

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS OF AUGUST 2015**

### **Awards**

The Kannada film directed by Raam Reddy which has won two awards at the Locarno International Film Festival held in Locarno, Switzerland (1. Filmmakers of the Present - Golden Leopard and 2. Best First Feature) – **Thithi**

The behaviour ecologist from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) as well as president of the Indian National Science Academy who has been awarded Germany's highest civilian honour, the Cross of the Order of the Merit – **Raghavendra Gadagkar**

The mathematician from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research who has been awarded the Ramanujan Prize for 2015 (The prize is awarded jointly by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy, the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to a person under 45 working in a developing country.) – **Amalendu Krishna**

### **Banking**

The two banks which the RBI has identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), requiring these banks to keep aside additional capital to cover risk – **SBI and ICICI Bank**

The mobile wallet app launched by State Bank of India in collaboration with Accenture and Mastercard, which can be used to send money to new and registered customers, book movies, flights, hotels as well as for shopping is named – **SBI Buddy**

The private sector bank which has launched the first of its kind fully automated digital locker named Smart Vault, available to customers even on weekends and post banking hours – **ICICI Bank**

### **Sports**

The trophy for which all future bilateral series between India and South Africa (named 'The Mahatma Gandhi-Nelson Mandela Series') will be played has been named – **Freedom Trophy**

The team which has won the 2015 Pro Kabaddi League tournament defeating Bengaluru Bulls in the finals – **U Mumba**

The British professional tennis player who has won the Rogers Cup tennis tournament men's singles title defeating Novak Djokovic in the finals – **Andy Murray**

The Spanish badminton player who has won the 2015 BWF World Badminton Championship women's singles title defeating Saina Nehwal from India in the finals (The men's title was won by Chen Long of China) – **Carolina Marin**

The African country which has been recognised by International Olympic Committee to participate in 2016 Olympics thus become the 206th member of the Olympic Games – **South Sudan**

The British politician and former track and field athlete who has been elected the President of International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) to succeed Lamine Diack of Senegal – **Sebastian Coe**

### **Space**

The three-stage heavy weight rocket with indigenous cryogenic upper stage which was launched by ISRO from Satish Dhawan Space Centre to place GSAT-6 communication satellite into space – **GSLV D-6**

### **Important Days**

The theme of World Humanitarian Day observed on 19 August 2015 – **Inspiring the World's Humanity**

The theme of International Youth Day observed on 12 August 2015 – **Youth Civic Engagement**

Earth Overshoot Day for 2015, that is the day on which the world has exhausted nature's budget for the entire year (It was August 19 for 2014) – **August 13**

The theme of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed on August 9, 2015 – **Ensuring indigenous peoples' health and well-being**

### **Persons**

The 82-year old Syrian archaeologist looking after ancient ruins of Palmyra in Syria for 40 years who has been executed by militants – **Khaled Al-Assad**

The Syrian human rights activist and director of Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM) who has been freed by Syria after more than 3 years since his arrest in February 2012 – **Mazen Darwish**

The bollywood megastar who has been chosen to be Tiger Ambassador of Maharashtra state – **Amitabh Bachchan**

The secular blogger and owner of website Istishon who was hacked to death by unknown assailants in Bangladesh – **Niloy Chatterjee**

### **Places - India**

The venue of International Conference of Science, Technology and Public Policy for Achieving the Zero Hunger Challenge organised by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) from 07 to 08 August 2015 – **Chennai**

The airport in Kerala which has become the first in the world to be powered totally by solar energy – **Kochi (Cochin International Airport Ltd)**

The airfield in West Bengal which is being developed as a base of aircraft Super Hercules C-130 J by the Eastern Air Command of the Indian Air Force – **Panagarh**

The place where the Odisha government has decided to establish the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), allotted to the State in the last Union Budget – **Berhampur**

### **Places - International**

The country with which India has signed a taxation agreement allowing exchange of information to curb tax evasion and avoidance – **Seychelles**

