

## **5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **1. Satellite launched by Israel to monitor climate change and vegetation**

Two satellites are launched by Israel including one dedicated to monitoring the effects of climate change on vegetation were successfully launched into orbit.

- The Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New Micro Satellite -- or Venus -- is a joint effort between France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and Israel's space agency.

#### **2. First meeting of JICF held in New Delhi**

The first meeting of the Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for Development of North-Eastern Region was held in New Delhi.

- Priority areas of cooperation identified by Indian side including Connectivity and Road Network Development, especially inter-State roads & major district roads; Disaster Management; Food Processing; Organic Farming and Tourism were discussed in the meeting.

#### **3. Hiroshima Day: August 6<sup>th</sup>**

August 6th marks the 71st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—an event which is commemorated in the U.S. as “Hiroshima Day.”

- Three days later, on August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb was dropped over Nagasaki, killing some 40,000 more civilians.

#### **4. Paul Kagame wins presidential poll by a landslide**

Rwanda's incumbent leader Paul Kagame has sealed a landslide victory in presidential elections, granting him a third term in office and extending his 17 years in power.

- Kagame has won international praise for presiding over a peaceful and rapid economic recovery in the east African nation since the 1994 genocide.

#### **5. Sri Lankan Navy commissions India-built AOPV**

The Sri Lankan Navy has commissioned an India-built state-of-the-art Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV), the first-ever purchase from a foreign ship builder, to boost its search and rescue capabilities.

- Sri Lankan President and Armed Forces commander-in-chief Maithripala Sirisena commissioned the new patrol vessel “SLNS Sayurala” at a ceremony at the Eastern Container Terminal of the Port of Colombo. It is the largest vessel built by an Indian ship builder for a foreign navy to date.

#### **6. 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process held in New Delhi**

India, along with 17 countries under the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process, is seeking to make transit and trade agreements among them more inclusive and comprehensive by expanding them both northwards and southwards, to connect South Asia with Central Asia.

- Representatives of 17 participating countries and supporting international organisations, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the UAE, Australia, Egypt, Germany, the UK, the US, the EU and the UN, attended the meet.

#### **7. Delhi is Asia's fastest growing city**

Delhi will have the fastest growth of any city in Asia, with the economy of the city-state likely to become almost 50% larger in 2021 than it was at the end of last year.

- Indian cities are set to expand the most across the Asian region, with growth speeding up from the past five years, according to a new study from Oxford Economics, which has ranked Asia's 30 largest cities.
- Ho Chi Minh, the largest metro in Vietnam, was the only non-Indian city in the top five.

#### **8. Qatar scraps visit visa requirements for 80 nationalities**

Qatar has announced scrapping of visa requirements for visitors from 80 countries including India to host the Football World Cup 2022.

- Qatar's economy has taken a hit since Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain moved to isolate it two months ago over allegations it supports extremists.

#### **9. India ratifies 2nd commitment period of Kyoto Protocol**

India has ratified the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases, reaffirming its stand on climate action.

- India became the 80th country to accept the amendment relating to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty.
- The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.

- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997 and entered into force in February 2005.

## **NATIONAL**

### **10. 2nd AGRI UDAAN- Food and Agribusiness launched in New Delhi**

In an attempt to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, Government launched the 2nd AGRI-UDAAN program in New Delhi.

- This 6-month program is a unique platform for scale up stage innovators, entrepreneurs and startups in the Food and Agribusiness sectors. Top 40 startups will be shortlisted and allowed to pitch in front of the panel of evaluators during cohort finalization program.

### **11. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announces new ETF-Bharat-22**

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched a new ETF under the name Bharat 22, which will comprise shares of 22 companies.

- The Finance Minister said that Bharat-22 ETF will comprise of the government's holding in SUUTI, CPSE ETF and PSU banks.

### **12. India's first private missile production facility unveiled**

India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility, a joint venture between the \$2.5 billion Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd, inaugurated in Hyderabad.

