

## **11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **1. 15th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting in Kathmandu**

The working session of the 15th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, BIMSTEC, Ministerial meeting held in Kathmandu.

- India was hosting the first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise in October 2017. "This will help the group countries to develop quicker, coordinated and comprehensive responses to disasters, and provide timely relief and rehabilitation."

#### **About BIMSTEC:-**

- The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**(BIMSTEC) is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia. These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- BIMSTEC Headquarters is situated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The main objective of BIMSTEC is technological and economic co-operation among south Asian and south east Asian countries along the coast of the bay of Bengal.

#### **2. Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta re-elected**

In Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta has been re-elected as President in election. According to Election Commission Head Wafula Chebukati announced in Nairobi that Kenyatta got 54.27 per cent votes beating his rival Raila Odinga who got 44.74 per cent of votes.

- Currency: Kenyan shilling                      Official languages: Swahili, English

#### **3. India, Russia to hold mega war games in October**

In the midst of evolving security situation in the region, India and Russia will hold a mega war game in October involving their armies, navies and the air forces for the first time to further ramp up military ties.

- The exercise Indra, which will be held in Russia from October 19 to 29, will primarily focus on achieving coordination between forces of the two countries in a tri- services integrated theatre command scenario.

#### **4. India, China to join Indian Ocean exercise**

Indian Navy would join the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy in a maiden maritime search and rescue exercise to be chaired by Bangladesh at the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in November this year.

- Bangladesh, the current Chair, is scheduling a maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) in November in the Bay of Bengal to be attended by ships and aircraft of the members and observers of the IONS.

#### **5. India-ASEAN Youth Summit to be held in Bhopal**

The event is being organised by Foreign Ministry, Madhya Pradesh government and India Foundation.

- The exercise will mark the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership in the ongoing year and also the commemorative year's theme of "Shared Values, Common Destiny".
- Madhya Pradesh has been chosen for this event as the Sanchi stupa here strengthens the state's cultural affiliation with the ASEAN countries.

#### **6. World Health Organisation declares Somalia free of polio**

The UN World Health Organisation (WHO) said that it had not recorded any case of polio disease in Somalia in the last three years, declaring the country polio free.

- The WHO said the country recorded the last case of polio in 2014 in the central part of the country but has since then remained free of the paralyzing disease.

#### **7. India moves to revive TAPI gas pipeline**

India will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

- The decision was came during the sixth joint Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

#### **8. India, Turkmenistan hold talks to boost ties**

India and Turkmenistan reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral relations and took stock of the progress achieved in key areas like energy, trade and security.

- The delegation participated in the 6th Session of the India-Turkmenistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation held on August 14.

#### **9. MoU on IPR signed between India and Sweden**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Sweden** on cooperation in the field of **Intellectual**

**Property Rights (IPRs)** has been approved by the Union Cabinet.

- The MoU establishes a wide ranging and flexible mechanism through which both countries can exchange best practices and work together on **training programs** and **technical exchanges** to raise awareness on IPRs and better protect intellectual property rights.

#### **10. A New Landmark in India-USA relationship**

New vistas in the Indo-USA relationship will begin with the arrival of the **first shipment of American crude oil to India** by the end of September this year.

- It is the first lot of two million barrels costing \$100 million, is a part of expected bilateral oil trade to \$2 billion.
- India joins Asian countries like South Korea, Japan and China to buy American crude after production cuts by OPEC drove up prices of Middle East heavy-sour crude, or grades with a high sulphur content.
- The **40-year-old ban on export of American oil** was lifted by the then U.S. President **Barack Obama** in **December 2015**, but the real move started during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on June 26 when the two leaders agreed to deepen the engagement in the energy sector.
- Indian oil companies, **Indian Oil Corporation** and **Bharat Petroleum**, the duo placed orders for over four million barrels to the US counterparts. **India** is the world's **third-largest oil importer**.

### **NATIONAL**

#### **11. National Mission for Clean Ganga approves 10 projects**

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved ten projects in Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. These projects were approved in the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga.

- Eight of the ten projects pertain to sewage infrastructure and treatment, one to ghat development and one to Ganga Knowledge Centre.
- A project to establish Ganga Monitoring Centers in five riparian Ganga states has also been approved.

#### **12. Venkaiah Naidu sworn as 13th Vice President of India**

Former Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu will be sworn in as the 13th Vice President of India today. He will be administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind.

