

## **8<sup>th</sup> APRIL to 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **1. Sisi declares three-month state of emergency in Egypt**

President **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** declared a **three-month** state of **emergency** in **Egypt** following twin church bombings that killed dozens of people in two cities.

- The Islamic State group had claimed responsibility for the church bombings in the Nile Delta cities of Alexandria and Tanta in which at least 44 people were killed.
- The emergency law expands police powers of arrest, surveillance and seizures and can limit freedom of movement
- Egypt had been ruled for decades under a state of emergency, which was cancelled a month before Islamist president **Mohamed Morsi** took power in 2012.

#### **2. India, Australia sign various pacts**

India and Australia sought to provide a boost to trade and security ties in a meeting between PM Narendra Modi and his visiting Australian counterpart **Malcolm Turnbull** even as the much-awaited free trade agreement remained elusive.

- The two countries signed six agreements, including one for expanding counterterrorism cooperation, but could not conclude negotiations for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) which they have been negotiating.

#### **3. 12th Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant held in Vairengte**

12th "iteration of Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant is presently under way at Vairengte from 05 April 2017 till 18 April 2017."

- Vairengte in Mizoram houses the elite Counter-Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School of the Indian Army.

#### **4. G-7 foreign ministers meeting held in Lucca, Italy**

The G7 Ministers of Foreign Affairs held their annual meet on 10-11 April in Lucca.

- A traditional meeting held once a year between the seven most industrialised countries of the world with the participation of the European Union, the G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting usually deals with the most urging problems in the international agenda.
- This year in Lucca, under the Italian Presidency, Ministers will focus on the common **fight against terrorism**, the situation in Libya and Ukraine, the latest worrying developments in North Korea.

##### **Points to Remember**

- The Group of 7 (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union is also represented within the G7.
- The 42nd G7 summit was held in Japan in May 2016. 43rd G7 summit will be held in Taormina, Italy in 2017.

#### **5. G20 Digital Ministerial Meeting held in Germany**

The G20 Digital Ministerial Meeting was held in Dusseldorf, Germany.

- G20 cooperation on the Digital Economy has become a special priority, subsequent to the adoption of Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative in the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, under the Chinese Presidency.
- The German Presidency has carried this forward, and, realizing the potential of digital technologies and its wide impact on the overall economy, has elevated the Digital Economy Task Force to the Ministerial level.

##### **Points to Remember**

- The G20 (or G-20 or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies.
- It was founded in 1999 with the aim of studying, reviewing, and promoting high-level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

#### **6. China, Iran, Saudi Arabia executed most people in 2016**

The number of executions worldwide dropped by 37 percent in 2016 compared with the year before, mainly because Iran hanged fewer people, Amnesty International said in its 2016 global review of the death penalty.

- China executed more people than all other countries in the world put together, Amnesty said.

##### **Points to Remember**

- Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization focused on human rights.
- Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961.
- Salil Shetty is the Secretary General of Amnesty International.

## **NATIONAL**

### **7. Three-day children's film festival begins**

The **second National Children's Film Festival** took off on a colourful note in **Visakhapatnam**.

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the festival at VUDA Children's Arena.
- Opening film "**Shanu – The Optimist**" directed by **KNT Sastry** and produced by CFSI in 2016, was screened after the inaugural session.

### **8. President of India inaugurates first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017**

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017 in New Delhi.

- The slogan of the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit is, '**Unite for a Healthy Mind**'.
- As per the National Mental Health Survey 2015-16 conducted by NIMHANS, 5.2% of the Indian adult population suffers from depression in some form or the other.

### **9. India and Bangladesh Sign 22 Agreements**

Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** is on a visit to India. She held bilateral talks with Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

- Twenty-two agreements were signed in the area of defence, nuclear energy, cyber security and media, though the two leaders witnessed the signing of only four pacts – on the judicial sector, a \$4.5 billion development assistance line of credit, on outer space and on passenger and cruise services.
- In addition, India has offered a new \$500 million line of credit specifically for defence purchases.
- The two leaders released the Hindi translation of the unfinished autobiography of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and also named a road after Bangladesh's founding father in the middle of Lutyens Delhi.
- Modi announced that both countries will jointly produce a biopic on Sheikh Mujib, which will be released in 2020 on his birth centenary.

