

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## India ranks 96<sup>th</sup> in UNs E-Government index 2018

UN E-Government Survey 2018 ranked India at 96<sup>th</sup> position for its performance in development and execution of information technologies, up from 107 in 2016 and 118 in 2014 a massive leap over the years. Denmark tops in the index.

The index provides a unique opportunity for governments to increase digital identity registrations and improve socio-economic outcomes.

This survey published every two years ranks 193 UN member states on basis of their performance on mainly three dimensions or e-governance development index (EGDI).

- 1) Online Service Index (OSI) It is based on data collected from an independent survey questionnaire, conducted by UNDESA(United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs).
- 2) Telecommunication Infrastructure Index (TII). The index is based on data provided by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).
- 3) Human Capital Index (HCI) It is based on data provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Index captures the scope and quality of online services, status of telecommunication infrastructure and existing human capacity. UNO carried out this year's survey with the theme "gearing e-government to support transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

Aadhaar program is providing digital identity to the entire population and is serving as the basis for interacting with the Government at various levels.

## New Governors for 7 States

On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018, President of India Ram Nath Kovind appointed 7 new governors. Bihar's governor Satya Pal Malik appointed as the new governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

Lalji Tandon was appointed as the governor of Bihar. Whereas Satyadev Narayan Arya was appointed as the governor of Haryana. Baby Rani Maurya appointed as the governor of Uttarakhand. She is former Agra mayor and ex-member of National Commission for Women (NCW) also Ganga Prasad was appointed as governor of Sikkim, earlier he acted as the governor of Meghalaya. He was businessman and leader from Bihar Assembly.

Tathagata Roy, the governor of Tripura earlier, now shifted to Meghalaya as governor. Being one of the finest civil engineers of India, he designed the Calcutta Metro.

Kaptan Singh Solanki appointed as the governor of Tripura, earlier he was the governor of Haryana. He was ex-member of Rajyasabha.

## International Blockchain Conference

International Blockchain Conference was held on 3<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at Hyderabad. On this occasion, Tech Mahindra and the Telangana government signed an agreement to establish the Blockchain district, a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence for Blockchain in Hyderabad.

Besides, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) will make part of its protocol development research to the virtual cluster of Blockchain district.

Zebi Data and IIIT (Basar) entered into an agreement to keep tabs on fake certificates, using Blockchain technology. Tech Mahindra and Nucleus Vision announced a partnership to implement Blockchain in retail and telecommunications space.

Blockchain is decentralised incorruptible digital ledger for storing data across peer-to-peer network. It decentralises information without it being copied. Information is held on blockchain through shared database which can be accessed on real-time basis.

### Advantages of Blockchain Technology

- 1) Blockchain technology is not controlled by any single entity and has no single point of failure. It is transparent and incorruptible.
- 2) It is kind of self-auditing ecosystem of digital value and blockchain network automatically checks every transaction.

Most popular application of Blockchain technology so far has been crypto currency and it can be also used in smart contracts, supply chain management logistics, sharing economy, crowd funding, governance, file storage and data management and Internet of Things (IoT) etc.

### 5G steering committee report submitted

The steering committee headed by Stanford University professor A.J. Paulraj submitted the report on 23 August 2018 to outline a road map for 5G telecom services recommended additional spectrum for its roll-out.

'Making India 5G Ready' is the title of the report given few recommendations and action plan for the report include spectrum policy, regulatory policy, education and awareness promotion, application and use case labs, participation in international standards, development of application layer standards and major 5G trials.

The Panel asked the government to announce 5G spectrum policy by December 2018.

It also added that most guidelines on regulatory matters be promulgated by March 2019 to facilitate early 5G deployment.

For education and awareness promotion, it has suggested for appointing a full time Senior Programme Coordinators (SPC) within IIT-Madras to implement recommendations of Task Force. The committee opined that India is likely to see the first 5G commercial launch by 2020.