### **13. MahaDBT, MahaVASTU portals launched by Maharashtra Government**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched MahaDBT and MahaVASTU online portals.

- MahaDBT is an Aadhaar-authenticated electronic mechanism to give benefits to lakhs of beneficiaries under various schemes across all departments.
- MahaVASTU is an Online Building Permission Management System with an electronic workflow for sanctioning building approvals.
- Maharashtra is the first state to launch this system to give direct benefits with 'Aadhaar' authentication.

### **14. Green Airports in Andhra Pradesh**

The Government of India encourages development of green airports. In order to develop airports in Andhra Pradesh as green airports, AAI has commenced installation of 1MWp solar power plant at Tirupathi and Vijaywada Airports. AAI has completed installation of solar power plants at 29 airports/locations with a total capacity of 12.84 MWp.

### **15. 7 August: National Handloom Day**

National Handloom Day is being observed today to encourage people to use hand-made loom in the country. The main event will be held in Guwahati to celebrate the third National Handloom Day.

- Central Government has declared August 7 as National Handloom Day, to be celebrated every year due to its significance in India's history, as 'Swadeshi Movement' was launched in 1905 on this day. The movement involved revival of domestic products and production processes.
- This event will give a boost to weavers of Assam, who are known for producing Pat and Muga silk. The Assam government has already announced an ambitious Muga Mission to increase production with a cost of 100 crore rupees.

### **16. Government revises the base year of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**

On August 4, 2017, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs stated that Government has revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

### **17. NCRB merged with bureau of police research**

The government merged the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB) - which, over the years, has been the principal source of reference by policy makers, police, criminologists, researchers and media - both in India and abroad, with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

- The ministry of home affairs issued an order placing NCRB's functions under the Director General of BPR&D, who will now oversee all the data collection related to Crime in India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides, Prison Statistics and Fingerprints.

### **18. Low-cost, sensitive CO sensor from IISc**

Indian Institute of Science researchers have developed a highly sensitive nanometer-scale carbon monoxide sensor by employing an innovative fabrication technique.

### **19. BCCI ordered to lift lifetime ban on cricketer Sreesanth by Kerela HC**

The Kerala High Court on Monday set aside the lifetime ban imposed on cricketer S Sreesanth by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) alleging engagement in spot-fixing during an Indian Premier League (IPL) match in 2013.

- BCCI had continued with the ban despite a Delhi sessions court exonerating him in July 2015.

### **20. Centre completes first phase of measles-rubella vaccination campaign**

Ministry of health and family welfare has completed the first phase of the Measles-Rubella vaccination campaign – the largest ever vaccination campaign in the world aiming to cover approximately 41 crore children.

- India, along with ten other WHO South East Asia Region member countries, have resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020. Under the measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign, all children in the age group of 9 months to less than 15 years will be vaccinated in a phased manner across the nation.

### **21. NITI Aayog announces partnership with 6 states to transform Health & Edu sectors**

NITI Aayog has shortlisted Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka under its 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital', SATH initiative to handhold them and transform their health sector.

- The Aayog has also selected Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha under its SATH initiative to transform their education sector.
- To give major push to competitive, cooperative federalism, the government think tank had invited all states and Union Territories to participate in its SATH initiative to transform Health and Education sectors.
- States then made presentations for each sector which was assessed by a committee comprised of senior members of NITI Aayog and Health and Human Resources Development ministries.

## 22. 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement

The nation is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement today. A number of events are being planned to mark the occasion.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon countrymen to start a new India movement “SANKALP SE SIDDDHI”- Attainment through Resolve.
- Mr Modi, termed the month of August as a month of revolution as the non-cooperation movement was launched on 1st of August 1920, Quit-India movement on 9th of August 1942 and on 15th August 1947 India became independent.
- The National Archives of India is organizing a special exhibition in New Delhi from today to mark the 75th year of Quit India Movement and Azad Hind Fauj. The two big events of the Indian history will be displayed through thousands of declassified files and documents.

