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Important Current Affairs 21st August 2017 with PDF

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Important Current Affairs 21st August 2017

- **NABARD sanctions loan to Rajasthan govt**
 - National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned a loan of Rs 1,349.55 cr to Rajasthan govt.
 - The loan has been sanctioned for the creation of rural infrastructure in the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.
 - It also includes assistance for construction of 2 rural drinking water supply projects, strengthening rural roads & modernization of 3 major irrigation projects
- **Distribution of Apple products in India**
 - HCL Infosystems has announced that it has signed a distributor agreement with Apple for iPhones and other products in India.
 - Currently, Apple products are being distributed by Beetel Teletech, Rashi Peripherals Redington, and Ingram Micro.
 - Currently, Apple has three percent market share by volume and 11 percent share by value in the country.





- **Digital police portal**
 - A digital police portal under CCTNS project, which aims to create a national database of crimes & criminals, was launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
 - It will provide 11 searches and 46 reports from the national database for state police and central investigation agencies.
 - It will also provide citizens. facility for online complaint registration and request for antecedent verification.
- **Uber India appoints Vishpala as CPO**
 - Uber has roped in former American Express executive Vishpala Reddy as the chief people's officer for its India & South Asia operations.
 - Prior to joining Uber, Vishpala was Vice-President & Head of HR for American Express in India. She has also worked with Hewitt Associates as a senior consultant.
 - For Uber, India is one of its largest markets outside the US & has witnessed over 100% YoY growth.
- **Dena Bank cuts savings rate**
 - Dena Bank has cut interest rate on savings account deposits up to Rs 25 lakh by 0.5% to 3.50%
 - Those having deposits over Rs 25 lakh in their savings bank accounts will continue to get existing interest of 4%
 - For deposits above Rs 25 lakh, interest rate will remain unchanged at 4%
 - With this, Dena Bank has joined a host of peer banks after SBI started paying less on certain savings deposits
- **Scheme for Compassionate Family Pension**
 - Assam govt will launch a new Scheme called, Scheme for Compassionate Family Pension in lieu of Compassionate Appointment.
 - The scheme will be applicable to those employees who died in harness on or after April 1, 2017.
 - It will be applicable to all employees of the state govt, all others as eligible under Assam Services Rules, 1969 & All India Services officers borne on Assam cadre.
- **Banks to pay 3% IGST on gold imports**



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- Banks importing gold and precious metals will have to pay 3% tax under the GST which can be claimed as input tax credit.
- Banks did not pay any VAT on the import of precious metals previously. They only paid customs duty.
- Import of gold attracts a 10% basic customs duty. On top of that, a 12.5 % countervailing duty was levied prior to GST.
- IGST paid can be taken as input tax credit by the banks.
- **SDMC launches ‘terminator train’**
 - South Delhi Municipal Corporation has pressed into service a train called ‘mosquito terminator’.
 - Power sprayers which will be attached to trucks placed on the train will be used to spray insecticide to fight vector-borne diseases such as dengue.
 - Insecticide will be sprayed on sides of the track to eliminate the menace of mosquitoes.
 - It will not only eliminate larvae but also neutralize mosquitoes.
- **Oinam Bembem Devi wins Arjuna Award**
 - Oinam Bembem Devi, flag bearer of Indian women’s football over the past 2 decades has been named as the winner of Arjuna Award.
 - Bembem becomes the 2nd Indian woman footballer to win the award, the first being Shanti Mullick in 1983.
 - Bembem, nicknamed ‘Durga of Indian Football, made her international debut in 1995, bowed out on a high after winning SAF Games Gold Medal in Shillong in 2015.
- **RRB merger gets exemption**
 - The mergers of regional rural banks that are ordered by the government are now exempt from seeking CCI approval.
 - The exemption has been granted for a period of five years.
 - RRB's setup under RRB Act, 1976 provides credit and other facilities to small farmers, agricultural laborers, and artisans, among others, in the rural areas.
 - Currently, there are 56 RRBs.
- **Government extends cash back scheme**