### **10. North India to get DNA bank for wildlife**

North India is all set to get its first DNA bank for wildlife.

- Scientists at the **Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)** in Bareilly are in the process of collecting DNA samples of all wild animals to set up the bank.
- It is expected to help in research and also in bringing down poaching.
- At present, the Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) in Hyderabad is the only such facility in the country.

### **11. 'TB-free India' drive held in Dharamsala**

The "TB-free India" campaign to eradicate the disease from India by 2025 was launched at a national level summit was held in Dharamsala.

- Addressing media persons here BJP MP Anurag Thakur said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would personally review the progress of the Rs 2,000 crore campaign.
- The drive would spread awareness regarding TB, provide free drugs and monitor the patients, he said.

### **12. President Inaugurates Seminar on "Economic Reforms with reference to Electoral Issues"**

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated an All India Seminar on "Economic Reforms with Reference to Electoral Issues" organised by the Confederation of the Indian Bar in New Delhi.

- The President said that a strong electoral system is necessary to strengthen the democratic structure of India.
- Timely reforms are necessary which not only would give justice to the people but also to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution of India.

### **13. Rajnath Singh to inaugurate 'Bharat ke Veer' web portal**

Home Minister Rajnath Singh will launch a "Bharat ke Veer" web portal and mobile application that will enable donors contribute towards the families of soldiers who lost their lives in the line on duty.

- This website is technically supported by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and powered by State Bank of India.
- "Bharat Ke Veer" would be managed by a committee made up of eminent persons of repute and senior government officials, who would decide to disburse the fund equitably.

### **14. PM to launch digital exhibition on Champaran Satyagraha**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a special digital exhibition on the Champaran Satyagraha, in a unique initiative to re-envision the theme of the movement undertaken by Mahatma Gandhi a century ago.

- The exhibition, titled Bapu Ko Karyanjali, will be launched at the National Archives in New Delhi.
- The theme **Bapu Ko Karyanjali** is a pointer to the spirit of a fresh resolve towards the goal of cleanliness that was so dear to Mahatma Gandhi.

#### **Points to Remember**

- The first Satyagraha movements inspired by Mohandas Gandhi occurred in Champaran district of Bihar and the Kheda district of Gujarat on 1917 to 1918.

### 15. MP govt starts ambitious 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojana'

Madhya Pradesh government kick-started its ambitious 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojana' under which subsidised meals will be available at Rs 5 per plate to people, especially the economically disadvantaged sections of society.

- The initiative is on the lines of state run Amma Canteens, started by the former chief minister J Jayalithaa, which served subsidised food at low prices.
- Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the scheme at Gwalior while in Bhopal mayor Alok Sharma inaugurated the scheme.

### 16. Yesso Naik inaugurates the International Convention on World Homoeopathy Day

Minister of State (Independent Charge), for AYUSH Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik, inaugurated the National Convention on World Homoeopathy Day on 10 April 2017 at New Delhi.

- The event is being organized to commemorate the 262nd birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician, who was a great scholar, linguist and acclaimed scientist.
- The theme of the convention is "Enhancing Quality Research in Homoeopathy through scientific evidence and rich clinical experiences".

### 17. "Nakshe" Portal launched by Dr. Harsh Vardhan on 250th Anniversary of Survey of India

A new web portal "nakshe" was launched by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi, on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Survey of India (SoI).

- Topographic maps or Open Series Maps (OSM) containing natural and man-made geographical features including terrain or topography are prepared by the SoI since its inception in 1767 and is in conformity with the National Map Policy-2005.
- These OSM maps have been made available for free download from "nakshe" web portal in pdf format on 1:50,000 scale through Aadhar enabled user authentication process, in line with Digital India programme of the Government of India.

### 18. Rs. 23,443 crores released for MGNREGS for Mission Water Conservation

The Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs. 23,443.09 crore to the States as first tranche for Financial Year 2017-18 under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

- The amount released includes all pending liabilities as on 31st March, 2017. It is also to ensure priority work on water conservation measures.