- Mr. Naidu will take charge as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha at Parliament House and will preside over the proceedings in the Upper House.

##### **About Vice-President:-**

- Article 63 of Indian Constitution states “there shall be a Vice-President of India”.
- Article 66 of the Indian Constitution states the manner of election of the Vice-President.
- The Vice-President of India is also ex officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

#### **13. Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) launched**

The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)” as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

- The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.

#### **14. CBFC Board Reconstituted for three years**

The Centre has appointed lyricist Prasoon Joshi as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC, for a period of three years. Mr Joshi has replaced former Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani.

- Government has also reconstituted the existing CBFC with immediate effect for a period of three years or until further orders.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry in a release confirm that there are 12 members in the new board, which include Ms. Gautami Tadimalla, Narendra Kohli, Naresh Chandra Lal, Vivek Agnihotri and Ms Vidya Balan.

#### **15. Economic Survey 2016-17 Volume 2 was laid in the Parliament**

According to Economic Survey 2016-17 Volume 2, achieving the high end of the 6.75-7.5 percent growth projected previously will be difficult due to appreciation of rupee, farm loan waivers and transitional challenges from implementing GST.

- It said the government and the RBI have taken “prominent steps” to address the twin balance sheet challenge which has boosted market confidence in the short run.

#### **16. Environment Minister launches ‘Gaj Yatra’ to mark World Elephant Day**

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched ‘Gaj Yatra’, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of World Elephant Day.

##### **About World Elephant Day**

- World Elephant Day is an annual global event celebrated across the world on August 12, dedicated to the preservation and protection of elephants. African elephants are listed as “vulnerable” and Asian elephants as “endangered” in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

#### **17. Israel fence systems at Pak Borders**

India is deploying along its volatile border with Pakistan a smart Israel-developed fencing system having a ‘quick response team’ mechanism which strikes when the CCTV-powered control room detects an infiltration attempt.

- The BSF is implementing an ambitious project called the comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS) as part of the Narendra Modi government’s plan to completely seal the Indo-Pak and India-Bangladesh

borders in the next few years.

#### 18. Government launches national anthem video in sign language

Union Minister of State for HRD Mahendra Nath Pandey, on Thursday, launched an Indian National Anthem video in sign language, featuring differently-abled and partially differently-abled children.

#### 19. Indian Coast Guard ship 'Shaurya' commissioned in Goa

Indian Coast Guard ship "Shaurya", the fifth in the series of six 105-metre offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commissioned in Goa by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.

#### 20. Centre to consider one year exemption for TN from NEET

The Central government is prepared to consider an exemption of one year from the NEET system for students of government colleges in Tamil Nadu if the state brings forward an ordinance.

- The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test or NEET-UG is an entrance examination in India, for students who wish to study any graduate medical course (MBBS/dental course (BDS) or postgraduate course (MD/MS) in government or private medical colleges in India.

#### 21. 15th August 2017: 71st Independence Day

India celebrates its 70th anniversary of independence and Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort.

##### Some Important points of PM's Independence Day speech:

We have to take the country ahead with the determination of creating a 'New India'.

In 1942, the nation's call was 'Bharat Chhoro' (Quit India). In 2017, the nation's call is 'Bharat Jodo' (A United India)... that is our true strength. Irrespective of caste, community and religion we are one India.

#### 22. Home Minister launches live twitter wall on 'Bharat Ke Veer'

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the live twitter wall for promoting Bharat Ke Veer portal here on the eve of Independence Day 2017.

- Bharat Ke Veer portal was launched by the Union Home Minister and actor Shri Akshay Kumar on April 9, 2017.
- This portal facilitates online donation directly to the families of CAPF Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country in line of duty from January 1, 2016.

#### 23. PM launches website to honour gallantry award winners

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a website to honour all the gallantry award winners since Independence.

- Announcing the launch of the website <http://gallantryawards.gov.in> Mr. Modi said "the portal will preserve and tell the stories of our bravest men and women, civilians as well as armed forces personnel."

#### 24. India's first online course on Infusion Therapy launched

Infusion Nurses Society (INS), a global authority in infusion therapy, launched India's first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses, under which it aims to train over 3,000 nurses in the vital medical procedure.

- According to President of INS India Binu Sharma "The thinking behind such initiatives is to engage healthcare professionals to intensify the best safety and quality practices in infusion management across the country".

