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# Important Current Affairs 19th August 2017 with PDF

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### Important Current Affairs 19th August 2017

- **RBI to release new Rs 50 notes**
  - Reserve Bank of India will soon release Rs 50 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series, having signature of Governor Urjit R. Patel.
  - Base colour of the new note is fluorescent blue & has a motif of Hampi with Chariot on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
  - The note has geometric patterns aligning with the overall colour scheme, both at the obverse and reverse.
- **Navika Sagar Parikrama**
  - Navika Sagar Parikrama, a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat INSV Tarini is scheduled to commence in early Sep 17.
  - This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.
  - It is aimed at promoting women empowerment in the country and ocean sailing by the Indian Navy.
- **Climate change costs India \$10 billion**





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- According to the Agriculture Ministry India is losing \$9 to 10 billion every year in extreme weather events.
- The agricultural productivity is likely to fall by 10 to 40 percent by 2100 due to climate change.
- Agriculture Ministry has warned that unless the country and its farmers adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, India could become an importer of oilseed, pulses and milk.
- **Goa govt launches biofuel-run buses**
  - Goa govt has launched 3 biofuel-powered buses on a pilot basis.
  - The project is a part of the state govt's comprehensive mobility plan announced in the recent budget.
  - The bus will be operated by Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL), a state-run body.
  - The ticketing would be done through an automated system, bus will have swiping machines. One can enter the bus after swiping the card.
- **India, US bilateral ties to a new level**
  - India and US are scheduling the first meeting of the newly established "2+2" format, of the defence and foreign ministers from each side.
  - The new high-level dialogue mechanism was confirmed during a conversation between PM Modi & US President Trump.
  - This new high-level mechanism will be in addition to the strategic and commercial dialogue that is an annual feature between the two countries.
- **Satellite to help astronauts talk**
  - NASA has launched the latest in a series of satellites aimed at ensuring astronauts at the International Space Station can communicate with Earth.
  - Boeing-made Tracking & Data Relay Satellite soared into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
  - It will facilitate space-to-ground communication for NASA's low-Earth orbit operations.
  - It will support critical space communication into the mid-2020s
- **World Photography Day**





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- World photography day is observed annually on August 19 to inspire photographers across the planet to share a single photo with the world.
- First World Photo Day was celebrated in 2010 with 250 images submitted reaching 20,000 people.
- According to Facebook data, India figures at 4th spot among top 10 countries that post most photos on FB & 5th spot among the same category for Messenger app.
- **Power Grid inks loan pact with ADB**
  - Power Grid has entered into a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank for an amount of \$500 million for its various projects.
  - The proceeds of the loan are proposed to be utilised for funding of Green Energy Corridor (Part D).
  - Power Grid is an Indian state-owned electric utilities company that transmits about 50% of the total power generated in India on its transmission network.
- **Russia's New Envoy To India**
  - Career diplomat Nikolay Kudashev has been appointed as Russia's new ambassador to India.
  - Appointment of Kudashev comes nearly 7 months after the death of Russia's previous ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin.
  - Kudashev, a specialist in South East Asia is currently Deputy Director General Secretariat of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.
- **World Humanitarian Day**
  - World Humanitarian Day is held every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service & to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.
  - The inspiration for inaugural WHD came on August 19, 2003 when a terrorist attack hit the UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22 people
  - The theme of this year's World Humanitarian Day is #NotATarget.
- **Govt removes 1 from Dronacharya nominees**
  - Sports Ministry has dropped para-sports coach Satyanarayana from the list of this year's Dronacharya awardees.





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- Satyanarayana's name was chucked off the list due to a criminal case pending against him.
- Satyanarayana has coached Mariyappan Thangavelu, who won a gold in Rio Paralympics.
- Dronacharya Award is annual sports coaching honour of India given by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- **Indian athletes bag record 37 medals**
  - The Indian contingent for the World Dwarf Games has bagged as many as 37 medals from the games, which were held in Toronto, Canada.
  - The Indian side stunned the world to secure a top-10 finish in the tournament, by clinching 15 gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze medals.
  - Joby Matthew contributed the most to India's medals tally, bagging two golds, three silvers and a bronze.
- **Axis Bank to waive 12 EMIs on home loans**
  - Axis Bank will waive 12 EMIs on regular repayments of loans of up to Rs 30 lakh under the new scheme Shubh Aarambh Home Loans.
  - Axis has introduced Shubh Aarambh Home Loans, in which 12 EMIs are waived - 4 EMIs each after 4th, 8th & 12th year from date of the first disbursement.
  - Loans can be used to purchase an under-construction/ready/resale house, self-construction & a plot plus construction.
- **Government doubles child care allowance**
  - Centre has doubled child care allowance for women employees with disabilities to Rs. 3000 per month.
  - At present allowance of Rs 1500 per month is given to differently abled female employees for taking care of their newborn child.
  - The decision to hike the allowance is based on recommendations of 7th pay commission.
  - The allowance shall be payable from the time of child's birth till the child is 2 years old.
- **Steve Bannon ousted from White House**





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- Donald Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon has departed White House after a turbulent 7-month tenure.
- He played a key role in the electoral victory of Trump last year, he is the 3rd high-profile White House official to have left Trump administration in recent weeks.
- He parlayed a Hollywood career as a producer, financial broker & led Breitbart Network before he was named Trump's campaign CEO.
- **India, Japan resolve to boost ties**
  - 2nd Japan-India Cyber Dialogue, held in New Delhi saw discussions on domestic cyber policy landscape, cyber threats & mitigation.
  - India & Japan resolved to strengthen their cooperation in the field of cyberspace & reaffirmed their commitment to open, secure & accessible cyberspace, enabling economic growth & innovation.
  - Both sides agreed to hold next Japan-India Cyber dialogue in Tokyo in 2018.
- **Reliance Defence to be renamed**
  - Reliance Infra controlled Reliance Defence & Engineering is changing its name to Reliance Naval & Engineering Ltd.
  - Change of name is in line with company's focus on building capabilities for Indian Navy & the Coast Guard.
  - After Reliance Group acquired a controlling stake in Pipavav Defence & Offshore Engineering in 2016, it changed the name of the company to Reliance Defence & Engineering.
- **First cyber court in e-commerce hub**
  - China has launched its 1st cyber court specialising in handling Internet-related cases in e-commerce hub of Hangzhou, amid a spike in no. of online disputes.
  - The Hangzhou Internet Court will handle cases such as online trade disputes & copyright lawsuits.
  - Cases handled by the court will be tried online, plaintiffs & defendants can have their disputes handled while at home & at much lower cost.
- **First Tamil navy chief since 1970**





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- Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena appointed an officer from Tamil minority to head the navy for the first time since a separatist war erupted 45 years ago.
- Rear-Admiral Travis Sinniah is the first Tamil to head a wing of the military since 1970.
- He played a decisive role in the destruction of the LTTE warships in deep sea during the height of the civil war.
- **ICICI Bank cut interest rate**
  - ICICI Bank has announced to reduce the interest rate on savings accounts by 50 basis points to 3.5% on deposits below Rs 50 lakh.
  - The interest rate on savings bank accounts with deposits of Rs 50 lakh and above remains unchanged at 4%.
  - Several other lenders including, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and Axis Bank have also revised their interest rate on savings bank accounts.

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