

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF AUGUST 2016

Awards

The veteran actor who has been awarded the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Government – **Kamal Haasan**

The noted music composer who has been awarded the Tamil Ratna award by New York based Tamil Sangam – **A.R. Rahman**

Persons

The high-level committee constituted by Union Finance Ministry to suggest steps to promote card payments through incentives like tax rebates and cash back schemes is headed by – **Ratan P Watal**

The noted parliamentarian, former Governor of Bihar, West Bengal and Haryana and recipient of Padma Vibhushan in 2011, who passed away on 24 August 2016 – **Akhlaqur Rahman Kidwai**

The former President of Singapore who passed away on 22 August 2016 – **Shri S.R. Nathan**

The Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India who has been chosen to succeed Dr. Raghuram Rajan as its new Governor – **Urjit R Patel**

Punjabi writer and Jnanpith Award recipient of 2000 who passed away on 16 August 2016 – **Gurdial Singh**

The former Pakistani test cricketer nicknamed 'Little Master' who passed away on 11 August 2016 – **Hanif Mohammad**

The former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh who passed away on 09 August (having allegedly committed suicide) – **Kalikhon Pul**

The classical vocalist who has been chosen for the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award on account of her contribution to the field of music and social harmony through her art – **Shubha Mudgal**

The new chairperson of Central Board of Direct Taxes who has taken over from Atulesh Jindal – **Smt Rani Singh Nair**

The Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Chairperson (CPN-MC) who has been elected the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal – **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'**

Sports

The Portuguese footballer (player of Real Madrid club) who has been awarded UEFA's award as the best player in Europe – **Cristiano Ronaldo**

The winner of bronze medal at Rio Olympics who has been chosen as the brand ambassador of Beti Bachao Beti Padao campaign in Haryana – **Sakshi Malik**

The city which has been chosen to host 2016 Kabaddi World Cup between Oct 7 and Oct 22 by International Kabaddi Federation – **Ahmedabad**

The Indian squash player who has won the Australian Open 2016 women's singles title defeating Mayar Hany of Egypt in the finals – **Dipika Pallikal**

The Serbian tennis player who has won the Rogers Cup men's singles title defeating Kei Nishikori of Japan in the finals – **Novak Djokovic**

The paramilitary force which has decided to appoint Olympic medallist PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador and bestow the honorary rank of Commandant – **CRPF**

Places

The city in which South India's first children's court (3rd in the country besides Delhi and Goa) was opened – **Hyderabad**

The country in which the world's first self-driving taxis have been launched by NuTonomy (company) – **Singapore**

The state which has launched DNA Index System (DIS) for DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) profiling of criminals using the latest DNA technology tool, known as RapidHIT DNA System – **Andhra Pradesh**

The Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) of the Indian Air Force at Pasighat which was inaugurated recently by Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS for Home Affairs is located in – **Arunachal Pradesh**

The state which has become the first in the country to ratify the constitution amendment bill on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) – **Assam**

The nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu which was dedicated to the nation jointly by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa – **Kudankulam**

The city in which the first IIT of Jammu and Kashmir was inaugurated by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Human Resource Development – **Jammu**

Surveys and Reports

The rank of India as per the World Risk Report 2016 published by the United Nations University (UNU) Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft – **77**

The rank of India in the Global Innovation Index 2016 released jointly by Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) based on the theme of Winning with Global Innovation – **66th**

Space

World's first quantum communication satellite Quantum Experiments at Space Scaler (QUESS) launched by China from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre is nicknamed – **Micius**

The earth observation satellite launched by China from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center aboard Long March-4C (Chang Zheng-4C) launch vehicle is named – **Gaofen-3**

China's first mobile communication satellite launched using a Long March-3B from the LC3 Launch Complex at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center – **Tiantong-1**

Govt Programmes

The nationwide programme launched by the Govt of India to promote breastfeeding and provision of counselling services for supporting breastfeeding through health systems is named – **Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA)**

The scheme of Telangana state government to provide safe drinking water to all, launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from Komatibanda Village, Gajwel, in Medak District is named – **Mission Bhagiratha**

Events and Themes

The theme for 2016 World Breastfeeding Week organised by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF – **Breastfeeding: A key to Sustainable Development**

The theme of 15 Day event organised by the Government of India and commencing from 9th August to 23rd August, 2016 to celebrate 70th year of Indian independence – **Aazadi 70 Yaad Karo Qurbani**

Miscellaneous

The Indian festival to commemorate which the US Postal Service has decided to release a postal stamp in October this year – **Diwali**

The channel launched by the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee as a unique venture of All India Radio and aimed at strengthening ties between India and Bangladesh is named – **Akashvani Maitree**

