

## **7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

- 1. UN ends 13-year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti**  
The UN soldiers left Haiti finishing their 13 year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti.
  - A UN peacekeeping mission helped to maintain order in Haiti through 13 years of political turmoil and disaster.
- 2. India drops a rank, is eighth most valuable nation brand**  
India is ranked the eighth most valuable nation brand while the United States retained its top position and China took the second spot in the league of nations according to Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017.
- 3. International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October**  
International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of the Girl and the International Day of the Girl. October 11, 2012, was the first Day of the Girl.
  - The theme for the year 2017 is 'EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises'.
- 4. US, Israel withdraws from UNESCO:** The US and its ally Israel have announced they will withdraw from the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization, accusing the body of "anti-Israel bias".
  - Heather Nauert, US state department spokesperson, said the US would establish an "observer mission" to replace its representation at the Paris-based agency.
  - Points to Remember**
    - UNESCO's headquarters is in Paris. This organization of the United Nations has been working since 1946.
    - It is known for marking world heritage. Irina Bokova is the secretary General of UNESCO.
- 5. China Overtakes US As World's Largest Ice Cream Producer**  
China has overtaken the US as the world's largest ice cream producer, according to figures published at an industry expo in north China's Tianjin City.
- 6. India 100th on global hunger index:** India has a "serious" hunger problem and ranks 100th out of 119 countries on the global hunger index with a GHI score of 31.4, behind North Korea, Bangladesh and Iraq but ahead of Pakistan, according to a report.
  - The country's serious hunger level is driven by high child malnutrition and underlines need for stronger commitment to the social sector, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) said in its report.
  - India stood at 97th position in last year's rankings. Central African Republic ranked last.
  - Chile, Cuba and Turkey have a GHI score of less than 5 and have ranked as the best nations on the index.

### **NATIONAL**

- 7. President to Inaugurate India Water Week 2017**  
President Shri Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate India Water Week – 2017 on October 10, 2017 in New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari and Union Ministers of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Shri Dr. Satya Pal Singh. The theme of India Water Week – 2017 is "Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth".
- 8. Dr. Mahesh Sharma to inaugurate 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2017'**  
The "Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017" will be held from 7th to 9th October, 2017 in India's 1st World Heritage City i.e Ahmadabad, Gujarat.
  - First Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in November-2015, the Ministry of Culture decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Documentation and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place. Dr. Mahesh Sharma will inaugurate the 6th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav on 7th October 2017 at 7.00 pm at Sabarmati River Front Event Centre, A Block in Ahmadabad.
- 9. First Edition of the ASEAN India Music Festival held in New Delhi**  
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Seher presents the first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival from October 6th-8th 2017 at Purana Quila in New Delhi.
  - The Festival is being organised to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
  - The theme for this commemorative year "Shared Values, Common Destiny".
- 10. Three-day Global Medical Conference Begins In Chandigarh**  
A three-day international conference, aimed at engaging industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs, began at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) in Chandigarh.
  - The aim of the conference 'IMTechCon 2017' is to engage industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs globally.
- 11. ISRO to set up research centre in Guwahati**  
The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up a research centre in Guwahati for start ups, academicians,

environmentalists and entrepreneurs.

- ISRO would set up the exclusive research facility in Assam to explore the possibility of using geospatial technology, which include data generated through global positioning system (GPS), geographical information systems (GIS) and satellite remote sensing for expediting the development of Assam, officials said.
- Remote sensing technology would be used for accurate flood warning system, prevention of soil erosion and land slides to name a few.

#### **12. India to conduct the First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017'**

The First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2017' (BIMSTEC DMEEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency from October 10-13, 2017 in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). This Exercise will be a platform for sharing Best Practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC member countries.

- The main focus of the BIMSTEC DMEEx-2017 will be on testing the region's preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-Governmental interaction/dialogue/agreements for immediate deployment of regional resources for disaster response.

#### **13. Dialogue of Civilizations – IV being Organized from 8th – 15th October, 2017**

'4th Dialogue of Civilizations' is being jointly organized by the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture and National Geographic in New Delhi from 8th to 15th October, 2017.

- The theme of the Conference is "Technology and Civilization".
- In 2013, the National Geographic Society initiated a five-year annual conference called "The Dialogue of Civilizations,"

#### **14. 9th Annual 'World Dental Show 2017' opens in Mumbai**

The 3-day international exhibition -9th Annual 'World Dental Show 2017' has opened Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai.