### 19. Government reduces number of centrally sponsored schemes to 28

The government has reduced the number of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) to 28 umbrella schemes from 66.

- Based on the recommendation of the sub-group of Chief Ministers on rationalisation of centrally sponsored schemes, the government of India has rationalised centrally sponsored schemes (CSS).
- 6 schemes have been categorised as Core of the Core, 20 schemes as Core Schemes and remaining two as Optional Schemes.

### 20. Govt sets up inter-ministerial panel to monitor UDAN

The government has set up an inter-ministerial committee to monitor the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN which seeks to make flying affordable by connecting unserved and under-served airports.

- Besides, the panel would be responsible for coordination among stakeholders, including state governments, for "time-bound" implementation of the scheme.
- Chaired by Civil Aviation Secretary, the 'Inter- Ministerial Monitoring-cum-Coordination Committee' would have representations from the ministries of finance, defence, home as well as petroleum and natural gas, as per a notification.

### 21. India-Australia launch Sports Partnership in Mumbai

India and Australia has launched Sports partnership in Mumbai aimed at increasing cooperation in sports.

- The Partnership, which was launched by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Mr. Vijay Goel and the visiting Australian Prime Minister Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, in the presence of cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar, will advance India – Australia cooperation in four areas - athlete and coach training and development, sport science, sport governance and integrity, and grassroots participation."
- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said under the new partnership **Victoria University and the University of Canberra** would work with India to assist in the establishment of a National Sports University similar to the Australian Institute of Sport.

### 22. India's first-ever micro-drama festival held in Delhi

Named after Thespis of Icaria, believed to be the first actor in Greek drama (6th century BC), the day-long event 'Thespis' saw screening of 28 independent plays at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Art.

- Organised by theatre group 'Vriksh', the festival marks the debut of the micro-drama concept in India.

### 23. Haryana launches e-sewa app to provide info about welfare schemes

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched a mobile application to inform people about various welfare schemes and programmes of the state government.

- In the first phase, information about more than 250 schemes and programmes of 30 different departments had been made available on the e-Sewa mobile app.

#### 24. Karnataka unveils mobile app for women's safety

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has unveiled mobile app 'Suraksha' for the safety of women in the city.

- The app has an option to register two more numbers of persons the user wants to inform during an emergency.

#### 25. Modi world's most followed leader on Instagram

With 6.8 million followers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the world's most followed leader on Facebook's photo-sharing app Instagram.

#### 26. Govt sets up panel to recommend regulations for Virtual Currencies

The government has decided to close the regulatory gaps to keep a check on virtual currencies, including Bitcoins, and has set up a time-bound inter-disciplinary committee to recommend an action plan for dealing with such currencies.

- To examine the existing framework for virtual currencies, the department of economic affairs in the Ministry of Finance has constituted an inter-disciplinary committee chaired by **Special Secretary (Economic Affairs), Dinesh Sharma.**

#### 27. Andhra CM relaunches 'Adarana Scheme'

Reiterating his resolve for the uplift and all-round development of people belonging to the Backward Classes, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of 'Adarana', a scheme for improving traditional occupations.

#### 28. Andhra to Introduce 'Ammaku Vandanam' scheme

A unique programme to pay tribute to mothers will be introduced in the government-run schools in Andhra Pradesh from this year.

- Under 'Ammaku Vandanam', the school children will take the blessings of their mothers and may also do 'paada pooja' (washing her feet).
- The government also decided to implement the programme in 5,000 high schools across the state from academic year 2017-18.

## **TRADE / BANKING**

#### 29. India and ADB Sign \$175 Million Loan Agreement for Solar Transmission System

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$175 million loan agreement to support construction of high voltage transmission systems to evacuate power generated from new mega solar parks to the interstate grid, and improve reliability of the national grid system.

- The loan will be given to the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) and will include subprojects in various locations in India.
- This will be the ADB's first breakthrough of the country system's application to a specific project.

