

## Top Current Affairs of the week (21 - 27 July 2019)

### 1. BS Yeddyurappa takes oath as Karnataka chief minister

- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala administers the oath to the BJP leader B.S. Yeddyurappa (76-years) as chief minister of the state (4th time) at a ceremony held outside the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.
- He has to prove their majority in the assembly by 29th July 2019.
- Earlier, Boakanakere Siddalingappa Yeddyurappa has served three terms as Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Karnataka state president of BJP.
- On 23rd July 2019, the vote of confidence happened and BJP defeats the trust of the vote as BJP got 105 votes while the coalition (Government of H. D. Kumaraswamy) got 99 votes.
- B S Yeddyurappa is popularly known as "Raithara Bandhu" for his pro-farmer policies, initiatives like separate agriculture budget in Karnataka Government during his chief ministership.

Karnataka Elected members (224 Elected + 1 Nominated)

- There are 224 members of the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka state (Vidhana Sabha).
- One member is a representative of the Anglo-Indian community nominated by the Governor of Karnataka.
  - BJP - 104 seats
  - Congress- 78 seats
  - JD(S) - 37 seats
  - Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) -1,
  - Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janatha Party- 1
  - Independent candidate -1

### 2. Students at IIT Madras Develops 'Smart Agricopter'

- A team of three students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed a drone name as "Smart Agricopter" to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural fields as well as identify crop health by using imaging camera.
- The Project 'Smart Agricopter' is a hexacopter drone which has the capacity to carry 15 litres of pesticide and will allow spraying pesticides ten times faster and with 100 per cent precision at the same cost as manual spraying.
- The cost of the agricopter is estimated to be around Rs 5.1 lakh.

### 3. India, China to carry out major military exercise 'Hand in Hand'

- India and China will carry out a major military exercise called 'Hand-in-Hand' in Meghalaya this year.
- The exercise will take place at Umroi, Meghalaya in December 2019.



- It will be based on counter-terrorism humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- The exercise was previously held in December last year at Chengdu, China.

#### **4. Lt Gn. Ranbir Singh releases a book on Fire and Fury Corps of Army**

- Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh has released the coffee table book titled 'Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice' in Leh, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- This book showcases the courage and bravery of the Fire and Fury Warriors and portrays the rich heritage and ethos of the Indian Army.

#### **5. Residents having domicile of Haryana to get a family ID card**

- The 14-digit Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) also called as Family Identity Card (ID), officially rolled out by chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Chandigarh.
- It will include in the initial phase only those residents who belong to Haryana.
- Chief Minister Khattar has launched a portal 'www.meraparivar.haryana.gov.in'
- According to the state government directives, the ID will be created for all the state government employees, including contractual employees and those in boards, corporations or universities.
- According to the government data, the population of over 2.5 crore, which is approximately 54 lakh households, will be covered through this exercise.
- Those not yet registered and also those who seek to modify the relevant data or provide additional data like birth, death or marriage details can do so at designated centres.
- As per the plan, more than 500 PPP registration centres will be set up for scanning and uploading of documents submitted by the citizens.

#### **6. India's Moon Mission 'Chandrayaan-2' launched from Sriharikota**

- Today, India's landmark mission to the moon 'Chandrayaan-2' has been launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Chandrayaan-2 onboard the heavy-lift rocket Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle GSLV-MkIII-M1 (nicknamed Baahubali).
- In just 16 minutes into the sky, it ed the high-stake lunar probe into the designated highly elliptical orbit.
- It will be the first soft-landing of a probe by India, that is expected to be on 7th September.
- India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 is an advanced version of the previous 'Chandrayaan-1' mission, which was launched about 10 years ago.
- The total cost of the mission is worked out to be 978 crore rupees.
- Chandrayaan-2 carried 13 scientific satellites (weighs about 3.8 tonnes), explore the southern part of the Moon.
- Originally Chandrayaan-2 was planned to be launched on the 15th of this month.



- However, a technical snag was detected less than an hour before its scheduled lift-off, forcing the mission to be halted.
- The flight duration of Chandrayaan-2 from the earth to the moon has been reduced (due to the delay in the launch) from 54 days to 48 days by tweaking the flight path.

#### **Know about ‘Chandrayaan-2’:**

- ‘Chandrayaan-2’ would make India the 4th country to soft-land on the Moon, a feat achieved only by the space agencies of the US, USSR, and China.
- It will have three modules — Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) & Rover (Pragyan).

#### **7. Indian Men & Women's teams win Commonwealth Table Tennis title**

- Indian men team defended their crown beating England while the women blanked Singapore for their maiden title at the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Cuttack.
- India women's team clinched their maiden Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships title, beating England 3-0 in the final.
- The men's team survived a stiff challenge from England in the final.
- The Indian women team won the gold for the first time in the history in the commonwealth games.

