

## **18<sup>th</sup> MARCH to 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **1. G20 Meet of Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Began in Germany**

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting has started in Baden-Baden, Germany from March 17, 2017.

- The 2-day meeting is an opportunity to discuss developments in the global economy with international counterparts and decide on actions we can undertake to respond to the major challenges we all face.

#### **Germany**

- **Capital: Berlin**
- **Currency: Euro**
- **Chancellor: Angela Merkel**
- **President: Joachim Gauck**

#### **2. India ranks 148 in representation of women in government**

India ranks 148 globally in terms of representation of women in executive government and parliament, according to a report published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women.

- The data published in the report Women in Politics 2017 Map showed that women make up only 11.8 per cent (64 MPs) of the 542-member Lok Sabha and 11 per cent (27) of the 245-member Rajya Sabha.
- In terms of women ministers, India ranks 88 with only five ministers (18.5 per cent) in the cabinet.

#### **3. New Zealand river granted same legal rights as human being**

In a world-first a New Zealand river has been granted the same legal rights as a human being.

- The local Māori tribe of Whanganui river in the North Island has fought for the recognition of their river.
- The new status of the river means if someone abused or harmed it the law now sees no differentiation between harming the tribe or harming the river because they are one and the same.

#### **New Zealand**

- **Capital: Wellington**
- **Currency: Dollar**
- **Prime Minister: Bill English**

#### **4. Nicolas Sarkozy, former President of France, meets PM**

Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, former President of France, met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 18.

- The Prime Minister congratulated Mr. Sarkozy on the publication and success of his latest book, "Tout pour la France".

#### **5. Kansas recognises March 16 as Indian-American Appreciation Day**

The U.S. state of Kansas has recognised March 16 as 'Indian-American Appreciation Day' to honour an Indian techie who was killed last month in a racially-motivated hate crime.

#### **6. Hinduja retain top spot in UK's richest Asian List**

The Hinduja brothers – Gopichand and Srichand – retained the top spot in the annual compilation of Britain's richest Asians with an estimated net worth of £19 billion

- Steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal grabbed second place with £12.6 billion.
- The 2017 Asian Rich List valued the top 10 wealthiest Asians in Britain at an estimated £48.4 billion.

#### **7. India ranks 122nd in World Happiness Report**

India ranked 122nd, behind Pakistan and Nepal in the global list of the happiest countries, according to a global report.

- India ranked at 122 out of 155 countries in the World Happiness Report 2017, four notches below its previous rank of 118.
- Norway moved from No. 4 to the top spot in the report's rankings.

#### **8. Five Indian-Americans among the richest in the US: Forbes**

Five Indian-Americans are among the richest in the US, according to a Forbes list of 400 people.

- Symphony Technology founder Romesh Wadhvani, co-founder of outsourcing firm Syntel Bharat Neerja Desai, airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal, entrepreneur John Kapoor and Silicon Valley angel investor Kavitarik Ram Shriram feature in Forbes' 'The Richest People In America 2016' list.

#### **9. 2 Indians in Forbes list of US' richest under-40 entrepreneurs**

- Biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has been ranked 24th on 'America's Richest Entrepreneurs Under 40 2016' list with a networth of \$600 million, and Instacart co-founder Apoorva Mehta, stands at the 31st spot with a \$360-million networth which is topped by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

#### **10. Global Health Index 2017: Italy healthiest country**

- The Bloomberg in its Global Health Index of 163 countries has ranked Italy as the healthiest country on the planet, with a baby born there expected to live up to more than 80 years.
- Iceland, Switzerland, Singapore and Australia made up the top five most-healthy countries in the index.

#### **11. March 20: Important days**

- World Oral Health day: World Oral Health Day is observed annually on 20 March, and launches a year-long campaign dedicated to raising global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene.
- World Happiness day: The International Day of Happiness is celebrated throughout the world on the 20th of March.
- World Sparrow Day: World Sparrow Day is a day designated to raise awareness about house sparrow and other common birds observed on 20 March. The house sparrow was declared the 'State Bird of Delhi' in 2012.