The temple in the Syrian city of Palmyra, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, which was destroyed by IS militants – **Temple of Baalshamin**

The country which has opened its embassy in Tehran, Iran four years after it was closed in 2011 following storming by protesters during a demonstration against sanctions – **Great Britain**

The country in which US Embassy has been reopened 54 years after it was closed in 1961, with John Kerry, US Secretary of State presiding over the function – **Cuba**

The Chinese city in which massive explosions in a chemical warehouse has left over 100 dead and several others injured – **Tianjin**

The country which has set up the world's largest mosquito factory to tackle dengue fever by releasing one million sterilised mosquitoes every week in a bid to dilute their population with insects that don't carry the disease – **China**

The country which has taken up digitization of its National Library facing threat from Islamic State organisation – **Iraq**

The country which has set up the world's largest mosquito factory to tackle dengue fever by releasing one million sterilised mosquitoes every week in a bid to dilute their population with insects that don't carry the disease – **China**

The country which has switched to a new time zone, turning its clocks back by 30 minutes to mark its liberation from the Japanese at the end of WW2 – **North Korea**

### **Miscellaneous**

The road in New Delhi which has been renamed after the former President APJ Abdul Kalam – **Aurangzeb Road**

The typhoon that lashed northern Philippines leaving at least 10 people dead and forcing more than 5,000 to flee their homes was named – **Typhoon Goni**

The public sector oil company in which the Government has decided to sell 10 per cent of its stake on the stock market through an offer for sale (OFS) – **Indian Oil Corporation**

The historical monument which has made its debut on the microblogging site twitter with the State Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav launching the official Twitter handle – **Taj Mahal**

The new name of Agriculture Ministry as announced by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry**

The percentage by which China has decided to devalue its currency, the Yuan, also known as the renminbi, in order to increase its market-orientation and benchmark status – **1.9%**

Number of languages supported by the new Translator App launched by Microsoft for iOS and Android platforms is – **50**

The museum set up with assistance with Intel and inaugurated by the President Mr. Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan is named – **Navachara Kaksh**

#### **Swachh Bharat Rankings – 476 cities**

Rank	City	Rank	City
1.	Mysore	473.	Bhiwani (Haryana)
2.	Thiruchirapalli	474.	Palwal (Haryana)
3.	Navi Mumbai	475.	Bhind (M.P.)
4.	Kochi	476.	Damoh (M.P.)
5.	Hassan		

#### **Swachh Bharat Rankings - Capital cities**

Rank	City	Swachh Bharat Ranking
1.	Bengaluru	7
2.	Thiruvananthapuram	8
3.	Gangtok	10
4.	New Delhi Municipal Council	16

#### **Swachh Bharat Rankings – General Info**

- 4 cities from Karnataka are in top 10
- 25 cities from West Bengal are in top 100
- The Swachh Bharat rankings are based on a total of 42 marks including 20 for open defecation indicators and 22 for solid waste management indicators.
- All the 476 Class-1 cities in 31 States and Union Territories, each with a population of above one lakh were surveyed for assessing total sanitation practices covering a set of parameters including the extent of open defecation, solid waste management, septage management, waste water treatment, drinking water quality, surface water quality of water bodies and mortality due to water born diseases etc.

## IAAF - World Athletics Championship 2015

Venue : Beijing (China)

### Medals Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Kenya	7	6	3	16
2.	Jamaica	7	2	3	12
3.	U.S.A.	6	6	6	18
4.	Great Britain	4	1	2	07
5.	Ethiopia	3	3	2	08

### Indradhanush - 7-point Action Plan to revamp PSU Banks

**1. Appointments** : The Government decided to separate the post of Chairman and Managing Director by prescribing that in the subsequent vacancies to be filled up the CEO will get the designation of MD & CEO and there would be another person who would be appointed as non-Executive Chairman of PSBs.

**2. Bank Board Bureau (BBB)** : The BBB will be headed by a Chairman and will comprise six other members — three government officials and three experts, two of which will be from the private sector. It will constantly engage with Board of Directors of all PSBs to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.