#### **8. India's Asian Games silver in mixed relay event to be upgraded to gold**

- India is in line to get the Asian Games gold in 4x400 mixed relay as Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain, who was part of the gold winning team, has been handed a four-year ban for failing a dope test.
- The silver won by India's mixed relay team of Mohammad Anas, Hima Das, Arokia Rajiv and M R Poovamma at the Asian Games in Jakarta last year is set to be upgraded to gold.
- Athletics Integrity Unit said that Adekoya's results between August 24, 2018 and November 26, 2018 will be disqualified.
- This also means that India's Anu Raghavan, who finished fourth in 400m hurdles, is in line for the bronze as Adekoya won the gold in the event.
- Following the race, India had officially lodged a complaint against Bahrain for obstruction, but it was turned down.

#### **9. Hima Das wins gold in 400m race at the Tabor Athletics Meet**

- Indian sprinter Hima Das has won a gold medal in the 400-meter race with a season-best time of 52.09 seconds at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic.
- It was Hima's fifth gold medal since July 2 when she ran her first competitive race in Europe.
- Hima has already won gold in 200 meters race at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix and Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland earlier this month.
- She won her third 200 meters gold at the Kladno Athletics Meet and fourth gold at the Tabor Athletics Meet in the Czech Republic.



### 10. Delhi's Prithu Gupta becomes India's 64th Grandmaster

- Delhi's Prithu Gupta has become India's 64th Grandmaster, crossing the Elo threshold of 2500 points after beating IM Lev Yankelevich in the fifth round of the Portuguese League 2019.
- Gupta has achieved the sensational feat at the age of 15 years, 4 months and 10 days.
- Gupta received his first GM norm at the Gibraltar Masters last year, before achieving the second norm at the Biel Masters the same year.

#### Note:

- Grandmaster (GM) is a title awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE.
- FIDE awards separate Grandmaster titles to composers and solvers of chess problems, International Grandmaster for chess compositions to the former and International Solving Grandmaster to the latter.
- The International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) awards the title of International Correspondence Chess Grandmaster (ICCGM).

### 11. Shiva Thapa becomes India's first gold medallist in Kazakhstan President's Cup

- Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa became India's first gold medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Making his international debut in the newly introduced Olympic category of 63kg, Thapa was to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin in the summit clash but his opponent had to pull out due to injury.
- Woman boxer Parveen (60kg) lost her final bout to Rimma Volosenko and claimed a silver medal.

### 12. Carnatic vocalist S. Sowmya chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi award

- Noted Vocalist S. Sowmya has been chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy.
- She will preside over the 93rd annual conference of the Academy to be held between 12 December 2019, and 1st January 2020.
- She holds a master's degree in chemistry, and Indian music and obtained a doctorate from the University of Madras.
- Sangita Kala Acharya awards will go to vocalists Seetha Narayanan and M.S. Sheela.
- Nagaswaram player Vyasarpadi Kothandaraman and vocalist Rajkumar Bharathi will get the TTK awards
- All awards will be conferred during the Sadas of the Academy on January 1.

#### Note:

- Sangeetha Kalanidhi is the title awarded yearly to a Carnatic Musician by the Madras Music Academy.



### 13. Book titled 'Kargil: Untold stories from the War' released

- On the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War a new book titled, "Kargil: Untold stories from the War" authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat released in New Delhi.
- The book is based on Rawat's interviews with war survivors and martyrs' families, take the readers to the treacherous Himalayan mountains.
- This book is a tribute to their courage and that of their families, who have faced their loss with such dignity.
- The book has been published by Penguin Random House.

#### Note:

- The 'Kargil war' lasted for nearly three months, initiated in May of 1999 in an effort to displace Pakistani soldiers from the peaks they had occupied on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC).
- The publishers wanted to honour the 527 Bravehearts who gave up their lives for the country.

### 14. Boris Johnson named UK's new Prime Minister

- Conservative Party leader Boris Johnson (55-years) has been elected as new Prime Minister of United Kingdom.
- Johnson, the former foreign secretary, secured 92,153 votes against 46,656 of his rival Jeremy Hunt in the battle for 10 Downing Street after Prime Minister Theresa May announced her resignation amid a mounting rebellion from within the party.
- The new Prime Minister is expected to spend some time finalising his key Cabinet and ministerial posts soon after the results.

#### Note:

- The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is the head of the Government of the United Kingdom and chairs Cabinet meetings.
- The Prime Minister directs both the executive and the legislature, and together with their Cabinet are collectively accountable for their policies and actions to the Monarch, to Parliament, to their political party and ultimately to the electorate.

### 15. Piyush Goyal launches Global Innovation Index

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the Global Innovation Index (GII) in New Delhi.
- This is for the first time that the GII is being launched in an emerging economy.
- The theme this year is Creating Healthy Lives - The Future of Medical Innovation, which aims to explore the role of medical innovation as it shapes the future of healthcare.