- It is an integral part of Asia's biggest dental event. The exhibition was hosted by the Indian Dental Association (IDA).

#### **15. SC appoints amicus on a plea seeking reprobe of Gandhi murder**

The Supreme Court put some searching questions on a plea seeking reopening of the investigation into the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

- After a brief hearing, a bench comprising Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao appointed senior advocate and former additional solicitor general Amrendra Sharan as amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter.

#### **16. Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Saudi Aramco India Office**

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated Saudi Aramco's ARAMCO ASIA INDIA office in Gurugram jointly with Mr Amin H Al-Nasser, President and CEO of Saudi Aramco. The office is located at Two Horizon Tower, Gurugram.

- Saudi Aramco through its subsidiary ARAMCO Asia India (AAI) established its formal business presence in India in 2016. AAI would now formally engage in crude oil and LPG marketing, engineering & technical services, and other business development activities.

#### **17. Prez launches Rs 100 crore clean water initiative**

President Ram Nath Kovind launched Mata Amritanandamayi Math's Rs 100 crore clean water initiative for rural India at the math headquarters in Kerala.

- inaugurated the 'Jivamritam' filtration system, envisaged to provide clean drinking water to 10 million villagers across the nation. The programme was organised as part of the 64th birthday celebrations of spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, popularly known as 'Amma' among her devotees.

#### **18. Prime Minister launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)**

"Let no child suffer from any vaccine-preventable disease".

- This was stated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat. Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.
- The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by 2020 earlier. With the launch of IMI, achievement of the target has now been advanced.

#### **19. PM lays foundation stone for Bhadbhut barrage project**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs 4,337-crore Bhadbhut Barrage project which aims to stop the ingress of salinity along the Narmada river.

- Modi, on the second day of his two-day visit to poll-bound Gujarat, also flagged off a new train between Udhna in Surat and Jaynagar in Bihar.
- The prime minister also inaugurated various neem-related projects of the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers Company Limited (GNFC), and said the idea of 100 per cent neem-coated urea, conceived by his government, has stopped its pilferage and helped in addressing the problem of urea shortage faced by farmers.

#### **20. Vice President to inaugurate the third International Conference on Yoga**

Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the two-day 'International Conference on Yoga for Wellness' at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

- The conference is being organized by Ministry of AYUSH as a part of commemorating the celebration of 21st June

as International Day of Yoga declared by the United Nations.

- The theme of this year's conference will be 'Yoga for Wellness'.

## **21. NMCG Approves Eight Projects worth over Rs 700 Crore**

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crore, out of which four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.

- On sewage management front, a project for pollution abatement in river Ganga at Bally in West Bengal has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 200.07 crore that would include construction of a 40 MLD STP under Hybrid Annuity based PPP model among other works.
- Similarly, construction of a 65 MLD STP under Hybrid Annuity model has been approved for Bhagalpur in Bihar at an estimated project cost of Rs 268.49 crore.
- In Uttar Pradesh, sewage treatment related works at an estimated cost of Rs 213.62 crore have also been approved that includes construction of two STPs (28 MLD + 05 MLD) in Farrukabad and one 2 MLD STP at Bargadiya drain in Fatehpur.
- Pollution abatement works for river Ganga like interception, diversion and treatment of sewage in Bithoor have also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 13.40 crore.
- Three projects of treatment of drains using bio-remediation technology have also been given a green signal at an estimated cost of Rs 4.29 crore. These are for Rajapur drain and Digha drain in Patna and Laksar drain in Haridwar.
- One project for pollution inventorization, assessment and surveillance on river Ganga has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 42.9 crore. Continuation of an ongoing exercise, the project aims to strengthen environmental regulation and water quality monitoring vis-à-vis river Ganga.

## **22. Germany to help Indian Railways to increase speed**

German Railways will assist Indian Railways to make country's existing rail corridors semi high speed. The semi high speed trains will run at 200 km per hour.

- A joint declaration of Intent was signed between Ministry of Railways and Germany in Rail Bhavan regarding carrying out of feasibility study on existing 643 km Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways by German Railways for increasing the speed of passenger trains to 200 kmph on 50.50 percent cost sharing basis.

## **23. Kempegowda Airport will be India's first Aadhaar-enabled airport**

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is all set to become country's first Aadhaar-enabled airport by 2018.

## **24. MoC between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program"**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)" between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)".