#### 30. NEFT transfers to be faster as RBI cuts clearance time

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to slash clearance time for **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** in an attempt to enhance efficiency of the electronic payment system and add to customer convenience.

- In line with the document on Vision-2018 for Payment and Settlement Systems, the NEFT settlement cycle will be **reduced from hourly batches to half hourly batches**, the RBI said in the first bi-monthly monetary policy for 2017-18.
- "Consequently, **11 additional settlement** batches will be introduced at 8.30 am onwards, taking the total number of half hourly settlement batches during the day to **23**," the newly appointed deputy governor B.P. Kanungo said.

#### **Points to Remember**

- National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) is a nation-wide payment system facilitating **one-to-one** funds transfer.
- Under this Scheme, individuals can electronically transfer funds from **any bank branch** to any individual having an account with **any other bank branch** in the country participating in the Scheme.
- There is **no transfer limit** – either minimum or maximum – on the amount of funds that could be transferred using NEFT.
- However, maximum amount per transaction is limited to **Rs. 50,000/- for cash-based remittances** within India and also for remittances to **Nepal** under the **Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme**.

#### 31. Canara Bank partners BSNL to upgrade bandwidth at all branches

**Canara Bank**, a public sector bank, has embarked upon an ambitious project of upgrading the bandwidth at all its branches to 2 Mbps in partnership with **BSNL**.

- The project was officially inaugurated by **Dina Bandhu Mohapatra**, Executive Director, Canara Bank in presence of other top executives of the Bank and BSNL.

#### 32. Banks, post offices exempt from cash withdrawal limit

Ban on cash transactions in excess of Rs 2 lakh will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and Post Office savings accounts, the Income Tax Department said.

- Through the Finance Act 2017, the government has banned cash transactions of over Rs 2 lakh and said a penalty of an equal amount would be levied on the receiver.
- In a clarification on the newly-inserted Section - 269ST - in the Income Tax Act, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the restriction will not apply to withdrawal from banks and Post Offices.

### 33. ESAF Small Finance Bank launches social deposit scheme Hrudaya Deposit

ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched a social deposit scheme called Hrudaya Deposit at a function held in Thrissur.

- The deposit scheme, as the name suggests, stands for a social cause, through which, ESAF Bank provides the customers an opportunity to be a part in social welfare projects, which none of the other banks has given so far, said K. Paul Thomas, Managing Director and CEO, ESAF Small Finance Bank.
- The significance of the scheme is that a customer who deposit in it, becomes a part in nation building, as their deposits are used for the welfare and infrastructure development of the marginalized sections of the society, he said.
- An individual or a legal entity can join the Hrudaya Deposit Scheme with a minimum deposit amount of ₹15 lakh and for a minimum period of two years.

### 34. Central Bank of India customer wins Rs 1 cr under Modi's cashless scheme

A transaction of Rs 1,590 has bagged a Central Bank of India customer a lucky bounty of Rs 1 crore under the Modi government's promotional scheme to popularise digital payments.

- President Pranab Mukherjee picked up the lucky winners from the 100th draw of lots under digital payments promotion schemes at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- He congratulated the six winners — three consumers and three merchants — under the Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana.

#### Points to Remember

- Central bank of India was founded on 21 December 1911. Its headquarters are in Mumbai.
- The slogan of Central bank of India is 'Central to you since 1911.'
- Rajeev Rishi is the Chairman & Managing Director Central bank of India.

### 35. Flipkart acquires eBay's India biz

E-commerce major Flipkart raised USD 1.4 billion from Tencent, eBay and Microsoft at post transaction valuation of USD 11.6 billion.

- In exchange for an equity stake in Flipkart, eBay is making a cash investment of USD 500 million and selling its India business to the company.

### 36. Postal Dept, SBI join hands to promote cashless transactions

Department of Posts has joined hands with State Bank of India to promote SBI buddy e-wallet and POS machines for cashless transactions at Post Office counters while booking speed post and registered post items.

- P K Swain, Chief Postmaster General, Punjab Circle and Anil Kishora, Chief General Manager, SBI, Chandigarh dedicated SBI buddy e-wallet and SBI POS machines at Chandigarh General Post Office for the general public.
- Swain said that installation of SBI Buddy e-wallet and POS machines will facilitate economy through digital payments/cashless transactions in the post offices.

