

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## **Aadhaar not compulsory for all transactions**

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Supreme Court declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid, but imposed some restrictions on its use. Five-judge constitution bench held that Aadhaar would remain mandatory for filing of IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN).

Supreme Court also observed that Central government had given sufficient reasons to uphold Section 7 of Aadhaar Act 2016, which deals with grant of subsidies and welfare benefits. So, Aadhaar is necessary for availing welfare schemes and subsidies given by the government.

Aadhaar is meant to help benefits reach the marginalised sections of the society and takes into account the dignity of people not only from personal but also from community point of view, the Apex court observed.

## **Narendra Modi conferred with Champion of Earth Award**

Champions of the Earth is the United Nations highest environmental honour. The award celebrates outstanding figures from the public and private sectors and from civil society whose actions have had a transformative, positive impact on the environment.

UN Environment recognised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his bold environmental leadership on the global stage. Under Modi's leadership, India pledged to eliminate all single-use plastics in the country by 2022. Prime Minister Modi also supports and champions the International Solar Alliance, a global partnership to scale up solar energy. So he was conferred with 2018 Champion of the Earth, in Policy Leadership category.

Emmanuel Macron, the President of France also been awarded in the same category for his work on the Global Pact for the Environment.

Cochin International Airport was awarded for its leadership in use of sustainable energy in the category of entrepreneurial vision. The airport is world's first fully solar-powered airport.

Joan Carling of Philippines recognised with the lifetime achievement award for her work as one of the world's most prominent defenders of environmental and indigenous rights.

## **Merger of 3 Public sector banks proposed**

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the Government of India proposed the merger of three banks - Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank aimed at creating the country's third-biggest lender. The Combined entity will have a strong presence across the nation with more than 34% of low-cost deposits, a capital buffer of nearly 12% and a business book of Rs 14.82 lakh crore.

As of June 2018, the combined business mix of these three banks stood at Rs. 14.82 trillion.

The consolidation was proposed by the Alternative Mechanism comprising Chairperson Arun Jaitley and cabinet ministers Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman. It is hoped the merger will help improve operational efficiency and customer services.

The merger is part of an effort to clean up the country's banking system and this consolidation would enable creation of a bank with business scale comparable to global banks and capable of competing effectively in India and globally.

The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of the combined entity would be at 12.25%, significantly above the regulatory norm of 10.875% and Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of new entity will be at 67.5%, well above Public Sector Banks (PSBs) average (63.7%)

The government is now looking to offload its majority stake in IDBI Bank to LIC. In 2017, State Bank of India (SBI) had merged with five of its subsidiary banks and taking over Bharatiya Mahila Bank, catapulting it to be among top 50 global lenders with over \$550 billion in combined assets.

### **PM inaugurates 100<sup>th</sup> airport in the country**

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This is the first airport in the Sikkim and the 100<sup>th</sup> airport in the country. Pakyong Airport, the green field airport would greatly ease connectivity to Sikkim. It is located around 60 km from the India-China border, located 30 km from capital Gangtok.

### **Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY launched**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the health assurance scheme Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - at Ranchi, Jharkhand on 23 September 2018. It is the world's biggest health assurance scheme which envisions health assurance of Rs.5 lakh per family per year, will benefit over 50 crore people.

PM said it would cover 1300 illnesses, including serious illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. He said private hospitals too would be part of this scheme. Nearly 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres will be set up across the country under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. These centres will provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), covering both maternal and child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services.

Prime Minister said that the amount of Rs.5 lakhs would cover all investigations, medicine, pre-hospitalisation expenses etc. He said it would also cover pre-existing illnesses. He said that people can learn more about the scheme by dialling 14555, or through their Common Service Centre.

The scheme will integrate two on-going centrally sponsored schemes viz. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

### **MODEL QUESTIONS**

1. The Aadhaar card issued by UIDAI. UIDAI stands for.....?
  - 1) United Identification Authority of India
  - 2) Union Identification Authority of India
  - 3) Unique Indemnification Authority of India
  - 4) Unique Identification Autonomy of India
  - 5) Unique Identification Authority of India
2. Punch line of Aadhaar card is...?
  - 1) 'Mera Aadhaar, Meri Pehchaan'
  - 2) 'Mera Aadhaar, Meri Avatar'
  - 3) 'Mera Aadhaar, Meri Aachar'
  - 4) 'Meri Aadhaar, Teri Pehchan'
  - 5) 'Thumhara Aadhaar, Meri Pehchan'
3. Present Part-time Chairman of UIDAI is...?
  - 1) J.Satyanarayana
  - 2) Ranjan Gogoi
  - 3) Satya Pal Malik
  - 4) Satyadev Narayan Arya
  - 5) Lalji Tandon

4. Present CEO of UIDAI is.....?
- 1) Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
  - 2) Amitab Kanth
  - 3) Subhash Chandra Kuntia
  - 4) Urjith Patel
  - 5) Subhash Chandra Garg
5. Headquarters of UIDAI located at.....?
- 1) Hyderabad
  - 2) Mumbai
  - 3) New Delhi
  - 4) Kolkata
  - 5) Pune
6. Aadhaar toll-free helpline number.....?
- 1) 1947
  - 2) 1950
  - 3) 182
  - 4) 180
  - 5) 1512
7. Punch line of Bank of Baroda is.....?
- 1) India's International Bank
  - 2) With you all the way
  - 3) Khayal Aapka
  - 4) We understand your world
  - 5) Relationship beyond banking
8. 'A Friend You Can Bank Upon' is the punch line of.....?
- 1) Vijaya Bank
  - 2) Dena Bank
  - 3) Axis bank
  - 4) HDFC bank
  - 5) IndusInd Bank
9. MS.Anjali Bansal is the Non-Executive chairman of.....?
- 1) Bank of Baroda
  - 2) SBI
  - 3) Dena Bank
  - 4) ICICI
  - 5) Indian Bank
10. CSC and National Health Accounts (NHA) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme across the country. In this context, CSC stands for...?
- 1) Critical Service Center
  - 2) Core Service Center
  - 3) Common Service Center
  - 4) Citizen Service Center
  - 5) CBS Service Center
11. Who is the CEO of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and the National Health Agency (NHA)?
- 1) Rajiv Gauba
  - 2) J.P.Nadda
  - 3) Dr.Indu Bhushan
  - 4) Dr.Sowmya Swaminathan
  - 5) Dr.Harshavardhan
12. All members of eligible families as present in SECC database are automatically covered under PM-JAY. In this context, SECC data base stands for.....?
- 1) Socio-Economic Caste Census
  - 2) Socio-End Caste Census
  - 3) Secondary-Economic Caste Census
  - 4) Socio-Economic Core Census
  - 5) Socio-Economic Clan Census

13. Recently Sikkim Chief Minister created history by becoming longest-serving Chief Minister in India. He is.....?

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Sarbananda Sonowal   | 2) Lal Thanhawla |
| 3) Pawan Kumar Chamling | 4) Neiphiu Rio   |
| 5) Conrad Sangma        |                  |

14. Sikkim government nominated which Bollywood singer as the Green Ambassador of the state for promoting Sikkim as a Green Destination, nationally and internationally on voluntary basis?

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Shreya Ghoshal   | 2) Lata Mangeshkar |
| 3) Sonu Nigam       | 4) Mohit Chauhn    |
| 5) Anuradha Paudwal |                    |

**ANSWERS**

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

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