- The Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) is an ambitious program to send Indian technical interns to Japan for on the job training for a period of three to five years.
- It is expected that the MoC will pave the way for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development.

## **25. IALA to change its status to Inter-Governmental Organization**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to change its status from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO).

- The move will facilitate "to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels". It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).

## **26. Cabinet approves SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes to boost Skill India Mission**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore - Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).

- SANKALP is Rs 4,455 crore Centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank whereas STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore - central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance. SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.

## **27. Suresh Prabhu kick-starts "Make in India: Sweden 2017"**

Make in India: Sweden 2017, organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in Stockholm, from October 12-13 aims to enhance Indo-Swedish cooperation and explore new areas of partnership.

## **28. Launch of Mobile Health App 'MedWatch' By the Indian Air Force**

On the occasion of its 85th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch' in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India'.

- 'MedWatch', available on the IAF's AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.

## **29. Union Textiles Minister inaugurates IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017**

The Union Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has urged the exporting fraternity to take care of the welfare of artisans who are the backbone of the sector.

- The Minister said that design and product development play a crucial role in value realisation and in turn in the

benefit that the artisans and producers are able to reap from their products.

- The Minister said this after inaugurating IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017, world's largest handicrafts and gifts fair.
- The fair is being held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, during October 12 - 16, 2017.
- She noted that handicraft exports have witnessed a year-on-year growth of 13.15% in 2016-17 and has touched Rs. 24,392 crores. The Minister appreciated the launch of schemes by EPCH under their CSR programme, for education of children of artisans.
- Smt. Irani added that it is the dream of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that no child in the country should be left illiterate.

## **BUSINESS**

### **30. Axis Bank acquires Freecharge**

The country's third largest private sector lender Axis Bank said it has acquired payments wallet Freecharge for Rs 373 crore in an all-cash deal.

- Sangram Singh has been appointed as the CEO of Freecharge Payment Technologies Private Ltd, it said.

### **31. Vijaya Bank inks MoU with HPCL for digital payments**

Vijaya Bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) for enabling all HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UPI merchant solutions.

- This rollout will empower all petrol pump attendants and LPG delivery personnel to accept digital payments.
- Customers can make payments by scanning a payment QR code, using BHIM Vijaya or any BHIM app that supports payments via UPI.

### **32. RBI imposes restrictions banking business on Oriental Bank of Commerce**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed certain restriction on banking activities of government-owned Oriental Bank of Commerce which has suffered huge losses due to sharp rise in bad loan.

- This will be the seventh bank among the 21 PSU banks to be placed under restrictions since March this calendar year.
- RBI has earlier placed restrictions on six banks which include Dena Bank, Central Bank of India, IDBI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and UCO Bank.

### **33. RBI to launch financial literacy drive in 9 states**

The Reserve Bank will soon launch a financial literacy drive in 80 blocks in nine states on pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases.

- Six NGOs registered with the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund -- CRISIL Foundation, Dhan Foundation, Swadhaar Fin Access, Indian School of Micro Finance for Women (ISMW), Samarjit and the PACE Foundation -- have been selected to execute the pilot project in collaboration with banks.
- The total cost of the pilot project over a period of three years is Rs 18.40 crore.
- The aim of the CFL is to inculcate the habit of making a household budget and recording financial transactions, encourage transactions in savings accounts, and active saving by depositing in banks through fixed deposits and recurring deposits.

### **34. SBI to fund Maharashtra govt's affordable housing schemes**

The State Bank of India (SBI) will soon ink an MoU with the Maharashtra government-owned PSU Shivshahi Purnarvasan Prakalp (SPPL) for financing affordable housing under the State's slum rehabilitation schemes.

- The SBI will make available funds for the construction of affordable housing tenements under the slum rehabilitation schemes, including the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, of the Maharashtra government.
- According to sources in SBI and SPPL, the MoU is expected to promote private sector participation in construction of affordable housing under the slum rehabilitation schemes in Mumbai. The SBI will promote its home loan business with special offers under the SBI Hamara Loan scheme.

### **35. Govt raises stake in IDBI Bank to 77.79%: IDBI Bank said its promoter, the government of India, has increased its stake in the company to 77.79% by acquiring 3.81% shares through preferential allotment. The government earlier had 73.98% stake in IDBI Bank.**

- The government of India has acquired 3.81% shares carrying voting rights in the company due to preferential allotment of equity shares.