#### 25. "Fete de Puducherry" Begins

Artistes from 11 states and the union territory of Puducherry took part in 'Fete de Puducherry,' a three-day annual cultural festival organised by the government.

- The Puducherry government has been holding the festival since 1985 as part of celebrating Independence Day and also Liberation Day of Puducherry (August 16).

#### 26. Maharashtra CM launches 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra'

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra, a farmers' market on wheels, which aims at delivering farm-fresh organic produce at reasonable prices.

- Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra is the brainchild of Prasad Lad, president of Mi Mumbai Abhiyan-Abhiman and Shri Swami Samarth Shetkari Utpadak. Mr. Lad said the initiative will be different from the now defunct Maharashtra Agro and Fruit Processing Corporation (MAFCO).

#### 27. Indian Government asks Internet majors to remove Blue Whale links

Government has directed internet majors – Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo – to immediately remove the links of dangerous online game Blue Whale Challenge, which has led to suicide of children in India and other countries.

#### 28. New Metro Rail Policy approved

The Union Cabinet has approved a new Metro Rail Policy that seeks to enable realization of growing metro rail aspirations of a large number of cities in a responsible manner.

- It focuses on compact urban development, cost reduction and multi-modal integration.
- PPP component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects which is a big move for private investments across a range of metro operations.

#### 29. \$264 Million penalty imposed on Reliance Industries Ltd & BP

The government has imposed a penalty of 264 million dollar (about Rs 1,700 crore) on Reliance Industries Ltd and its partners for not fulfilling the targeted production of natural gas from KG-D6 fields in 2015-16.

### **TRADE / BANKING**

#### 30. SBI merger bill passed by Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha passed the bill to repeal the SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Act 1959, State Bank of Hyderabad Act 1956 and to further amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, following the merger of five associates with the parent SBI.

- Minister of State for Finance Santosh Gangwar said that with this merger, the SBI has come in the list of top 50 banks globally and is ranked at the 45th position.

**About SBI:-** Founded: - 1 July 1955, State Bank of India

Nationalised:-2 June 1956

- Headquarters:-Mumbai

Chairman:-Arundhati Bhattacharya

### 31. SEBI ties up with SEO of Iran for technical assistance

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India entered into a pact with its counterpart in Iran to promote technical assistance and facilitate cross-border co-operation in the area of securities regulations.

- The MoU was signed by SEBI chief Ajay Tyagi and SEO Iran chairman Shapour Mohammadi.

**About SEBI:-** Founded: 12 April 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairman: Ajay Tyagi

### 32. BitBay to launch trading platform for digital currency in India

Poland based bitcoin exchange platform Bitbay, one of the top ten cryptocurrency trading platforms in the world, has launched a dedicated platform for trade and exchange of digital currencies such as bitcoin, litecoin, ether, Lisk, monero, dash and gamecredits.

- The company will also work towards creating awareness about digital currencies and also removing misconceptions related to these currencies in a market like India.
- It will be offering six digital currencies to keep and trade with local currency and will carry out demo trading from August 10 till August 24. This would be done without real money to make users understand aspects of trading.

## **FINANCE**

### 33. Parliament passes Banking Amendment Bill

Parliament has passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 with the Rajya Sabha approving it; the Lok Sabha has already passed it. The bill will replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 which was promulgated on 4th of May this year.

- The legislation will enable the Central government to authorize the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution process.
- The RBI has also been empowered to issue other directions for resolution, and appoint or approve appointment, authorities or committees to advise banking companies for resolution of stressed assets.

### 34. E-Shakti initiative of NABARD

E - Shakti is a pilot project of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

- The objective of this project is digitisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- It is initiated to address certain concerns like improving the quality of book keeping of SHGs and to enable banks to take informed credit decisions about the group through a Management Information System (MIS).

About NABARD:-

- NABARD was established in 1982 on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee.

Headquarters: - Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: - Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

### 35. Canara Bank launched two new digital services

- State-run Canara Bank launched two new digital services for online payments.
- "Bharat QR (Quick Response) is for payment settlement at merchant locations and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an integrated bill payment system for net banking customers,".

**About Canara Bank:-**

Founded:-1969

Headquarters:- Bengaluru

Chairman:-Shri T. N. Manoharan

MD & CEO:-Shri Rakesh Sharma

## **BUSINESS**

### 36. India one of the most open economies globally for FDI: Survey

According to the Economic Survey, India has now emerged as one of the most open economies in the world for receiving foreign direct investments (FDI), on the back of a host of liberalisation measures.