#### 12. 4 Indian cities among cheapest globally: EIU

Four Indian cities are among the cheapest to live in globally, while Singapore has been ranked as the most expensive for the fourth consecutive year, as per a report by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

- Bangalore (3rd place), Chennai (6th), Mumbai (7th) and New Delhi (10th) have been ranked by EIU among the 10 cheapest cities in the world.
- Almaty in Kazakhstan has been ranked as the cheapest city in the world followed by Lagos. Karachi was placed 4th, Algiers (5th), Kiev (8th) and Bucharest (9th) rank.

#### 13. Second India-UAE conference on globalisation held in Dubai

The second India-UAE conference on globalisation was held at Dubai with an aim to promote cooperation between the two countries.

#### 14. 21 March: Important Days

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:

- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed on 21st March every year by the United States.
- Theme for the year 2017 is 'Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration'.

#### World Poetry Day:

- In celebrating World Poetry Day, March 21, UNESCO recognizes the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind.
- International Day of Forests:
- The International Day of Forests was established on the 21st day of March, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.
- Theme for the year 2017 is 'Forests and energy'.

#### 15. 22 March: World Water Day

World Water Day is an annual event celebrated on 22 March. The day focuses attention on the importance of universal access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in developing countries.

- The theme for the year 2017 is "Wastewater".

#### 16. India ranks 131 on Human Development Index

India came down by one slot and was ranked 131st among 188 countries on Human Development Index (HDI) 2016 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

- The top three countries in HDI were Norway (0.949), Australia (0.939) and Switzerland (0.939).

#### 17. World Tuberculosis day: 24 March

World Tuberculosis Day is observed on March 24 each year.

- It is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- The theme of this year's World TB Day is "Unite to End TB".

#### 18. World Meteorological Day: 23 March 2017

World Meteorological Day is held annually on 23 March.

- 'Understanding Clouds' is the theme of World Meteorological Day 2017 to highlight the enormous importance of clouds for weather climate and water.

Headquarters: Geneva

Founded: 1950

Members: 191

Secretary-General: Petteri Taalas

#### 19. India ranks 87th on energy architecture performance: WEF

India has marginally improved its position to 87th place on a global energy architecture performance index, but ranks among the worst for pollution, a survey showed.

- Switzerland topped the annual list released by Geneva- based World Economic Forum (WEF) and was followed by Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France in the top five.

## **NATIONAL**

#### 20. President Inaugurated International Conference on "Universities of The Future"

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Haryana on March 18, 2017 where he inaugurated a three-day international conference on the theme of "Universities of the Future: Knowledge, Innovation and Responsibility" at O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU).

- The Conference seeks to examine the future of the Indian universities in the twenty first century and will have thirteen thematic panels.

#### 21. First Airbus Training Centre in Asia to be set up in New Delhi

Airbus is setting up a greenfield training facility at Aerocity, New Delhi, to support India's growing need for Airbus aircraft pilots and maintenance engineers.

- The ground-breaking for the Airbus India Training Centre was performed by P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Minister of Civil Aviation and Tom Enders, CEO, Airbus in the presence of Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Civil Aviation.

## **22. Inauguration of 3 Day International Buddhist Conference at Rajgir**

The three days “International Buddhist Conference” organized by Ministry of Culture and Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Deemed University was inaugurated by His Holiness The Dalai Lama and Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of Culture and Tourism at Rajgir International Buddhist Conference, Bihar.

### **There were two highlights of the inaugural session:**

- One is the release of the reprint of the Pali Tripitaka in Devanagiri script by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.
- The second highlight was the announcement of the opening of the department of the Buddhist science for the first time in Asia.

## **23. Sanjauli police post becomes first in India to be linked with CCTNS**

Sanjauli police station in Himachal Pradesh has become the first police post in the country to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a nationwide online tracking system.