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- Govt has extended the cash back scheme, that offers incentives of up to Rs 1,000 to merchants for accepting payments through BHIM app to 31 March.
- Under the scheme, a merchant can get cashback of Rs 50 for 20-50 transaction, Rs 2 for every transaction thereafter till Rs 950.
- The scheme was launched by PM Modi on 14 April for a period of 6 months for promoting cashless payments through BHIM app.
- **Rosneft closes \$13-billion deal**
 - Essar Oil has announced the completion of the sale of its India assets to Russian govt controlled Rosneft-led consortium for \$12.9 billion.
 - The deal, termed as the largest FDI in India, includes the sale of a 20 million-tonnes-per-year Vadinar refinery and Vadinar port in Gujarat to Rosneft.
 - The deal comes more than 10 months after it was announced on Oct 15 last year on sidelines of BRICS summit in Goa.
- **Jerry Lewis passes away**
 - Jerry Lewis, the slapstick-loving comedian, innovative filmmaker died after a brief illness.
 - One of the most popular comic actors of 1950s & '60s, Lewis perfected the role of a quirky clown but also won acclaim as a writer, actor & philanthropist in a career spanning 6 decades.
 - He became highest-paid actor in Hollywood, chalking up hits such as The Bell Boy, Cinderella & The Nutty Professor.
- **1st Meeting of experts & official of PDA**
 - The first meeting of the team of experts & officials of Pancheshwar Development Authority has begun at Kathmandu.
 - Pancheswar Development Authority was set up in Aug 2014 to develop, execute & operate Pancheshwar project on Mahakali river in Nepal.
 - India & Nepal had signed Mahakali Treaty in 1996 for development of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. It is expected to produce around 5000 MW electricity
- **China to relaunch fastest bullet trains**
 - China is relaunching world's fastest bullet trains running at 350 km/h.





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- China first ran trains at 350 km/h in 2008 but cut speeds back to 250-300 km/h in 2011 following a two-train collision.
- Trains will service the route from Beijing to Shanghai, making 1250 km journey in just 4 hr, 30 mins.
- China has spent about \$360 bn on high-speed rail, building by far largest network in the world.
- **SBI tops share of wilful default**
 - Country's largest lender, SBI accounts for over 27% of total amount owed to public-sector banks by wilful defaulters
 - As many as 1,762 wilful defaulters owed SBI ₹25,104 cr as on March 31
 - PNB is next on the list with 1,120 wilful defaulters having outstanding NPAs of ₹12,278 cr
 - According to Finance Ministry data, total outstanding loans due to PSB by wilful defaulters amounted to ₹92,376 cr
- **15 medical outlets of AMRIT Deendayal**
 - Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare JP Nadda will launch 15 medical outlets of AMRIT Deendayal in Assam, UP & Punjab.
 - He will also inaugurate one outlet of AMRIT Deendayal at Indira Gandhi Medical College Shimla.
 - A purpose of AMRIT Deendayal program is to provide different kind of medicines & equipment's on cheap rates to patients, discount up to 60% on MRP is provided to patients.
- **JEE advanced to go completely online**
 - Joint Entrance Examination for Indian Institute of Technology will go completely online from 2018.
 - Joint Admission Board, which is the policy-making body on IIT admissions, took the decision at a meeting in Chennai.
 - Union HRD Ministry had earlier introduced the option of taking JEE-Mains online.
 - JEE-Mains is the entrance examination for admission to engineering courses offered across India.





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- **Agriculture Leadership Award**
 - Telangana CM, K. Chandrasekhar Rao has been selected for Agriculture Leadership Award-2017 given by ICFA.
 - The award is recognition of the efforts taken by him for development of agriculture through innovative irrigation projects taken up in the State.
 - National awards committee of organisation headed by M.S. Swaminathan nominated Rao for Agriculture Leadership Award in policy leadership category
- **Shapath Bharadwaj wins bronze**
 - Teenager Shapath Bharadwaj won a bronze medal in the double trap event at the ISSF Junior Shotgun World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.
 - He shot a 48 in the final to finish behind gold-medal winner Briton James Dedman and Finland's Miki Ylonen.
 - This was India's first medal in the competition apart from the bronze won by Sheoran and Keer in the mixed team trap competition.

[Attempt Current Affair Quiz for 21st August 2017](#)

