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# Monthly GK Mania

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Anupam Kher : The New Boss of Film Institute (FTII).**

On 11th October 2017, Bollywood star Anupam Kher has been appointed as the new chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), located in Pune. He succeeds former television actor Gajendra Chauhan. Anupam Kher is the national award winner and also an alumnus of the elite drama school. He has appeared in over 500 films and has been part of the theatre circles. He has previously held the post of chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification and the National School of Drama. He is a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016.

### **President inaugurated India Water Week-2017.**

On 10th October, President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 5th edition of India Water Week-2017 in New Delhi. The theme for the year 2017 is "Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth". More than 1500 delegates from 13 countries are invited to attend the event. During the 5-day long event, technologies and solutions for the inclusive growth of water will be showcased. In India, 80% of water in India is used by agriculture and only 15% by industry and this scenario will change in the future. The government has prepared a strategic plan for ensuring drinking water supply in all rural areas by 2022. The goal is to cover 90% of rural households with piped water supply. First India Water Week was celebrated in 2012.

### **Tamil Nadu government passes implementation of 7th Pay Commission recommendations.**

On 11th October 2017, Tamil Nadu cabinet has approved the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission recommendations to benefit the state government employees and teachers. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting in Chennai. The implementation of 7th Pay Commission in the state is set to benefit more than 10 lakh staff and teachers apart from pensioners and those receiving family pension. The minimum basic pay for Tamil Nadu government staff and teachers will now see a rise from Rs 6100 to Rs 15700. The basic pay will be capped at Rs 2, 25,000, an increase by an amount of Rs 1, 48,000. Overall, salaries of the state government employees and teachers will reportedly increase by 20%. Government employees in Tamil Nadu had been staging agitations over demands of interim relief till the recommendations under the 7th Pay Commission come into effect.

**Gurbax Singh Sandhu honors with National Senior Citizen Award.** President Ram Nath Kovind conferred national awards to senior citizens and Vayoshreshtha Samman. Former boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu has been honored with National Senior Citizen Award 2017. The event was organised by the ministry of social justice and empowerment. Gurbax Sandhu has the distinction of coaching both the men and women boxers. He was India's longest-serving men's national coach. He was the chief coach when India won its maiden Olympic medal in boxing through Vijender Singh in 2008.

### **Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana came out of Cabinet's pipeline.**

On 13th October the Union Minister for Communications, Manoj Sinha began Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana for expansion of client base of Postal Life Insurance(PLI). It is a doorway for providing affordable life insurance services to rural people via postal network. Under this Yojana at least one village with minimum 100 households will be identified in each of the revenue districts of India and all the households of that identified village will be provided minimum one Rural Postal Life Insurance policy (RPLI) each. The benefits of PLI will also reach Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants and Bankers along with Government and semi-Government employees. It is worth knowing that PLI is one of the oldest life insurance schemes which was introduced in year 1884.

### **When one day will become one year .....**

Union Government aired announcement about observation of the 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi from 2nd October 2019 to 2nd October 2020. For this Union Government constituted a National Committee comprising Chief Ministers of all the states, representatives from the political spectrum, Gandhians, thinkers and numerous prominent people from different spheres of life. In this context it is worth recalling here that in year 2007, United Nations General Assembly declared Gandhi's birthday 2nd October as 'the International Day of Non-violence'.

### **INS Kiltan has touched the Indian water.**

On 16th October Defence Minister Nirmla Sitharaman commissioned native anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba attended the commissioning ceremony of INS Kiltan which is India's first major warship equipped with a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material for improved stealth features. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers of Kolkata has constructed it under Project 28. The ship borrowed its name from one of the islands in Aminidivi group of the Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands. The ship also shares its name with erstwhile Petya Class ship 'Kiltan (P79)' which was made in the USSR that actively took part as Task Force Commander in the 'Operation Trident' during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

### **Delicate gender is on robust task !**

On 15th October Kavita Devi from Haryana became the first Indian Woman to tie-up with World Wrestling Entertainment. The 2016 South Asian Games gold medallist Kavita is a former competitive powerlifter who got trained from Dalip Singh Rana popularly known as The Great Khali. Her wrestling with woman wrestler B Bull Bull brought her in limelight. According to the contract, the wrestler will start training at the WWE Performance Centre in Orlando, Florida in January 2018. She had also participated in the Mae Young Classic women's tournament which was the first ever World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) tournament for women. Besides her Shadia Bseiso also became the first Arab woman from the Middle East to ink a contract with WWE.

### **UN Medal encompassed 50 Indian peacekeepers.**

16th October showered UN Medals upon 50 Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building long-lasting peace in the conflict-stricken country. UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Force Commander General Frank Mushyo Kamanzi bestowed the UN Medal to the officers serving with the Indian Battalion, located in Bor in the Jonglei region of South Sudan. They carried out patrols across the region for safeguarding 2,500 civilians who sought sanctuary at the United Nations Protection of Civilians site at Bor. They provided medical care for local residents and supported the local farmers with veterinary treatment for their animals. Indian Ambassador to South Sudan, Srikumar Menon, attended this medal ceremony and applauded the peacekeepers for their commitment and service.

### **All India Institute of Ayurveda rose in New Delhi.**

17th October brought dawn of All India Institute of Ayurveda at Sarita Vihar in New Delhi. This first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has been manifested on the lines of AIIMS. It is an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH that is meant to establish synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology. The newly budded institute is on its marks to facilitate quality patient care and research. It is looking forward to bridge the gaps in the scientific information in context to quality, safety and efficacy of Ayurveda products and develop benchmarks of Ayurvedic education, research and healthcare.

### **Answer the call from tech savvy nation !**

On 17th October India inked Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) with Japan for sending interns to the island nation. Skill Development Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan and Japanese Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Katsunobu Kato signed this pact in Tokyo for ensuring Technical Intern Training Programme for Indian youth. According to Japan's official data for 2016-end, approximately 2.3 lakh technical intern trainees from several nations are on training in the island nation.

### **Success rightly says "Age is Nothing But A Number" !**

On 16th October Indian-origin teenager Akshay Ruparelia became one of UK's youngest millionaires at the age of 19. He did the feat via his online estate agency business, "www.doorsteps.co.uk" which he began with an initial investment of 7000 pounds during his school days. The boy had hired a call centre service to answer his company switchboard while he was in class and pretty soon the investors bought shares in Ruparelia's firm. The firm doubled in size with investors having already handed him 500000 pounds to get their hands on shares and over an year the company became worth 12 million pounds. The teenager sold homes worth 100 million pounds and his company became the 18th biggest estate agency of UK within 16 months of launching website. The boy is sure to outstreet the traditional High Street estate agents as they charge thousands of pounds in commission to sell a house while he does it for just 99 pounds.

### **The echo of "National Importance" reached FDDI's ears.**

On 16th October the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) acquired stature of 'National Importance'. The Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry made this declaration under the Footwear Design & Development Institute Act, 2017. So FDDI now being an 'Institute of National Importance' will be able to develop and conduct independently graduate, post graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral courses in the areas of footwear and leather products design and development as per the requirement of the industry and will award its own degree to the students. Currently, FDDI conducts skill based graduate and postgraduate courses in the areas of footwear, leather goods, retail and management for 2500 students across eight campuses of India. FDDI came into existence in 1986 and has been catering the demand of skilled man power with its specific curriculum, high-tech laboratories, world class infrastructure and experienced faculty.

### **Excel-based offline tool came via GSTN courtesy.**

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has introduced an excel-based offline tool for businesses to file initial GSTR- 3B returns on 21st October. Taxpayers need to download the offline utility from the GSTN portal , preview the form, complete formalities like submit, offset the liability and file their GSTR-3B Return using digital signature or electronic verification code. After filling the data the file has to get uploaded on GST portal.

### **IPPB welcomed its new MD & CEO Suresh Sethi.**

23rd October chose Suresh Sethi for post of Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). The chosen one is former MD of Vodafone M-Pesa Ltd who got selected amongst top contenders from both public and private sector Banking and Fintech professionals by Banks Board Bureau. The man holds 27 years' rich experience in the banking and financial services industry with Citigroup, YES Bank and Vodafone M-Pesa across India, Kenya, UK, Argentina and US. He has succeeded Mr. A.P. Singh, the interim MD & CEO of IPPB since January 2017. IPPB, the Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts with 100% GOI equity will now employ Sethi's skill and experience in the Digital & Mobile Payments space in the under-banked segments for disposal of financial inclusions

**Gitanjali Rao became America's Top Young Scientist.**

On 23rd October 11-year-old Indian-American schoolgirl Gitanjali Rao scripted the title of "America's top young scientist" in her name. The large-scale lead contamination in water in Flint, Michigan attracted her attention and the budding brain invented "Tethys", a cost-effective, quick lead-contamination detector in water. This is a portable device with carbon nanotubes that permits a sensor linked to a mobile app to deliver accurate and quick analysis of the water sample. It made her top and win \$25,000 in 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge.

**Public Credit Registry became topic to get registered.**

On 23rd October the Reserve Bank of India formed a 10-member 'High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India'. Ex-CMD of L&T Finance Holdings, YM Deosthalee is the chief of the force. The panel has representatives from various stakeholders including the RBI, banks, non-banking financial companies, industry bodies and experts in information technology. The terms of reference of the task force includes reviewing the current availability of information on credit in India, assessing the gaps in India that could be filled by a comprehensive PCR, and study the best international practices on PCR. The entire concept aims to enhance the efficiency of credit market in India and help control delinquencies.

**400 ITIs suffered de-affiliation.**

On 22nd October 400 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) got de-affiliated on account of absence of requisite infrastructure and trainers for imparting vocational training to students. The de-affiliated Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) do not comply with the prescribed quality norms to maintain the stature of ITI at the National Council for Vocational Training level. The ITIs are meant to carry out government's vocational training programmes for 36% of the 7 million people enrolled in various training programmes in India. In order to improve the condition the skill development ministry started monitoring the ITIs to gauge their quality standards and the institutes have also introduced voluntary self grading.