- The police posts of Manikaran in Kullu, Solan city and Dada Siba in Kangra were also simultaneously linked to CCTNS.

## **24. India-Russia Military Industry Conference**

India-Russia Military Industry Conference is being held on 17-18 March 2017 in New Delhi.

- Conference was inaugurated by Minister of Defence, Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley and Minister of Industry and Trade of Russia, Denis Manturov.

## **25. Hazira's first private sector township to go cashless**

Essar's Nand Niketan at Hazira has become India's first private sector township to go cashless, using the mobile wallet for performing digital transactions.

- A Mumbai-based tech company was roped in to provide smartphone based application for mastercard-enabled mobile wallets.

## **26. First fully India-made train flagged off at Dadar station**

The much-awaited made-in-India train, Medha was flagged off from Dadar railway station.

## **27. Amitabh Bachchan launches world's first app for breast health**

Amitabh Bachchan launched the World's first mobile App on ‘ABC of Breast Health’ at an event organized by the Ushakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation at Mumbai's JW Marriott Hotel on Mar. 15.

- The App aims to empower the nation about every aspect of breast cancer and benign non-cancer breast health issues in 12 languages (English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya and Assamese).

## **28. Ganga and Yamuna rivers declared living entities**

The Uttarakhand high court has recognized the Ganga and the Yamuna as so-called living entities, giving the rivers that have seen years of damage at the hands of humans, a legal voice.

- It is the first time a court has recognized a non-human as a living entity in India.

## **29. Salman Khan tops Forbes India Celebrity rich list**

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has unseated his actor Shah Rukh Khan to become the top earning celebrity of 2016 in the Forbes India Celebrity 100 List with an estimated income of Rs. 270.33 crore.

- Shah Rukh Khan secured second place in the list.

## **30. 2 Day National Conference on “Empowering Deaf Through Indian Sign Language” begins**

A two day National Conference entitled “Empowering Deaf through Indian Sign Language” was inaugurated by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.

- The objective of the Conference is to provide a common platform to the professionals involved in the field of Deaf Education, Indian Sign language, Sign Linguistics, Bilingualism, Interpreter education

## **31. India home to 101 billionaires, Mukesh Ambani tops list: Forbes**

India is home to world's fourth highest number of billionaires with Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani leading the club of more than 100 super rich Indians, according to a new list released by Forbes magazine.

- The Forbes list of the 'World's Billionaires' 2017 consists of 2,043 of the richest people in the world who have a combined net worth of \$7.67 trillion, a record 18-per cent increase over the past year.
- The list has been topped by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates for the fourth year in a row. He has been the richest person in the world for 18 out of the past 23 years.
- US President Donald Trump is ranked 544th on the list with his net worth of \$3.5 billion.
- India is home to 101 billionaires, the first time it has has more than 100 super rich individuals.

## **32. The 3rd edition of State AYUSH/Health Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi**

The 3rd Conference of Health/AYUSH Ministers of States/UTs was inaugurated by the Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in New Delhi.

- The day long conference was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH to provide an opportunity to States/UT to interact with each other for the development of AYUSH sector.

## **33. India's longest highway tunnel to be inaugurated on April 2**

India's longest highway tunnel at Chenani Nashri, between Udhampur and Ramban in Jammu & Kashmir is all set to be inaugurated by prime minister Narendra Modi on April 2.

- The 10.89 km tunnel has absorbed a sum of Rs 2519 crore in its construction.

### 34. Joint cycling expedition by Bangladesh and Indian army

A 11-day joint cycling expedition of Bangladesh and Indian army was flagged off in Agartala with an aim to further strengthen the friendship between the two armed forces.

- The two countries have shared history, common language, literature, arts and cultural ties.
- The 30 member expedition team, formed with officers and jawans from both countries would pass through major cities of the neighbouring country Comilla, Dhaka, Jessore, Manikgunj, Faridpur, Magura - before reaching Fort William in Kolkata in 11 days.
- Altogether they would cover 532 km.

