

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 7, 2019

STATES

◆ **Rajasthan Legislative Assembly - passed 'The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019'**

- ✓ It seeks to act tough against mob lynching and honour killing in the state
- ✓ The bill provides a fine up to Rs 5 lakh and life imprisonment to convicts involved in mob lynching, leading to the death of a person
- ✓ The anti-mob-lynching bill proposes imprisonment up to 7 years and a fine up to Rs. 1 lakh in case of the victim suffering simple injuries
- ✓ In case of serious injuries, it proposes a jail term up to 10 years and a fine between Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 3 lakh
- ✓ Among the total number of mob lynching cases happened in India after 2014, 86% of cases of mob lynching reported in the Rajasthan.

NATIONAL


◆ **Lok Sabha - was adjourned sine die on August 6 evening by Speaker, Om Birla, a day before its scheduled completion**

- ✓ This was the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, which had begun on 17 June
- ✓ It was earlier scheduled to end on 26 July but was later extended till 7 August
- ✓ The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha spread across 280 hours and with 37 sittings saw 35 bills passed, making it the best session since 1952 in which 67 sittings 24 bills were passed
- ✓ The list of bills passed include the landmark legislations including the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill and the law against instant triple talaq — the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill.
- ✓ Some of the other bills passed during this session include the The Code on Wages, 2019, The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 and The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill among others
- ✓ The productivity of the Lok Sabha session is estimated to be 127%

- ✓ During the session, on an average 7.6 questions were answered daily
- ✓ Out of 265 first time MPs, 229 got the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour
- ✓ Out of the 46 first time elected women MPs, 42 spoke during Zero Hour
- ✓ The members spent 70 hours 42 minutes as extra time over the average six hour daily sittings

◆ **Lok Sabha – passes Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill on August 6 – with 370 votes for vs 70 votes against**

- ✓ The bill seeks to bifurcate the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two separate Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir with legislature and Ladakh without legislature.

 <p>“ A momentous occasion in our parliamentary democracy... For years, vested interest groups who believed in emotional blackmail never cared for people’s empowerment. J&K is now free from their shackles. A new dawn, better tomorrow awaits! —PM NARENDRA MODI</p>		 <p>“ Kashmir is an integral part of India. Whenever I talk about J&K, POK and Aksai Chin are included and we can die for it — Home minister AMIT SHAH</p>	
VOTING IN PARLIAMENT			
Bill on repealing special status for J&K		Bill to create two UTs of J&K and Ladakh	
For	Against	For	Against
351	72	370	70
		In favour of bills: NDA, BJD, BSP, TDP, YSRCP Against bills: Cong, Left Walkout: TMC, JD(U), SP	

- ✓ Earlier, Rajya Sabha passed the resolutions and the bill on August 5
- ✓ Home Minister Amit Shah tabled the bill in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ Parliament also approved a resolution abrogating the special status for Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution, with 351 members voting in favour and 72 against it, with one member abstaining.
- ✓ The government revoked some provisions of Article 370 to take away Jammu and Kashmir’s special status, and proposed bifurcation of the state into Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5
- ✓ President has signed a Constitution Order 2019 on August 5, ordering application of all provisions of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir, thereby removing Article 35A and superseding the 1954 order related to Article 370.

◆ **Rajya Sabha – passes the Consumer Protection Bill on August 6**

- ✓ It seeks to revamp the consumer protection regime in the country
- ✓ The Bill will replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

FIVE NEW RIGHTS YOU NOW GET AS A CONSUMER

With the passage of the Consumer Protection Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, consumer rights are set to receive a massive boost. The new regulations put more responsibility on companies for misleading advertising and faulty products. In a global first, it also lays out penalties for celebrities endorsing or promoting false advertising and adulterated goods. **Dipak Dash** explains how consumers stand to benefit from the new legislation

1 RIGHT TO FILE A COMPLAINT ANYWHERE



The new law empowers you to file a complaint with the District Consumer Commission or State Consumer

Commission instead of the present requirement of consumers having to file a case only where she bought the product or where the seller has its registered office.

This will reduce harassment of consumers. A complaint can also be filed at the district commission by a recognised consumer body or multiple consumers with the same interest.