**October 21st : Police Commemoration Day.**

Like every year Police Commemoration Day was observed on 21st October. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh paid homage to the Police Martyrs at the Police Memorial Ground in Delhi on this day. It is being observed annually to recall the sacrifices of ten policemen who defended India's borders with China in year 1959. The story reveals that on 20th October 1959, three reconnaissance parties were launched from Hot Springs in North Eastern Ladakh among which only two parties returned to Hot Springs by the afternoon of that day and the third one comprising of two Police Constables and a Porter went missing. Chinese Army preyed on the Search party which had Deputy Central Intelligence Officer Karam Singh and 20 Police personnel. Among them ten embraced martyrdom. Therefore 21st October got instituted as 'Commemoration Day' in all Police Lines across national boundary to immortalize the martyred personnel.

**Limca Book of Records has cast eyes on Meghalaya Election department.** The Election department of Meghalaya state attracted attention of Limca Book of Records for forming a human logo with newly-enrolled young voters of Meghalaya on 1st July 2017 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex in Shillong. Limca official Garima Manon broke this news on 24th October 2017. A total of 2870 students from 113 schools and 3 colleges between the age group of 18-19 enrolled as new voters for the upcoming February-March 2018 state assembly elections of Meghalaya and formed a 75 feet by 120 feet size human logo that read Mission Unite-You 'N' I (towards Enrolment) and this logo formation was a part of a special drive that began to enrol young and left-out voters with a special focus on first-time electors. Moreover this logo would be featured in the upcoming edition of the Limca Book of Records, which is likely to get published in November 2017.

### **'Chandrayaan- II' has been chalked out for year 2018.**

On 23rd October 2017 Union Minister of State (IC) for Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh aired announcement about India's second space mission to moon, 'Chandrayaan-II' which will hopefully take place in the first quarter of 2018. More than 500 eminent foreign delegates and some of the world's most distinguished faculty in the field of Space Science became witness of this announcement in the inaugural session of the 38th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing at New Delhi. It is worth recalling here that India's first mission to Moon, Chandrayaan-I, was launched on 22nd October 2008 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh. It orbited around the Moon at a height of 100 km from the lunar surface for chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon. It carried around 11 scientific instruments built in India, USA, UK, Germany, Sweden and Bulgaria. It completed the mission on 29th August 2009 and disappeared forever.

### **First set of solar plants found ground in Indian Railways.**

On 27th October Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated first set of solar plants with total capacity of 5 megawatt in New Delhi. The plants have been built on the rooftops of Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Anand Vihar and Delhi railway stations that would cater 30% power requirement of these stations by generating 76.5 lakh units of solar power collectively every year. The project is on purpose of saving around Rs 421.4 lakh annually and reduce 6082 tonnes of CO2 emissions. It is worth knowing that this project is a part of the Union government's National Solar Mission in which Indian Railways is planning to commission around 1000 MWp solar plants across its wide rail network.

### **JNU witnesses Special Centre for Disaster Research.**

On 26th October Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Special Centre for Disaster Research at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. For this JNU had earlier inked MoU with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) on 6th August 2015. It is a multi-disciplinary Centre meant for Master's and Doctorate programmes in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

### **27th October marched as Infantry Day.**

Entire nation celebrated Infantry Day on 27th October in memory of the first Infantry action post independence. On 27th October 1948 the leading elements of the Indian Army from the 1st Battalion of the SIKH Regiment, air landed at Srinagar to confront the threat posed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation. The bold action of Indian Army and strong resolution of the Infantry soldiers reversed the tide of events by opposing the nefarious designs of Pakistani Raiders aided by Pakistan Army.

### **The attachment of Aadhaar with mobile number is in the air.**

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduced three new ways viz. OTP (One Time Password) based, App based and the IVRS facility for linking of Aadhaar with mobile number on 25th October. The new guideline invokes the telecom operators for an online mechanism. On 6th February Supreme Court ordered linking of Aadhaar card with mobile number and reverification process of mobile users and till February 2018 all the mobile numbers are expected to get linked with Aadhaar details.

### **OBC quota climbs to 26% in Rajasthan.**

On 26th October the princely state of Rajasthan increased OBC quota from 21% to 26%. After widespread agitation by the Gujjar community, Rajasthan Assembly finally gave nod to a bill which declares reservation in educational institutions and state jobs for the category of more backward classes viz. Gujjars, Banjara, Baldiya, Labana, Gadiya Lohar, Gadoliya, Raika, Rebari, Debasi and Gadariya, Gadri, Gayari within the backward classes. Now with approval of this bill the total quota in the state stands at 54 % which includes 26

% for OBCs, 16 % for SCs and 12% for STs. However this move violated Supreme Court guidelines that permits only 50% total quota in government jobs and educational institutes for different reserved categories in the state.

#### **YC Modi: Director General of National Investigation Agency.**

On 30th October Senior IPS official Yogesh Chander (YC) Modi became the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Modi took place of Sharad Kumar. He is an IPS officer of the 1979 batch of the Haryana cadre and holds experience of 33 years of investigation, intelligence and operations. He had served CBI for 10 years and handled Special Crime and Economic Offences apart from Anti-Corruption cases. He has also been a part of a Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team that examined 2002 Gujarat riots case. He was also an Additional DGP (Law & Order) in Assam and Meghalaya. He was well acknowledged with the Police Medal for his outstanding services in 2001 and the President's Police Medal for various Services in year 2008.

#### **Virat Kohli became fastest batsman to break 9000-run mark.**

On 29th October 2017 Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli became the 6th Indian to furnish 9000 ODI runs during India's 3rd and final one-day international against New Zealand in Kanpur. Virat Kohli achieved the milestone of 9000 ODI runs in the 37th over and scored 113 runs in this match. India defeated New Zealand by 6 runs to lead the series by 2-1. Rohit Sharma was adjudged as Man of the Match for his outstanding 147 runs and the winning Captain Virat Kohli became Man of the Series.

#### **IIT Kanpur announced eligibility criteria for JEE Advanced 2018.**

The details captured in this context by Zee news are as follows: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur has released the eligibility criteria for JEE Advanced 2018. The total number of candidates can be slightly greater than 2,24,000 in the presence of "tied" ranks/scores in any category. Candidates should have been born on or after October 1, 1993. Five years relaxation is given to SC, ST and PwD candidates, ie, these candidates should have been born on or after October 1, 1988. A candidate can attempt JEE (Advanced) a maximum of two times in consecutive years. A candidate should have appeared for the Class XII (or equivalent) examination for the first time in either 2017 or 2018. A candidate should NOT have been admitted in an IIT irrespective of whether or not he/she continued in the program OR accepted an IIT seat by reporting at a reporting centre in the past. Candidates whose admission at IITs was cancelled after joining any IIT are also NOT eligible to appear in JEE (Advanced) 2018. Examination will be held on May 20, 2018. The entire JEE (Advanced) 2018 Examination will be conducted in fully computer based test mode. The exam consists of two papers, Paper 1 and Paper 2, each of three hours' duration, and will be held in two sessions. Both the papers are compulsory. The candidates must have secured at least 75 percent aggregate marks in the Class XII (or equivalent) Board examination. The aggregate marks for SC, ST and PwD candidates should be at least 65 percent. He/she must be within the category-wise top 20 percentile of successful candidates in their respective Class XII (or equivalent) board examination.

**Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement travelled towards Girish Karnad.** On October 31st announcements of honouring versatile actor and playwright Girish Karnad with Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 were aired. The awardee will receive the accolade on 19th November 2017 at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Nariman Point in Mumbai. His plays like 'Yayati' (1961), the historical 'Tughlaq' (1964), 'Hayavadana' (1971), 'Naga-mandala' (1988) and 'Taledanda' (1990) fetched him international acclamation. His works in Kannada language are very often translated into English and other Indian languages. Prior to this he has also welcomed Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards. Before him Tata Literature Live!

Lifetime Achievement Award had been with eminent writers Amitav Ghosh (2016), Kiran Nagarkar (2015), MT Vasudevan Nair (2014), Khushwant Singh (2013), VS Naipaul (2012) and Mahashweta Devi (2011).

#### **Amendment in NCTE Act, 1993 won cabinet's consent.**

On 1st November Union Cabinet gave nod to amendment in National Council for Teacher Education Act, (NCTE) 1993. The approved National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Act, 2017 is on purpose of granting retrospective recognition to the Central and State Institutions and Universities that conduct teacher education courses without NCTE permission recognition till the academic year 2017-2018. The ACT advocates that the retrospective recognition will be a onetime measure to ensure secured future for the ex-students and those who have currently enrolled in these institutions . It also proclaims that the passed out students are eligible for employment as a teacher. The Act directs all the institutions to obtain recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education under section 14 of the NCTE Act for running Teacher Education Courses like B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. and besides this the courses of such recognised Institutions and Universities have to obtain permission under section 15 of the NCTE Act.

#### **Army is all set to march in CBSE Curriculum.**

On 3rd November Human Resources Development minister, Prakash Javadekar promised to include a book on heroic achievements of the highest gallantry awards recipients from the armed forces in the school curricula of CBSE. HRD Ministry decided this upon Army Chief General Bipin Rawat's recommendation. Besides this army is planning to share a gallery with universities and colleges about heroic deeds of personnel from the armed forces. The proposed gallery will have sketches and photographs of gallantry award winners, their brief biodata and records of their achievements.

#### **PFRDA increases upper age limit of joining under NPS-Private Sector.**

On 1st November Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) increased the maximum age of joining under National Pension System (NPS)-Private Sector (All Citizen and Corporate Model) from the current 60 years to 65 years of age. With this move the subscribers who wish to join NPS at the later stage of life will be able to avail the benefits of NPS. Subscribers joining NPS after 60 years of age can opt for normal exit from NPS after completion of 3 years in NPS. In this case, the subscriber will need to use at least 40% of the amount for buying annuity and the remaining amount can be withdrawn. If subscriber wishes to exit from NPS before completion of 3 years in the NPS then he/she will be permitted to do so. However, the subscriber will have to use at-least 80% of the corpus for purchase of annuity and the remaining can be withdrawn in lump sum. In case if the subscriber dies during his stay in NPS, the entire corpus will be paid to the nominee of the subscriber. It is worth remembering here that the NPS-Private Sector (All Citizen and Corporate Model) offers a strong platform for old age income security.