### 35. Assam's Majuli all set to become India's first carbon neutral district

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched initiatives to develop Majuli, world biggest river island, as India's first carbon neutral district and as a biodiversity heritage.

- Launching 'Forests are Lives' campaign to celebrate the importance of Assam's rich forest and biodiversity.

### 36. Govt approves 1.17 lakh more affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

The government has approved construction of 117,814 more affordable houses for urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in six states with a total investment of Rs 5,773 crore and with central assistance of Rs 1,816 crore.

- With this, the total number of affordable homes sanctioned under PMAY(Urban) so far has gone up to 1,760,507, with a total investment of Rs 96,018 crore and a central assistance of Rs 27,714 crore.

### 37. 3rd International Conference on Alternate Fuels and Raw Materials in Cement Industry

The "3rd International Conference on Alternate Fuels and Raw Materials in Cement Industry -Towards Realising Swachh Bharat Dream", was inaugurated in New Delhi.

### 38. AP tops in Aadhaar seeding of Jan Dhan a/cs

Post demonetisation of specified bank notes on November 8, 2016, more accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers.

- Of the 25.51 crore PMJDY accounts on November 9, around 53.65 per cent were seeded with Aadhaar numbers. Four months hence, the number of PMJDY accounts has gone up to 28.01 crore, and the share of Aadhaar-seeded accounts has risen to 63.61 per cent.

## **TRADE / BANKING**

### 39. World Bank approves \$175 million loan for National Hydrology Project

The World Bank has approved a \$175 million loan for the National Hydrology Project to improve India's ability to forecast floods and reduce vulnerability to recurring floods and droughts.

- The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a six-year grace period in which no interest payments will be due. The loan will mature in 23 years.

#### World Bank

- **Headquarters: Washington D.C.**
- **Members: 189**
- **President: Jim Yong Kim (South Korean-American)**
- **Founded: July 1944**
- **Parent Organization: World Bank Group**

### 40. ESAF Small Finance Bank kicks off operations

The newly-launched ESAF Small Finance Bank will offer interest rates between 5.75 and 9 per cent for term deposits of varying maturities.

- For savings deposits, the rates will vary from 6 to 7 per cent, based on the outstanding balance in the account.
- Senior citizens will be entitled to an additional 0.05 per cent for term deposits.

### 41. 'Approval given to RBI to print Rs 10 plastic notes'

The government has said the RBI has been authorised to conduct field trials of plastic notes of Rs 10 that have a longer life span.

- In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Arjun Ram Meghwal said "it has been decided" to conduct a field trial with plastic banknotes at five locations of the country.

### 42. Australia research centre enters into agreement with Indian Railways

A Railway research centre in Australia has entered into an agreement with the Indian Railways to support future research and technology development related to critical infrastructure in India.

- Representatives from Monash University Institute of Railway Technology (IRT) and Indian Ministry of Railways corporation DFCCIL (Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited) signed an agreement in New Delhi.
- They will provide guidance on the establishment of a new applied research and development institute in India known as SRESTHA (Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology & Holistic Advancement).

### 43. Idea approves merger with Vodafone India

Kumar Mangalam Birla owned Idea Cellular said its Board has approved of a merger with Vodafone India and its wholly owned subsidiary Vodafone India Mobile Services.

- It will create India's largest mobile phone company with about 400 million customers, 35% customer market share and 41% revenue market share.

#### 44. **Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) to be merged with State Bank of India**

The Government of India has decided to merge the Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with the State Bank of India (SBI) to ensure greater banking services outreach to a larger number of women, at a faster pace.

- The objectives of affordable credit to women as well as propagation of women-centric products need to be quickly achieved through a wider network and lower cost of funds.

#### 45. **Yes Bank partners with Payjo for artificial intelligence solutions**

Private sector lender Yes Bank has partnered with Payjo, an artificial intelligence banking platform based out of Silicon Valley, California to adopt its intelligence products.

