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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

8th December 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Lok Sabha passes Jammu and Kashmir Reservation & Reorganisation (Amendment) Bills

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- The J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, regarding reservation in jobs and admission in professional institutions to members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other socially and educationally backward classes.
- On the other hand, the J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which amended the Second Schedule of the 1950 Act to specify the total number of seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to be 83.
- The Bill increases the total number of seats to 90.
- The bill reserves **seven seats** for Scheduled Castes (SC) and **nine seats** for Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- The Bill adds that the Lieutenant Governor may nominate up to two members from the Kashmiri migrant community to the Legislative Assembly.
- **About Jammu and Kashmir:**
- **Union Territory:** 31 October 2019

➤ **Capital:** Srinagar (Summer) and Jammu (Winter)

➤ **Lt.Governor:** Manoj Sinha

❖ **Taylor Swift named Time Magazine's person of the year**

➤ Taylor Swift has been named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2023.

➤ The star, whose Eras tour broke box office records and provoked an inquiry into Ticketmaster's sales practices, follows the likes of Barack Obama, Greta Thunberg and Volodymyr Zelensky.

➤ **The first woman to appear twice on a Person of the Year cover** since the franchise began in 1927.

➤ Swift was also named Person of the Year in 2017.

➤ The award goes to an event or person deemed to have had the most influence on global events over the past year.

❖ **Saudi Arabia introduces 96-hour Umrah stopover visa for Indian travelers**

➤ Saudi Arabia has introduced a **96-hour stopover visa for Indians** traveling to the West or the Middle East.

➤ This initiative, part of the Saudi Vision 2030 to streamline Umrah visits, was announced by Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Tawfiq bin Fawzan.

➤ Indians traveling to the West or the Middle East can obtain a stopover visa, that is, for 96 hours, and get a visa within the ticket issuance process, which allows them to perform Umrah and visit any city in the Kingdom.

➤ The Umrah Visa, valid for 90 days, enables holders to reside and travel within Saudi Arabia, ensuring an efficient and convenient pilgrimage experience.

- Individuals looking to perform Umrah can now obtain a Kingdom **entry visa within 48 hours.**
- Indian travelers can perform Umrah in Saudi Arabia using their work, tourism, or Umrah visas.
- The streamlined visa acquisition process **aims to enhance accessibility for Umrah pilgrims.**
- **About Saudi Arabia:**
- **Prime Minister:** Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud
- **Capital:** Riyadh
- **Currency:** Riyal
- ❖ **Government decides to implement component of "Nari Adalat" in phased manner**
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani has informed the Rajya Sabha that the Government has decided to implement the component of "Nari Adalat" in a phased manner under Mission Shakti.
- Assam and the Union Jammu and Kashmir have been selected by her Ministry to implement the component of 'Nari Adalat'.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, it is being implemented in two aspirational districts - Kupwara and Baramulla and in Assam, seven districts namely Barpeta, Goalpara, South Salmara Mankachar, Udalguri, Darrang, Morigaon and Kamrup have been covered under it.

➤ She informed that as per the cost norms prescribed under Mission Shakti guidelines 100 per cent fund have been released to Jammu and Kashmir and Assam for implementation of Nari Adalat during Financial year 2023-24.

➤ The Central government is implementing 'Mission Shakti' as an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women.

➤ The budget allocation under Mission Shakti for the financial year 2023-24 is around 3 thousand 144 crore rupees.

❖ **SBI Card joins Bharat BillPay in the credit card category**

➤ NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL) has integrated SBI Card, one of India's leading pure-play credit card issuers, into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay.

➤ This integration marks a significant advancement, streamlining the credit card bill payment process for millions of customers.

➤ NBBL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

➤ SBI Card has an extensive customer base, totalling around 1.68 crores.

➤ The collaboration enables customers to utilise Bharat BillPay's diverse payment modes, ensuring smooth and secure transactions.

➤ Noteworthy credit card issuers already present in this category include Kotak Mahindra Bank, BoB Financial, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Canara Bank.

➤ **About NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL):**

➤ **Established:** April 1, 2021

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** Ms. Noopur Chaturvedi
- **Non-Executive Chairman:** Mr. Biswamohan Mahapatra

➤ **About SBI Card**

- **Founded:** October 1998
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana
- **MD & CEO:** Abhijit Chakravorty

❖ **Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates 59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023**

- Union Chemical and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that during the past two to three years, the Government has absorbed the impact of high global commodity prices and ensured the availability of fertilisers at stable MRP.
- He was addressing the inaugural session of the 59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi.
- The theme of the seminar was **“Innovations in Fertiliser and Agriculture Sectors”**.
- India is the first nation to introduce Nano fertilisers such as Nano DAP and Nano Urea through the Indian Research ecosystem.
- More than three million tons of Urea capacity have been revived, and additional capacity is expected to come on-stream in next couple of years.