#### **The distant education became doom for Engineers!**

On 3rd November the apex court cancelled the engineering degrees bestowed by four deemed universities through correspondence course. Engineering degrees of hundreds of students who pursued education via correspondence course from JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education in Rajasthan, Allahabad Agricultural Institute and Vinayaka Mission Research Foundation in Tamil Nadu from year 2001 onwards have got burned in the flame of this verdict of the Supreme Court. However it permitted students of 2001-05 batch to get their degree by appearing in the examination that will be conducted by AICTE but it cancelled the degrees of students of subsequent batches as the deemed universities conducted the courses without obtaining approval from authorities for the course. The bench of Justices AK Goel and UU Lalit further said "As regards students who were admitted after the academic sessions 2001-2005, their degrees in engineering awarded by the concerned deemed to be universities through distance education mode stand

recalled and be treated as cancelled. All benefits secured by such candidates shall stand withdrawn. However, the entire amount paid by such students to the concerned deemed to be universities towards tuition fees and other expenditure shall be returned by the concerned deemed to be universities.”

#### **'PRABAL DOSTYK 2017' of India & Kazakhstan embarked.**

The second edition of the joint military training exercise between India and Kazakhstan 'PRABAL DOSTYK 2017' began on 2nd November at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. 'PRABAL DOSTYK' implies 'Robust Friendship'. The fourteen day exercise has engaged 11th Gorkha Rifles of Indian Army and similar strength of Kazakhstan Army. The exercise is likely to enhance the military ties between the two nations. It is worth recalling here that the first edition of exercise took place in Karaganda region of Kazakhstan in September 2016.

#### **World Food India concluded on a high note.**

The three day mega food event “World Food India” which began on 3rd November concluded yesterday on a happy note in New Delhi. It fetched investment worth 19 billion dollars. More than 50 CEOs across 60 nations attended this event. The event saw 8000 business to business and business to government meetings in which 50 MoUs worth 11.25 billion dollar were inked to boost food processing levels from the current 10%. US, UAE, Germany, Netherlands and France announced big amount of investments in India's food processing sector in this event. Among them Haryana government entered into contract worth Rs. 2,069 crore with 44 agro-based and food processing enterprises and establishments that have promised employment for around 5,012 persons.

#### **2018 Nobel Prize Event chose Indian stage.**

In first week of November Goa got chosen for 2018 Nobel Prize Event. For this the state government of Goa inked a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Biotechnology, Union Ministry of Science and Technology and Nobel Media, Sweden. The event would try its best to lure crowd towards pure science rather than technology and for this a month-long exhibition from Nobel Museum, Sweden has been planned. Prior to this the Nobel series was organised in Gujarat.

#### **NDLI & IIT-Kharagpur held hands for international tour.**

First week of November broke news of upcoming collaboration of IIT-Kharagpur and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) for cracking deal with international libraries. NDLI aired this announcement in international workshop of UNESCO in presence of 200 domain experts from India and abroad. NDLI is already engaged with Europeana Foundation which is on its way to develop a digital cultural heritage platform for Europe and now NDLI is eyeing digital libraries like Tainacan Project (Brazil), National Library of The Netherlands, National Library of South Africa and National Library of Nepal for collaboration. UNESCO is all set to promote the proposed collaboration of digital libraries and resource-sharing activities of SAARC countries. History of NDLI and IIT-KGP's affair reveals that the project of NDLI came on wheels via courtesy of IIT-KGP under financial aid of Ministry of Human Resources. The two together created portal '<http://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>' which emerged as a national online educational asset for students interested in research and innovation. Currently the national library is a leading digital repository of the country with around 1.26 crore content resources and it hosts over 12 million contents in over 100 languages, sourced from about 150 institutes or publishers.

#### **Hasmukh Adhia, the new Finance Secretary.**

On 6th November Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia got appointed as Finance Secretary. This 1981 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre will succeed Ashok Lavasa. It is worth registering here that as per the convention,

the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the senior most Secretary in the Finance Ministry as the Finance Secretary.

### **Best City Bus Services Award buzzed for Surat.**

On 6th November Surat Municipal Corporation received 'Best City Bus Services Award' from Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for encouraging 87 % of the private vehicle and auto rickshaw users to use city buses. Currently 275 city buses are operational on 28 routes of Surat with fares ranging from a minimum of Rs 4 to a maximum of Rs 22. The development not only lured users of private vehicles and auto rickshaws towards city buses but also minimized environmental and social adversity issues. Besides this, the 'Best Non-Motorised Transport' Award went to Mysuru's Public Bicycle Sharing; 'Best Urban Transport Initiative' award chose to accompany Kochi (Kerala) for completing its Metro Rail Project in a quick time; the 'H-TRIMS' of Hyderabad won 'Commendable Initiative Award' under 'Best Intelligent Transport Project' category and Chittoor won 'Commendable Initiative Award'.

### **Haven shall blaze at thunder of Paradise Paper probe.**

On 6th November government reconstituted Multi-Agency Group (MAG) to investigate Paradise Papers on offshore financial holdings to evade taxes. CBDT Chairman is the chief of this reconstituted MAG and representatives from the Central Board of Direct Taxes, ED (Enforcement Directorate), RBI (Reserve Bank of India) and FIU (Financial Intelligence Unit) are other members of this group. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has revealed that India ranks 19th among 180 countries whose 714 citizens and companies have parked their wealth in secretive tax havens abroad to dodge tax payment. The revelations further informed that Bermuda's Appleby and Singapore's Asiatici helped the global rich and powerful in stashing their black money abroad. Moreover, Sun Group, of Nand Lal Khemka, got highlighted as Appleby's second largest client internationally, with as many as 118 different offshore entities.

### **The First anniversary of Demonetisation celebrated as Anti-Black Money Day.**

On 8th November 2017, the ruling party BJP observed the first anniversary of demonetisation as the "Anti-Black Money Day". On this day, Senior party leaders and Union ministers have highlighted the benefits of demonetisation. Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani flagged off Digital Rath in the Delhi to create awareness among people about cashless transactions. Interacting with traders, Irani said that "digital transactions have increased sharply after demonetization". On this occasion, National Secretary of the Confederations of All India Traders, Praveen Khandelwal said that "digital rath will travel from Delhi to Lucknow, Kolkata, Puducherry, Mumbai, and Bhopal till 31st of next month".

### **20th International Children's Film Festival Begins.**

International Children's Film Festival India (ICFFI), commonly known as the Golden Elephant has begun in Hyderabad, Telangana on 8 November 2017. The festival would conclude on the occasion of Children's Day on 14th November. In this festival, more than thousand children, hundreds of film professionals and eminent guests from all over the world would participate. It would include the screening of features, short films and animation films during its span of seven days. The festival would also include conferral of awards to the best film in different categories, which would be decided by both adult and child jury. The main aim of this festival is to boost the creativity among children. The festival is being jointly organized by the Telangana government, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI).

### **9th November commenced as World Quality Day.**

Like every year globe celebrated World Quality Day on second Thursday of November which fell on 9th November this year. The day underlined the significant contribution of quality in field of prosperity and growth

at organisational and national level. The theme for World Quality Day 2017 was 'Everyday Leadership' and the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI) defined the responsibility of the quality professional through five main domains viz. governance, assurance, leadership, improvement and context.

#### **Priti sung sayonara to UK cabinet.**

On 9th November Britain's senior-most Indian-origin minister Priti Patel resigned from post of International Development Minister of UK on account of her unauthorised clandestine meetings with Israeli politicians. Moreover Britain does not officially recognise Israeli occupation of the area, seized from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War. As per prescribed norms Ministers are required to inform the UK Foreign Office when they conduct official business overseas, but Priti failed to comply with it. The ex-UK minister made apology for her actions that "fell below the standards of transparency and openness that I have promoted and advocated". 10 Downing Street has tightened the rope of ministerial code of conduct to avert such incidents in future.

#### **AYUSH smiled at foreign students.**

On 9th November Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush) Minister, Sri Pad Naik announced full scholarship to 100 foreign students who get enrolled for Ayurveda studies in any of the public institutions across India. The 100 students can belong to any nationality across the globe. He aired this announcement at the beginning of the first ever three-day International Ayush Conference in Dubai. This was to encourage and popularise the alternative system of medicine in the Middle East region. Pretty soon the Ayush ministry would be establishing an Ayush chair in Dubai in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) of UAE.

#### **Urdu echoed as second official language of Telangana.**

On 9th November Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao made 'Urdu' as the second official language of Telangana. He was heard saying "I am declaring today, not considering districts as a unit but the state as a unit, in the entire Telangana State, Urdu will be considered. Urdu will be practised as the second official language." After this declaration the state will soon see an Urdu speaking officer. There are 12.7% Muslims in the state population. Apart from this earlier the ruling party of Telangana had appealed for increase in reservations for backward sections among Muslims in Parliament and the state legislature had also approved a bill increasing quotas for STs and Muslims.

#### **11 November: National Education Day.**

India celebrated birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam as National Education Day. He was the first education minister of independent India from 15th August 1947 to 2 February 1958. He not only gave major thrust to Adult Education and Literacy and laid stress on elementary education but also propagated diversification of secondary education and vocational training across the nation. The day is meant to strengthen our educational institutions and soar the quality of education to greater heights. The first National Education Day was celebrated on 11th November 2008.

#### **The flood of 2017 National Entrepreneurship Awards.**

On 9th November the Union Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship announced the second edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017 to promote a culture of entrepreneurship across the country. The awards were instituted by MSDE in year 2016. The award entitled cash prize of Rs 5 lakh for enterprises and individuals and Rs 10 lakhs for organizations and institutes along with a certificate and trophy. Rays Culinary Delights Pvt. Ltd. won for Agri, food and forestry products ; SenseGiz Technologies Pvt. Ltd. won for Engineering systems; Atomberg Technologies Pvt. Ltd. won for Renewable energy and waste management;

Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd. won for IT & ITES, Financial; Simulanis Solutions Pvt. Ltd. won for Education; Oravel Stays Pvt. Ltd. won for Hospitality; LogiNext Solutions Pvt Ltd. won for E-Commerce, logistics, transport & other services; Sampurn(e)arth Environment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. won for Social Enterprises; Thejaswini Coconut Farmers Producer Company Ltd won for Barefoot Enterprises; SP Robotic Works Pvt. Ltd. won for Woman Enterprise. In Recognition Track, C-Camp won for Incubation, mentorship & handholding support (Government); IKP Knowledge Park, Hyderabad won for Incubation, mentorship & handholding support (Private); Dr. G. Subba Ramaiah won for Mentor (Government); Dr Renu Swaroop won for Mentor (Government) Jury Special Award; Vishwanathan won for Mentor (Private). Under Champions of Change: Long Term Skill Development, Haryana won for Best State Engaging Apprentices; BHEL won for Best Employer: CPSU; MSEDCL, Maharashtra won for Best Employer: SPSU; Aegis India, Gurgaon won for Best Employer: PRIVATE. Under Champions of change: Short Term Skill Development, Textile Sector Skill Council won for Champion Sector Skill Council; LabourNet Services India Private Limited won for Champion Training Provider under fee-based program; IL&FS Skill Development Corporation won for Champion Training Provider under PMKVY (100+ centers); Orion Edutech won for Champion Training Provider under PMKVY (50 - 100 centers); Shri Technologies won for Champion Training Provider under PMKVY (less than 50 centers); EduJobs Academy won for Champion PIA under RPL (non-government); Rubber Board won for Champion PIA under RPL (government); ISON won for Champion Employer (PMKVY) and ICICI Bank won for Champion Corporate: Special Recognition.