#### 46. **ICICI Bank launches 'Mera iMobile' app for rural customers**

To strengthen digitalisation drive in rural region, ICICI Bank has launched mobile banking app called 'Mera iMobile'.

- 'Mera iMobile' will provide rural customers on smartphone with 135 services and in eleven Indian languages, the bank said.
- Mera iMobile is the only banking app to offer rural banking services namely Kisan Credit Card (KCC), gold loan, loans to SHG and tractor loans.

#### 47. **FinMin okays capital infusion for 10 PSU banks**

Coming in support of weak and non-performing public sector banks (PSBs), the Finance Ministry has chalked out a turnaround-linked Rs 8,586-crore capital infusion plan for 10 PSBs.

- The 10 banks identified are Allahabad Bank (Rs 418 crore); Andhra Bank (Rs 1,100 crore); Bank of India (Rs 1,500 crore); Bank of Maharashtra (Rs 300 crore); Central Bank of India (Rs 100 crore); Dena Bank (Rs 600 crore); IDBI Bank (Rs 1,900 crore); Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 1,100 crore); UCO Bank (Rs 1,150 crore) and United Bank of India (Rs 418 crore).

#### 48. **Rs 2 lakh is the cash transaction limit from April 1**

The Rs 3-lakh limit proposed for cash payments in the Budget for 2017-18 would be brought down to Rs 2 lakh as part of an unprecedented 40 amendments to the Finance Bill.

#### 49. **Branches of associate banks to operate as SBI branches from April 1**

All the branches of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT) will function as branches of State Bank of India from April 1, 2017.

- All the customers including depositors of these banks will now be treated as customers of SBI from April 1.
- Meanwhile SBI has also decided to cut down the associate branches by 47 percent.

#### 50. **Wilful defaulters owe Rs 91,155 crore to PSBs**

There were more than 9,100 wilful defaulters who together owed Rs 91,155 crore to public sector banks at 2016 December-end, Parliament was informed.

- Banks declare wilful defaulters as per the norms stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- NPAs of the state-run banks reduced by Rs 37,815 crore in 2016. The reduction was Rs 41,236 crore in the previous year.

#### 51. **Russian company to set up 100 MW solar in Tamilnadu**

Chennai-based Al Ameen Green Energy has tied up with a Russian company Miyota Power for setting up a 100-MW solar power plant near Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu.

- Miyota Power will invest \$80 million in the project and will also build the plant on turnkey basis.

#### 52. **Russia's VTB bank to shut India office**

Russian bank VTB has decided to close its only office in India to cut costs but will continue to work in India.

- While closing its office in New Delhi, VTB added that it saw commodities and investment banking as priority areas for the bank in India.

#### 53. **India and ADB Sign \$350 Million Loan for 1,500 kms of District Roads in Madhya Pradesh**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$350 million loan for improving about 1,500 kilometers of major district roads in Madhya Pradesh in line with the State's Road Development Plan.

- The Project will involve upgrading roads with concrete pavements, strengthening culverts and bridges, and maintaining the improved road assets for a period of five years after construction, on a performance based payment format.
- Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest State in the country, with an area of about 308,000 square kilometers and a population of about 73 million.

#### 54. **RBI proposes to limit value in PPIs at Rs 1 lakh**

The RBI has proposed to fix the upper limit for Pre-paid Payment Instruments at Rs 1 lakh in view of growing usage of PPIs for purchase of goods and services.

- RBI had received requests from stakeholders and other entities for relaxations in certain areas while strengthening the norms for safety and security, risk mitigation and customer protection aspects related to usage of PPIs.
- PPIs are payment instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, including financial services.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

#### 55. **Papa Rao, Jwala included in governing body of SAI**

BV Papa Rao, IAS(retired), along with Commonwealth badminton doubles gold medallist Jwala Gutta have been included

as members of the newly constituted governing body of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

#### **Sports Authority of India**

- **Founded: 1984**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **Director General: Injeti Srinivas**

#### **56. BJP's Adityanath sworn in as UP chief minister with 2 deputies**

Five-time Parliamentarian, the BJP's Adityanath, was sworn in as Uttar Pradesh's 32nd chief minister along with 49 ministers.