- The Government has set up two lakh Model Retail outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras which are acting as one-stop shops for all agricultural activities and training farmers about the use of Nano fertilizers.
- The Minister informed about the **NAMO Drone Didi scheme**, which was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will make drone spraying services accessible to farmers at affordable prices.

❖ **International Civil Aviation Day 2023: 7th December**

- International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7th December to emphasize the crucial role of innovation in shaping the future of civil aviation worldwide.
- It holds special significance as it marks the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1944.
- It is observed each year to raise awareness of the value of aviation and its role in global socio-economic development.
- This year's theme: **“Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development,”**

❖ **Department of Consumer Affairs conducting launches “Jago Grahak Jago” Campaign**

- The Department has been conducting country-wide multimedia awareness campaigns titled **“Jago Grahak Jago”**.
- Consumers are made aware of fraudulent practices or problems and the mechanisms to seek redressal.
- The campaigns have been carried out through print media, TV, radio, cinema theatres, websites, hoardings / display board etc.

- The Department is using social media to generate awareness of consumers through creatives/ captions on consumer rights and redressal mechanisms.
- “Jagriti”, a mascot for empowering consumers and generating awareness of their rights has also been launched by the Department.
- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to regulate matters relating to consumer rights violations, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements that harm the public and consumer interests.
- ❖ **Centre announces ₹1,500-crore aid to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh after cyclone wreaks havoc**
- The Union government released 493.60 crore to Andhra Pradesh and 450 crore to Tamil Nadu in the wake of the damage inflicted by severe cyclonic storm michaung.
- The centre approved another tranche of 561.29 crore for Chennai for flood mitigation efforts.
- Chennai is facing major floods, the third such occurring in the last eight years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the first urban flood mitigation project of 561.29 crore for ' Integrated Urban Flood Management activities for Chennai Basin Project' under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), which also includes Central assistance of 500 crore.
- This mitigation project will help make Chennai flood-resilient. This is the first in a series of urban flood mitigation efforts.

❖ **IDFC FIRST Bank launches Digital Credit Cards on the RuPay Platform**

- IDFC FIRST Bank announces the launch of its IDFC FIRST Bank digital RuPay Credit Card, powered for UPI keeping in sync with its focus on enhancing customer convenience and revolutionizing transactional experiences.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formally approved linking RuPay credit cards to UPI.
- This allows for a seamless, credit card-based payment experience, with customers benefitting from the ease of transacting through UPI nationwide.
- The IDFC FIRST Bank Digital RuPay Credit Card, powered by UPI is a digital credit card on the RuPay network.
- Banks existing credit card customers can apply and link their RuPay credit card to UPI without any additional documentation/applications, with simple customer consent.
- Customers will be able to use their existing limits through a RuPay credit card linked to UPI.

❖ **RBI cancels licence of Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the banking licence of Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank, as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- The Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperative, Uttar Pradesh, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the cooperative bank.

➤ On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive a deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

➤ 99.53 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

➤ Giving reasons behind the cancellation of the licence, the central bank said Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

❖ **India provides relief assistance of one million dollars to Papua New Guinea in wake of volcanic eruption**

➤ India has announced immediate relief assistance of one million dollars to Papua New Guinea in the wake of a volcanic eruption.

➤ On 20th November, a major volcanic eruption of Mount Ulawun in Papua New Guinea forced the evacuation of more than 26 thousand people and created urgent humanitarian needs.

➤ New Delhi has extended the immediate relief assistance to support relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the country, as a close friend and development partner under the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation.

➤ External Affairs Ministry said that India has firmly stood by Papua New Guinea during times of crisis and devastation caused by natural disasters, including in the earthquake in 2018 and volcanic eruption in 2019

➤ In May 22, 2023 Governor of Papua New Guinea, Sir Bob Dadae conferred PM Modi with Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu. It is the highest honour of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea capital: Port Moresby

Currency: Papua New Guinean Kina

❖ SIPRI Report 2022: India's HAL, BEL, MDL in Top 100 arms producing companies

➤ Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released the report titled 'World's Top 100 Arms Producing Companies 2022' SIPRI Top 100 listing includes the 100 companies with the largest arms revenue during the year covered.

➤ It lists the companies which makes arms, weapons, military planes and equipment.

➤ For the 1st time, three Indian Public Sector Units (PSUs): Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) are listed in the Top 100 arms producing companies.

➤ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) marks its debut in the list by securing 89th position. It generated revenue of \$ 1 billion for year 2022.

➤ HAL has moved to 41st position in 2022 ranking companies to 42nd in 2021 with revenue generation of \$ 3.4 billion for 2022.

➤ BEL secured 63 position, its position went a step down compared to 2021 with 62nd position and it generated a revenue of \$ 9 billion.

➤ As per the SIPRI Report 2022, overall sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest arms companies in the world amounts to \$ 579 billion.

➤ Top 3 companies all are from U.S.A they are;

1. Lockheed Martin Corporation

2. Raytheon Technologies

3. Northrop Grumman Corporation.