#### **JEE Main, NEET, NET & CTET will change the horses.**

On 10th November Cabinet gave nod to establishment of National Testing Agency (NTA) for conduction of online Joint Engineering Entrance (JEE) Mains and the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) twice in a year from year 2019 onwards. Besides this, NTA will also look into entrance tests for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalas, UGC's National Eligibility Test (NET) and Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) conducted by CBSE. With this move the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be relieved from its duties of conducting these entrance examinations and it will concentrate on improvement of the quality of higher education in nation. Starting with these tests, NTA will gradually take over the entrance tests conducted by AICTE, IITs, IIMs and other agencies. The proposed NTA will take birth as a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, and it will be an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions. It will be headed by an eminent educationist appointed by Human Resources Development Ministry. Government will also appoint CEO who will be the Director General. Apart from this there will be a Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions. The Director General will receive help from nine verticals headed by academicians and experts. The NTA will be given one-time grant of Rs 25 crore from the central government to get started in the first year. Thereafter, it will become financially self-sustainable.

#### **12th November peeped as Public Service Broadcasting Day.**

All India Radio commemorated the last visit of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947 in form of Public Service Broadcasting Day. On his last visit, Gandhiji had addressed the displaced people, who got temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition. To mark this occasion All India Radio in New Delhi invited Artists and school students of Delhi Schools to recite favourite bhajans of Gandhiji and songs on National Unity. The occasion also heard announcement of Akashvani Award on Gandhian philosophy in presence of Senior Officials of AIR.

#### **The window will remain open for five long years.**

On 10th November the Central Board of Secondary Education has extended previously allotted time limit for introducing corrections in mark sheet of passed out students of 10th and 12th board classes from one year to

five years. Hundreds of students applied for corrections in their mark sheets years after passing out the board classes which made CBSE lay provision of 'one year window' for making changes in name, date of birth, parents' name etc. in mark sheets after board result declaration. The recent CBSE notification read "The new rule will be applicable to all cases pertaining to Class 10 and 12 after 2015," The move will affect more than 18,000 schools affiliated to the board.

**The Second National Judicial Pay Commission is at threshold.**

In November 2017 Union Cabinet permitted appointment of Second National Judicial Pay Commission for Subordinate Judiciary in India. The former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Retired Justice J P Venkatrama Reddi will head this proposed Commission and former Judge of Kerala High Court, R Basant will be the member of the Commission. The Commission is meant to scrutinize the present structure of emoluments and conditions of service of Judicial Officers in the States and UTs; work environment, methods, allowance and benefits available for Judicial Officers in addition to their pay. Besides these, the Commission will evolve the principles for uniform pay structure and other emoluments of Judicial Officers belonging to the Subordinate Judiciary across the nation and will make suggestions for improving efficiency in Judicial Administration via optimisation of the size of judiciary and removing irregularities created in implementation of earlier recommendations.

**Debjani Ghosh : The Next Nasscom President.**

The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) chose the former MD, Intel South Asia, Debjani Ghosh, as its President on 10th November. Ghosh will take place of R Chandrashekhar in upcoming March. The appointed lady had held several other posts at Nasscom in the past. She has also been a member of company's executive council and a trustee of Nasscom Foundation.

**WCD Ministry will house 'Hausala 2017'.**

Ministry of Women and Child Development will host 'Hausala 2017' from 16th to 20th November 2017 to celebrate Child Rights Week. It will be an Inter CCI Festival for the children who reside in Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The week-long festival will present opportunity for displaying the talents of children from various child care institutions across the nation through events like Bal Sansad, painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing. The festival will culminate with release of compilation of speeches and guidelines of UNNATI scheme and presentation of Best State Team Award based on performance during 'Hausla 2017' as well as cultural programme presented by children of CCIs.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **10 Satellites for Iridium Mobile Network Launched.**

On 9th October 2017, SpaceX has launched Falcon 9 rocket which carried 10 satellites to bolster the global data communications network for Virginia-based company Iridium. The rocket was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force base in California. SpaceX is launching a series of 75 satellites for Iridium's satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT, by 2018. SpaceX is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company. It was founded in 2002 by entrepreneur Elon Musk. NASA also awarded SpaceX a further development contract in 2011 to develop and demonstrate a human-rated Dragon. This Dragon would be used to transport astronauts to the ISS and return them safely to Earth.

### **Anti-Dumping duty on Chinese Steel Products.**

On 10th October 2017, the Central Government of India has imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel wire rods from China for five years. The duty was imposed after the commerce ministry's directorate general of anti-dumping and allied duties (DGAD) recommended duty on such imports. The decision is taken to guard the interest of domestic producers/marketers from cheap in-bound shipments. The duty would be the difference between the landed value of the steel products and \$535 per tonne while for others, it should be the gap between the landed value and USD 546 per tonne. The aim to impose anti-dumping duty is not to restrict imports but to ensure fair trade and provide opportunities to the domestic industries.

### **Japan launches 4th Michibiki Satellite.**

On 11th October 2017, The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has successfully launched the Michibiki-4 satellite (QZSS-4) onboard of H-IIA rocket from Tanegashima Space Centre. It was the fourth satellite in Michibiki series i.e. Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), which is a satellite-based high-precision global positioning system. Japanese GPS can locate devices to within several centimetres compared with the commonly-used US system, which has an accuracy of about 10 meters. It is a third QZSS satellite to be launched in 2017 and once operational it will bring the constellation of QZSS to its operating capacity of four until a planned expansion to 8 satellites occurs around 2023.

### **US, Israel withdraw from UNESCO.**

On 12th October 2017, the United States and its ally Israel announced that they were pulling out of the UN's culture and education body, accusing the body of anti-Israel bias. The US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said that "This decision was not taken lightly, and reflects U.S. concerns with mounting arrears at UNESCO, the need for fundamental reform in the organisation, and continuing anti-Israel bias". The US withdrawal will become effective at the end of December 2018 - until then, the US will remain a full member. The US will establish an observer mission at the Paris-based organisation to replace its representation.

### **Cabinet approves the MoC between India and Japan.**

On 11th October 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan for establishing a liquid, flexible and global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Market. The MoC will promote bilateral relationship between India and Japan in the energy sector. It will contribute to the diversification of gas supplies for India. It will strengthen the energy security and lead to more competitive prices for consumers. The MoC will also provide a framework to cooperate in facilitating flexibility in LNG contracts and abolition of Destination Restriction Clause. It will also explore possibilities of cooperation in establishing reliable LNG spot price indices reflecting true LNG demand and supply.

**Gautam Bambawale: India's Ambassador to China.**

12th October made Gautam Bambawale India's Ambassador to China. India's new Ambassador to China is an Indian Foreign Service Officer of the 1984 batch. He has taken place of Vijay Gokhale. The appointee is presently serving as India's High Commissioner to Pakistan and has been India's Ambassador to Bhutan. Gautam has also served in capacities of Director during 1993-94 in the America's Division of the ministry for overseeing America's relationship with Canada and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indian Embassy in Beijing. He has also commanded China desk in the Indian Foreign Ministry that maintains relationships with nations like Japan, China, South Korea, Mongolia and North Korea.

**13th October descended as International Day for Disaster Reduction.**

The theme for this year was 'Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement'. The day gave momentum to a campaign that targets global awareness about effective actions, policies and practices for reduction of exposure to disaster risk at the community level to save homes and livelihoods. The day aimed at prevention, protection and reduction in the count of victims of disasters. Initially the UN General Assembly designated the second Wednesday of October as International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction in year 1989. Later on 21st December 2009 the Assembly adopted a new resolution to institute 13th October for this purpose and christened it as 'International Day for Disaster Reduction'. Last year the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) started the Sendai Seven campaign, which was focussed on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework, among which reducing disaster mortality was the first one.

**15th October rocked as International Day of Rural Women.**

Globe observed this day on 'Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls' theme. Through this theme United Nations addressed the challenges of rural women and emphasized on gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls. United Nations General Assembly instituted this day via resolution 62/136. It was celebrated for the first time on 15th October 2008. It recognized the critical role and contribution of rural women in advancing agricultural and rural development, which resulted in improvement of food security and eradication of rural poverty to a considerable extent.

**UNESCO found its Director General in Audrey Azoulay.**

On 14th October United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Executive Board chose Audrey Azoulay as its new Director General. The chosen one defeated Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari of Qatar in elections. She has succeeded Irina Bokova of Bulgaria and has become the second French leader of the UNESCO after Rene Maheu, who was on this post from 1961-74. Prior to this she has also worked as French President François Hollande's cultural advisor.

**American Bazaar Philanthropy award buzzed near Indian-American.**

On 17th October the third American Bazaar Philanthropy award was conferred upon Indian-American attorney Ajay Raju for his philanthropic activities in the United States. The man revived Philadelphia through the Germination Project which is a signature initiative of the Pamela and Ajay Raju Foundation that inducts talented teenagers and converts them in tomorrow's leaders. Indian-American philanthropist Frank Islam and Suri Sehgal, founder of the SM Sehgal Foundation were the former recipients of this award.

**IBM began blockchain network for cross-border payments.**

On 16th October American multinational technology company, IBM started the first international payments network of its kind. This new network uses IBM Blockchain technology to provide both clearing and settlement of trades on a single network in real time. The blockchain has become live on a regional basis, facilitating monetary transactions in 12 corridors across the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the

United Kingdom. IBM partnered with KlickEx Group and Stellar.org, a nonprofit organization that aids an open source blockchain network for financial services. In this context IBM's VP of global blockchain market development, Jesse Lund, said "This marks a next phase in the evolution of making enterprise blockchain a reality."

