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Important Current Affairs 23rd August 2017 with PDF

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Important Current Affairs 23rd August 2017

- **Panel to oversee PSU bank merger**
 - The Union cabinet has approved a mechanism to oversee consolidation in the state-run banking sector.
 - The panel will be set up to supervise merger proposals from banks' boards as the government seeks to consolidate 21 state-owned banks in the country.
 - The objective is to create strong entities and any decision regarding consolidation will be based on commercial feasibility.
- **Lohani named as Railway Board Chairman**
 - Ashwani Lohani, CMD of Air India, has been named as the new Chairman of the Railway Board, following the resignation on A.K. Mittal.
 - He will replace Ashok Mittal who resigned from his post in the wake of two derailments on the Indian Railways in just four days.
 - He holds the Guinness Record for successfully running the 'Fairy Queen Express', the world's oldest working steam locomotive.





- **Google partners with Walmart**
 - Google & Walmart has announced a partnership that will make Walmart's products available on Google's online shopping mall.
 - Walmart will work with Google to offer hundreds of thousands of items for voice shopping via Google Assistant.
 - It's the first time Walmart has made its products online in US outside of its own website.
 - The service will compete with Amazon's Alexa voice-shopping platform
- **First Videsh Bhavan in Mumbai**
 - Sushma Swaraj will inaugurate country's first Videsh Bhavan, assimilating all Regional Passport Offices under one roof, at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai.
 - As a first pilot project, 4 offices of MEA - RPO, PoE, Branch Secretariat & Regional Office of ICCR have been assimilated & brought under one roof.
 - It is expected to cut costs besides improving efficiency & hastening delivery of services
- **Railway Board Chairman Mittal Resigns**
 - Ashok Mittal, the chairman of the Railway Board has resigned from his post in the wake of two derailments on the Indian Railways in just four days.
 - Mittal was first in the history of Indian Railways to receive a two-year extension. He was to remain in the post till he turned 62 in 2018.
 - Indian Rails Kaifyat Express & Utkal Express derailed in past 4 days, several passengers died.
- **Govt notifies Rs 200 currency notes**
 - Finance Ministry has formally announced the launch of the new Rs 200 note. The new notes are expected to come into circulation from next month.
 - This will be the first ever new note to be introduced by RBI after Rs 500 & Rs 2,000 notes introduced post massive currency culling exercise in Nov last year.
 - Rs 200 notes will help bridge the gap between Rs 100 and Rs 500 notes.
- **National Sports Awards**
 - National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize & reward excellence in sports.



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- Devendra Jhajharia & Sardar Singh have been selected for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- Harmanpreet & P. N. Prakash are among 17 sportsmen who will be given Arjuna Awards.
- 7 persons have been chosen for Dronacharya Awards for producing medal winners at International sports events.
- **National Sports Museum to be established**
 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is going to establish National Sports Museum at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
 - Museum will showcase India's achievements in sports and also focus on the traditional sports within the country.
 - It will display achievements of Indian greats in sports & also act as an educational hub & offer an opportunity for young to delve into some sporting activity.
- **Highest paid actors**
 - Forbes has released its list of world's 20 highest paid actors of 2017 featuring 3 Indian actors - Shahrukh Khan, Salman Khan & Akshay Kumar among top 10.
 - The list is topped by Hollywood star Mark Wahlberg with earning of \$68 mn.
 - Wahlberg replaced last year's top-ranked star, Dwayne Johnson who comes in at the 2nd spot with \$65 mn earnings while Vin Diesel with \$54.5 mn got the 3rd spot.
- **First to implement Bharat QR**
 - Andhra Pradesh's EPDCL & SPDCL have become the 1st state-owned distribution companies in India to accept payments through Bharat QR.
 - Bharat QR is a secure, network-agnostic interface that enables customers to use their smartphones to make payments without divulging information like card no. & CVV.
 - Bharat QR is world's 1st interoperable quick response code acceptance solution launched by RBI.
- **Microsoft launches 'Project Brainwave'**
 - Microsoft has announced its Project Brainwave deep learning acceleration platform for real-time artificial intelligence.





