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Important Current Affairs 15th August 2017 with PDF

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Important Current Affairs 15th August 2017

- **Nation celebrates 71st Independence Day**
 - India celebrated its 71st Independence Day with the main function at Red Fort where PM Modi unfurled National Flag synchronized with 21-Gun Salute.
 - This was Modi's 4th Independence Day address where he presented a report card of his govt's accomplishments.
 - Aug 15 was chosen by Lord Mountbatten as it was the same day in 1945 that Japan surrendered to Allied Forces at the end of World War II.
- **Portal to Honour Gallantry Award Winners**
 - On 71st Independence Day, the govt launched an online portal dedicated to gallantry award winners, bestowed since Independence.
 - Portal will preserve & tell stories of bravest men & women, civilians as well as armed forces personnel.
 - Website with domain name gallantryawards.gov.in gives details of Chakra Series awardees.
 - It is being jointly developed by the Union Home and Defence Ministries,





- **990 personnel awarded Police Medals**
 - 990 personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Independence Day this year.
 - President's Police Medal for Gallantry has been awarded posthumously to Chhattisgarh Police's STF Platoon Commander Shankar Rao.
 - Center honoured 2 CRPF commandants with Kirti Chakra and conferred 40 of the 190 police gallantry medals to J&K police & CRPF/BSF personnel deployed in the Valley.
- **Bill Gates makes largest donation**
 - Bill Gates has made his largest donation in 17 years giving away \$4.6 billion worth of shares in Microsoft Corp. Donation reduces Gates stake to 1.3%.
 - It's the largest gift of Microsoft shares that Gates has made since 2000 when he gave away more than \$20 billion worth of shares.
 - Recipient of the gift was not disclosed in the filing.
 - Gates' estimated net worth is \$89.9 bn, as of July 2017.
- **FB and others to remove Blue Whale links**
 - Govt has directed internet majors - Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft & Yahoo to immediately remove links of dangerous online game Blue Whale Challenge.
 - Blue Whale challenge is reportedly a suicide game in which player is given certain tasks to complete for a period of 50 days and final task leads to suicide.
 - Challenge has led to suicide of children in India & other countries
- **GIS-enabled portal**
 - Centre has brought out an online database of more than half a million hectares of land assisting industry.
 - GIS enabled database has details of about 3000 industrial parks, area-wise availability of agricultural/horticultural crops & mineral production.
 - Database is being developed by DIPP, National e-Governance Division & BISAG
 - It aims to eliminate information asymmetry affecting investments
- **India's real GDP to average at 7.4%**



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- According to Deutsche Bank report, India's growth momentum will get stronger with revival in private investment cycle.
- Real GDP growth is expected to average at about 7.4% over 2017 & 2018.
- It also termed India as one of the fastest growing economies in the world.
- India lost the tag of the fastest growing major economy to China in the March quarter.
- **World Congress of Optometry**
 - 2nd World Congress of Optometry is going to be held in Hyderabad during Sep 11-13.
 - World's visually impaired will be the subject of some serious discussions at the world congress.
 - The conference theme is 'Accessible, quality vision and eye health'.
 - It ties into WHO's Universal eye health: A global action plan which aims to reduce prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2017.
- **Top 200 firms making green revenue**
 - India is among top 11 countries as 7 of its companies are among a list of 200 largest publicly traded entities that are making significant revenue from clean energy.
 - India ranked 5th after China, US, Japan & Germany.
 - Top global companies making the list are Siemens, Toyota, ABB, Panasonic etc.
 - Few Indian companies that made to the list are Suzlon Energy, BHEL, Tata Chemicals, Exide and IDFC
- **Indian boxers clinch 10 medals**
 - India bagged two gold in the 6th Golden Glove Women's Boxing Tournament at Vojvodina, Serbia.
 - While Jyoti won Gold in 51 kg category, and Vanlalharitpuii bagged it 60 kg category.
 - In all, India won two gold, four silver and four bronze medals in the tournament.
 - The silver medals were clinched by Anjali in 48kg, Sakshi in 54kg, Ashtha in 69kg and Anupama in 81kg categories.
- **Common use items exempt from e-way bill**