- Mauritius, Singapore and Japan have been top three source countries of FDI inflows to India contributing 36.2%, 20% and 10.8%, respectively, during 2016-17, according to the survey.

### 37. Odisha Government and Facebook Launches 'SheMeansBusiness' Program

Chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'She Means Business' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in Odisha.

- Under the scheme 25, 000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills within next one year.
- Odisha government's partnership with Facebook aimed to reduce the digital divide and empower nearly 25,000 women entrepreneurs and SHGs.

### 38. Seven Indian companies among 200 in green energy revenues

India is among the top 11 countries as seven of its companies are among a list of the 200 largest publicly traded entities that are making significant revenue from clean energy, an international report said.

- India ranked fifth after China (68), the US (34), Japan (20) and Germany (nine).
- South Korea, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland and the UK take the spot after India as per their ranking in the list of top 11 countries compiled by As You Sow and Corporate Knights.
- While As You Sow is a non-profit organisation promoting environmental and social corporate responsibility, Corporate Knights is empowering people to harness markets for a better world.

- The seven Indian companies are Suzlon Energy Ltd, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Tata Chemicals Ltd, Exide Industries Ltd, IDFC Ltd, Thermax Ltd and Havells India Ltd.

### 39. Record 275.68 million tones Food grains production estimated

As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2016-17 released by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers, total Food grain production in the country is estimated at 275.68 million tonnes which is higher by 10.64 million tonnes (4.01%) than the previous record production of Food grain achieved during 2013-14.

- **Food grains – 275.68 million tonnes (record)**      Rice – 110.15 million tonnes (record)
- Wheat – 98.38 million tonnes (record)      Coarse Cereals – 44.19 million tonnes (record)
- Maize – 26.26 million tonnes (record)      **Pulses – 22.95 million tonnes (record)**
- **Oilseeds – 32.10 million tonnes**      **Cotton – 33.09 million bales (of 170 kg each)**
- **Sugarcane – 306.72 million tones**

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### 40. ISRO to develop full-fledged Earth observation satellite

Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS) is a full-fledged earth observation satellite, to be developed by ISRO.

- It will enable distinct identification of objects on earth by reading the spectrum for each pixel of a scene from a space.
- It can be used for a range of activities including monitoring of environment finding oil and minerals apart from military surveillance.
- The satellite has the Hyperspectral imager which can identify 55 spectral or colour bands from 630 km above ground.
- Hypspx was first tried out in Chandrayaan-1 mission who mapped the lunar mineral resources.

#### **About ISRO:-**

Established:-15 August 1969(1962 as INCOSPAR)

• Headquarters:-Bangalore

• Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

• Director: A. S. Kiran Kumar

- ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975.

### 41. Common mosquito can carry Zika virus

According to Brazilian scientists' research, the common Culex mosquito is able to transmit the harmful Zika virus.

- Zika can lead to infants with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads, and to a sometimes debilitating condition known as Guillain-Barre syndrome in adults who have been bitten.

### 42. Space Station to get 1st supercomputer

The International Space Station is expected to get its first supercomputer next week. Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) will launch a supercomputer into space on the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, as part of a joint experiment with the US space agency NASA,

### 43. First plant-based vaccine against Zika virus

Scientists have developed the world's first plant-based Zika vaccine that may be more effective, safer and cheaper than other vaccines against the mosquito-borne virus.

- The vaccine developed by researchers from Arizona State University (ASU) in the U.S. works against a part of a Zika viral protein, called DIII, that plays a key role for the virus to infect people.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### 44. David Rasquinha appointed MD of Exim Bank

David Rasquinha appointed as Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).

- Rasquinha is at present Deputy Managing Director of the Exim Bank.

### 45. I V Subba Rao appointed secretary to Vice President

Retired IAS officer I V Subba Rao was appointed secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.

### 46. Vempati given additional charge of RS TV

Shashi Shekhar Vempati, chief executive officer (CEO) at public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has been appointed as the chief of Rajya Sabha TV.

- Vempati will replace Gurdeep Singh Sappal who has been serving as the CEO and editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV since 2011.
- Vempati, who was recently appointed as the CEO of Prasar Bharati, is the first non-Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer ever to head the public broadcaster.