## 23. Gujarat Rajya Sabha Election result

BJP National President Amit Shah, Union Minister for Textile and Information and Broadcasting Smriti Irani and Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel have won the Rajya Sabha elections from Gujarat.

- Amit Shah and Smriti Irani received 46 votes each while Ahmed Patel got 44 votes.

## 24. PM discussed the New India initiative with the district magistrates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed district collectors across the country through video-conferencing, on the theme of “New India - Manthan.”

- It was the first-of-its-kind interaction with district collectors which marked the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.
- During the interaction, the Prime Minister asked the collectors to prepare a vision document, or resolution document for their district before the 15th of August.

## 25. NCERT launches Web Portal for supply of NCERT Textbooks

Minister of State for Human Resource Development Upendra Kushwaha launched the NCERT’s Web portal for supply of textbooks to schools and individuals at a function in New Delhi.

- The portal will ensure better distribution of textbooks across the country and address the concerns of schools and parents, regarding unavailability of textbooks. The Web Portal can be accessed at [www.ncertbooks.ncert.gov.in](http://www.ncertbooks.ncert.gov.in).

## 26. Kerala, Haryana top sanitation survey

According to the survey, almost all rural households in Kerala and Haryana had access to a toilet.

- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation released the findings of the survey of 1.4 lakh rural households.
- Northeastern States of Sikkim, Manipur and Nagaland were top performers with 95% rural households covered by toilets.
- The Himalayan States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand with over 90% toilet coverage of the rural houses.
- BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and NDA-ruled Bihar are among the worst performers in terms of rural sanitation. In Bihar, only 30% of the rural household had access to toilets while Uttar Pradesh was marginally better at 37%.

## **TRADE / BANKING**

## 27. NCLT Approves Airtel-Telenor Merger

The proposed merger between Bharti AirtelBSE and Telenor India has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The companies have been instructed by tribunal to hold a meeting of equity shareholders and unsecured creditors.

## 28. Kotak Bank’s New Forex Service

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched Kotak Remit — an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance solution for both customers and non-customers.

## 29. L&T signs Rs.1, 050 crores EPC contract with railways

For the first time, the Railways Ministry has signed nine EPC (engineering, procurement, construction) contracts for electrification of railway lines at a cost of Rs.2,800 crores.

## 30. L&T bags Rs. 3,375-crore Mauritius metro project

Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro announced a Rs 3,375 crore-worth metro order from the Mauritius government.

- L&T has won the order from Metro Express Limited which is owned by the Government of Mauritius to design and build an Integrated Rail-based Urban Transit System in the African island nation.

## 31. Government forms action plan for easy execution of WTO’s TFA

The government has formulated a detailed action plan with timelines for smooth implementation of WTO’s trade facilitation agreement (TFA).

- Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) including India has ratified TFA, which aims at easing customs procedures, expediting movement, release and clearance of consignments. For the implementation of the pact, the government has last year set up Cabinet Secretary-headed National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF).

### **32. Maharashtra to raise \$270 m from Green Climate Fund**

The 2030 Water Resources Group (2030WRG) will help the Maharashtra Government raise \$270 million from the Green Climate Fund, which will be invested in integrated watershed programmes such as Jalyukt Shivar Yojana.

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new fund under the UN and is guided by the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The 2030WRG is hosted by the International Finance Corporation and is public-private-civil society collaboration for water resources reform in developing economies.
- Its ultimate aim is to close the gap between water demand and supply by the year 2030.

### **33. SEBI launches online registration for custodians of securities**

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI, has introduced an online registration mechanism for custodians of securities to make it convenient for them to do business.