Consumer affairs ministry will frame rules for filing of complaints electronically and will also specify norms for paying the required fee digitally

2 RIGHT TO SEEK COMPENSATION UNDER PRODUCT LIABILITY



A complainant can file a case against a product manufacturer or seller for any loss caused to him or her on account of a defective product. This applies to all services as well

The manufacturer shall be held liable if there is a manufacturing defect or if there is deviation from the manufacturing specifications or the product does not conform to the express warranty

The new law recognises “sharing personal information of consumers” as an unfair trade practice. The provision has been made as it brings e-commerce under its ambit

3 RIGHT TO PROTECT CONSUMERS AS A CLASS



A complaint relating to violation of consumer rights or unfair trade practices or misleading advertisements, which are prejudicial to the interests of consumers as a class, may be forwarded either in writing or in electronic mode, to any one of these authorities – the district collector or the commissioner of regional office or the Central Consumer Protection Authority for class action

4 RIGHT TO SEEK A HEARING THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING



The law says every complaint shall be heard by district commission on the basis of an affidavit and documentary evidence placed before it. If an application is made for hearing or for examination of parties through video conference, the commission can allow this

5 RIGHT TO KNOW WHY A COMPLAINT WAS REJECTED



The commission cannot reject a complaint without hearing the complainant. The commission has to decide about admitting or rejecting a complaint within 21 days. If the commission doesn't decide within the time limit, it shall be deemed to have been admitted. If the consumer commission finds that a settlement is possible, it can direct both the parties to give their consent to have the dispute settled through mediation

PENALTIES FOR MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENT

MANUFACTURER

to face jail up to two years with fine of up to

₹10 lakh

for first offence. Consequent offence to attract jail up to five years with fine up to ₹50 lakh

ENDORSER

Up to

₹10 lakh

fine & one year ban on future endorsement for first offence; repeat offence to attract fine up to ₹50 lakh & ban on future endorsement up to three years

PUBLISHER/ADVERTISER

Fine up to

₹10 lakh

if Central Consumer Protection Authority finds the publisher or advertiser guilty

RELIEF

No endorser shall be liable, if he/she exercised due diligence to verify the veracity of the claims made in the advertisement regarding the product or service being endorsed by him/her. Similarly, no publisher/advertiser will be liable, if he/she published or arranged for the publication of such advertisement in the ordinary course of his business



- ✓ It proposes fast redressal of consumer disputes and strict penalties including jail term for adulteration and misleading advertisements by companies
- ✓ Celebrities endorsing misleading advertisements will face the risk of paying fine of up to ₹10 lakh for first offence and they can be banned for one year from endorsing any product or service.
- ✓ Subsequent offences will attract fine up to Rs 50 lakh and ban up to three years.
- ✓ Another important provision of the bill relates to the setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)
- ✓ The CCPA will have the responsibility to take care of the consumer rights and will have the power to order recall and seizure of faulty products and can also order compensation to the consumers

◆ **Rajya Sabha - passes the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019**

- ✓ It seeks speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants of government residential accommodation
- ✓ The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on July 31.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 - to be held on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya**



- ✓ Theme - "Digital India: Success to Excellence"
- ✓ Organised by - The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and the State Government of Meghalaya
- ✓ The Conference is expected to provide considerable push to the e-Governance initiatives in the North Eastern region
- ✓ Over 500 delegates from the entire country are expected to participate in the conference

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **ISRO - has announced "Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research"**

- ✓ It seeks to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
- ✓ The articles published from 2019 to 2020 will be considered for the honour

- ✓ First category holds a cash price of Rs 5,00,000, a medal and citation and two journalists or freelancers of print media will be awarded
- ✓ The second category of the award holds 3 cash prizes of Rs 3,00,000, 2,00,000 and 1,00,000 and citation each for journalists or freelancers of print media.

◆ **A team of researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G) - has developed portable diagnostic device to detect bacteria without cell culture or lab tests**



- ✓ The device has a bio-compatible sensor that can also diagnose time-critical illnesses such as meningitis
- ✓ It is Organic Field Effect Transistor (OFET)–based Bacteria Sensor (or Bacterial Diagnostic device) which has been shown to have ability to detect bacteria
- ✓ It has the ability to detect bacteria and distinguish between Gram positive bacteria (such as S pneumoniae) and Gram negative (such as the common E. coli) types
- ✓ The charges on surface of bacterium, induces a current in OFET, which is registered and read

ECONOMY

◆ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - cuts repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) in its third bi-monthly policy review of the financial year 2019-20**