### 47. Sankara Rao to be IFCI Chief Executive

IFCI Ltd, a government company, is set to have a new Managing Director & CEO in E Sankara Rao, who is currently Chief General Manager at India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has given its nod for the Department of Financial Services (DFS) proposal to appoint E Sankara Rao as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IFCI Ltd.

### 48. Santosh Sharma appointed CMD of Hindustan Copper Limited

Santosh Sharma appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL).

- He is at present Director (Operations) in the HCL.

### 49. Dr. Mamta Suri takes charge of Executive Director, IBBI

Dr. Mamta Suri has taken charge of Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

- Dr. Suri was serving as Chief General Manager, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India before assuming the charge.

## **AWARDS**

### **50. The Hindu Playwright Award 2017 presented**

The Hindu Playwright Award 2017 went to Gerish Khemani and Akshat Nigam for their play 'In Search of Dariya Sagar'.

- The award, instituted in 2008 to reward the best new unpublished and unperformed play-script in English.
- The other shortlisted works included Deepika Arwind's 'The Playwright is Dead' and K. Madavane's '1947 - The Man from Lahore'.

### **51. N.K. Jemisin's 'The Obelisk Gate' wins Best Novel 2017**

The Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 was given to Nora K. Jemisin, an American speculative fiction writer for her work 'The Obelisk Gate'. The award was presented at the 75th World Science Fiction Convention in Helsinki.

### **52. India Honours Its Bravehearts on 71st Independence Day**

On the eve of 71st Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind honoured the bravehearts of India.

- Kovind, who is also a Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, had approved 112 gallantry awards to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces which includes five Kirti Chakras, 17 Shaurya Chakras, 85 Sena Medals, three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- Five bravehearts who have awarded Kirti Chakra include Major Preetam Singh Kunwar of the Garhwal Rifles; Havildar Giris Gurung (Posthumous) from the First Gorkha Rifles; Major David Manlun (Posthumous), of the Naga Regiment; Pramod Kumar (Posthumous), Commandant, 49 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force and Chetan Kumar Cheeta, Commandant, CRPF.
- Kirti Chakra is the second highest gallantry award given to armed forces officials in peace time.

## **SPORTS**

### **53. Prannoy jumps to world no 15 in badminton ranking**

Indian shuttler HS Prannoy improved two places to reach the 15th spot in the latest BWF rankings. Prannoy clinched the US Open title last month, had reached the quarterfinals at New Zealand Grand Prix Gold at Auckland last week.

- Kidambi Srikanth, who clinched successive titles at Indonesia and Australia, remained at the eighth spot.
- In women's singles, Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu and London Games bronze winner Saina Nehwal continue in their same places. Sindhu is in the 5th spot while Saina remains at the 16th spot.

About BWF:-

- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) is the international governing body for the sport of badminton recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- Headquarters:-Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- President:-Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen
- Formation: - 1934.
- Membership:-176 member associations

### **54. Anand jumps to joint top position in Sinquefield Cup**

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand has jumped to the joint top position in the Sinquefield Cup, which is a part of the Grand Chess tour.

- World Champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway remained within striking distance of the three leaders following an easy draw against Peter Svidler of Russia. Carlson now has four points in his bag.

### **55. Los Angeles approves host city contract for 2028 Games**

Los Angeles city council rubber-stamped the host city contract today, paving the way for bringing the 2028 Summer Olympics to southern California and ceding the 2024 Games to Paris.

- The members voted 12-0 in favour of signing off on the memorandum of understanding and host city contract documents which would see the city host the Summer Games for the third time in history.

**About Olympic:-**

- The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.
  - The official symbol of the modern Games is five interlocking colored rings, representing the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia.
  - Motto:-Citius, Altius, Fortius (Faster, higher, stronger)
- President:-Thomas Bach

### **56. Maheshwari bags memorable bronze at Asian Shotgun Championship**

Shooter Maheshwari Chauhan bagged a bronze medal at the Asian Shotgun Championship to earn India's first women's skeet individual medal at a top international competition in Astana.

- India's tally now stands at two gold, silver and three bronze medals.

**About Asian Shotgun Championship:-**

- The Asian Shooting Championships are governed by the Asian Shooting Confederation. Asian Shooting Championships began in 1967. 7th **Asian Shotgun Championship 2017** is hosted by Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ASC President:-Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa

### **57. India drop place to 97th in FIFA rankings**

India dropped a place in the latest FIFA rankings released to stand at number 97.