- All applicants desirous of seeking registration as a Custodian of Securities are now required to submit their applications online only, through SEBI Intermediary Portal.
- Earlier, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his budget speech for 2017-18 announced that the process of registration of financial market intermediaries will be made fully online by SEBI.

### **34. ICICI Bank launches instant credit cards**

The country's largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank launched instant credit cards enabling its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.

### **35. IDFC Bank partners with Zeta for e-payments solution**

For promoting an e – payments solution, private lender IDFC Bank has partnered with digital payments brand Zeta.

- The venture was initiated to launch 'IDFC Bank Benefits' -a payment solution for the corporate that digitally record their employee spends and claims, making the documentation convenient and paperless.
- The digital solution comprises an IDFC Bank Benefits Card and Zeta app which puts together allowances and reimbursements ensured by an employer into one preloaded card.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **36. Mohammad Mustafa Appointed CMD of SIDBI**

Senior bureaucrat Mohammad Mustafa appointed as Chairman and Managing Director in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

- Mustafa, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present Joint Secretary in Department of Financial Services.

### **37. Venkaiah Naidu became 13th Vice-President of India**

Venkaiah Naidu became the 13th Vice-President of India by defeating opposition candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi.

- Naidu has secured 516 votes while Gandhi got only 244 votes. 771 parliamentarians has casted their vote on Saturday, which turned out as a record of 98 percent voting in the vice-presidential election.
- However, 11 votes were found to be invalid, Polling officials said this was the highest turnout in the vice-presidential election.

### **38. Payback announces Gautam Kaushik as new CEO**

Payback India has appointed Gautam Kaushik as the new Chief Executive Officer.

- Gautam Kaushik will spearhead the India operations and lead all the critical business areas including Strategic Business Planning and Development, Partner Management & Acquisitions and Customer Engagement.

### **39. Akshay Kumar appointed brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in UP**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today announced the appointment of Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.

- The national award winning actor promised to proactively work towards making UP the open defecation free (ODF) state, a cause in line with the theme of his upcoming movie "Toilet Ek Prem Katha".
- The Chief Minister also announced to make the film tax-free in the state.

### **40. Economist Rajiv Kumar to Be New Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog**

Economist Dr. Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new vice-chairman of the government think tank NITI Aayog.

- Present vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya had stepped down earlier this month.

### **41. S. Aparna appointed as Executive Director of World Bank**

S. Aparna, an IAS officer from Gujarat cadre has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank to represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years.

### **42. Justice Dipak Misra as the next Chief Justice of India**

Justice Dipak Misra will be the next Chief Justice of India. The Law Ministry notified the appointment of Justice Misra.

- He will replace Chief Justice J S Khehar, who will retire on the 27th of this month. Justice Misra is the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court after Justice Khehar.
- He will have tenure of nearly 13 months. Justice Misra will be sworn in as the 45th Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 27.

## **AWARDS**

### **43. Dev Patel to be honoured with Asia Society Game Changers Award**

Dev Patel who became popular with his debut film Slumdog Millionaire, will be felicitated with the Asia Society 2017 Asia Game Changers Award at a ceremony to be held at the United Nations, New York.

## **SPORTS**

### **44. Neymar signs world record deal with PSG**

Neymar has become the most expensive player in football history after completing his blockbuster transfer to Paris Saint-Germain from Barcelona for 222 million Euros (\$262 million).

### **45. Joshna and Dipika get bronze at World Doubles Squash Championship**

Indian doubles pair of Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal Karthik settled for a bronze medal after losing to English duo of Jenny Duncalf and Alison Waters in the semifinals of the WSF World doubles squash championship.

### **46. Manju Kumari secures bronze at Junior World Wrestling**

India's Manju Kumari won the bronze medal with a 2-0 victory over Ilona Prokopeniuk of Ukraine in the Junior World Wrestling Championship in Tampere, Finland.

➤ However, Divya Tomar (44kg), Nandini Salokhe (51kg) and Pooja Devi (67kg) failed to make it to the medal round.