The steering committee was constituted in 2017 to articulate the vision for 5G in India and to recommend policy initiatives and action plans to realise the vision. The report suggested that government should announce its 5G policy by the end of December 2018, besides setting up a standing committee to advise on building the infrastructure for spectrum technology.

### MODEL QUESTIONS

1. A.J. Paulraj committee suggested that most guidelines on regulatory matters be promulgated by March 2019 to facilitate early 5G deployment. Who is the Union minister of Electronics and Information Technology?
  - 1) Ravi Shankar Prasad
  - 2) Nirmala Sitharaman
  - 3) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
  - 4) Prakash Javadekar
  - 5) Thaawar Chand Gehlot
2. Who is the present TRAI chairman?
  - 1) Subhash Chandra Kuntia
  - 2) Hemanth Contractor
  - 3) R.S.Sharma
  - 4) Urjith Patel
  - 5) Ajay Thyagi

3. TRAI regularly issues orders and directions on various subjects such as tariffs, interconnections, quality of service, DTH services and MNP. In this context, MNP stands for.....?
- 1) More Number Portability
  - 2) Mobile Name Portability
  - 3) Mobile Number Point
  - 4) Mention Number Portability
  - 5) Mobile Number Portability
4. 5G Congress 2018 will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at.....?
- 1) Lucknow
  - 2) Patna
  - 3) Nashik
  - 4) Indore
  - 5) New Delhi
5. TRAI launches its apps on UMANG platform to help citizen's access government services. UMANG stands for.....?
- 1) United Mobile Application for New-age Governance
  - 2) Unified Mobility Application for New-age Governance
  - 3) Unified Mobile Android for New-age Governance
  - 4) Unified Mobile Application for No-age Governance
  - 5) Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance
6. Who headed the committee submitted a report on data protection "A Free and Fair Digital Economy Protecting Privacy, Empowering Indians"?
- 1) Dinesh Sharma
  - 2) Bhaskar Murthy
  - 3) BN Srikrishna
  - 4) B Sesikeran
  - 5) Rajiv Gauba
7. E-Government index released by the UNO in every .....
- 1) six years
  - 2) five years
  - 3) four years
  - 4) three years
  - 5) two years
8. Which nation got top rank in E-Government index 2018?
- 1) Sweden
  - 2) UK
  - 3) Denmark
  - 4) Australia
  - 5) South Korea
9. Australia got second rank. Which nation got the lowest rank 193 in E-Government index 2018?
- 1) Somalia
  - 2) Niger
  - 3) South Sudan
  - 4) Chad
  - 5) Eritrea
10. Who is the present Secretary general of International Telecommunication Union (ITU)?
- 1) Antonio Gutteres
  - 2) Audrey Azoulay
  - 3) Houlin Zhao
  - 4) Malcolm Johnson
  - 5) Henrietta Holsman Fore
11. Tech Mahindra and which state made MOU to launch India's first Blockchain district on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018?
- 1) Karnataka
  - 2) Maharastra
  - 3) Odisha
  - 4) Uttarakhand
  - 5) Telengana

12. International Blockchain Congress 2018 held at.....?
- 1) Mumbai                      2) Bangalore                      3) Kolkata                      4) Hyderabad
- 5) New Delhi
13. Who appoints the Governor of a state?
- 1) Chief Justice of India
- 2) Home Minister
- 3) President of India
- 4) Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- 5) Vice-President of India
14. Which of the following states do not have woman as Governor of the state?
- 1) Goa                                      2) Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Kerala                                      4) Jharkhand
- 5) Manipur
15. The combination of State and Governors given. The wrong pair is.....?
- 1) Andhra Pradesh – E.S.L.Narasimhan
- 2) Arunachal Pradesh – B.D.Mishra
- 3) Assam – Jagdish Mukhi
- 4) Gujarat – Om Prakash Kohli
- 5) All of the above

**ANSWERS**

1-1; 2-3; 3-5; 4-5; 5-5; 6-3; 7-5; 8-3; 9-1; 10-3; 11-5; 12-4; 13-3; 14-3; 15-5.

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