**3. Capitalization** : Govt to infuse Rs.70,000 crore capital into banks over the next four years and enable the PSBs to raise Rs. 1,10,000 crore from the market.

#### **4. Destressing PSBs**

**5. Empowerment** : Banks to be encouraged to take their decision independently keeping the commercial interest of the organisation in mind.

**6. Framework of Accountability** : A new framework of Key Performance Indicators to be measured for performance of PSBs is being announced.

#### **7. Governance Reforms**

### National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

- The creation of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was announced in the Union Budget 2015-16.
- Union Cabinet has recently approved the setting up of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- The fund will make equity investments of Rs. 20,000 crore every year in commercially viable long gestation projects which will help to kick-start the economy.

- The Centre will own 49 per cent of this new Mumbai-based fund, which won't be answerable to Parliament nor audited by the CAG.
- It will be run on a commercial basis by managers, who will be paid globally competitive salaries.
- The NIIF is modelled on Singapore's investment vehicle Temasek.

### World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision by UN DESA

- The current world population of 7.3 billion is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100.
- By 2022, the population of India is expected to surpass that of China.
- Nigeria will be the third most populous country in the world surpassing the United States in 2050.
- Globally the number of persons aged 60 or above is expected to more than double by 2050 and more than triple by 2100.
- China's population will start declining by the 2030s, while India's is projected to decline only after 2069 when its population is around 1.75 billion.

### Zero Hunger Challenge

The Zero Hunger Challenge launched by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, encapsulates his vision for the future – a world free from hunger and malnutrition - where all people enjoy their fundamental Right to Food; and people's livelihoods and food systems are resilient and able to withstand a changing climate. This vision is articulated in the five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge, namely:

1. 100% access to adequate food all year round;
2. zero stunted children less than 2 years of age;
3. all food systems are sustainable;
4. 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income;
5. and zero loss or waste of food

### Exercise Indradhanush -IV

- ❖ India U.K. Joint Air Exercise conducted from Jul 21 to 30 in U.K.
- ❖ Four Sukhoi Su-30 MKI alongwith IL-78 Air-to-air refueller, C-17 strategic and C-130J tactical airlift aircraft of the Indian Air Force participated in the exercise.
- ❖ Eurofighter Typhoon from the Royal Air Force alongwith Boeing E-3D Sentry and A330 Voyager tanker were pitted against the Indian aircraft.
- ❖ The fighters operated from RAF Coningsby and the transport from RAF Brize Norton.
- ❖ GARUD special forces and their RAF counterparts carried out paratropping exercises.

### Google Restructured

A new holding company named Alphabet has been formed to encompass Google X, Calico, Google Capital, Google Ventures etc., and also to replace Google as the publicly-traded company.

Larry Page will be the CEO of the company and co-founder Sergey Brin will be its President.

Indian born Sundar Pichai has been named the CEO of new Google.

### National Handloom Day

August 7 was declared by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as the National Handloom Day to mark the 1905 Swadeshi movement which was formally proclaimed on August 7, 1905 at the Calcutta Town hall. 'India Handloom' brand at a function in Chennai.

### New Governors

Bihar - Ram Nath Kovind

Himachal Pradesh - Acharya Dev Vrat

### Newly appointed MD & CEOs of PSBs

Bank of Baroda - P.S. Jayakumar

Bank of India - M.O. Rego

Canara Bank - Rakesh Sharma

IDBI Bank Ltd - Kishore Kharat Piraji

Punjab National Bank - Smt. Usha Ananthasubramanian

### Payment Banks

Reserve Bank granted in-principle approval to the following to set up payment banks

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd                   | 7. Airtel M Commerce Services Ltd     |
| 2. Cholamandalam Distribution Services Ltd | 8. Department of Posts                |
| 3. Fino PayTech Ltd                        | 9. National Securities Depository Ltd |
| 4. Reliance Industries Ltd                 | 10. Dilip Shantilal Shanghvi          |
| 5. Vijay Shekhar Sharma                    | 11. Tech Mahindra Ltd                 |
| 6. Vodafone m-pesa Ltd                     |                                       |

### Designated Role of Payment Banks

1. Allowed to raise deposits of upto Rs. 1 lakh and pay interest on these balances.
2. Enable transfers and remittances through a mobile phone.
3. Offer services in respect of payment of bills and cashless purchases.