- The two deputy minister-designates Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma were among those sworn in by UP governor Ram Naik.

#### **57. Shahid Afridi appointed ambassador of Blind Cricket World Cup**

Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has been appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup.

#### **58. Government swaps chief executives of IDBI Bank, Indian Bank**

In an unprecedented move, the Centre has swapped the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of state-owned Indian Bank and IDBI Bank.

- Mahesh Kumar Jain, who was Managing Director & CEO at Indian Bank, has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of IDBI Bank, which is now in some financial trouble and faced with several legacy issues.
- Kishore Piraji Kharat, who was appointed as IDBI Bank CEO in August 2015, has now been appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Bank.

#### **59. Nieva to be India's new boxing coach**

Santiago Nieva will be India's new foreign coach for men boxers, succeeding Cuban BI Fernandes.

- Nieva, an AIBA three-star coach, was attached with the Swedish men's team until last year.

#### **60. Snapdeal appoints Jason Kothari as CEO of FreeCharge**

- In addition to his role of CEO, Kothari will also play the role of Chief Strategy & Investment Officer at Snapdeal.

#### **61. Kumar Mangalam Birla to be Chairman of Vodafone-Idea merged entity**

British telecom major Vodafone and Aditya Birla group-run Idea Cellular has announced the merger of their operations, creating the largest mobile operator by customer and revenue market share.

- The merged entity, which will come into force over the next two years, will be headed by Kumar Mangalam Birla as Chairman.

#### **62. Upendra Tripathy Appointed as Full Time Interim Director General of ISA**

Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, Government of India and Ms. Ségolène Royal, Minister for Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs Government of France jointly decided to appoint Mr. Upendra Tripathy, as the Interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a full time basis.

- Mr. Upendra Tripathy was the Former Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy from 1st April, 2014 until 31st October 2016.
- Mr. Tripathy is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Karnataka Cadre.

#### **63. Shuttler PV Sindhu will be the brand ambassador for Gatorade, PepsiCo's sports-based drink.**

- The partnership is a reiteration of PepsiCo India's commitment to popularise the benefits of its healthier food and beverage offerings among consumers.

#### **64. Madhabi Puri Buch was appointed as a Whole-Time Member of capital markets regulator Security and Exchange Board.**

- She is founder-director of Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd and currently at the New Development Bank in Shanghai, China.

#### **65. RBI approved appointment of T S Anantharaman as part-time chairman of CSB**

The Reserve Bank of India has accorded its approval for the appointment of T S Anantharaman as part-time Chairman of the Catholic Syrian bank.

- Anantharaman has been holding the position of Non-Executive Director of the bank since August 28, 2009.

### **AWARDS**

#### **66. Changi Airport is named World's Best Airport for the fifth consecutive year**

Changi Airport Singapore was voted by international air travellers as the World's Best Airport for the fifth consecutive year at the 2017 World Airport Awards.

- The top 5 rankings for the World's Best Airport Award in 2017 were:
- Changi Airport Singapore
- Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)
- Incheon International Airport
- Munich Airport
- Hong Kong International Airport

#### **67. Indian women win 'Women Icons' award in Singapore**

Eleven Indian women are among the 25 Asian ladies who have won the 'Women Icons' award in Singapore for dedicating their lives to social work.

- Women empowerment and childcare remains on the minds of these women, who came from a number of fields for

the award organised by Business Excellence & Research Group Pte Ltd and supported by Nanyang Technological University of Singapore.

**68. Canadian wins \$1m Global Teacher Prize for work with Inuit students**

Maggie MacDonnell, A Canadian who teaches at a school in a fly-in-only village in the Arctic has won a \$1m (£800,000) Global Teacher Prize at a ceremony in Dubai.