### **2017 Man Booker Prize chose to rest with US man.**

US author George Saunders booked Man Booker Prize of year 2017 on his name for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo". The book was applauded for presenting the chronicles of the death of Abraham Lincoln's 11-year-old son Willie using the accounts of hundreds of narrators. Works of three US and three British writers tussled for this renowned prize of Britain and finally US author Saunders became the second American writer to win this prize. Earlier American author Paul Beatty had won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Man Booker Prize for his novel 'The Sellout' in 2016.

### **17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.**

Entire globe observed this day on 'Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies' theme. The day is reminiscent of the significance of the values of dignity, solidarity and importance of voice to fight and end poverty everywhere. In this context Father Joseph Wresinski said "Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty." The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on 22nd December 1992 for instituting this day. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs partnered with the NGO Committee for Social Development, International Movement All Together for Dignity (ATD) Fourth World for organizing events of this year's celebration.

### **Beijing will host the 2nd World Congress on Marxism.**

The announcement of the 2nd World Congress on Marxism which will take place from May 5th to May 6th got aired on 22nd October. This upcoming congress will coincide with the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth and 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up. The theme of this congress will be "Marxism and the current world and China" and it will lure more than 300 Marxism researchers to discuss Marxism. This will be an important event for the world Marxism research and scientific socialism as per Sun Daiyao, vice president of the School of Marxism of Peking University. The congress is likely to translate "China road, China theory and China experience" for the world academic circle.

### **World's oldest warship has begun the surf again.**

On 20th October the world's oldest warship started for its first sail since three years. The ship left the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston to Fort Independence on Castle Island to cheer US Navy's 242nd birthday and the 220th anniversary of the iconic vessel's maiden voyage. The ship was known with nickname "Old Ironsides" during the War of 1812 against Britain as it captured several merchant ships and defeated five British warships. The ship saw retirement from active service in year 1881 and served as a receiving ship, until being designated a museum ship in 1907. This was the warship's first sail since October 2014. The aged ship is on purpose of promoting significance of Navy's role in war and peace through educational outreach, historical demonstration, and active participation in public events as part of the Naval History & Heritage Command.

### **Deep Kumar Upadhyay will no more be Nepal's Ambassador to India !**

On 23rd October the Nepal government accepted the resignation of its Ambassador to India, Deep Kumar Upadhyay, who will soon be contesting the upcoming parliamentary elections. He has filed his nomination for the parliamentary election from Kapilvastu district as the ruling Nepali Congress candidate. Flashback says

Upadhayay was appointed on this post during former prime minister Sushil Koirala-led government in April 2015. He was recalled by the subsequent government headed by the CPN-UML's K P Sharma Oli in May, 2016 on charge of working against the country's interest. Then he got reappointed last year by Prachanda's government. Finally the man has left the race of appointment and disappointments to enter parliament.

#### **24th October ushered as United Nations Day.**

The 72nd anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force got celebrated as 'United Nations Day' on 24th October 2017 across the globe. World cheered United Nations accomplishments since its inception 72 years ago. The member nations made financial contributions for achieving future goals of this entity. UN Information Centres conducted wide range of activities viz. ceremonies, seminars, art competitions, rallies, film screenings, book exhibitions, media campaigns and much more for this commemoration.

#### **24th October descended as World Development Information Day.**

For improving the circulation of information and the mobilisation of public opinion, among youth, 24th October got celebrated as World Development Information Day. UN General Assembly instituted this day in year 1972 to invoke globe for international cooperation for development, solution of international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedom of all irrespective of their race, language, sex or religion. The day coincides with the United Nations Day on 24th October. The day is also reminiscent of adoption of International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade which happened on 24th October 1970.

**Paris Climate Agreement saw autograph of Nicaragua.** On 23rd October Central American country Nicaragua inked Paris agreement for which it posed reluctance earlier. The agreement is all about terms and conditions in context to global warming and its effects. This United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) lays norms for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance. It was adopted on 12th December 2015 and 195 nations at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris gave their consent for the same. It should be noted here that United States of America had also signed this agreement earlier but on 1st June 2017 it withdrew from it fearing forestalling of the US economy and US jobs and weakening of American national sovereignty. Besides it Syria is the only nation that managed to escape from this Climate Change agreement.

#### **Florida focussed on furtherance of Indian monsoon forecast.**

Florida State University scientists developed a new tool to improve Indian monsoon forecast on 25th October. According to journal Climate Dynamics the tool has potential to objectively define the beginning and end of the Indian summer Monsoon (ISM). The device uses rainfall rates to note the time period of the entire ISM at any given location. It is a reliable parameter on which the meteorological departments can rely on for determining ISM onset. It is a standardised system to monitor ISM evolution. At present scientists depend upon south west part of the country to determine weather forecasting.

#### **U-17 World FIFA loved the hospitality of India.**

26th October fetched compliments to India for its quality of football as well as its organisation of global tournament. The country got adjudged as the nation which is capable of hosting bigger global tournaments in the future. FIFA Head of Competitions, Jaime Yarza applauded the world-class infrastructure provided for the first-ever FIFA tournament by the host nation. It is worth registering here that India has made bid for the 2019 FIFA U-20 World Cup.

### **Late King received lavish last rites!**

On 26th October Thailand's late King Bhumibol Adulyadej got cremated by his son and successor to the throne, King Maha Vajiralongkorn. The revered king died in October 2016 at the age of 88. Thailand has observed a year of official mourning and Thailand's top artisans spent 10 months in constructing the spectacular 50-metre-tall, golden crematorium which has nine gilded spires adorned with images from mythology and the life of the king, including statues of his two favourite dogs. The deceased king Bhumibol Adulyadej enjoyed the stature of a demigod who became the world's longest-reigning monarch.

### **Trump is bent on roping H-1B & L1 visa.**

On 25th October Trump announced changes for H-1B and L1 visa renewal. The new announcement has increased difficulties of Indian IT professionals as the renewal of non-immigrant visas like H-1B and L1 has become tougher than before. The Trump administration has cancelled the 13-year-old policy in this context. According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), "the burden of proof in establishing eligibility is, at all times, on the petitioner". Under the previous policy, if a person was once found to be eligible for a work visa initially, they would usually be considered for extension of their visa. But now for each extension, they need to prove to the federal authorities that they are still eligible for the visa they apply for.

### **Jacinda Ardern cheered as Prime Minister of New Zealand.**

On 26th October Jacinda Ardern got chosen as Prime Minister of New Zealand. Winston Peters leader of New Zealand First and Greens supported Jacinda's Labor Party to form a coalition government and with that the 37 year old Jacinda became the youngest New Zealand female leader in 150 years. The victorious lady outshone National party leader Bill English. Jacinda Ardern's fame gave rise to a phenomenon called Jacindamania in New Zealand. She succeeded Andrew Little as the leader of the Labor party. Now the lady has become the third female Prime Minister of New Zealand after Dame Jenny Shipley and Helen Clark.

### **Catalonia is relishing Independence!**

On 27th October the parliament of Catalonia has declared independence from Spain. The decision was made via a ballot in Barcelona in which 70 votes came in favour and 10 votes went against while two popped as blank ballots. The move came when Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy dismissed the Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and his cabinet and deployed Madrid to directly administer the region. The constitutional status of Catalonia has become the subject of a dispute between the Kingdom of Spain, which views it as an autonomous community within Spain, and the Generalitat de Catalunya, which views it as an independent republic following a unilateral declaration of independence from Spain. Mariano has called snap Catalan elections on December 21st to "restore normality". Geographically the autonomous community of Catalonia occupies a triangular area in the northeastern corner of Spain. It is bordered by France and Andorra to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the east, the autonomous community of Valencia to the south, and the autonomous community of Aragon to the west.

### **Burundi walked out of International Criminal Court.**

On 28th October Burundi became first nation to leave International Criminal Court as the court roasted the African nation with too much of its attention. The withdrawal unfolds a story that reveals that earlier U.N. commission of inquiry reported crimes against humanity, including killings and sexual violence in Burundi and pleaded the ICC to open an investigation for the same and International Criminal Court being an international tribunal exercised its authority to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Burundi's justice minister called this move of ICC withdrawal "a great achievement" in reinforcing the country's independence. Aimee Laurentine Kanyana also called on police and prosecutors to respect human rights so that "white people" won't have "false proofs to rely on in

accusing Burundi.” While Matt Cannock, Amnesty International’s head of international justice, condemned this move as “a cynical attempt to evade justice.”

### **India & Japan are in for anti-submarine warfare exercise.**

On 29th October three day anti-submarine warfare exercise of India and Japan began in the Indian Ocean. The exercise engaged a P-8 I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti Submarine Warfare airplane of Indian Navy and 2 P-3 Orion Anti Submarine Warfare airplane of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. Marine security and freedom of navigation have become significant issues of concern for nations. Earlier in July 2017 India, Japan and United States organized a trilateral anti-submarine warfare exercise in Malabar.

### **Partnership Summit 2017 of India & UAE visited the door.**

The two day India-UAE Partnership Summit on ‘Investment execution’ commenced on 30th October in Dubai. The summit was on purpose of increasing bilateral trade and speculation between the participating nations. It was organized under the Business Leaders Forum of the UAE Ministry of Economy. Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari; Navdeep Singh Suri, diplomat of India to UAE, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairman and MD of Biocon Limited, Sultan bin Saeed-al-Mansouri, UAE Minister of Economy, Dr Ahmed-Al-Banna, UAE Diplomat to India were the orators at the summit. Healthcare, tourism, infrastructure and education were discussed at length.

### **31st October got celebrated as World Cities Day 2017.**

Entire world observed 31st October as World Cities Day on 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities' subtheme. 'Better City, Better Life' is the general theme on which the day drives and every year, a different sub-theme is chosen. The day cheers accomplishments of urbanization and addresses specific challenges which trigger as outcome of urbanization. The subtheme views urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion. The aim is to erect cities that can serve as engines of prosperity and centres of cultural and social well-being. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) instituted 31st October as World Cities Day through its resolution 68/239.