- In July, India had reached their best FIFA ranking in the last 21 years as they stood at 96, the second highest ranking for the country ever. India currently stands at 341 points on the 97th position, four points behind 96th placed Zambia.
- India will now play a three-nation tournament with Mauritius and St. Kitts and Nevis at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in Chennai from August 19th to 27th.

**About FIFA:-**

- Motto:-For the Game, For the World.
- Founded:-21 May 1904
- Headquarters: -Zürich, Switzerland

### 58. U-19 cricket Asia Cup shifted

The Under-19 cricket Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru, has been moved to Malaysia following the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s objection to the tournament being held in India. The tournament will now be held in November in Malaysia.

### 59. Mairaj-Rashmi pair bags gold at Asian Shotgun Championship

On the concluding day of the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun in Astana, India bagged a gold medal in the skeet mixed team event.

- The Indian duo of Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Rashmi Rathore eked out a narrow 28-27 win over the Chinese pair of Liu Jiangchi and Gao Jianmei.
- India finished the championship with a total of eight medals.
- Ankur Mittal had earlier won a gold in the men's double trap and had also helped India bag the team gold in the event. Kynan Chenai won a bronze in the men's trap and also partnered Shreyasi Singh to claim the trap mixed team bronze.

### 60. World Athletics Championships; Usain Bolt and Mo Farah bid farewell

In World Athletics Championships, sprint superstar Usain Bolt could not finish the last race of his illustrious career in London.

- Bolt, was on tracks in the 4x100 meters Final, anchoring one last time for his country Jamaica. The event was won by hosts Great Britain, who clocked 37.47 seconds.
- Another shocking farewell was that of Mo Farah the greatest distance runner, as he finished 2nd place in the 5000 meters event.

### 61. India beat SL Test Series 2017

India claimed their first ever 3-0 series win overseas, beating Sri Lanka in the third and the final Test at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Pallekele by an innings and 171 runs.

- Earlier, India won the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle by 304 runs and the second by an innings and 53 runs in Colombo.

### 62. Indian boxers clinch 10 medals at Serbian tourney

India won 10 medals, including two gold, in the 6th Golden Glove women's Boxing Tournament at Vojvodina, Serbia.

- In all, India won two gold, four silver and four bronze medals.
- The gold-medallists were Jyoti (51kg) and Vanlalharitpuii (60kg).

### 63. ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 in New Zealand

New Zealand will host ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018

- India and Australia have been placed in the same Group in ICC U-19 cricket World Cup to be played in New Zealand from January 14, 2018.

## **DEATHS**

### 64. Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' Dr Ruth Pfau dies

Dr Ruth Pfau, a German doctor popularly known as Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' for dedicating her life to eradicate leprosy in the country, died. She was 87.

- Dr. Pfau first visited Pakistan in 1960 and was so touched by the plight of leprosy victims that she decided to stay forever in the country to treat them.

### 65. Theatre personality Shobha Sen dies

Shobha Sen, veteran theatre personality and wife of late thespian Utpal Dutt, passed away here this morning. She was 93.

- She had acted in many productions of the group, including "Barricade", "Tiner Taloyar" and "Titumir".

### 66. Australia's Olympic champion Stephen Wooldridge died

Australia's former Olympic and world cycle champion Stephen Wooldridge died at the age of just 39.

- The former star team pursuiter, from New South Wales state, who won gold for Australia in the 2004 Athens Olympics, was also a four-time world champion in the discipline and the 2002 Commonwealth Games champion.

## **BOOKS**

### 67. Left, Right and Centre: The Idea of India

Highlighting numerous cultures, languages, traditions, customs and controversies Nidhi Razdan, a well-known television journalist, has made an attempt to bring to the fore our understanding of India, in the latest book titled Left, Right and Centre: The Idea of India.

- Eminent people like Yashwant Sinha, Derek O'Brien, Shashi Tharoor, Aruna Roy and Shabana Azmi have contributed to this book.

### 68. Book chronicles 70 years of India's independence

Puffin Books' "India at 70: Snapshots since Independence", written by Roshen Dalal, provides glimpses of the country's vast and rich culture, its diversity and many languages, its eminent personalities and its achievements in all spheres.

- From Partition to the Sino-India war, from the Emergency to the Kalam years, from the Jan Lokpal Bill to the recent demonetisation move, the book touches almost all important topics.
- Dalal says she wrote this book in a short and easy-to-read format, to provide youngsters with an overview of India after Independence.

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