- The 'Project Brainwave' uses the massive field-programmable gate array infrastructure that Microsoft has been deploying over the past few years.
- It can handle complex, memory-intensive models such as Long Short Term Memories, without using batching to juice throughput.
- **Kuvera ties up with Uber**
 - Kuvera, a wealth management platform, has partnered with Uber to offer investment products & financial planning services to Uber's driver partners.
 - Through the partnership, Uber drivers will get access to investment schemes and advisory services on Kuvera.
 - Kuvera lists "direct only" mutual fund plans, allowing its users to create and monitor their portfolio on the platform.
- **New chairman of Syndicate Bank**
 - Ajay Vipin Nanavati has been appointed as the chairman of Syndicate Bank.
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as Non-Official Director/Non-Executive Chairman in Syndicate Bank for three years.
 - As the chairman, he will be responsible for overall policy directions of the bank.
 - In 2015, govt bifurcated the posts of chairman & MD in public sector banks.
- **Trai inks cooperation pact**
 - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has inked an agreement with Malaysian Communications & Multimedia Commission to deepen bilateral cooperation in telecom & broadcasting regulation.
 - The 2 telecom regulators signed a letter of intent, under which they will exchange information & regulatory best practices.
 - Pact came amid ongoing Asia-Pacific regulators' roundtable organised by ITU & TRAI.
- **Mentor India Campaign**
 - NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will launch the Mentor India Campaign in New Delhi.



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- The campaign is a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can nurture and guide students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs.
- The labs are dedicated workspaces where students from Class 6th to 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
- **Door step Aadhar enrolment**
 - UIDAI has joined hands with CSC India for launching door step enrolment facility in Delhi for elderly, patients & others who cannot travel to Aadhar centres
 - A mobile van in partnership with CSC will go & enrol people who are unable to travel to centres for enrollment
 - CSC provides permit & monitors operations of common service centres across India which provide govt services in rural area
- **Out of top 10 most valued companies**
 - Infosys, India's 2nd largest software services firm, lost its place in the list of country's 10 most valued companies in terms of market capitalization.
 - Fall in market capitalization comes after its CEO & MD Vishal Sikka resigned.
 - Standing at a market cap of Rs2 trillion, Infosys now ranks at 11th position & has been replaced in top 10 by IOC.
 - Reliance Industries is the most valued company.
- **All-in-one DigiPoS machines**
 - HDFC Bank has launched an all-in-one offering DigiPoS Machine, that offers a complete suite of digital payment solutions
 - With DigiPoS, a merchant can use as many as 12 digital payment options like UPI, in addition, to pay through debit/credit card swiping
 - It will integrate popular digital payment methods in merchant payment machines offering greater convenience to both customers & merchants
- **Yatra against child trafficking**
 - Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi would embark on a 35-day Bharat Yatra, leading a fight against child trafficking & child sexual abuse across the country.
 - The yatra will begin in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 11 and will conclude in Delhi on October 15, after covering 22 states.





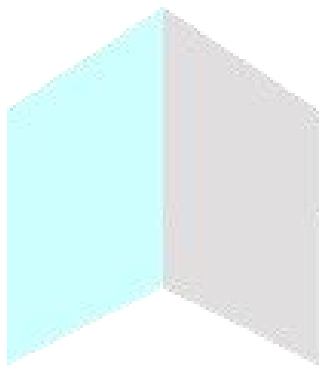
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- The start of Bharat Yatra will mark the launch of a three-year campaign against child sexual abuse.
- **Rishang Keishing passes away**
 - Former Manipur Chief Minister and a member of the first Lok Sabha Rishang Keishing passed away.
 - He was elected to the Lok Sabha in the first parliamentary elections held in 1952 and had also represented Manipur in Rajya Sabha.
 - Keishing contested the assembly election for the first time from Phungyar in 1972. He won the seat seven times and became the state's longest-serving chief minister.

[Attempt Current Affair Quiz for 23rd August 2017](#)



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