- ✓ It was RBI's fourth continues rate cut in a row.
- ✓ Currently, the policy repo rate stands at 5.40% and the reverse repo rate at 5.15%
- ✓ The Bank rate and the marginal standing facility stands at 5.65%
- ✓ The GDP growth for 2019-20 is revised downwards from 7.0% in the June policy to 6.9%.
- ✓ Repo rate is the rate at which all other banks borrow funds from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- ✓ Reverse repo rate is the rate at which RBI borrows funds from commercial banks within the country

OBITUARY

◆ Sushma Swaraj, former Minister of External Affairs (67 years)



- ✓ Sushma was the country's first full-time woman foreign minister, even though Indira Gandhi held the portfolio as the Prime Minister
- ✓ She was also BJP's first woman Chief Minister, Union cabinet minister and leader of opposition
- ✓ At 25 years, she was the youngest cabinet minister in the Haryana government led by Devi Lal in 1977
- ✓ She became the first female chief minister of Delhi on October 13, 1998
- ✓ Sushma Swaraj was elected as a member of the Parliament in 1996 from South Delhi Constituency and later in March 1998 for the second term
- ✓ Earlier, she held other portfolios too at the Centre, being information and broadcasting and parliamentary affairs minister in the Vajpayee government
- ✓ She also became the first woman to be a national spokesperson of a national party.
- ✓ She replaced Advani as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha after the BJP veteran resigned from the post in December 2009
- ✓ Her 1996 speech in Lok Sabha on the trust vote ranks as one of the best speeches in Parliament.
- ✓ Sushma Swaraj had served four terms in the Lok Sabha and elected thrice to Rajya Sabha
- ✓ Earlier, she famously contested against Congress leader Sonia Gandhi from Bellary in September 1999, even though she lost it by a margin of 56,000 votes
- ✓ From May 2014 to May 2019 Sushma Swaraj had served as Minister of External Affairs under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Swaraj was also the recipient of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award

◆ Dr (Mrs) Y G Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy (Mrs YGP), the doyen of Education (93 years)



- ✓ Of her many accomplishments, she is famously known as the founder of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan in 1958 in Nungambakkam
- ✓ The school, which began with just 13 students, grew into one of the country's finest institutions with more than 10,000 students now
- ✓ The school further housed Bharat Kalachar, the cultural wing which promoted Indian arts and culture.
- ✓ She received several awards including the Achievement Medal for Leadership and Commitment to Excellence in Education by the U.S-based Centre for Excellence in Education, the Union government's 'Vayoshreshtha Samman' award, and the Rotary Club of Madras' Paul Harris Fellow Award
- ✓ She is a 2010 Padma Shri awardee for her contribution to education and literature

SPORTS

◆ **Indian Chess Ace Surya Sekhar Ganguly – won the Belt and Road International Open in Changsha city of Hunan Province, China**

- ✓ Ganguly (2638 Elo), seeded 15th, finished with seven points in the nine-round Swiss event
- ✓ With the win, Ganguly won a whopping \$50,000 (Rs 35 lakh), one of the highest prize money amount to have been won by an Indian player
- ✓ Ganguly produced one of his career-best best performances, winning five matches and drawing four games in the tournament



- ✓ Ganguly is the former second of Viswanathan Anand

◆ **Indian mens doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty – have reached the career best ranking of world No. 9, up by seven places, following their historic in at the Thailand Open BWF World Tour Super 500 in Bangkok on August 4**