4. Issue debit cards, ATM cards, forex cards.
5. However, the payment banks are not allowed to give loans.

### **Bandhan Bank**

- First private bank in 11 years to commence operations was inaugurated by the FM Shri Arun Jaitley on 23.08.15.
- Founder, MD and CEO - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- Chairman - Ashok Lahiri
- Branches - 501 branches, Service centres - 2022 service centres, ATMs - 50 across 24 states
- Headquarters - Kolkata
- Slogan - Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai

### **Sports Awards**

Given away on National Sports Day (29/08/15)

**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** - Ms Sania Mirza

**Dronacharya Award 2015** - 1. Swatantra Raj Singh (boxing), 2. Nihar Ameen (swimming), 3. Harbans Singh (athletics) 4. Naval Singh (javelin) and Anoop Singh (wrestling).

**Arjuna Awards 2015** -

1. P R Sreejesh	Hockey	10. Swarn Singh Virk	Rowing
2. Dipa Karmakar	Gymnastics	11. S. Satish Kumar	Weightlifting
3. Jitu Rai	Shooting	12. Yumnam Santhoi Devi	Wushu
4. Sandeep Kumar	Archery	13. Sharath Gaekwad	Para-swimming
5. Mandeep Jangra	Boxing	14. M R Poovamma	Athletics
6. Babita Kumari	Wrestling	15. Manjeet Chhillar	Kabaddi
7. Bajrang	Wrestling	16. Abhilasha Mhatre	Kabaddi
8. Rohit Sharma	Cricket	17. Anup Kumar Yama	Rollerskating
9. K Srikanth	Badminton		

**Dhyanchand Award 2015** -

1. Romeo James (Hockey)
2. Shiv Prakash Misra (Tennis)
3. T.P. Padmanabham Nair

**Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2014** -

1. Ms Arunima Sinha (Land Adventure)
2. Shri Jot Singh (Land Adventure)
3. Wg Cdr Paramveer Singh (Water Adventure)
4. Lt Col Satyendra Verma (Retd) (Air Adventure)
5. Col Satish Chander Sharma (Retd) (Lifetime Achievement)

**Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2014-15** - Punjabi University.

### **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2015 -**

1. Director General of Military Training (Identification and Nurturing of Budding/Young Talent)
2. Coal India Limited (Encouragement of Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility)
3. Haryana Police (Employment of Sportspersons and Sports Welfare Measures) and
4. Sports coaching Foundation, Hyderabad (Sports for Development).

### **Kumar Sangakkara - Sri Lankan Cricketer**

- Test Debut : 2000; Last Test: Aug 2015 (vs India at Colombo)
- Test Career : 134 matches; 38 centuries and 12400 runs (Fifth highest run scorer after Sachin, Ponting, Kallis and Dravid).
- ODI Career : 404 matches; 25 centuries and 14234 runs (Second highest run scorer after Sachin Tendulkar).
- Important Test Records : Fastest to reach 8000, 9000, 11000 and 12000 runs; Highest partnership for any wicket - 624 with Mahela Jayawardene.
- Important ODI records : First batsman to score four consecutive hundreds in 2015 World Cup.