The world's largest airship which was flown over London's Cardington airfield for the first time is named – **Airlander 10**

The first public sector unit under Department of Posts which has received Certificate of Incorporation from the Registrar of Companies – **India Post Payments Bank**

The maiden broad gauge train from Delhi to Agartala flagged off by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on 31 July 16 is named – **Tripura Sundari Express**

Important Days of August

International Youth Day: 12 August 2016

Established by : United Nations General Assembly

Theme: The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production

First Observed in: 2000

World Humanitarian Day: 19 August 2016

Established by : United Nations General Assembly

Theme: One Humanity

First Observed in: 2009

Earth Overshoot Day for 2016: 08 August

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

New Appointments

New Governor of Assam : Banwarilal Purohit

New Governor of Punjab : VP Singh Badnore

New Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands : Jagdish Mukhi

New (16th) Chief Minister of Gujarat – **Vijay Rupani**

New Governor of Manipur – **Najma Heptulla**

Rail Geet (Railway Song)

The Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu dedicated the Rail Geet to the nation.

The Geet has been composed by noted Music Director **Shravan** and has been sung by acclaimed singers Shri Udit Narayan and Ms. Kavita Krishnamurti. It has been written by a former railway officer Shri Satya Prakash.

The song has two versions – a longer version of 5 minutes duration and a shorter version of 3 minutes duration.

Flight Testing of ISRO's Scramjet Engine Technology Demonstrator

Launch date: **28 Aug 2016**

Launch station: **Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh**

Launch vehicle: **ISRO's Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV)**

It is ISRO's first experimental mission of Scramjet Engine towards the realisation of an Air Breathing Propulsion System.

The Scramjet engine designed by ISRO uses Hydrogen as fuel and the Oxygen from the atmospheric air as the oxidiser.

India is the **fourth** country to demonstrate the flight testing of Scramjet Engine after the US, Russia and European Space Agency.

POCSO e-Button for children

An online complaint box for reporting child sexual abuse, the POCSO e-Box was launched by the Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi in New Delhi today.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), e-Box, is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.

The e-Box is incorporated prominently in the home page of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) website <http://ncpcr.gov.in/> where a user has to simply push a button named POSCO e-Box. This will navigate to a page with a window containing an animation movie. The animation movie reassures the child that whatever has happened to him/her is not his/her fault and she/he need not feel guilty and that NCPCR is a friend which will help her. After the user presses the arrow on this page, it navigates to another page where he/ she has to select at least one picture option (describing the category of harassment) and fill the form with details such as mobile number, e-mail and description of the harassment followed by the 'submit' button. The complaint is then registered and a unique auto-generated complaint number is flashed.

Smart Ganga City Programme

Smart Ganga City Scheme was launched by the Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti and Union Urban Development Minister Shri M Venkaiah Naidu launched in ten important cities through video conference. These cities are –

Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura-Vrindavan, Varanasi, Kanpur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Patna, Sahibgunj and Barrackpore.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has chosen these cities in the first phase for infrastructure development for sewage treatment. This will be on hybrid annuity mode based on PPP model.

2016 Olympics - Points to remember

Venue: **Rio de Janeiro**

Motto: **A new world**

Opening and closing ceremony at: **Maracana Stadium**

Athletes oath taken by: **Brazilian sailor Robert Scheidt**

Olympic cauldron was lit by: **Vanderlei Cordeiro de Lima** (Brazilian long distance runner)

Golf and **Rugby Sevens** were introduced after a gap of 112 and 92 years respectively.

The **Refugee Olympic Team** consisting of refugees from South Sudan, Syria, Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of Congo participated at the Olympics.

Kuwaiti athletes competed under the Olympic flag and the "**Independent Olympic Athletes**" title as a result of the suspension of the Kuwait Olympic Committee.

Notable athletes

Michael Phelps: American swimmer won 5 gold medals and 1 silver medal at this Olympics and carried his total Olympic gold medals to 23 and total medals to 28.

Usain Bolt: He won 3 gold medals in 100 m, 200 m and 4 x 100 m relay for the third time in Olympics completing a triple-triple.

Mo Farah: He won 2 gold medals in 5000 m and 10000 m for the second time in Olympics and thus completed a double-double.

The youngest athlete to participate in the Olympics was Nepal's **Gaurika Singh**.

The youngest in the Indian contingent was golfer **Aditi Ashok**.