**69. Yves Meyer wins Abel Prize 2017 for work on wavelets**

French mathematician Yves Meyer was awarded the 2017 Abel Prize for his work on wavelets.

- It is a mathematical theory with applications in data compression, medical imaging and the detection of gravitational waves.

**70. ABB India wins Smart Technology of the Year 2016**

ABB India has been awarded with Smart Technology of the Year 2016 for its efforts at restoration of 1,035 MW Sharavathi hydropower plant in Karnataka

**71. Ravish Kumar wins the inaugural Kuldip Nayar Journalism Award**

The first Kuldip Nayar Journalism Award was given to NDTV's Ravish Kumar.

- The award ceremony was held in New Delhi's India International Centre on 19 March 2017.
- Kuldip Nayar and the Gandhi Peace Foundation have jointly instituted the award.
- The award carries a cash component of Rs 1 lakh.

## **SPORTS**

**72. Cheteshwar Pujara becomes first Indian to face 500 balls in Test innings**

India's middle-order batsman Cheteshwar Pujara stormed his way into record books after playing a marathon innings against Australia on fourth day of the third Test match in Ranchi.

- Pujara became the first Indian batsman to face 500 balls in a Test innings by surpassing Rahul Dravid's previous best of 495 balls.
- Pujara scored 202 runs in his 525 balls long innings.

**73. Roger Federer, Elena Vesnina lift singles titles at Indian Wells**

Swiss Roger Federer and Russian Elena Vesnina have clinched singles titles at Indian Wells tournament.

- Federer, 35, became the oldest player to win here, beating Stan Wawrinka, 6-4, 7-5, in the all-Swiss men's singles final.
- In women's final, Elena Vesnina defeated Compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-4 to win the biggest title of her singles career.

**74. Vidya Pillai wins silver in Women World Snooker**

- Hong Kong's former World Champion, Ng On Yee, won the gold medal.

**75. 2017 Vijay Hazare Trophy: Tamil Nadu crowned champions**

Tamil Nadu regained the Vijay Hazare trophy after beating Bengal by 37 runs in the final of the 2017 edition.

- With this win, they become the only team to win the tournament five times (one of them was shared with Uttar Pradesh in 2004-05).

**76. ICC Test Rankings: Ravindra Jadeja No.1 bowler**

- He held the top spot jointly with Ravichandran Ashwin, who lost 37 points after a dismal performance in India's drawn Test against Australia in Ranchi.

**77. ISSF World Cup: Ankur Mittal wins double trap gold in Mexico**

Ankur Mittal has delivered India's nine-member contingent its first medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup (Shot Gun) in Acapulco, Mexico by shooting gold in the men's double trap.

## **DEATHS**

**78. Nobel laureate, poet and playwright Derek Walcott dead, aged 87**

The poet and playwright Derek Walcott, who moulded the language and forms of the western canon to his own purposes for more than half a century, has died aged 87.

- His monumental poetry, such as his 1990 epic Omeros, a Caribbean reimagining of The Odyssey, secured him an international reputation which gained him the Nobel prize in 1992.

**79. Chuck Berry, Rock 'n' Roll Pioneer, Dies at 90**

- His famous songs include "Johnny B. Goode" and "Roll Over Beethoven" etcetera.

**80. Popular Tamil writer Asokamitran passes away**

- His work "Appavin Snegithargal", a collection of short stories won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1996.
- He was given the 'Tiru Vi Ka' Award in 2014 for his contribution to Tamil literature by late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.

## **BOOKS**

**81. Coffee Table Book titled "50 Years – The Great Indian Milk Revolution" launched**

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh has launched of Coffee Table Book titled "50 Years – The Great Indian Milk Revolution" commemorating National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) Golden Jubilee year.

- Shri Radha Mohan Singh also said that since 1998, the poor and marginal milk producers have worked hard to make the country world's top milk producer.

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