### **Ease of Doing Business rankings saw India at 100th position.**

World Bank released ‘Ease of Doing Business’ index on 31st October in which India made a shift to 100th position from 130th Position of last year among 190 countries. The shift reflects economic improvement of country. Reforming to Create Jobs’ report ranked 190 countries on the basis of a combined score on 10 parameters viz. Starting a business, Dealing with construction permits, Getting electricity, Registering property, Getting credit, Protecting minority investors, Paying taxes, Trading across borders, Enforcing contracts and Resolving insolvency. India has improved its stance in getting electricity, resolving insolvency, providing credit, protecting minority shareholders and taxation reforms. This year India emerged as the only country to have achieved such a significant shift.

### **China launched World’s First Hydrogen Tram!**

In October last week China brought world’s first hybrid electric tram on wheels in Tangshan, north China’s Hebei Province. It is being powered by hydrogen fuel which is a big step in the application of green energy in public transport. It is interesting to note that the tram emits only water during its operation. It is free of nitrogen oxides as the temperature of the reaction inside hydrogen fuel cells is controlled under 100 degrees Celsius. The tram has three carriages with 66 seats and it can run for 40 kilometers at a maximum speed of 70 kilometers per hour after being refilled with 12 kilograms of hydrogen.

### **Israel-India air exercise 'Blue Flag-17' fluttered in the air.**

November 2nd flagged two-week-long multilateral air exercise 'Blue Flag-17' between India and Israel. The team of 45-member contingent of the air force under Group Captain Maluk Singh VSM is participating in this event from Indian side. It consists of personnel from various combat elements of the IAF. This bi-annual multilateral exercise is bent upon strengthening military cooperation amongst participating nations. The exercise has begun in the Uvda Air Force Base in Israel and it will continue till 16 November 2017.

### **World's highest motorable road appeared in Ladakh.**

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed the world's highest motorable road in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. It passes via Umlingla Top at a height of over 19,300 feet. The 86 km long strategic road links Chisumle and Demchok villages, located 230 Kms from Leh. The construction is an accomplishment of 'Project Himank' of the organisation. The project posed life threatening challenges for the organization. It faced odd and adverse conditions viz. minus 10-20 degrees Celsius temperature during peak summer to minus 40 degrees in winters and 50% less Oxygen level in comparison to the normal places of this region which challenged efficacy of manpower and machines. It triggered serious health problems like loss of memory, eyesight and high blood pressure.

### **Collins Dictionary highlighted 'Fake news'!**

On 2nd November Collins Dictionary adjudged 'Fake news' as Word of the Year 2017. The term 'Fake news' gained popularity via US President Donald Trump. 'Fake news' is defined as 'false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting'. According to UK-based lexicographer the use of term 'fake news' registered a 365 % hike in the last one year. The term 'Fake news' is said to have taken place of the term 'Brexit' which was named as the definitive word in year 2016 after the June 2016 referendum in favour of the UK's exit from the EU.

### **Where did Aung San Suu Kyi go wrong?**

On 3rd November the UK institution, Glasgow City Council withdrew an honour bestowed upon Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi on account of the ongoing Rohingya crisis in which Myanmar Army repressed Rohingya minority as a result around 1 million of Rohingya people have fled their homes to refugee camps in Bangladesh. Nobel Peace laureate Suu Kyi is Myanmar's de-facto leader who received the Freedom of Glasgow in 2009. In past she was also bestowed the 'Freedom of Sheffield' and the 'Freedom of Oxford' for her long struggle for democracy. But her "wilful ignorance" of the Rohingya crisis stripped her of all these accolades. She is accused of allowing ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. Her apathy towards the human rights atrocities occurring under her watch has drifted away all the honors which she received in past.

### **Global Clubfoot Conference stepped in New Delhi.**

On 3rd November Global Clubfoot Conference was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in collaboration with Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) organized this event in which Doctors from across 20 nations and Indian states became active participants. 'Clubfoot' is a birth defect in which one or both feet are rotated inwards and downwards and the affected foot, calf, and leg may become smaller than the other. This defect is often associated with distal arthrogryposis or myelomeningocele.

### **World solemnized burning of rice sheaves.**

On 5th November World Tsunami Awareness Day got celebrated across the globe on 'Reduce the Number of Affected People' theme. The day coincided with "Sendai Seven Campaign" which is meant to reduce the

number of victims of disasters across the world. The day spread awareness about matters related to the dangers of tsunami. It emphasized on the significance of early warning systems in order to soothe the damage from devastating natural hazard. The observation of the day has an interesting background. Flashback shows that in year 1854 a villager of Wakayama Prefecture, Japan discerned the advent of tsunami and had set fire to rice sheaves on the top of a hill to save the villagers from impending tsunami after a high-intensity

#### **An abrupt end of a Saudi prince.**

5th November punctuated life chapter of Saudi Prince Mansour bin Muqrin with a full stop. The deceased Prince was Deputy Governor of Asir province and son of another former crown prince, who was on journey with many officials when the helicopter crashed near Yemen border. Besides this a day before Saudi Arabia intercepted a ballistic missile which travelled from Yemen, near Riyadh airport. It is worth recalling here that Prince Mansour's father, Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz, was pushed aside by his half-brother King Salman a few months after he took the throne in year 2015.

**Multi-radio telescope project brought India & South Africa together.** November gave India and South Africa an opportunity to explore evolution of galaxies via Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project. This multi-nation multi radio telescope project will appear in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, where the view of the Milky Way Galaxy is best and radio interference is least. The project would raise world's most powerful radio telescope that would detect invisible gas and reveal areas of space obscured by cosmic dust even in cloudy sky conditions. The telescope is expected to become fully functional by 2020s. Apart from this the two nations will carry a number of key science programmes.

#### **World's highest rail bridge has got manifested.**

On 5th November Indian Railway inaugurated main arch on world's highest bridge on River Chenab in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. It links the critical Katra-Banihal section of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Line (USBRL) project. This 1.3km long bridge appeared at cost of Rs1250 crore. The bridge has been constructed 359 metres above river Chenab. It is five times higher than Delhi's Qutub Minar and 35 metres higher than the Eiffel tower. The bridge is meant to reduce the journey hour between Jammu and Srinagar to five and a half hours. The trains will be able to run at speed of 100 kilometres/hour on it. It is worth knowing that cable crane arrangement between the two ends of the bridge viz. Kauri end and Bakkal end is the world's longest cable crane arrangement.

#### **International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement won Guinea's approval.**

On 6th November Republic of Guinea ratified International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. With this, Guinea has become the 15th nation to ratify the agreement and has joined the row of 14 other nations viz. India, France, Bangladesh, Fiji, Comoros, Ghana, Nauru, Niger, Mali, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan and Tuvalu that have given their consent earlier. The point to remember here is that having gained approval of 15 nations ISA will now be an international legal body and this ISA framework agreement will come into effect on 6th December 2017. It is worth recalling here that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande jointly launched this International Solar Alliance Pact on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015.

#### **China introduces the Asia's largest island-building vessel.**

In November 2017, China has launched a massive ship, 'The Tian Kun Hao' which is also described as "Magic Island Maker" is Asia's largest dredging vessel. It is capable of digging 6,000 cubic meters an hour, which is equivalent to three standard swimming pools. It is a larger version of the one China used to dredge sand, mud, and coral for transforming reefs and islets in the South China Sea into artificial islands capable of hosting

military installations. Its displacement is 17000 metric ton and the deck is 140-meter-long. It has the potential of breaking the underwater rock and transferring the suck out substances upto 15 kilometers. The testing of the ship will be completed in June 2018.

#### **Business Optimism Index (BOI) Released.**

As per the recent Grant Thornton International Business Report, India has slipped to the 7th position in the Business Optimism Index (BOI). The survey suggests that this ranking is showing the clear sign of lag in the economy. According to the Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR), Indonesia topped the index and was followed by Finland, the Netherlands, Philippines, Austria, and Nigeria respectively. As per the quarterly global survey on business optimism, Indian businesses have expressed low confidence over revenue expectations in the next 12 months.

#### **UNESCO's executive board re-invoked India.**

On 9th November United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) 's executive board re-elected India as one of its executive board members at the 39th session of the General Conference of the UNESCO in Paris. The General Conference which is held in every two years had representatives of the States Members of the organisation. Member States and Associate Members along with observers for non-Member States, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) participated in this conference. It is worth knowing that this conference is meant to set policies and the guidelines of work for the organisation.

#### **Sanjeev Kaushik will enjoy SEBI's Whole-time Membership.**

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed Sanjeev Kaushik a whole-time member of the board on 9th November. He has succeeded Ajay Tyagi for upcoming three years. He is a 1992-batch IAS officer of the Kerala cadre and Chairman and Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFCL). Presently the board has Ajay Tyagi as Chairman, Gurumoorthy Mahalingam, S. Raman, Madhabi Puri Buch as its Whole Time Members. Shaktikanta Das, N.S. Vishwanathan, Arun P. Sathe and Tapan Ray as its Part Time Members.

#### **UNHCR became recipient of Mother Teresa Award 2017.**

On 9th November the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) got chosen as recipient of Harmony Foundation's Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2017 for its exceptional work across the globe. 'Compassion Beyond Borders' was the theme of the Harmony Foundation for this year. UNHCR volunteers incessantly work in areas under crisis and provides humanitarian aid to countless people internally displaced by conflicts and helps stateless people all over the world. The revered organization will receive this award on 10th December 2017 on the occasion of the celebrations of the unique legacy of Mother Teresa, popularly known as the 'Saint of The Gutters'. This award was instituted by Harmony Foundation in year 2005. Dalai Lama, Malala Yousefzai, Medicine Sans Frontiers, Anna Hazare, Colin Gonsalves were previous recipients of this award.

#### **Agriculture became the reason.**

On 10th November India & Philippines inked MoU for agriculture. Under umbrella of this MoU the two nations will share best agricultural practices in rice production and processing, multi cropping system, dryland farming systems, bio-organic farming, solid and water conservation and management, soil fertility, sericulture, agro forestry and livestock improvement. The MoU laid foundation for Joint Working Group which is comprised of the representatives of the two nations who will meet once in every two years alternatively in India and Philippines.