Winners of major events

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Men's 100 m dash	Usain Bolt (Jamaica)	Justin Gatlin (USA)	Andre de Grasse (Canada)
Women's 100 m dash	Elaine Thompson (Jamaica)	Tori Bowie (USA)	Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaica)
Men's Football	Brazil	Germany	Nigeria
Men's Hockey	Argentina	Belgium	Germany
Men's Tennis Singles	Andy Murray (GB)	Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina)	Kei Nishikori (Japan)
Women's Tennis Singles	Monica Puig (Puerto Rico)	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)
Women's Badminton Singles	Carolina Marin (Spain)	P.V. Sindhu (India)	Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)

Final Medals Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. U.S.A.	46	37	38	121
2. Great Britain	27	23	17	67
3. China	26	18	26	70
4. Russia	19	18	19	56
5. Germany	17	10	15	42
67. India	0	1	1	2

Sports Awards 2016

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award – 1. Ms. P.V. Sindhu (Badminton), 2. Ms. Dipa Karmakar (Gymnastics), 3. Shri Jitu Rai (Shooting), 4. Ms. Sakshi Malik (Wrestling).

Dronacharya Awards 2016 – 1. Shri Nagapuri Ramesh (Athletics), 2. Shri Sagar Mal Dhayal (Boxing), 3. Shri Raj Kumar Sharma (Cricket), 4. Shri Bishweshwar Nandi (Gymnastics), 5. Shri S. Pradeep Kumar [Swimming (Lifetime)], 6. Shri Mahabir Singh [Wrestling (Lifetime)]

Arjuna Awards 2016 – 1. Shri Rajat Chauhan (Archery), 2. Ms. Lalita Babar (Athletics), 3. Shri Sourav Kothari (Billiards & Snooker), 4. Shri Shiva Thapa (Boxing), 5. Shri Ajinkya Rahane (Cricket), 6. Shri Subrata Paul (Football), 7. Ms. Rani (Hockey), 8. Shri Raghunath V.R. (Hockey), 9. Shri Gurpreet Singh (Shooting), 10. Ms. Apurvi Chandela (Shooting), 11. Shri Soumyajit Ghosh (Table Tennis), 12. Ms. Vinesh (Wrestling), 13. Shri Amit Kumar (Wrestling), 14. Shri Sandeep Singh Mann (Para-Athletics), 15. Shri Virender Singh [Wrestling (Deaf)]

Dhyan Chand Award 2015 – 1. Sathi Geetha (Athletics), 2. Shri Sylvanus Dung Dung (Hockey), 3. Shri Rajendra Pralhad Shelke (Rowing)

Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar, 2016

S. No.	Category	Entity
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	1. Hockey Citizen Group, 2. Dadar Parsee Zoroastrian cricket club 3. Usha School of Athletics 4. STAIRS
2.	Encouragement to sports through corporate social responsibility	India Infrastructure Finance Corporate Limited
3.	Employment to sportspersons and other welfare measures	Reserve Bank of India
4.	Sports for Development	Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2015-16 – Punjabi University, Patiala

Indian Olympic Contingent 2016

Archery: Atanu Das, Deepika Kumari, Laxmirani Majhi, Bombayla Devi

Athletics: Vikas Gowda and Seema Antil (Discus Throw), Manpreet Kaur (Shotput Throw), Gurmeet Singh (men's 20km walk), Baljinder Singh (men's 20km walk), Irfan Kolothum Thodi (men's 20km walk), Sandeep Kumar and Manish Singh Rawat (men's 50km walk), Nitender Singh Rawat, Thonakal Gopi and Kheta Ram (Marathon), Muhammad Anas (400m), Lalita Babar (3000m steeplechase), Tintu Luka (800m), Kavita Raut and OP Jaisha (Marathon), Sudha Singh (Marathon and 3000m steeplechase), , Khushbir Kaur and Sapna Punia (Walk), Dutee Chand (100m), Sarbani Nanda (200m), Ankit Sharma (Long jump), Nirmala Sheoran (400m), Dharambir (200m), Muhammad Anas Yahiya (400m & 4x400m Relay), Jinson Johnson (800m), Renjith Maheswary (Triple Jump), Ganapathi Krishnan (20Km Race Walking), Arokia Rajiv (4x400m Relay), Kunhu Muhammaed Puthanpurakal (4x400m Relay), Dharun Ayyasamy (4x400m Relay), Mohankumar Raja (4x400m Relay)

Badminton: Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu (Women's singles), Kidambi Srikanth (Men's singles), Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy (Men's Doubles), Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa (Women's doubles)

Boxing: Shiva Thapa (56kg), Manoj Kumar (61kg), Vikas Krishan (75kg)

Golf: Anirban Lahiri and SSP Chawrasia (Men's), Aditi Ashok (Women's)

Gymnastics: Dipa Karmakar

Hockey: Men's team – 16 members, Women's team – 16 members

Judo: Avtar Singh

Rowing: Dattu Bhokanal (Singles sculls)

