.
* HRD Minister(Ramesh Pokhriyal) launches National Digital Library of India also accessed by UMANG App
* Pakistan, China engage in a joint aerial exercise

August 27, 2019

* Feroz Shah Kotla stadium to be renamed in the name of Arun Jaitley
* RBI  approves Rs. 1.76 lakh crore for Govt
* “Janaushadhi Sugam” app launched by the government -To enable the general public to search for generic medicines and the stores, the government has inaugurated “Janaushadhi Sugam”.
* Paytm appoints Amit Nayyar as President
* CVC(central vigilance commission) forms Advisory board to examine bank frauds -The team will be headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin.
* World Archery Youth Championship -Indian Archer, Komalika Bari becomes the third player of the country to win a Gold Medal in 2019 World Archery Youth Championships.
* Amazon to acquire a 49% stake in Future Coupons Ltd -American e-commerce giant [Amazon.com](http://amazon.com/) has decided to acquire a 49% stake in Kishore Biyani-led Future Coupons Ltd. (Big Bazzar,Brand Factory
* Kathmandu-Siliguri Bus Service started to To enhance India-Nepal connectivity, a bus service between Kathmandu and Siliguri in West Bengal has started.

August 26, 2019

* World’s first floating nuclear reactor to be launched by Russia The reactor named, Akademik Lomonosov, will be loaded with nuclear fuel will begin its 5000 kilometer Arctic journey from the port of Murmansk to northeastern Siberia.
* Zoological survey of India discovers Seven new species of semi-aquatic insects discovered
* PM Narendra Modi receives Bahrain’s First Class Order of the Renaissance -During the recent visit to Bahrain, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by country’s King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa. This has been bestowed to him for his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Bahrain.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi also launched $4.2 million redevelopment project of 200-year-old Shreenathji or Lord Sri Krishna temple in the Baharains capital Manama.

* Women’s Equality Day -August 26th has been observed globally as the Women’s Equality Day.
* Mother Teresa’s 109th birth anniversary -This year marks the 109th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa’s. She was born on 26th August 1910.

She came to India in 1929 and worked for the welfare of the poor, homeless, orphans and people ailing with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis.

In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata which grew from 12 to thousands across 450 centers in the world.

August 23, 2019

* Iran unveils Bavar-373
* Book on Manu Gandhi launched-Prahlad Singh Patel, Culture and Tourism Minister has launched a book based on Manu Gandhi who was a grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi.
* Indian Railways to ban single-use plastic
* The railway authorities are installing 1,853 plastic bottle crushing machines across  360 major stations.
* Paytm to be BCCI sponsor for five more years
* FATF Asia Pacific Group puts Pakistan in enhanced blacklist -The intergovernmental organization founded by G7 countries, Financial Action Task Force Group has put Pakistan in an enhanced blacklist. This group makes policies to prevent terrorism and money laundering.

August 22, 2019

* ‘World Police and Fire Games 2019’ held in Chins
* Power Minister launches State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index  (SARAL)
* Ajay Kumar appointed new Defence Secretary
* Rajiv Gauba is the new cabinet secretary
* Amazon Rainforest fire -Planet’s lungs, the Amazon rainforest has been facing a huge crisis. The forest has been burning from past 16 days causing a major loss of trees and biodiversity. This is the world’s largest rainforest and contributes  20 percent of the earth’s oxygen.
* This fire could give a major blow to the global fight against climate change by releasing excess CO2 into the atmosphere.