### **36. ICICI Bank commits Rs 10 crore for welfare of armed forces**

Country's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank committed a financial assistance of Rs 10 crore to the Indian Armed Forces. The fund will be utilised towards welfare activities and betterment of the families of ex-servicemen who have lost their lives guarding the nation. The contribution would be made in two equal tranches by the bank as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

- A cheque worth Rs 5 crore was handed over to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the initiative.

### **37. World Bank reduces India GDP growth forecast to 7%**

In its South Asia Economic Focus (Fall 2017), the World Bank reduced India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier. After remaining the world's fastest-growing region for eight consecutive quarters, South Asia has slipped to the third position behind East Asia and the Pacific regions, as India's economy slowed to its lowest level in 13 quarters, the World Bank said.

### **38. IMF cuts India's 2017 growth forecast**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) pared its growth forecast for India by half a percentage point to 6.7% for 2017.

- In its latest World Economic Outlook, IMF said the world economy is going through a cyclical upswing that began midway through 2016.
- It raised the global growth estimate marginally for 2017 to 3.6% while flagging downside risks.

### **39. Canara Bank launches first digital branch in Bengaluru**

Canara Bank, which has set an ambitious target of moving to 'paperless' futuristic banking, launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' at Spencer Towers in MG Road, Bengaluru.

- Titled 'CANDI', the branch will provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers.
- The bank, as part of the run-up to its digital foray, has introduced customer-friendly mobile apps which help customers get most of the information related to their accounts from the app without the need to visit the branch.

### **40. SBI to set up country's largest innovation centre at Mumbai**

The nation's largest lender State Bank of India is creating a 15,000-sqft innovation centre in Navi Mumbai investing around Rs 100 crore. The centre, to be built at its Global IT Centre in Belapur in Navi Mumbai, will be the largest innovation centre by any financial services company in the country.

- The innovation centre is part of a Rs 200-crore allocation that the bank has earmarked for innovation last year.

### **41. Bharti Airtel acquires telecom business of Tatas**

Bharti Airtel and Tata announced that they have entered into an understanding to merge Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Limited (TTML) into Bharti Airtel.

- The acquisition is subject to requisite regulatory approvals. The merger is being done on a debt-free cash-free basis.
- As part of the agreement, Bharti Airtel will absorb Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of TTSL and TTML across the country in 19 circles (17 under TTSL and two under TTML).

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **42. Pooja Kapur is next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Macedonia**

Ms. Pooja Kapur, (IFS: 1996) has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Macedonia, with residence in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria.

She is presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria.

### **43. Centre appoints 9 EDs in public sector banks**

The Centre has elevated as many as nine General Managers to Executive Directors in various Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

- Bajrang Singh Shekhawat has been appointed as Executive Director of Central Bank of India.
- Govind N Dongre has been appointed as Executive Director at Punjab & Sind Bank.
- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as an Executive Director at Indian Overseas Bank.
- Matam Venkata Rao has been elevated as an Executive Director at Canara Bank.
- Kulbhushan Jain has been elevated as an Executive Director at Andhra Bank.
- Rajesh Kumar Yadhuvanshi has been elevated as an Executive Director at Dena Bank.
- Chaitanya Gayatri Chinthapalli, has been elevated as an Executive Director at Bank of India.
- S.Krishnan has been elevated as an Executive Director at Syndicate Bank.
- Lingam Venkata Prabhakar has been elevated as an Executive Director at Punjab National Bank.

### **44. Nisha Biswal to head US-India Business Council**

Nisha Biswal, a former state department official, will head the US-India Business Council, a powerful advocacy group of US companies with business interest in India. USIBC is a part of the US Chamber of Commerce, the largest lobbying organisation in the country that wields real political power in Washington.

- Biswal, who was assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia in the Obama administration,

### **45. House panel to look into China-India relations**

A parliamentary committee has decided to examine the whole gamut of Sino-Indian relations, including the border situation.

- The Standing Committee on External Affairs, which will examine the relations between the two Asian powers, is headed by Shashi Tharoor, Congress member of the Lok Sabha.
- The move comes days after Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi had demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain the resumed road-construction by the Chinese near the Doklam plateau.

### **46. Anupam Kher appointed as Chairman FTII**

Shri Anupam Kher, veteran cine star, has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Shri Kher succeeds Shri Gajendra Chauhan.

- Shri Kher who has appeared in over 500 films is a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.
- The veteran star has won many national and international awards including the 'Filmfare Award for Best Performance in a Comic Role' five times.