Shooting: Jitu Rai, Apurvi Chandela, Gagan Narang, Abhinav Bindra, Gurpreet Singh, Prakash Nanjappa, Chain Singh, Mairaj Ahmed Khan, Heena Sidhu, Kynan Chenai, Ayonika Paul, Manavjit Singh Sandhu

Swimming: Sajan Prakash (men's 200m butterfly), Shivani Katariya (women's 200m freestyle)

Table Tennis: Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, Soumyajit Ghosh, Mouma Das

Tennis: Rohan Bopanna (Men's doubles, Mixed doubles), Leander Paes (Men's doubles), Sania Mirza (Women's doubles, Mixed doubles), Prarthana Thombare (Women's doubles)

Weightlifting: Sivalingam Sathish Kumar (Men's 77kg), Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (Women's 48kg)

Wrestling: Narsingh Pancham Yadav (Men's FS 74kg), Yogeshwar Dutt (Men's FS 65kg), Hardeep Singh (Men's GR 98kg), Sandeep Tomar (Men's FS 57kg), Ravinder Khatri (Men's GR 86kg), Vinesh Phogat (Women's 48kg), Sakshi Malik (Women's 58kg), Babita Kumari (Women's 55kg)

Current Affairs Questions

1. Who of the following has been awarded Ashoka Chakra, the peacetime highest award for gallantry?
 - a. Corporal Gursewak Singh
 - b. Havildar Hangpan Dada
 - c. Lt Col EK Nirranjan
 - d. Major Rahul Dev Singh
2. For contribution in which of the following fields are the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman distinctions given?
 - a. Languages
 - b. Dance
 - c. Science
 - d. Social work
3. Dipika Pallikal is associated with which of the following sports?
 - a. Gymnastics
 - b. Squash
 - c. Archery
 - d. Badminton
4. To commemorate which Indian festival has the United States decided to issue a postal stamp?
 - a. Holi
 - b. Ganesh Chaturthi
 - c. Diwali
 - d. Sankranti
5. At the Olympics 2016, athletes from which country competed under the Olympic flag and Independent Olympic Athletes title?
 - a. Kuwait
 - b. Syria
 - c. Yemen
 - d. Afghanistan
6. Which city from West Bengal is among the list of 10 cities in the Smart Ganga City programme launched by the Union Government?
 - a. Durgapur
 - b. Kharagpur
 - c. Midnapore
 - d. Barrackpore
7. Which of the following is one of the recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2016?
 - a. State Bank of India
 - b. Reserve Bank of India
 - c. SEBI
 - d. Indian Railways
8. On which date was the World Overshoot Day for 2016 observed?
 - a. August 5
 - b. August 6
 - c. August 7
 - d. August 8
9. How many sportspersons were awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award this year?
 - a. 2
 - b. 3
 - c. 4
 - d. 5
10. Mission Bhagiratha is a water grid programme launched by which of the following states?
 - a. Telangana
 - b. Andhra Pradesh
 - c. Karnataka
 - d. Maharashtra
11. Who of the following has won the maximum number of medals at the Olympics 2016?
 - a. Usain Bolt
 - b. Michael Phelps
 - c. Simone Biles
 - d. Katie Ledecky

12. Which state is the first in the country to ratify the constitution amendment bill Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- a. Gujarat b. Haryana c. Assam d. Tamil Nadu

13. Which veteran actor was recently awarded the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Government recently?

- a. AR Rahman b. Rajinikanth c. Ilaiyaraja d. Kamal Haasan

14. The youngest athlete at the Olympics 2016, Gaurika Singh represented which country?

- a. Nepal b. India c. Great Britain d. U.S.A.

15. Which country won the gold medal in men's football at the Olympics 2016?

- a. Brazil b. Portugal c. Germany d. Nigeria

16. The newly introduced Tripura Sundari Express runs between Agartala and

- a. Guwahati b. Howrah c. Dhaka d. New Delhi

17. Who won the men's singles tennis title at the Olympics 2016?

- a. Rafael Nadal b. Andy Murray c. Novak Djokovic d. Kei Nishikori

18. In which city have the world's first self-driving taxis been launched by NuTonomy?

- a. Los Angeles b. Paris c. Singapore d. Hong Kong

19. Smt Najma Heptulla has recently been appointed the Governor of

- a. Manipur b. Tripura c. Mizoram d. Nagaland

20. Who is the composer of Rail Geet, which was recently dedicated to the nation by the Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu?

- a. Nadeem b. Shravan c. Vishal Dadlani d. Shekhar Ravjiani

Answers

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (d) 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (a) 11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (d)
14. (a) 15. (a) 16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (b)