### **Times world university rankings for 'Life sciences' went live!**

On 11th November Times Higher Education released its world university rankings on 'Life sciences' subject. Stanford University, the University College of London, Princeton University, Harvard University and Duke University occupied the top five ranks. Although no footprints of Indian institutions were traced among top 100 yet IISc managed to make a mark in the rank range of 200 to 500. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore topped the 201-250 rank band. It was spotted at 14th position in the overall ranking among BRICS countries and got 27th rank among Asian universities. After IISc, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay was recognized in the 251-300 band and Aligarh Muslim University and IIT Delhi made presence in the 301-400 band. India's top ten universities in life sciences as per Times Higher Education are Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Aligarh Muslim University, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Annamalai University, University of Calcutta, University of Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee and Panjab University.

### **Demise of Former Nepal PM Kirti Nidhi Bista.**

On 11th November former Nepal PM Kirti Nidhi Bista died of cancer at the age of 90. The deceased had served thrice as Prime Minister of Nepal from 1969 to 1970, 1971 to 1973 and 1977 to 1979. Lamenting at his death Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba tweeted "I'm deeply saddened at the passing away of Kirti Nidhi Bista. He was an epitome of simplicity and integrity, and will always be remembered as a great soul. My heart goes out to his bereaved family."

### **14th November dyed World Diabetes Day.**

International Diabetes Federation observed this day to promote better diabetes management amongst victims of this disease across the globe. Diabetes is a group of metabolic diseases characterized by high blood sugar which happens when pancreas of body fails to produce sufficient insulin hormone or body fails to cope with low insulin condition. There are basically two types of diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is related to genetics and an autoimmune response to the sudden trigger. Type 2 diabetes is linked to a couple of factors like sedentary lifestyle, poor overall diet, having high blood pressure, being overage etc. To help prevent diabetes one must intake healthy balanced diet along with fresh fruits.

### **Innovation in electricity electrified the world.**

In November 2017 researchers of Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology developed a thin, flexible special rubber that produces electricity on stretching and compressing. The rubber has been made of polar nanoparticles and an elastomer - silicone in the prototype which can convert mechanical movements into electrical charges. The rubber film when mechanically stressed changes internal polarisation and generates current. In this innovation researchers have succeeded in rendering elastomers piezoelectric properties. This invention can be used in building pressure sensors, for example on compression of material an electrical impulse is produced that can be received and understood by devices; creating new type of control buttons; making sensitive skin for robots that can feel (pressure) touches; obtaining energy from the human body and powering pacemakers or other implanted devices which will end the need for invasive operations to change the battery.

**10th South Asia Economic Summit knocked Nepal's door.**

On 14th November the 10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) opened eyes in Kathmandu today. "Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia" is the theme of this 3-day summit. National Planning Commission and Ministry of Commerce of Nepal and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Nepal together arranged this event. Around 200 participants including ministers, members of parliament, former MPs, ambassadors, government officials, researchers, eminent experts and thinkers are participants of this event. It is worth knowing that the SAES aims at aggregating stakeholders from the government, private sector, research/academic community and civil society to share innovative and actionable ideas for consideration by the region's policymakers and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

CAREER FLITE

## **Sports News**

### **Indian pair wins a gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2017.**

A mixed pair of Jemson Ningthoujam and Ankita Bhakat has won the gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2017 at Rosario, Argentina. In the World Archery Youth Championship, India has won three medals. This is India's first world title at the youth championships since Deepika Kumari's victories in 2009 and 2011. India also bagged one silver and one bronze in a promising show by the youngsters. In the final match, they defeated Russian opponents by 6-2. India also took a bronze medal in the compound cadet women's event when Khushbu Dhayal, Sanchita Tiwari and Divya Dhawal defeated their opponents from Great Britain 212-206 in the play-off.

### **India qualifies for AFC Asian Cup 2019.**

India has qualified for the 2019 AFC Cup after they defeated Macau by 4-1 in a qualifying round at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. Rowllin Borges opened the scoring with a fine volley in the 28th minute, skipper Sunil Chhetri restored the lead, after the hosts conceded one, with a strike in the 60th minute, while Macau conceded an own goal through defender Lam Seng in the 70th minute to dig their own grave at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. The fourth goal was scored by Jeje Lalpekhlua (90+2) after being assisted by Chhetri. For Macau, Nicholas Tarrao scored a goal in the 37th minute. With this victory, Indian will make its fourth appearance in the continental event. For the first time in 1964, India competed in this tournament.

### **Governor's Gold Cup gone to Mohun Bagan for 10th time.**

On 15th October Mohun Bagan defeated Partha Chakra by 1-0 to clinch the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament for the 10th time in the final at Paljor Stadium, at Gangtok. GA Kramahs scored the winning goal for Mohun Bagan. It is worth knowing that this Sikkim Governor's Gold Cup is the only tournament which is incessantly breathing for the last 31 years.

### **India pulled Pool A 10th men's Asia Cup hockey tournament.**

On 15th October India outshone Pakistan by 3-1 in 2017 Hockey Asia Cup at Dhaka, Bangladesh. From Indian side Chinglesnsana Singh, Ramandeep Singh and Harmanpreet Singh scored one goal each while Ali Shan scored a goal for Pakistan. With this win, India finished on top of Pool A with nine points from three games while Pakistan had to satisfy itself with the second spot with four points. Prior to this India accomplished edge over Japan by 5-1 and Bangladesh by 7-0.

### **Denmark Open Superseries followed K Srikanth.**

On 22nd October ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth won Denmark Open Superseries trophy of Badminton. Kidambi defeated Lee Hyun-il of South Korea by 21-10, 21-5 to clinch his third Super Series title of the year and fifth overall. This was the first confrontation of Srikanth and Lee. With that Kidambi Srikanth ended India's 38-year wait for 2nd trophy in men's singles.

**Image of Cristiano Ronaldo conjured up for FIFA Men's Player title.** Cristiano Ronaldo scored the goal of the Best FIFA Men's Player award for a second straight year. He succeeded in gaining edge over his regular rivals Lionel Messi and Neymar at the 2017 award ceremony in London on 23rd October. Besides him the ceremony brought Lieke Martens of Barcelona and the Netherlands in light as the best female player. Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane and Netherlands' Sarina Wiegman were seen marching for the best men's coach and the best female coach awards respectively. Celtic lured the fan award and Arsenal's Olivier Giroud picked the Puskas award for the best goal of 2017 for his 'scorpion kick' against Crystal Palace in January.

### **BCCI added Puducherry in its associate member list.**

The Apex Court appointed Committee of Administrators (COA) for representing Puducherry in the Indian cricket board BCCI on 25th October. Total three parties claimed to represent Puducherry in the BCCI and the matter was sent to the Supreme Court which gave its verdict in favor of Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP). The Committee of Administrators (CoA) has chosen Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP) as an associate member of the BCCI. This associate membership implies that Puducherry will be allowed to play the Ranji Trophy next year and it will also be able to host both international matches and the Board's domestic games.

### **Men's Singles Title in French Open trailed Kidambi Srikanth.**

On 29th October Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth won men's singles title of the French Open Superseries badminton which took place in Paris. Srikanth defeated Japan's Kenta Nishimoto by 21-14, 21-13 in the final. This is Kidambi's 4th title in the 5th super series. He had earlier conquered the Denmark Open, Indonesia Open and the Australia Open. He is the 4th in the world to win 4 men's singles titles after Lin Dan, Lee Chong Wei and Chen Long.

### **Delhi Olympic Games will commence in December.**

26th October broke the news of arrival of Delhi Olympic Games in upcoming December. The Delhi State Olympic Association will conduct this sport event from 9th December to 18th December 2017. Sport events in 28 disciplines along with hockey, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, swimming, karate, wushu will take place in 25 different stadiums in various parts of Delhi including Indira Gandhi Stadium, Talkatora Stadium, National Stadium, Thyagaraj Sports Complex, Siri Fort etc. Olympic wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt is the brand ambassador of Delhi Olympic Games 2017.

### **Second straight win for India came rolling via Hockey.**

On 30th October Indian women's Hockey team recorded second straight win in Asia Cup after defeating China by 4-1 at the Asia Cup at Kakamigahara in Japan. Gurjit Kaur, Neha Goyal, Navjot Kaur and Rani Rampal scored 4 goals for India. And Qiuxia Cui scored 1 goal for China.

### **Hong Kong will host 2022 Gay Games.**

On 30th October the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) selected Hong Kong over Guadalajara in Mexico and Washington D.C., via vote in Paris. With that it became the first Asian city to stage the sports and cultural event. It is worth knowing that around 17 cities wished to host the 2022 Gay Games and among them 13 were from United States alone. The Federation of Gay Games remarked "The impact that the Gay Games has in host cities is incredible in terms of culture, sport, economic impact, history and most importantly elevating all matters of LGBT+ equality," in a statement.

### **10-metre air pistol made Heena win Gold!**

On 31st October Heena Sidhu coined gold medal in 10-metre air pistol event at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in Brisbane. She shot a combined score of 626.2 to lure the top honours. Besides her other Indians, Deepak Kumar clinched a bronze medal in the 10-metre air rifle event and London Olympic bronze-medallist Gagan Narang ended fourth, while Ravikumar managed fifth position.

### **Men in blue acquired edge over Kiwis.**

On 1st November India defeated New Zealand by 53 runs in the first Twenty-20 of the three-match series against New Zealand at the Feroz Shah Kotla Ground in New Delhi. New Zealand won the toss and invited host to bat first. The match witnessed 158-run partnership between Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma which

became the highest opening partnership for India in T-20 Internationals. Both the players scored 80 runs each. New Zealand managed just 149 runs at loss of 8 wickets and lost the match by 53 runs. Shikhar Dhawan emerged as man of the match. Here it is worth knowing that this match was the perfect farewell for seasoned pacer Ashish Nehra who was playing the final international match of his career that started in 1999. The next T-20 will be played in Rajkot on Saturday.

#### **Kidambi Srikanth: World No. 2 shuttler.**

In world of Badminton, November fetched World No 2 ranking for India's ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth. Earlier he was placed 4th behind Korea's Son Wan Ho and China's Lin Dan, both of whom have slipped down by 1 position. He succeeded in making his way into five finals this year, and booked four titles in his name so far. He has 73,403 points while World Champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark reigns the rankings with 77,930 points.

#### **Indian women's hockey team sipped the 2017 Asia Cup.**

On 5th November the Indian women hockey team claimed the Asia Cup hockey title and reserved berth in next year's World Cup. India defeated China in final at Kakamigahara in Japan by 5-4 through a shootout. India succeeded in taking lead by virtue of Navjot Kaur. South Korea grabbed the third place after defeating Japan by 1-0 earlier on this day. This was the second Women's Asia Cup title for India. It won this title for the first time in year 2004, when it had outshone Japan in New Delhi.

