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Important Current Affairs 3rd August 2017 with PDF



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- **MoU for agriculture related price info**

- Multi Commodity Exchange of India and Mahindra Agri. have signed a MoU to provide

agriculture related price information.

- MCX would be providing price information, open interest information, spot price, future price for all agri commodities.
- It will enable farmers to manage prices and will provide them with solutions that boost both agricultural productivity and farm incomes substantially

- **LS passes 2 bills extending CGST, IGST**

- Lok Sabha has passed 2 bills extending Central GST and Integrated GST to Jammu and Kashmir.
- The step will ensure greater economic integration of the state with rest of the country.
- It aimed at giving effect to the formal amendments required in Central GST and Integrated GST Acts by removing the exemption that was carved out for J&K.
- Jammu & Kashmir was the last state to pass GST.

- **India's first defence sub-systems unit**

- KRAS, a joint venture b/w Kalyani Strategic Systems & Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Israel inaugurated their state-of-the-art facility at Hyderabad.
- KRAS would be India's first private sector advanced defence sub-systems manufacturing entity.
- It will be engaged in development of a wide range of advanced capabilities like Command Control & Guidance, Electro-Optics, Remote Weapon Systems.

- **CCEA approves rail connectivity projects**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved three railway connectivity projects worth Rs3,940 crore in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- These projects would not only speed up the operation of goods and passenger trains, but also provide additional capacity for meeting increases in traffic in the future.
- All the three projects are expected to be completed by the year 2020-2021.

- **Jhajharia recommended for Khel Ratna**

- Two-time Paralympic gold-medallist Devendra Jhajharia became the first paralympian to be recommended for the country's highest sporting honour – the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.
- He won a gold in javelin at 2016 Rio Paralympics, is the only Indian to win 2 Paralympic

golds. He had won his medals in the javelin throw event.

- Jhajharia is currently employed with the Sports Authority of India.

- **Cash-on-delivery for tatkal tickets**

- Railways has announced that people can now book their ticket under the tatkal quota on IRCTC website & can pay later.
- For tatkal tickets IRCTC users will be able to pay via cash, debit card or credit card by opting to have tickets delivered at their doorstep.
- The new feature eliminates transaction failures as often the money gets debited and the ticket is not issued due to multiple reasons.

- **Facility to boost launch capability**

- ISRO's launch capacity will get a major boost with Satish Dhawan Space Centre set to get a second vehicle assembly building by end of this year.
- Rocket launch centre at Sriharikota consists of 2 launch pads, but just 1 vehicle assembly building for assembling final components of a rocket.
- 2nd assembly facility will allow ISRO to optimally utilise both launch pads, reducing the launch timings

- **Senate confirms Wray as new FBI director**

- The US Senate has overwhelmingly confirmed Christopher Wray as the man to lead the FBI.
- He will replace James Comey, who was abruptly fired by US President Donald Trump amid the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's presidential election.
- Andrew McCabe has served as acting FBI director during the nearly three-month interim period.

- **Airtel and Telenor receive NCLT nod**

- The proposed merger between Bharti Airtel and Telenor India has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal.
- Airtel will pocket 43.4 units of 4G spectrum in 1800 MHz band once the Telenor deal is concluded.
- Airtel will also take over Telenor India's outstanding spectrum payments and other operational contracts, including tower leases besides employees and 44 million customers.

- **BRICS Agriculture Research Platform**

- Cabinet has approved a MoU b/w India & BRICs countries to set up BRICS Agriculture Research Platform.
- Proposal was presented by PM Modi to establish BRICS Agriculture Research Centre during 7th BRICS Summit in Russia.
- BRICS-ARP will be the global platform for science-led agriculture-based sustainable development for addressing issues of world hunger, under-nutrition and poverty among others.

- **Committee on fair market conduct**

- SEBI has setup a committee on fair market conduct which will suggest measures for improving surveillance of the markets.
- It will also suggest measures for strengthening rules for algo trades and for recommending steps to align insider trading regulations with Companies Act provisions.
- The panel will be setup under the chairmanship of former law secretary T K Viswanathan

- **MOU between India and Spain**

- Union Cabinet has been apprised of the pact signed b/w India & Spain on cooperation in the renewable energy sector.
- MoU will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the 2 countries with the exchange of expertise and networking of information.
- The pact envisages establishing a Joint Working Committee in order to review, monitor and discuss matters related to areas of cooperation.

- **India, Japan join hands for infra push**

- Japan has joined hands with India to aggressively develop infrastructure projects in northeastern states.
- An India-Japan Coordination Forum for Development of North East is being set up to focus on strategic projects such as connectivity, road network development, electricity & disaster management.
- Japan has been helping India with projects such as Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed corridor.

- **Indian Army develops app for soldiers**

- Indian Army has developed a mobile application through which serving soldiers can track details like postings & promotions.
- Through the app named Humraaz, soldiers can view their monthly salary slips & Form 16 and also download them.
- For security reasons, the installation of the application has been linked to verification of Aadhar details.
- The app has been developed in-house by the Army.

- **Face recognition surveillance**

- Germany has test launched a face recognition surveillance system at Berlin's railway station that would contribute to anti-terrorism efforts.
- It aims to determine whether cameras can automatically recognize faces of specific persons & single them out from crowd.
- When a criminal/terrorist suspect enter/exit public transport facility, system would immediately warn police to take prompt action.

- **Cabinet clears proxy voting for NRIs**

- Cabinet has cleared a proposal to extend proxy voting to overseas Indians by amending electoral laws.
- While NRIs & overseas Indians are free to cast their votes in their constituencies, the proposal would allow them to use proxy which was only available to service personnel.
- 16m NRIs will be able to vote in elections by appointing proxies residing in their constituencies to cast their votes.

- **MobiKwik raises Rs 225 crore**

- Digital payment company Mobikwik has raised Rs 225 crore from Bajaj Finance.
- Under the agreement, Bajaj Finance will acquire 10 equity shares & 271,050 compulsory convertible preference shares of Mobikwik.
- Mobikwik has 55m users, 1.5m merchants & claims to be growing at 250% year-on-year.
- MobiKwik had till now raised \$80 million from investors including Sequoia Capital, American Express.

- **Scrapping of no detention policy**

- Cabinet has approved scrapping of no-detention policy in schools till Class 8.
- Policy was introduced under RTE 2009 according to which schools were not allowed to fail or expel a student up to Class 8.
- It will now allow states to detain students in class V & class VIII if they fail in the year-end exam.
- States will have to give them a 2nd chance before stopping their promotion to next class

- **Saathi programme reaches 100000 villages**

- Google India has reached a milestone of 100,000 villages with its Internet Saathi programme which was launched as a pilot in Rajasthan in July 2015 along with Tata Trusts.
- Google will also be expanding the program in two new states – Haryana and Bihar.
- 25,000 fully trained Internet Saahis are working everyday across these villages to help women and children learn about the Internet.

- **Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers**

- ?The 7th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers was held in Shanghai to fight protectionism and safeguard intellectual property rights.
- The ministers also approved guidelines for cooperation between the five countries on intellectual property rights.
- Ministers agreed to deepen trade and investment links, and “safeguard and develop” the multilateral trading system.

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