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Important Current Affairs 31st August 2017 with PDF

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Current Affairs Quiz - 30th August 2017

Important Current Affairs 31st August 2017

- Govt defers BSNL stake sale
 - The govt has deferred a decision on selling a stake in BSNL amid turmoil in the telecom sector triggered by Reliance Jio's entry.
 - The firm has lost about \$7bn in last 8 years, making it country's biggest lossmaking state-run company after Air India.
 - Once India's largest telecoms company, the number of BSNL landline subscribers has fallen by 8 million in the last five years to 25 million.
- Ola partners with Indus OS
 - Homegrown smartphone operating system company Indus OS has partnered Ola to integrate the latter's cab aggregator app on its platform.
 - The move will provide Ola access to over 8 million users of Indus OS across handset brands like Micromax, Intex and Karbonn.
 - o Integration will also make Ola available in English and 12 regional languages.
- Mahabaleshwar receives Saraswati Samman



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- The prestigious literary award, the Saraswati Samman for 2016 was awarded to Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail.
- He was awarded for his novel "Hawthan" that captures the lives of the potter community in Goa.
- Sail reflected on how Konkani language and literature had been subdued and how it took a resurgence after Goa's independence to give the language its rightful place.

Genomeceuticals Products in India

- Unicity has launched world's 1st ever Genomeceutical (gene controlling) range of products to India
- Genomeceutical is a ground-breaking technology whereby certain secondary metabolites found in nature can help maintain gene response whenever needed
 by the body & help maintain overall metabolic health
- Unicity is currently researching an extensive range of products by leveraging this technology

• Single-engine fighter jets in India

- Sweden's Saab will tie up with India's Adani Group to bid for a contract to make fighter air crafts in India.
- The partnership will compete with Lockheed Martin in a 2 horse-race to equip Indian military with single-engine jets to be produced locally under "Make-in-India" initiative.
- Lockheed has already picked India's Tata Advanced Systems as its local partner to produce its F-16 fighter planes.

• Gauba Takes Over as Union Home Secretary

- Senior IAS officer Rajiv Gauba took the charge as the new Union Home Secretary for a fixed two-year tenure.
- Gauba, who succeeded Rajiv Mehrishi, is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre.
- o Gauba has been serving as the Officer on Special Duty in the Home Ministry.
- In the past, Gauba has also represented India on the board of International Monetary Fund for four years.









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• Google commits \$1 million

- Lending a helping hand in flood relief operations in India, Nepal & Bangladesh,
 Google has committed \$1 million to NGOs Goonj & Save the Children.
- Apart from offering funds to NGOs, Google's crisis response team has also activated SOS alerts in the 3 countries.
- These alerts include the latest news about floods, an approximate map of affected area & local updates from Twitter and other resources

• Interim CEO of Vedanta

- Board of Vedanta Limited has announced the appointment of Kuldip Kaura as the interim chief executive officer from September 1, 2017.
- o This comes as former CEO Tom Albanese steps down on August 31.
- Kaura has held various senior management & leadership roles with the group for
 15 years.
- Kaura was CEO of Vedanta from 2005 to 2008 & has been president of the office
 of the group's chairman since 2016.

PNB cuts MCLR, base rate

- Punjab National Bank has cut marginal cost based lending rates by up to
 0.25% for select maturities
- MCLR, which is changed every month is a uniform methodology which was introduced to ensure fair interest rates to borrowers as well as banks
- o The bank has also slashed its base rate by 0.20% to 9.15%
- Majority of banks follow base rate or minimum lending rate formula to charge interest on loans

Government notifies e-way bill

- Govt has notified e-way bill keeping some items of mass consumption such as vegetables, fruits, food grains, bread, books & jewellery out of its ambit
- It will provide the framework for transport of goods under the GST
- E-way bill is required to transport any item worth more than Rs 50,000 within the country
- E-way bill can be generated by registered supplier or recipient or the transporter

ISRO all set to launch IRNSS-1H











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- Indian Space Research Organisation is all set to launch PSLV-C39 carrying
 Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System.
- The satellite IRNSS-1H is a part of the indigenous navigation system called 'NavIC,' that was initially planned to have a constellation of 7 satellites.
- Like its other IRNSS predecessors, IRNSS-1H also carries 2 types of payloads such as navigation payload & ranging payload.

• 10th India-EU Counter Terrorism Dialogue

- o 10th India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held at New Delhi
- Both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms & manifestations and underscored the need for deepening cooperation to combat terrorism in a sustained & comprehensive manner
- Prospects for deepening counter-terrorism cooperation under UN & FATF were
 emphasised
- Next Dialogue will take place in Brussels in 2018

Reliance Foundation awarded

- Reliance Foundation was awarded the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award for its contribution to promotion of sports during the national sports awards ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Foundation focuses on using sports as a medium to encourage learning & breed leadership among youth in rural areas.
- The foundation also backs Indian Super League, which has now become India's premier football tournament.

Pact on India-Israel tech Fund approved

- Cabinet has approved MoU signed b/w India & Israel to set up \$40mn fund for industrial research & technological innovation
- Both the countries will make a contribution of \$4mn each for the fund annually for 5 years, which will be governed by a joint board comprising 4 members from each country
- Fund is expected to foster & strengthen eco- system of innovation & technoentrepreneurship in India

• India-Myanmar to sign MoU











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- India & Myanmar will sign a MoU for conservation of earthquake-damaged pagodas at Bagan during PM Modi's visit to Myanmar
- Began is a renowned tourist attraction of Myanmar & India's role in rebuilding damaged pagodas will be an opportunity to showcase its expertise in restoration & conservation of monuments
- It will further strengthen India's enduring ties with Myanmar, in culture & religion

• Government extends OBC creamy layer

- Union Cabinet has decided to extend the concept of creamy layer in OBC reservations to PSU & financial institutions.
- It will ensure children of those serving in lower categories in PSUs & other institutions to get the benefit of OBC reservation at par with children of people serving in lower categories in govt.
- Candidates whose parents hold constitutional posts or group A & B posts are excluded.

Indian High Commissioner to Cyprus

- Former CBI director R K Raghavan has been appointed as the Indian High Commissioner to Cyprus.
- Raghavan, who was CBI director from Jan 1999 to April 2001, had investigated high profile cases like Priyadarshini Mattoo murder case, 2002 Gujarat riots.
- Raghavan is a recipient of Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

Bridgestone India ropes in PV Sindhu

- Bridgestone India has announced Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu as its 1st brand ambassador
- As part of the 3-year agreement, Sindhu will be included in Bridgestone's activations around its Worldwide Olympic Partnership
- Sindhu's journey is an epitome of perseverance & is a setting example to youth to 'Chase Your Dream' which echoes with Bridgestone's global association with Olympic Games

Host city logo for Kochi









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- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the host city logo for Kochi, one of the venues of Fifa Under-17 World Cup.
- The logo represents and reflects Kochi's identity and will be a valuable tool in linking the local community in a global World Cup.
- The host city logo will allow all football fans in Kochi to have a local flavour and will be critical in the promotion of the tournament.

Scheduled bank status from RBI

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, a subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services has been given scheduled bank status by RBI.
- It opens the door for issuing Certificate of Deposits, which will be an important source of funding.
- This status will enhance market acceptability of the bank in its effort to garner institutional deposits at a competitive price & participate more actively in interbank market.

Attempt Current Affair Quiz for 31st August 2017