August 21, 2019

* Birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi celebrated -Also referred as Sadbhavna Diwas, the 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, late Rajiv Gandhi’s was observed on August 20, 2019.
* Dr. K Thangaraj receives the JC Bose Fellowship
* The chief scientist of CSIR, Dr. K Thangaraj, has been awarded the JC Bose Fellowship for 2019. This recognition is given for his outstanding contributions in the field of population and medical genomics.
* Wipro inked pact for research in autonomous systems, robotics, and 5G
* Global IT giant, Wipro Limited has made an association with the Indian Institute of Science. It is to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics, and 5G space.
* Ravinder Takkar becomes the MD and CEO of Vodafone Idea
* World Mosquito Day observed -To commemorate, Sir Ronald Ross’, a British doctor’s 1897 discovery that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans, this day is observed across the globe on 20 August.
* Considered as one of the deadliest animals on earth, the mosquito has the ability to carry and spread the disease which can kill million people in a year.
* To control it biologically, one can put larvivorous fishes like Guppy in ornamental water tanks and ponds.
* DRDO DESIGNS mobile metallic ramp design to Indian Army-This Mobile Metallic Ramp can bear the load of 70 metric ton.
* India to offer e-tourist visa fee  To attract more foreign travelers, the Tourism Ministry has proposed to introduce an e-visa.

August 20, 2019

* India biggest emitter of sulfur dioxide -In the recent data released by the environmental NGO, Greenpeace, it is said that India is the world’s largest emitter of anthropogenic sulfur dioxide which is produced by burning the coal.
* India gets its first national essential diagnostics list-This list will help the government to decide the type of test required by healthcare agencies working in remote areas.This list will ensure improvement in overall health and medical scenario.
* Iceland holds a funeral for Okjokull ice sheet
* Nordic Island region, Iceland had recently held a funeral for losing its first glaciers due to climate change.
* RuPay JCB Global Cards launched-To connect the global network of ATMs and merchant’s, Japan Credit Bureau and National Payments Corporation of India had established the partnership in 2015.
* Punjab and Haryana High Court started its first virtual court

August 19, 2019

* World Humanitarian Day 2019
* Hima Das, Mohammad Anas(Athletes) win gold at Athleticky Mitink Reiter event
* BASIC Ministerial Meeting held in Brazil-28th BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China) ministerial meeting was held in Brazil from 14th to 16th August. The meeting was to discuss concerns about Climate change and its adverse effects.
* Country’s first chemical engineering & technology institute to come up in Gujarat

August 17 & 18, 2019

* Ravi Shastri remains India’s head coach
* ‘Know India Programme’ -40 participants of Indian Origin youth have come to visit India under the 54th Edition of “Know India Programme” from 1st August to 25th August. This programme helps them learn about the culture and heritage of India.
* India suspends Thar Link Express -Indian Railways have decided to cancel the operations of Thar Link Express that connects Jodhpur to Karachi.
* Geographical Indication tags for 3 new products

Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from Mizoram and Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala have got their GI tags recently.

Mizo Puanchei and Tawlhlohpuan, are a fine quality woven colorful fabrics mostly used to make shawls.

Kerela’s, Tirur betel vine is cultivated in Malappuram and valued for its medicinal and cultural usages.

* Aadi Mahotsav begins in Ladakh
* Deepa Malik, Bajrang Punia to get Khel Ratna
* The para-athlete Deepa Malik becomes the second para-athlete to be honored with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.
* Indian ace wrestler in 65 kg and World No. 1, Bajrang Punia has also been nominated for the prestigious award.
* Ravindra Jadeja and 19 others to get Arjuna award
* The list includes players from cricket, football, hockey, and shooting. Ravindra Jadeja, Poonam Yadav, Tejinder Pal Singh Toor, Mohammed Anas, Swapna Barman, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu,  Chinglensana Singh Kangujam and Anjum Moudgil are among the list.
* The player should be consistent with good performance internationally and must bear leadership with a high sense of discipline to be eligible for these awards.

August 15 & 16, 2019

* Palani Panchamirtham received Geographical Identity tag-The famous Palani Panchamirtham which is given a Prasadam at the Murugan Temple has got the Geographical Identity tag.

This is the first time a GI tag has been given to a prasad. Palani temple is located in Tamil Nadu.

This is a Panchamrut including plantains, jaggery, grapes, forest honey, and ghee. The quality of the offering is monitored by Mysore based  Central Research Institute of Food Technology.

