Important Current Affairs 11th August 2017 with PDF

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• **Canara Bank unveils two digital services**
  o Canara Bank has unveiled 2 new digital services for online payments - Bharat QR and Bharat Bill Payment System.
  o Bharat QR is for payment settlement at merchant locations while Bharat Bill Payment System is an integrated bill payment system for net banking customers.
  o Bharat QR will enable a merchant to accept payments as settlement for sale of goods or services.

• **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana**
  o Govt has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana as part of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission.
  o Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas & will provide safe, affordable & community monitored rural transport.
AGEY will be initially implemented in 250 Blocks in the country on pilot basis

- **Bill to fix minimum wage tabled in Lok Sabha**
  - Code on Wages Bill, which seeks to fix a national minimum wage for over 4 unorganized sector workers, was introduced in Lok Sabha.
  - Code provides for govt to determine minimum wages every 5 years using factors like skills required for the job, geographical location of work place and other aspects.
  - The government will fix the number of hours of work that would include a day of rest every seven days.

- **Vijay Nambisan passes away**
  - Poet and writer Vijay Nambisan, who became the first All India Poetry Champion in 1988, passed away on August 10.
  - He championed the ethical use of language and made an appeal to readers, writers and enthusiasts of literature in his book ‘Language as an Ethic’.
  - He translated devotional poems of various authors for which he was awarded in 2008.

- **Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra**
  - Uttar Pradesh Govt has launched a new awareness drive called Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra.
  - The drive will be focusing on cleanliness along the banks of Ganga river and maintain hygiene.
  - The drive has been organised by Uttar Pradesh Homeguard volunteers and will help in spreading awareness in about 25 districts situated on the banks of river Ganga in the state.

- **National Deworming Day**
  - The second round of National Deworming Day is observed between 10th of August to 23rd August in 33 States and Union Territories to tackle worm Infections, targeting more than 11 crore children.
The program was launched in 2015.
In this drive, the children will be administered the chewable deworming tablet, Albendazole 400 mg tablet.

- **World Bio-Fuel Day**
  - The International Biodiesel Day (or World Bio-fuel Day) is observed every year on August 10 to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels.
  - On this day in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of the diesel engine) for the first time successfully ran mechanical engine with Peanut Oil.
  - The Indian govt announced various schemes to promote non-fossil fuels.

- **Ramil Guliyev wins gold**
  - Wayde van Niekerk's dreams of emulating legend Michael Johnson's 200m/400m world double lay in tatters on as Turkey's Ramil Guliyev edged the 200m final.
  - Jereem Richards won the bronze medal.
  - The event was held at the London Olympic Stadium.

- **Four Earth-sized exoplanets discovered**
  - Researchers from the University of California, Santa Cruz have identified four Earth-sized planets in orbit around the closest Sun-like star to the Solar System, tau Ceti.
  - The star is slightly smaller than the Sun, and less active, and is about 12 light years away.
  - Tau Ceti is located 12 light-years (3.7 parsecs) from the Solar System.

- **Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' dies**
  - German-born nun Ruth Pfau, who devoted her life to eradicating leprosy in Pakistan died in southern city of Karachi.
  - Widely known as Pakistan's Mother Teresa, Pfau witnessed leprosy in Pakistan for the first time in 1960 & returned to set up clinics across the country.
She founded Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi, Pakistan's 1st hospital dedicated to treating the disease.

- **SEBI allows MCX to launch gold options**
  - Multi Commodity Exchange has received capital markets regulator SEBI's approval to launch options on gold.
  - It will allow investors & hedgers to minimise their price risk at a fraction of cost compared to currently available futures trading.
  - Exchange is also upgrading its technology to handle increased participation 1 year after options launch & should be ready to launch gold options by Oct.

- **Govt approves 10 Namami Gange projects**
  - National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved 10 projects in Bihar, West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh worth Rs 2,033 crore.
  - 8 of these projects pertain to sewage infrastructure & treatment, one to river front development and another to Ganga Knowledge Centres.
  - A project to establish Ganga Monitoring Centres in 5 riparian Ganga states has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 46.69 crore.

- **1st Indian to qualify for javelin finals**
  - Davinder Singh Kang has become the first Indian to qualify for the final round of the javelin throw World Championships.
  - Competing in the qualification round Group B, Kang cleared the automatic qualification mark of 83m in his third and final throw as he sent the iron spear to a distance of 84.22m.
  - Kang’s best effort of 84.22m put him in the seventh position among the final round qualifiers.

- **Tamil and Gujarati online dictionaries**
  - Oxford University Press has launched online dictionaries in Tamil and Gujarati as part of its special focus on Indian languages.
The Tamil and Gujarati versions follow the launch of the Hindi online dictionary last year.

Addition of Gujarati and Tamil to the Oxford Dictionaries API gives a rapidly growing developer community access to this language data in a structured and flexible way.

- **Facebook launches YouTube competitor**
  - In a bid to take on YouTube, Facebook has rolled out 'Watch' - a redesigned video platform for creators & publishers.
  - It will let users discover videos outside of their own feed more easily, while giving them a way to create Watchlists & an easier means of following videos made by a favorite artist or publisher.
  - It will roll out to a limited number of users, and video creators in U.S. first.

- **Vinay Dube joins Jet Airways as CEO**
  - Vinay Dube has joined as the CEO of Jet Airways after receipt of all requisite govt & regulatory approvals.
  - He has served in various roles at Delta, Sabre & American Airlines in USA, Europe & Asia.
  - Under his leadership airline would accelerate momentum of turning around the company & deepen relationship with Etihad Airways.
  - Jet has been without a full-time CEO since Ball quit in 2016.

- **Global Entrepreneurship Summit**
  - India and US will co-host Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Hyderabad from November 28 this year.
  - The American delegation will be led by US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump.
  - The Summit is a unique opportunity for bringing together entrepreneurs and start-ups with a global leader.
  - The event is being organised by the NITI Aayog in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs.
Volkswagen, Tata Motors Call Off Partnership
- Tata Motors & Volkswagen group firm Skoda have decided not to pursue a proposed long-term partnership due to feasibility issues.
- Joint technical feasibility study has found that strategic benefits for both parties are below desired level.
- Tata Motors, Volkswagen group & Skoda had announced entering into a long-term partnership for joint development of products with 1st rollout expected in 2019.

Ola raises Rs 231 crore
- Cab-hailing firm Ola has raised over Rs231 crore from Tekne Private Ventures through issue of preference shares.
- Deal involves allotment of 171,173 fully & compulsorily convertible preference shares for a total consideration of Rs231.44 crore.
- Ola is locked in an intense fight with Uber for market leadership & has raised investments from SoftBank, Matrix Partners, Sequoia India among others.

Telangana launches Smart Streets Lab
- To improve road safety, govt of Telangana in association with WRI India Ross Centre & ISB launched Smart Streets Lab programme.
- It would focus on technological interventions from interconnected & inter-networking smart devices to product innovation to make streets secure & easy to navigate.
- Govt aims to utilize technological interventions from outside & integrate them with various departments.

Attempt Current Affair Quiz for 11th August 2017