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- LPG, kerosene & currency are among the common use items that have been exempted from e-way bill provision.
- Council has approved a list of 153 items that have been exempted from obtaining e-way bills.
- GST mandates obtaining e-way bills for transporting goods consignment of more than Rs 50,000 in value.
- E-way bill is not required if goods are transported by non-motorised conveyances.
- **First-ever Freedom Run in London**
 - Members of Indian diaspora in UK took part in 1st ever Freedom Run to mark India's 71st Independence Day.
 - The run Started from Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Parliament Square to India House to commemorate this historic occasion.
 - Event organised by Indian High Commission in London aimed at bringing together Indian community from across Britain to commemorate 70th anniversary of Independence.
- **Tata Motors appoints PB Balaji as CFO**
 - Tata Motors, India biggest automobile company has appointed PB Balaji as its new group chief financial officer. He will take over the reins from CR Ramakrishnan.
 - Balaji, who will take over this year has been working with HUL as its CFO since 2014
 - His appointment comes at a time when Tata Motors is battling market share loss in commercial vehicles & competitive pressures in passenger vehicles
- **Thespian Shobha Sen passes away**
 - One of the foremost theatre personalities of Bengal, actor and director Shobha Sen, died in Kolkata.
 - Sen was associated with the Leftist theatre movement led by the Indian People's Theatre Association at both the State and national level.
 - She worked in some path-breaking productions from Bengal, including Nabanna (New Harvest) by playwright Bijon Bhattacharya.





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- **One year exemption for TN from NEET**
 - Central govt has decided to grant exemption of 1 year from NEET system for students of govt colleges in Tamil Nadu.
 - TN comprises of more than 90% students from State Board, which makes it difficult for them to qualify NEET which is based on CBSE syllabus.
 - NEET is an entrance exam for students who wish to study graduate medical course or PG course in govt or private medical colleges in India.
- **Earth's Largest Volcanic Region**
 - Largest volcanic region on Earth, with nearly 100 volcanoes, has been discovered 2 km below the surface of vast ice sheet in west Antarctica.
 - These newly discovered volcanoes range in height from 100 to 3,850 metres, with the highest almost as tall as Switzerland's 3,970 metres Eiger mountain.
 - If one of these volcanoes were to erupt it could further destabilise west Antarctica's ice sheets
- **Plant-Based And Safer Vaccine For Zika**
 - Scientists have developed the world's first plant-based Zika vaccine that may be more effective, safer and cheaper than other vaccines.
 - Vaccine developed by researchers from ASU works against a part of a Zika viral protein, called DIII, that plays a key role for virus to infect people.
 - It uses smallest & most unique part of Zika virus that can still elicit a potent & robust immune response.
- **Sharma appointed Hindustan Copper CMD**
 - Santosh Sharma has been appointed as chairman & managing director of Hindustan Copper Ltd.
 - Appointments committee of the cabinet has approved his appointment to the post for a period of 5 years.
 - He is currently director (operations) in Hindustan Copper Ltd.
 - HCL is a Govt-owned corporation under Ministry of Mines. In 2015, govt announced a 15% stake sale in HCL, reducing its stake to 74.5%.
- **Lord Krishna-themed coin to be released**





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- A limited edition silver coin on Lord Krishna will be released on Janmashtami on August 15 by Republic of Chad in commemoration of 5,244th birth anniversary of the Hindu God.
- This full-dimensional 3D coin weighs 100 grams and has been made of pure silver. The coin is designed by Alok K Goyal.
- The initiative was taken seeing the popularity of Indian art and culture.
- **Usain Bolt retires**
 - The greatest sprinter of modern times, Usain Bolt has finally said good bye to the Athletics world.
 - His farewell ended in agony as he injured himself while running the last lap of the men's 4x100m relay race in the World Athletics Championships in London.
 - An eight-time Olympic gold medalist, Bolt won the 100 m, 200 m and 4 × 100 m relay at three consecutive Olympic Games.

[Attempt Current Affair Quiz for 15th August 2017](#)