(Note: All records and statistics have not been given here. )

### **Abbreviations in News**

TASMAC : Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation

UN DESA : United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### **Words added to Oxford Dictionary**

**Grexit** : a term for the potential withdrawal of Greece from the eurozone

**Brexit** : a term for the potential or hypothetical departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union

### **Current Affairs Questions**

1. Reunion Island where some debris of a Boeing 777 aircraft has been located is the territory of -  
(a) Malaysia                      (b) France                      (c) Portugal                      (d) Australia
2. Aapka Bhala, Sabka Bhala is the slogan of which of the following banks?  
(a) Union Bank                      (b) Central Bank of India                      (c) Bandhan Bank                      (d) Axis Bank
3. Dipa Karmakar is associated with which of the following sports?  
(a) Gymnastics                      (b) Athletics                      (c) Squash                      (d) Archery



- (a) Kenya and Jamaica (b) United States and Kenya  
(c) Jamaica and Great Britain (d) Jamaica and United States

13. Ashwani Lohani, a former Railway Service officer has been appointed to head which of the following organisations?

- (a) Air India (b) HAL (c) Hyderabad Metro (d) Bank of Baroda

14. Which of the following days was observed as National Handloom Day recently?

- (a) August 19 (b) August 7 (c) August 21 (d) August 2

15. Which Indian team has qualified for Olympics after a gap of 36 years?

- (a) Women's Football team (b) Men's Volleyball team  
(c) Women's Hockey team (d) Men's Basketball team

16. With which of the following countries will India be playing cricket series for the Freedom Trophy?

- (a) New Zealand (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) South Africa

17. WHO has recently declared India to be free from which of the diseases?

- (a) Diphtheria (b) Whooping Cough  
(c) Neonatal and Maternal Tetanus (d) Tuberculosis

18. Which 2 states have the highest number of cities identified to be developed as smart cities by the Central Government?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (b) Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra  
(c) Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu (d) Gujarat and Rajasthan

19. Which team has won the 2015 Pro Kabaddi League tournament?

- (a) Jaipur Pink Panthers (b) U Mumba (c) Telugu Titans (d) Bengaluru Bulls

20. In which of the following companies has the Govt of India divested 10% of its stake in August 2015?

- (a) HPCL (b) BPCL (c) GAIL (d) IOC

21. How much money has the Govt decided to infuse into the Public Sector Banks in the next 4 years through the 7-point action plan, Indradhanush?

- (a) Rs. 70,000 crores (b) Rs. 50,000 crores (c) Rs. 80,000 crores (d) Rs. 1,00,000 crores

22. As per World Population Prospects released by UN DESA recently, India is likely to surpass the population of China by which year?

- (a) 2020 (b) 2022 (c) 2025 (d) 2030

23. Which of the following countries recently switched to a new time zone by turning its clock back by 30 minutes to mark its liberation from the Japanese at the end of WW2?

- (a) Malaysia (b) Singapore (c) North Korea (d) Myanmar

24. Which of the following banks recently launched fully automated locker named Smart Vault available to the customers even on weekends and after banking hours?

- (a) ICICI Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) Axis Bank (d) Federal Bank

25. Who of the following was recently elected the President of the International Association of Athletics Federation?

- (a) Sergei Bubka (b) Sebastian Coe (c) Carl Lewis (d) Ian Thorpe

26. Which country's participation in the 2016 Olympics was approved recently the International Olympic Committee making it the 206<sup>th</sup> nation to take part in the games?

- (a) Taiwan (b) Palestine (c) Syria (d) South Sudan

27. Indradhanush was a joint air exercise conducted by India and

- (a) United Kingdom (b) USA (c) Nepal (d) Singapore

28. Which of the following universities was recently awarded the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2014-15?

- (a) Kurukshetra University (b) Punjabi University (c) Punjab University (d) Delhi University

29. Who was the first batsman to score centuries in four consecutive ODIs?

- (a) Saurav Ganguly (b) Saaed Anwar (c) AB de Villiers (d) K Sangakkara

30. Which road in New Delhi has been renamed APJ Abdul Kalam Road?

- (a) Aurangzeb Road (b) Akbar Road (c) Shahjahan Road (d) Sher Shah Road

### **Answers**

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (a) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (d) 10. (c) 11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (a)  
14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (d) 17. (c) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (d) 21. (a) 22. (b) 23. (c) 24. (a) 25. (b) 26. (d)  
27. (a) 28. (b) 29. (d) 30. (a)