#### Note:





- India has jumped 24 places in the Global Innovation Index in four years, from 81st position in 2015, it achieved the 57th position in 2018.
- To promote vibrant innovation economies, the GII probes and quantifies the state of national innovation ecosystems, including their strengths and weaknesses.
- It provides a critical tool for policymakers across the world.

#### **16. Lok Sabha passes Motor Vehicles (Amendment), Bill**

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment), Bill, 2019 by voice vote.
- The bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety.
- Provisions related to increasing penalties of traffic violations, addressing issues on third-party insurance, regulation of cab aggregators and road safety are proposed in the amendment.
- The Bill proposes a scheme to allow cashless treatment of victims in a road accident during the golden hour.
- The golden hour is defined as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
- The Bill proposes to increase the minimum compensation for hit and run cases.
- In case of the death, the compensation has been raised from 25 thousand to two lakh rupees, and in case of grievous injury, it will be from 12 thousand 500 to 50 thousand rupees.

#### **17. Biswabhusan Harichandan sworn-in as new Andhra Pradesh Governor**

- BJP veteran and former Odisha minister Mr. Biswabhusan Harichandan (84-years) was sworn in as the new Governor of Andhra Pradesh (23rd) at the Raj Bhavan.
- The oath of office was administered by the Acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh, Justice C Pravin Kumar.
- Harichandan replaced ESL Narasimhan, who is also governor of Telangana.
- The governors and lieutenant-governors are appointed by the president for a term of five years.
- Biswabhusan Harichandan has authored several books in Odia language some of which include Maru Bataas, Rana Pratap, Sesha Jhalak, Asta Sikha and Manasi.

#### **Note:**

- The governors (exist in the states) and lieutenant-governors/administrators (union territories and in the NCT of Delhi) of the states and union territories of India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level.
- The governor acts as the nominal head whereas the real power lies with the Chief ministers of the states and his/her councils of ministers.

#### **18. 20th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated**



- On 26th July 2019, India is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in 'Operation Vijay' against the infiltrating Pakistani troops.
- The day is named after the successful 'Operation Vijay' (in 1999) when India regained the control of the high outposts which had been stealthily taken over by Pakistan.
- The central theme of this year's celebrations is 'Remember, Rejoice and Renew'.
- President Ram Nath Kovind visited the Kargil War Memorial in Dras (Jammu and Kashmir) and paid homage to soldiers & officers of the Indian Army who were martyred during 'Operation Vijay'.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief General Bipin Rawat paid tributes to the martyrs at National War Memorial where a Victory Flame was illuminated.
- The Victory Flame traversed through eleven towns and cities and finally culminated at Dras where the flame was merged with the eternal flame at Kargil War Memorial.
- 'Maharashtra' states commemorate the 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' by organising special shows of Bollywood film Uri: The Surgical Strike at more than 500 screens across the state with an objective to "propagate nationalism".

**Note:**

- The Kargil War was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan that took place between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LOC).
- In India, the conflict is also referred to as Operation Vijay which was the name of the Indian operation to clear the Kargil sector.

**19. DefExpo India-2020 to be held in Lucknow for the first time**

- The Defence Ministry has announced that the 11th edition of the biennial DefExpo will be held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) in 2020 (from 5th to 8th February).
- The four-day event will offer an excellent opportunity for the Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities and promote its export potential.
- The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 will be 'India - the Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'.
- The focus will be on Digital Transformation of Defence.

**Note:**

- The DefExpo would provide a unique platform for Defence industry OEMs, exhibitors and private industry to display their latest innovations and capabilities.
- In 2018, the event was held in Chennai.

**20. Chennai Metro Rail travel cards can be used for parking fee payment**

- According to Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL), Chennai Metro Rail travel card can be used to pay the parking fee at Chennai Metro stations from 1st August this year.
- This will facilitate seamless transportation of metro passengers.



- Passengers who are using the CMRL parking spaces, who do not possess a CMRL travel card can buy and top up through customer care /ticketing counters available at CMRL metro Stations for usage of the parking payments at all Metro Stations.

## **21. Arunachal CM launches statewide tree plantation programme**

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has launched the state-wide tree plantation programme 'Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign 2019' in Itanagar.
- The campaign under the State Forest department will plant 1-lakh tree saplings in the next 24 hours.
- The campaign is being held as part of Van Mahotsav celebration and has set the target of planting 1 Crore tree within the next five years.
- Arunachal is known globally for its huge forest cover and is considered one of the eighteen 'biodiversity hotspots' in the world.
- The forest carbon stock in Arunachal comes to 148.52 tonnes per hectare, which is highest in the country and whose value in terms of carbon credit at 6 Euros per tonne works out to 48000 Crore rupees annually.

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