### 37. Amazon gets RBI nod for e-wallet in India

Amazon India has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to launch its own digital wallet in India.

- Amazon India, which had applied for a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) licence nearly a year ago, will now look to take on established rivals such as Paytm and Freecharge.
- In December, Amazon had launched its Pay Balance service in order to boost cashless transactions.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### 38. Malala Yousafzai to be United Nations Messenger of Peace

United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has selected Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Malala Yousafzai** to be a **UN messenger of peace**, the highest honor bestowed by the UN chief on a global citizen.

- UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced that she will focus on promoting girls' education worldwide.
- Other messengers of peace include actors **Michael Douglas** and **Leonardo DiCaprio**, primatologist Jane Goodall and musicians **Daniel Barenboim** and **Yo-Yo Ma**.

### 39. 64th National Film Awards

Best Feature Film- **Kaasav** (Marathi)

Best Actress - **Surabhi Lakshmi** (Minnaminungu)

Best Director - Rajesh Mapuskar (Ventilator)

Best Supporting Actor - Manoj Joshi (Dashkriya)

Best Debut Film of a Director - Deep Chaudari (Alifa)

Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment - '**SathamanamBhavathi**'

Best Children's Film - '**Dhanak**' (Hindi)

Best Child Artist - Adhish Praveen (Kunju Daivam), Saj (Noor Islam), Manohara (Railway Children)

Best Male Playback Singer - Sundara Iyer (Joker)

Best Female Playback Singer - Iman Chakraborty (Praktan)

Best Special Effect Award: 'Shivaay'

Best Environmental film including agriculture - **The Tiger Who CrossedThe Line**

Best Actor - **Akshay Kumar** (Rustom)

Best Hindi Film: **Neerja** (Ram Madhvani)

Best Film on Social Issues - '**Pink**'

Best Supporting Actress - Zaira Wasim (Dangal)

### Points to Remember

- The most film friendly state award was given to **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The best film critic award was given to **G. Dhananjayan**.
- Best Book on Cinema award was given to **Lata: Sur Gatha**, authored by **Yatindra Mishra**. The book narrates Lata Mangeshkar's life, seven decade career and its' impact on Indian cinema.
- The National Film Awards were established in **1954**.
- **Shyamchi Aai**, a **Marathi** film received an honour to be the **first Indianfilm** to receive **President's Gold Medal for the All India Best FeatureFilm**, which now better known as **National Film Award for Best FeatureFilm**.

#### 40. Mukta Dutta Tomar appointed India's Ambassador to Germany

Mukta Dutta Tomar was appointed as new Indias Ambassador to Germany.

#### 41. Kristin Davis appointed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed actress and philanthropist Kristin Davis as its Goodwill Ambassador.

### Points to Remember

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is a United Nations programme mandated to protect and support refugees.
- Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland, and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- The UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes, once in 1954 and again in 1981.
- UNHCR.ORG

#### 42. Malvika Sinha appointed RBI Executive Director

The Reserve Bank has appointed Malvika Sinha as Executive Director following the appointment of B P Kanungo as Deputy Governor.

#### 43. Smita Sandhane takes charge as MD, Saraswat Co-operative Bank

➤ Saraswat Co-operative Bank said Smita Sandhane has taken charge as Managing Director of the bank with effect from April. She is the **first woman chief of India's largest urban co-operative bank**.

➤ Prior to her elevation, Sandhane was the Joint Managing Director of the bank.

#### 44. Ajit Kumar Srivastava, Shabri Bhattasali named new CBDT members

Senior bureaucrats Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were appointed members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex policy making body of the Income Tax department.

➤ The role of the CBDT is to provide inputs for policy and planning of direct taxes in the country and the statutory authority also administers the direct tax laws through Income Tax Department.

➤ The CBDT functions under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.

#### 45. Sunita Sharma, B Venugopal appointed MDs in LIC

Sunita Sharma and B Venugopal were appointed as Managing Directors in Life Insurance Corporation of India.