### **47. Ankur Mittal Wins Gold in Asian Shotgun Championship**

Indian shooter Ankur Mittal clinched the individual as well as the team gold medal in men's double trap at the 7th Asian Shotgun Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan on Saturday.

➤ Mittal shot 71 in the six-man final to finish at the top of the podium. Mittal had won a gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Acapulco, Mexico, earlier this year.

➤ Dahiya had to contend with the fourth position in the individual event, whereas Asab finished in the fifth place.

➤ Before that, he had bagged silver in season's inaugural World Cup in New Delhi.

### **48. Vijender Singh wins WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title**

The legend of Vijender Singh continued to grow as the Indian boxing star outslugged his Chinese opponent Zulpikar Maimaitiali in a close bout to retain the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title in Mumbai.

➤ It was double delight for the fans as Singh also snatched the WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title from the Chinese. It was the 32-year-old Beijing Olympic bronze medallist's ninth successive win in his professional career.

### **49. Usain Bolt Finishes 3rd in 100 Meters at World Athletics Championship**

Fastest man on earth, Usain Bolt has been stunned as he finished third in the 100 meters Final of World Athletics Championship at London.

➤ In his farewell 100 meters, Bolt clocked a time of 9.95 seconds but was left behind by veteran American sprinter Justin Gatlin who clocked 9.92 seconds to claim Gold, his compatriot Christian Coleman came second with 9.94 seconds.

### **50. Hockey tournament: ONGC wins Murugappa Gold Cup**

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has beaten Bengaluru Hockey Association (BHA) by 4-2 in the final in 91st All-India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament.

➤ It was held at Mayor Radhakrishnan stadium, Egmore Chennai.

### **51. Ravindra Jadeja tops ICC ranking among all-rounders in Test Cricket**

India's Ravindra Jadeja edged out Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan to claim the top-rank among all-rounders apart from maintaining top position in the bowlers' chart in the latest ICC test match rankings.

➤ Jadeja currently has 438 points among the all-rounders while Shakib has 431 points.

➤ Cheteshwar Pujara gained a place to be third among batsmen while Virat Kohli maintained his fifth position.

➤ Steve Smith and Joe Root are still at No 1 and 2 position in batsmen rankings.

### **52. Kynan Chenai wins bronze at 7th Asian Shotgun**

Indian shooter Kynan Chenai won a bronze in men's trap event, at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun at Astana, Kazakhstan.

➤ He shot a score of 30 to finish behind gold medallist Abdulrahman Al Faihan of Kuwait, who shot 39 for a new Asian finals record and another Kuwaiti Talal Al Rashidi, who bagged the silver with an effort of 38.

### **53. Wayde Van Niekerk retains men's 400m title**

In World Athletics Championships, Olympic Champion **Wayde Van Niekerk** won the men's **400 meters** event and retained his title in London. **Steve Gardiner** of Bahamas finished second in the event while **Abdalelah Haroun** of Qatar claimed the Bronze.

### **54. Chenai and Shreyasi win mixed team trap bronze**

Kynan Chenai and Shreyasi Singh of India have won bronze in mixed team trap event in Asian Shotgun Shooting Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.

## **DEATHS**

### **55. BJP MP from Ajmer & former Union minister Sanwar Lal Jat passes away**

BJP's Member of Parliament from Ajmer and former Union minister Prof Sanwar Lal Jat passed away in New Delhi today. He was 62. Prof Sanwar Lal Jat was member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for five terms. He also served as Minister in the Rajasthan Government thrice.

## **BOOKS**

### **56. World's Shortest Woman Unveils 51-Foot High Book**

The world's shortest woman Jyoti Amge today unveiled a 51-foot high book at a programme.

➤ The book 'Kadve Vachan' written by Jain saint Acharya Tarun Sagar Maharaj was unveiled by her in the presence of BJP state president Ashok Parnami.

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