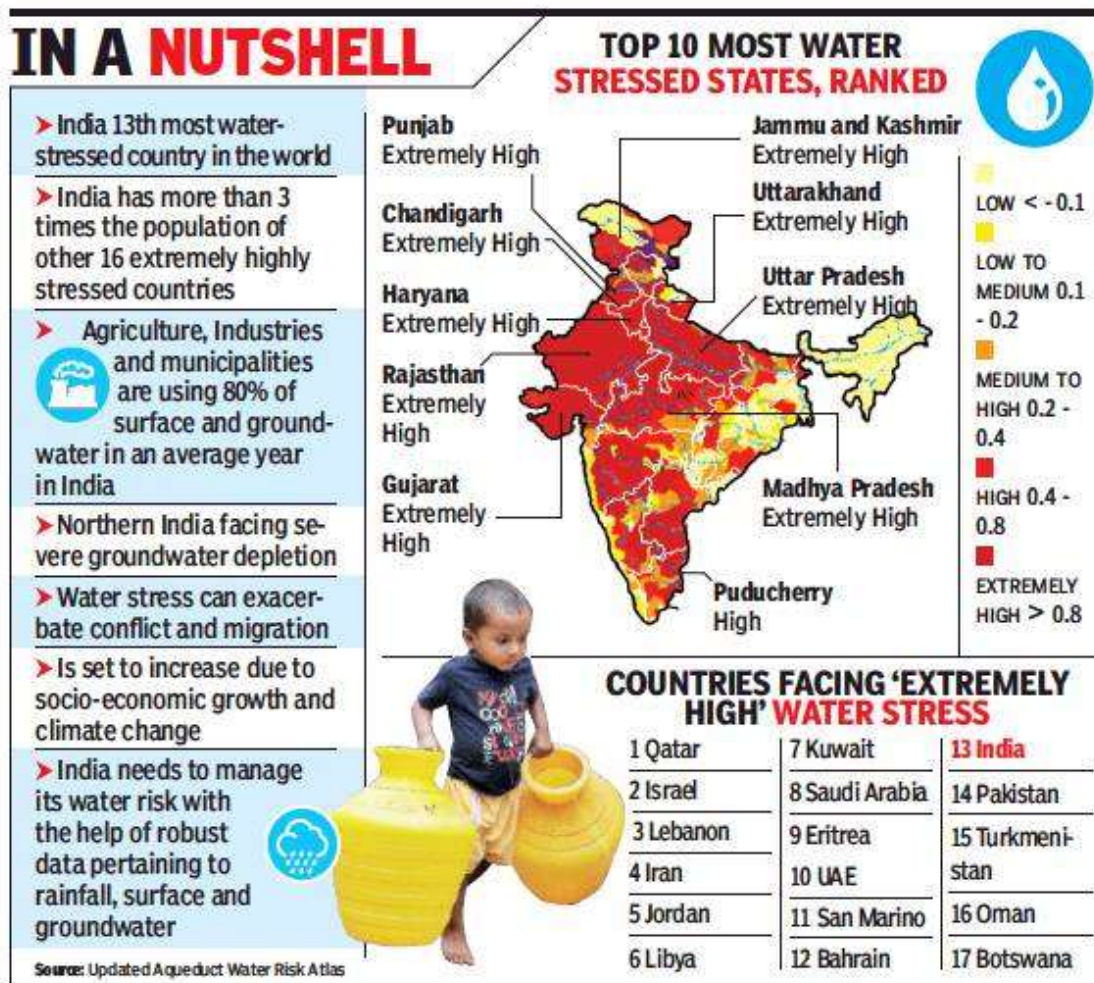
- ✓ Earlier, Rankireddy and Shetty created history by becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to win a BWF Super 500 tournament

- ✓ Rankireddy and Shetty stunned reigning world champions Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the Thailand Open final to achieve the feat.
- ✓ In the men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth (10th), Sameer Verma (13), B Sai Praneeth (19), H S Prannoy (31), Parupalli Kashyap (32), Subhankar Dey (39) and Sourav Verma (44) were ranked within Top-50
- ✓ Meanwhile, Olympic medallists P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal managed to hold on to their fifth and eighth spots respectively in the women's singles rankings.
- ✓ In the women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy moved up a place to 23rd

RANKINGS

◆ India – is ranked as the 13th most water-stressed country in the world

- ✓ A US-based global research organization, World Resources Institute (WRI), released an updated Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas on August 6, showing that 17 countries face “extremely high” water stress.
- ✓ Using a global hydrological model, researchers have various parameters to assess, analyze, and rank the water situation of 189 countries



- ✓ As per the Atlas, these 17 countries including India are using nearly 80% of the available surface and groundwater in an average year for agricultural, irrigational and domestic use.
- ✓ While these countries are home to a quarter of the world's population, India alone has more than three times the population of the other 16 extremely high-stressed countries put together.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ 5th National Handloom Day – August 7, 2019



- ✓ The day intends to honour handloom weavers apart from highlighting the handloom industry in the country
- ✓ The main event this year was scheduled to take place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha with the prime objective of empowering women and girls
- ✓ Bhubaneswar has a rich tradition of Handlooms as more than 50% of total weavers population of India resides in Eastern and North Eastern Regions with most of them are women
- ✓ The inaugural National handloom day was observed on August 7, 2015
- ✓ The day, August 7, marks the inauguration of Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 7 August 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against Bengal partition by British Government