➤ They have been appointed to the posts for a period of five years, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

➤ Sharma and Venugopal are at present Executive Directors in LIC.

#### 46. Mahabaleshwara MS takes charge as new MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank

➤ He succeeds Polali Jayarama Bhat, who voluntarily stepped down 15 months ahead of his three-year term as MD and CEO.

#### 47. Ex-UNEP boss Steiner takes over as UNDP administrator

UN chief Antonio Guterres has named a German with extensive experience at the world organization, Achim Steiner, as the new administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

### Points to Remember

- Headquartered in New York City, the UNDP seeks to reduce poverty, improve social development and encourage women's empowerment.

#### 48. Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya takes charge as Whole Time Member, IBBI

Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in New Delhi.

## **AWARDS**

#### 49. British-Indian educationist named 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year'

Bihar-origin **Asha Khemka**, who arrived in the United Kingdom with her family in 1978 without English language skills and went on to change the lives of thousands as an educationist, was named "**Asian Businesswoman of the Year**" at an event in Birmingham.

➤ The latest award was conferred on her, among others, at the 5th annual Asian Business Awards Midlands, which honours the success and achievements of local Asian businesses, at the Edgbaston cricket ground.

## 50. Pulitzer's Prize 2017: Winners List

Journalism

Public Service: The staff of the New York Daily News and ProPublica.

Breaking News Reporting: The staff of East Bay Times.

Investigative Reporting: Eric Eyre, the Charleston Gazette-Mail.

Explanatory Reporting: The Panama Papers, by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, McClatchy and the Miami Herald.

Local Reporting: The staff of The Salt Lake Tribune.

National Reporting: David Fahrenthold, The Washington Post.

International Reporting: The staff of The New York Times.

Feature Writing: C.J. Chivers of The New York Times.

Commentary: Peggy Noonan, The Wall Street Journal.

Criticism: Hilton Als, The New Yorker.

Editorial Writing: Art Cullen, The Storm Lake Times.

Editorial Cartooning: Jim Morin, Miami Herald.

Breaking News Photography: Daniel Berehulak, The New York Times.

Feature Photography: E. Jason Wambsgans, Chicago Tribune.

Letters, Drama And Music

Fiction: The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead.

Drama: Sweat, by Lynn Nottage.

Biography or Autobiography: The Return, by Hisham Matar.

Poetry: Olio, by Tyehimba Jess.

Music: Angel's Bone, by Du Yun.

## 51. Haldia Port Tops the List in the First Ever Ranking of Ports on Sanitation

For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters, based on the efforts undertaken by them to counter waste generating sources with respect to port operation, office area, township area and the response to incoming ships.

➤ While Haldia and Vizag ports bagged the first and second ranks respectively, almost all ports have achieved the benchmark for cleanliness or are well above it.

➤ The exercise was undertaken during the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' observed from the 16th to 31st of March 2017.

## 52. President Confers National Geoscience Awards for 2016 on 26 Geoscientists

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the National Geoscience Awards 2016 (#NGA2016) on twenty-six geoscientists in New Delhi, in the presence of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines Shri Piyush Goyal.

➤ The 26 geoscientists were presented the National Geoscience Awards for the year 2016 for their meritorious contributions in eleven fields of geosciences.

➤ Dr. Abhishek Saha from National Institute of Oceanography Goa who got the Young Scientist Award was especially lauded by the President and the Mines Minister.

## 53. Himachal bags Krishi Karman Award 2015-16

The Union Ministry of Agriculture has selected Himachal Pradesh for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grains production.

➤ A communication in this regard was received by Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, an official spokesman said.

➤ State Agriculture Minister Sujan Singh Pathania said that during last five years, the total food grains production has increased from 14.94 lakh tone to 16.34 lakh ton.

## **SPORTS**

## 54. IOA grants affiliation to Boxing Federation of India

The **Indian Olympic Association** (IOA) has granted affiliation to the **Boxing Federation of India** (BFI), ending a long-standing impasse between the two bodies.