#### **India succeeded in hatching T20 Cricket series.**

On 7th November India defeated New Zealand by 6 runs in T20 series at Greenfield Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram. India batted first and posted 67 runs at loss of 5 wickets in the stipulated 8 overs of the rain curtailed third and final match. In reply New Zealand just managed only 61 at loss of 6 wickets. Jasprit Bumrah took two wickets and Manish Pandey became the highest scorer with 17 runs for India. International

#### **Two hat-tricks in one game went in Mitchell Starc's name.**

On 7th November Australian cricketer Mitchell Starc became the first man to take two hat-tricks in the same first-class game in Australia. He is the 27-year-old left-arm paceman who not only became the first bowler to complete the feat in the same Shield match in 39 years but also the eighth player in first-class cricket history to do so. He made New South Wales gain edge over Western Australia by 171 runs in the Sheffield Shield in Sydney. He dismissed Jason Behrendorff, David Moody and Simon Mackin in WA's first innings to complete his first career hat-trick and then got both Behrendorff and Moody again off the final two deliveries of his 15th over.

#### **MC Mary Kom wins Gold in Asian Boxing Championship 2017.**

On 8th November, Indian boxer MC Mary Kom has won the gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championship 2017 in 48 Kg Category. In the final match, she defeated Hyang Mi Kim of North Korea by 5-0 points. This was her 5th gold medal in the Asian Boxing Championship. In her entire boxing career, Mary Kom has won four gold medals and one silver medal in the Asian Boxing Championship. This is Mary Kom's first international gold medal since the 2014 Asian Games and her first medal in over a year.

**ICC T-20 Rankings saluted the top notch Kohli.**

ICC released Twenty-20 Rankings for Batsmen on 9th November. Kohli contributed 104 runs in the recent T20 series against New Zealand for India that helped him cementing this number one position. He has gained 13 points and with that he got edge over Australia's Aaron Finch by some points. Other Indian batsmen Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan achieved 21st and 45th positions respectively. In the Bowlers rankings, paceman Bhuvneshwar Kumar was spotted on 26th position and spinner Yuzvendra Chahal seized the 30th place.

**Paes & Purav wooed Knoxville Challenger men's doubles title.**

On 12th November Leander Paes and Purav Raja won Knoxville Challenger men's doubles title at Tennessee in United States after defeating American-Australian pair of James Cerretani and John Patrick Smith by 7-6, 7-6. The history of winners reveals that Leander Paes booked three Challenger level titles this season pairing with Canadian Adil Shamasdin and American Scott Lipsky. Purav Raja before teaming up with Paes had conquered Bordeaux Challenger with Divij Sharan and also made the final of the Chennai Open.

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS TESTS

- Which bollywood personality has been honored with 2017 PHDCCI Lifetime Achievement Award?  
(a) Amitabh Bachchan (b) Dilip Kumar (c) Sharmila Tagore  
(d) Hema Malini (e) Dharmendra
- Who has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS)?  
(a) Ajit Kumar P (b) P N Murugesan (c) Karambir Singh  
(d) D K Dewan (e) None of these
- The United Nations World Cities Day (WCD) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 28th October (b) 29th October (c) 30th October  
(d) 31st October (e) 1st November
- Which among the following countries has won the FIFA Under-17 World cup 2017?  
(a) Spain (b) Brazil (c) England  
(d) India (e) Switzerland
- Shinzo Abe has been elected as the \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister of Japan.  
(a) 94<sup>th</sup> (b) 93<sup>rd</sup>  
(c) 95<sup>th</sup> (d) 92<sup>nd</sup> (e) 96<sup>th</sup>
- Which country has started the world's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells?  
(a) Japan (b) India (c) China  
(d) Singapore (e) France
- The joint training exercise "PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017" has started between India and which among the following countries?  
(a) Kazakhstan (b) Iran (c) Myanmar  
(d) Israel (e) Bangladesh
- According to the latest Forbes Most Powerful Women list, who is the most powerful woman in India?  
(a) Roshni Nadar Malhotra (b) Shobhana Bhartia (c) Priyanka Chopra  
(d) Indra Nooyi (e) Chanda Kochhar
- Who has been chosen for Kerala's top literary award "Ezhuthachan Puraskaram-2017"?  
(a) K. Satchidanandan (b) Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri  
(c) C. Radhakrishnan (d) Puthussery Ramachandran  
(e) None of these
- The Ministry of Finance has increased the maximum age of joining the National Pension System (NPS) Private Sector from 60 years to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 63 years (b) 64 years (c) 65 years  
(d) 66 years (e) 67 years

11. Who among the following wrote the book “Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams”?  
(a) Srijan Pal Singh (b) Y.S. Rajan (c) Saji Mathew  
(d) Subroto Bagchi (e) None of these
12. The term “Fake news” has been official word of the year 2017 by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Oxford Dictionary (b) Collins dictionary  
(c) Century Dictionary (d) Cambridge Dictionary (e) Urban Dictionary
13. The World Food India (WFI) 2017 has started in which of the following cities?  
(a) Mumbai (b) Pune (c) Jaipur  
(d) Odisha (e) New Delhi
14. What is the State Bank’s current Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR)?  
(a) 7.85% (b) 7.75% (c) 7.65%  
(d) 7.95% (e) 7.55%
15. Which country has won the women’s Asia Cup Hockey Title 2017?  
(a) Japan (b) India (c) China  
(d) Bangladesh (e) Korea
16. World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 4th November (b) 6th November  
(c) 5th November (d) 7th November (e) 3rd November
17. Which among the following Indian temples has won the UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017?  
(a) Konark Sun Temple  
(b) Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple  
(c) Ramanathaswamy Temple  
(d) Kamakhya Temple  
(e) Brihadeshwara Temple
18. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has built the world’s highest motorable road in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Poonch (b) Kargil (c) Leh  
(d) Samba (e) Ladakh
19. Who has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to India ?  
(a) Richard Verma (b) Mark Warner (c) Kenneth Juster  
(d) David Friedman (e) None of these
20. Who has been honoured with the “Bharat Gaurav Award” – 2017 in Science and Technology category?  
(a) Nikhil Chopra (b) Dhruv Saxena  
(c) Abhishek Rawat (d) Anil K. Tripathi (e) None of these

## ANSWERS

- 1.(c) Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore has been honoured with the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in New Delhi for her contribution in the field of cinema.
- 2.(a) Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, AVSM, VSM has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS) in October 2017. He succeeded Vice Admiral Karambir Singh.
- 3.(d) The United Nations World Cities Day (WCD) is observed every year on 31st October to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world. The theme for the year 2017 is "Innovative Governance, Open Cities"
- 4.(c) England has won the FIFA Under-17 World cup 2017. In the final match, they defeated Spain by 5-2 goals. Phil Foden of England was given best player of the tournament and he was awarded "Golden Ball" while Rhian Brewster of England was awarded Golden Shoe for scoring second highest goals in the tournament.
- 5.(c) Shinzo Abe has been elected as the 95th Prime Minister of Japan
- 6.(c) China has started the world's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells. With water being its only emission, the tram emits no pollutants. No nitrogen oxides will be produced as the temperature of the reaction inside hydrogen fuel cells is controlled under 100 degrees Celsius.
- 7.(a) The 14-day joint training exercise "PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017" has started between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. The purpose of the joint exercise is to enhance the military ties between the two countries and also achieving interoperability between the two armies.
- 8.(e) According to the latest Forbes Most Powerful Women list, CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar is the most powerful woman in India. Kochhar became the first Indian woman to receive the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Citizenship in last May. Globally, Chanda Kochhar stood at the 32nd spot on Forbes Most Powerful Women list.
- 9.(a) Noted Malayalam Poet and literary critic, K. Satchidanandan has been selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2017 for his contributions to Malayalam literature and poetry. This is Kerala government's highest literary honour. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.
- 10.(c) The Ministry of Finance has increased the maximum age of joining the National Pension System (NPS) Private Sector from the existing 60 years to 65 years. Now, any Indian citizen, resident or non-resident, of 60-65 years of age can join the NPS and continue up to the age of 70 years.
- 11.(c) The book "Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams" has been co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John and is published by Bloomsbury. The book has been neatly divided into four

sections : Spark, Resilience, Decision and, Take-off, each based on a dream-quote of the Missile Man of India.

- 12.(b)** The term “Fake news” has been named official word of the year 2017 by Collins dictionary due to its widespread use around the world. The term 'Fake news' was popularised by US President Donald Trump. The term 'Fake news' is defined as 'false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting'.
- 13.(e)** 3-day long World Food India (WFI) 2017 fair has started in New Delhi on 3rd November 2017. The main aim of this fair is to attract \$10 billion investment in food processing sector and to generate 1 million jobs in the next 3 years in India. Near about 200 companies from 30 countries, 18 ministerial and business delegations, etc are participating in this food fair.
- 14.(d)** State Bank of India (SBI) has cut down the benchmark lending rate or the Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 0.05% across maturities. Now, for one year MCLR has come down to 7.95% from 8%. The new rate is effective from 1st November 2017 .
- 15.(b)** India has won the women’s Asia Cup Hockey Title 2017. In the final match, India defeated China by 5-4 goals. With this, India also qualified for World Cup 2018 as Continental champion. Savita Punia was adjudged Goalkeeper-of-the-Tournament while Monica won the Woman-of-the-Match award.
- 16.(c)** World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed every year on 5th November. The theme for the year 2017 is 'Reduce the Number of Affected People'. The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami.
- 17.(b)** The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam in Tamil Nadu has won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific award. It is first temple from Tamil Nadu to grab the prestigious honour from the UN body.
- 18.(e)** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has built the world's highest motorable road at a height of over 19,300 feet. The road has been constructed in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. The 86-kilometre long strategic road has been constructed under 'Project Himank' of the BRO. The road connects Chisumle and Demchok villages.
- 19.(c)** Kenneth Juster, a top economic expert on India, has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to India. His appointment was unanimously confirmed by US Senate. He will succeed Indian-American Richard Verma.
- 20.(d)** Anil K. Tripathi, scientist at Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, has been honoured with the prestigious “Bharat Gaurav Award” – 2017 in Science and Technology stream. He won the award in recognition for his meritorious achievements, outstanding performance and individual excellence throughout his life