* Jyske Bank -World’s first bank to offer negative interest rate home loan
* India contributes $1 million to UN fund
* Naval Tata Hockey Academy inaugurated in Odisha
* Harshad Pandurang Thakur appointed NIHFW Director-The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare has appointed Harshad Pandurang Thakur as the Director for a period of five years.
* Process to get bone implant material from eggshells developed

By this, bone substitute materials such as tricalcium phosphate can be produced by eggshells which are 95.1% minerals along with small amounts of proteins and water.

Currently, damaged bones are replaced by taking bone from either the patient or a donor or by artificial materials containing calcium, such as Plaster of Paris.

* Jal Jeevan Mission scheme for households-Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech on Independence day has announced the launch to bring piped water to households.
* ISRO Chairman K Sivan gets A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award
* Palaniswami announces trifurcation of Vellore district-Ranipet and Tirupattur are the two new districts from Vellore and K V Kuppam will be upgraded into a new taluk .With this, the state of Tamil Nadu is set to have a total of 37 districts.

August 14, 2019

* Govt launches Swachh Survekshan 2020 and Swachh Nagar app-This allows the user to track the waste collection by urban local bodies along with vehicle monitoring, fee collection details, and grievance redressal mechanism.
* World Sanskrit Divas 2019-According to the Hindu calendar, World Sanskrit Divas is being celebrated on Shravan Purnima will is falling on 15 August this year.
* Organ donation day-To spread awareness and motivate people to donate organs after death, the Organ Donation day is observed on 13 August every year.
* Mika Singh banned by Indian film industry body -Popular singer Mika Singh has been banned by the All Indian Cine Workers Association for performing at an event in Pakistan.
* International Lefthanders Day-Celebrating the uniqueness of being left-handed, the International Left-Handers Day is observed globally on August 13.Left-handers comprise about 10% of the world’s population.
* The US to deny green cards to immigrants using public benefits
* Indian chef wins French ‘Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto’ award-Known for giving traditional dishes from West Bengal, a french twist, chef Priyam Chatterjee has received the ‘Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto’ award by the French Government.
* World’s First Museum on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu-Renowned saint and social reformer Chaitanya Mahaprabhu’s museum has been inaugurated in Kolkata.
* India’s First Clinical Ecotoxicology Facility begins at AIIMS-The first-of-its-kind initiative, this interdisciplinary study of the effects of toxic chemicals or biological organisms at the ecosystem level has been inaugurated at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi.

August 13, 2019

* Chandrima Shaha becomes the first woman President of Indian National Science Academy
* Aishwarya Pissay wins the world title in motorsports
* Wrestler Bajrang Punia wins gold in 2019 Tbilisi Grand Pri

August 12, 2019

* ‘Madadgaar’ helpline launched in Kashmir
* National Youth Awards conferred -The National Youth Awards have been conferred by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Kiren Rijiju.

August 10 & 11, 2019

* BCCI comes under NADA-The BCCI  has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency and would adhere to its policies. All the cricketers will now be tested before every tournament by NADA.
* 100th Birthday of Vikram Sarabhai celebrated-12th August is the birth anniversary of the founder of ISRO, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
* Virasat-e-Khalsa enters Asia Book of Records  -Punjab’s Anandpur Sahib town’s, Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum has been registered in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian subcontinent on a single day.
* Rotavirus Vaccine to be available in the entire country
* World Biofuel Day observed on 10th August
* National Film Awards 2019

This year’s National Film Awards has been announced.

