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## English Current Affairs 16th August, 2018

### NATIONAL NEWS

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, on the occasion of Independence Day, announced the launch of '**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan**' on **September 25**. The scheme is the flagship project of **Ayushman Bharat**, the national healthcare policy launched by the Government earlier this year.
  - Ayushman Bharat, also referred to as '**Modicare**', was launched by the Government of India in February this year. The ambitious healthcare policy promises to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families, based on **SECC** (Socio-Economic Caste Census) database, providing coverage up to **Rs 5 lakh** per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- The Governor of **Manipur**, **Dr. Najma A. Heptulla** inaugurated the project '**Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom**' implemented under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India on **August 14**.
  - The project is the **first project** to be completed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the **Government of India**.
- The **72nd Independence Day** was celebrated in **Telangana** with the launch of two major schemes – **free eye screening for all citizens and life insurance for farmers**.
  - Under '**Kanti Velugu**', the entire population of **3.7 crore** will be provided free eye care. The authorities will not only conduct eye screening but will also provide free medicines, spectacles and arrange for free surgeries, if required.
- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced a universal health scheme – **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)** – in the state that will benefit **70 lakh families**.
  - Beneficiaries of the BSKY will get medical assistance of **Rs 5 lakh** and women will get an additional **Rs 2 lakh**.

- The Government of India has released **470 million** Nepali rupees grant for **Terai roads project** in **Nepal**. Indian Ambassador to **Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri** handed over a cheque of grant to Secretary, Ministry of **Physical Infrastructure and Transport** of Nepal, **Madhusudan Adhikari** in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- India plans to launch an “**Understanding India**” programme in China to “demystify” the country and create a better understanding of it.
  - Indian Council of **Cultural Relations President Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**, who was in **Beijing** to attend the **World Congress of Philosophy**, said that by watching **Bolly wood and reading websites** one can know India only superficially.
- The **Indian Embassy** in **Nepal** handed over **30 ambulances and six buses** to various hospitals, non-profit charitable organizations and educational institutions of Nepal on the occasion of **India’s 72nd Independence Day**.

## ECONOMY

- The Indian economy is expected to grow at **7.4%** in the current fiscal, higher than the previous year, according to **Ficci’s Economic Outlook Survey**.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Madhya Pardesh Governor Anandiben Patel** was sworn in as Governor of **Chhattisgarh**. **Chhattisgarh High Court Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi** administered the oath of office to **Anandiben Patel**.
- **D Bala Venkatesh Varma** has been appointed as the Ambassador to **Russia**. He will succeed **Pankaj Saran** who has been appointed as the deputy **National Security Advisor**.

## AWARDS

- **Rifleman Aurangzeb** and Major **Aditya Kumar** of Indian Army will be conferred the **Shaurya Chakra** along with **18** others Armed Forces Personnel and members of **Paramilitary Forces**. **Aurangzeb**, who has been selected posthumously, was abducted and later killed by terrorists in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

## SPORTS

- **International Master Nihal Sarin** became the **53rd Grandmaster of India** despite losing his final round game to **Richard Rapport of Hungary in the ninth and final round of Abu Dhabi Masters**.
  - The **14-year-old Nihal** tallied **5.5 points** out of a possible nine and the final GM norm came the **Kerala** boy's way with one round to spare.

  
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