➤ The affiliation ends a logjam that goes back to September last year when BFI took charge of the sport after elections conducted in the presence of **International Boxing Association** (AIBA) and Sports Ministry observers.

➤ BFI now becomes the fully recognised body for Indian boxing, having already been granted affiliation by AIBA and the Sports Ministry.

## 55. Indian Boxer Shyam Kumar Wins Gold At Thailand International

Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar (49kg) clinched a gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok without even stepping inside the ring for his summit clash.

➤ Shyam, who won gold at the 2015 edition of the event, was to take on Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov of Uzbekistan in the final.

➤ However, Dusmatov pulled out of the bout owing to an injury, giving the Indian his second gold medal at the event.

#### 56. NBA launches basketball school in Mumbai

National Basketball Association announced the setting up of its first basketball school, a network of tuition-based basketball development programmes, in Mumbai.

- The school, as part of a multi-year agreement announced with India On Track (IOT), is open to male and female players between ages 6-18.
- Additional schools will be launched by NBA in India and around the world in the coming months.

#### 57. Lewis Hamilton wins Chinese Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton dominated the Chinese Grand Prix to take his first win of the year and move into a share of the championship lead.

- Vettel finished second.
- Red Bull's Max Verstappen moved up from 16th on the grid to finish third.

#### 58. Davis Cup: India seal 4-1 win over Uzbekistan

India sealed a 4-1 win against Uzbekistan in the second round of the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie in Bangalore to advance to the World Group playoff.

- The Indians will now play the World Group playoff in September against an opponent that will be decided later through a draw in London.

#### Points to Remember

- The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in men's tennis.
- It is run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- It is described by the organisers as the "World Cup of Tennis", and the winners are referred to as the World Champion team.
- The competition began in 1900 between Great Britain and the United States.

#### 59. India lift Asian School Hockey Championship

Alishan Mohammad and Pratap Lakra scored a brace each as India emerged champion at the 5th Asian School Hockey Championship with a convincing 5-1 win over Malaysia in the final.

## **DEATHS**

#### 60. Badminton Association of India President Akhilesh Das Gupta Passes Away

**Badminton Association of India** (BAI) president and former Union Minister **Akhilesh Das Gupta** passed away after suffering a heart attack.

- He held country's most prestigious office as 'Member of Parliament' (**Rajya Sabha**) for 18 years.

## **BOOKS**

#### 61. Veerappa Moily presents copy of his new book to President

Former Union minister and senior Congress leader **M Veerappa Moily** presented the first copy of his book '**The Flaming Tresses of Draupadi**' to President Pranab Mukherjee.

- The book Chronicles the epic character of Mahabharata, **Draupadi**.

#### 62. VP receives the book 'Hope in a challenged democracy; An Indian narrative'

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari has received the first copy of the Book titled 'Hope in a challenged democracy; An Indian narrative' authored by Shri Ashwini Kumar, from the former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

#### 63. Asha Parekh's autobiography 'The Hit Girl' launched by Salman Khan

Salman Khan has launched the biography of yesteryears actress Asha Parekh's autobiography 'The Hit Girl', for which he's written the Foreword as well.

- Authored by celebrated film critic and author Khalid Mohamed, the book covers the life and times of an actress who ruled the hearts of many in the 1960s and 1970s.

#### 64. PM Modi releases book penned by LS Speaker Sumitra Mahajan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book 'Matoshree', based on life of Maratha Queen Ahilyabai Holkar, authored by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

- After the release, a play based on the book was staged at Balayogi Auditorium in the Parliament Library Building with the Prime Minister, several Union ministers and MPs in attendance.

#### 65. The Dalai Lama launches the book ocean and blue mountains

The Dalai Lama released a book titled "Ocean and Blue Mountains" published by the department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs in the presence of the chief minister and other dignitaries.

- The book title refers 'Ocean' as His Holiness and 'Blue Mountains' as the people of Arunachal Pradesh and is a collection of memoirs of the special bond shared between the two.
- He also released a book titled – "Crossing of the Frontiers" describing his exile route from Tibet to India, published by Losel Nyinje Charitable Society and Monyul Social Welfare Association.

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