### **47. Yuvraj named Laureus ambassador**

Mercedes-Benz and Laureus Sport has named Cricketer Yuvraj Singh as their first brand ambassador in India.

- The global auto manufacturer said it had appointed the cricketer to "to bring the change and uplift the society through the power of sports."

### **48. Gautam Bambawale India's next ambassador to China**

Seasoned diplomat Gautam Bambawale, India's high commissioner to Pakistan, was appointed as the country's next envoy to China.

## **AWARDS**

### **49. 2017 Nobel Prize in Peace**

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a

coalition of non-governmental organisations from over 100 countries around the globe.

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured the Geneva-based group “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”

**50. Economics Nobel goes to Richard H. Thaler:** The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 was awarded to US professor Richard H. Thaler "for his contributions to behavioural economics."

- Dr. Thaler (72) has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making.
- Dr. Thaler's contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.

**51. Student from Belarus becomes first-ever Miss Wheelchair World**

A psychology student from Belarus, Aleksandra Chichikova, was chosen Miss Wheelchair World in the first-ever edition of the beauty pageant held in Warsaw. The pageant was organised by the Poland-based Only One Foundation.

- India's Rajalakshmi won the 'Miss Popularity award' at pageant. This is three years after she won Miss Wheelchair India in 2014.

**52. T D Radhakrishnan selected for Vayalar award:** Noted Novelist T D Radhakrishnan's 'Sugandhi Enna Andal Devanayaki' has been selected for this year's prestigious Vayalar award. The award, given for the best literary work in Malayalam.

**53. President of India Presents 18th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award**

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for the year 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**54. Amul named best FMCG co by IAA:** India's largest food products marketing organisation, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMF), which markets the Amul brand of milk and milk products, has been recognised as the country's best Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company in the food sector by the International Advertising Association (IAA).

- Amul was presented the Fifth IAA Leadership Award for this recognition at Mumbai.
- The prestigious awards instituted by the IAA's India Chapter recognise excellence towards contribution in marketing, advertising and media sectors as well as celebrate outstanding achievements of individuals and teams.

**55. Boxing coach Sandhu gets National award for senior citizens**

Long-serving Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu has been honoured with the National Awards for senior citizens by President Ramnath Kovind.

- Sandhu, who has the distinction of coaching both the men and women boxers, was bestowed the honour at a function.

**56. Madhu Valli from USA crowned Miss India Worldwide**

Madhu Valli, an emerging hip hop artist and a student of criminal law at George Mason University in Virginia, has been crowned as Miss India Worldwide 2017. Stephanie Madavane from France was declared runner up at the 26th edition of the beauty pageant held in New Jersey.

## **SPORTS**

**57. India's Anupama wins inaugural snooker meet**

Anupama Ramachandran of India and Dylan Emery of Wales have claimed the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship titles in the girls and boys category, respectively, in St. Petersburg Russia.

- Federation of Billiards Sports of Russia hosted this first ever World Open championships for Under-16 boys and girls.

**58. Sandhu wins first Asian Tour title at Yeangder TPC**

Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu fired a superb two-under 70 to clinch his maiden Asian Tour title at the USD 500,000 Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) in Taipei.

**59. Hamilton roars to Japan win:** Lewis Hamilton romped to victory at the Japanese Grand Prix to close in on a fourth world title after Sebastian Vettel retired with engine failure on lap four.

**60. Ashish Nehra set to retire from International cricket on November 1**

Veteran speedster Ashish Nehra has decided to retire from competitive cricket after the first T20 International against New Zealand at his home ground, Feroz Shah Kotla, on November 1.

**61. FIFA suspends Pakistan from international football**

Pakistan has been suspended from international football because of what global soccer body FIFA described as undue third-party interference in the country's football federation (PFF).

**62. Bengaluru to host World Sudoku, Puzzle Championships**

Bengaluru will host the 12th World Sudoku Championship and the 26th World Puzzle Championship from October 15 to 21, which will witness the participation of over 33 countries.

- After the 2008 World Sudoku Championship that was held in Goa, this is the second time that India will host the top events of the puzzle world from October 15 to 21.

## **DEATHS**

**63. Filmmaker Kundan Shah passes away:** Veteran director Kundan Shah, best known for the dark comedy Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, passed away at his home. He was 69.

\*\*\*\*\* **ALL THE BEST** \*\*\*\*\*