The 66th year witnessed a competition of 419 films in 31 categories

Uri: The Surgical Strike has received 2 awards that are the best director to Aditya Dhar and best actor to Vicky Kaushal.  Ayushmann Khuranna for also received the best actor for Andhadhun. ;Best film -Andhadhun

August 9, 2019

* Pranab Mukherjee conferred with Bharat Ratna -India’s highest civilian honor, Bharat Ratna has been conferred to former President Pranab Mukherjee.The awards have also been given (posthumously) to singer Bhupen Hazarika and Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader Nanaji Deshmukh. This has been given after a gap of four years.
* World Archery suspends Archery Association of India -Indian archers will have to compete in World Archery events as independents under the World Archery flag till the suspension on AAI is lifted.
* International Day of the World’s Indigenous People observed-9th August
* ‘Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha’ drive-To create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country ‘Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha’ drive has been launched.

August 8, 2019

* Quit India movement observed 8th August India observed the 77th anniversary of Quit India movement which is also called as August Kranti Diwas.
* Abhinandan Varthaman and team to get vir chakra-The government has decided to announce military decorations for Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman along with all pilots involved in Balakot mission.
* Pakistan suspends Samjhauta Express services and Bilateral Trade with India
* Forbes releases highest-paid women players list  -Highest paid –Serena Williams

August 7, 2019

* National Handloom Day observed -7TH August
* Mohali gets first 3-D traffic signal-Designed by Chitkara University the country’s first smart 3 D traffic signal called Intelights has been launched in Mohali. .This is a first-of-its-kind pilot project to curb the rising problem of traffic congestion will regulate traffic signals with a smart bird’s eye view wireless sensor system. The live video feed of existing CCTV cameras will be accumulated in the system which will use Artificial Intelligence to evaluate the traffic density.

August 6, 2019

* 74th anniversary of World War II atomic bombing
* 6th August is the 74th anniversary of Hiroshima bombing during World War II in 1945.On this day a uranium core atomic bomb named “Little Boy” was dropped by the US  above Hiroshima that had killed an estimated 140,000 people. The second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9 after which Japan had surrendered.
* Lok Sabha Passes Commercial Surrogacy Ban Bill
* Handmade Pattamadai Silk Mat gets GI Tag-Pattu paai, a handmade silk mat of Tamil Nadu has got its Geographical Indication tag.Known as Pattamadai these mats are especially hand-weaved for weddings. It carries the names of both Bride and groom.
* Inclusion of electric power looms is helping the weavers to increase production along with income.

August 5, 2019

* Woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat bags third gold in Warsaw
* Article 370 scrapped-The country has witnessed a historic event today. The Home Minister has revoked Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir.-J&K is now bifurcated into two Union Territories, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. The former is with and the latter is without a legislature.This amendment has been approved by the President.
* Bihar gets Centre’s nod for Kosi-Mechi river interlinking
* President Ram Nath Kovind receives the National Order of Merit-Indian President Ram Nath Kovind was bestowed with the highest award of the Republic of Guinea aka the National Order of Merit by the President of Guinea.

August 3 & 4, 2019

* Franky Zapata crosses the English Channel on a hoverboard
* Pashmina testing center to come up in Leh
* Saudi Arabian women to travel with equal rights as male
* DRDO successfully test-fires QRSAM -Defense Research Development Organisation has successfully test-fired Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile against live aerial targets from Chandipur Integrated Test Range.

August 2, 2019

* One Nation-one Ration Card Scheme
* Girraj Prasad Gupta takes as the new Controller General of Accounts
* India to conduct 1st National Time Release Study  -India’s first national Time Release Study is being conducted by the Department of Revenue and Ministry of Finance.This will be an annual exercise, to improve global trade. This tool is advocated by the World Customs Organization to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
* Ravish Kumar wins 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award  -NDTV India’s senior executive editor, Ravish Kumar has been bestowed with the Ramon Magsaysay Award for this year.
* Maharashtra to have India’s first Hyperloop-The state government has approved the Virgin Hyperloop track between Mumbai and Pune. Maharashtra will create first hyperloop transportation system in the world projecting it to be a global supplier.

August 1, 2019

* Triple Talaq bill gets President’s nod
* Rajiv Kumar appointed as Finance Secretary
* Reliance Jio becomes India’s largest Telecom company
* Ramesh Bais becomes the Governor of Tripura