

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS OF AUGUST 2017**

### **Awards**

The non-profit organisation of France and its founder who have been chosen for 2017 The Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award by the Gandhi Foundation – **AL Kamandjati and Ramzi Abu Redwan**

The Chief Minister of Telangana who has been chosen by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) to be conferred the Global Agriculture Leadership Award – **K Chandrasekhar Rao**

### **Sports**

The Portuguese footballer and player for Real Madrid, who has been awarded the UEFA Player of the Year Award for the third time in 4 years – **Cristiano Ronaldo**

The venue of the first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav to be held from 28th August to 3rd September, 2017 – **New Delhi**

The German professional tennis player who has won the Rogers Cup tennis tournament defeating Roger Federer in the finals – **Alexander Zverev**

The Spanish football club which has won the UEFA Super Cup 2017 defeating contender Manchester United – **Real Madrid**

### **Persons**

The new Chief Justice of India (45th CJI) who has been appointed following the retirement of CJI JS Khehar – **Justice Dipak Mishra**

The transgender from Kolkata who has been crowned India's first Miss Trans Queen at a pageant in Gurgaon – **Nitasha Biswas**

The new Chairman and Managing Director of Air India appointed in place of Shri Ashwani Lohani – **Rajiv Bansal**

The former Chairman and Managing Director, Air India who has been appointed as Chairman, Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) – **Ashwani Lohani**

The former Chief Minister of Manipur and Member of Parliament who passed away on 22 August 2017 at the age of 96 – **Rishang Keishing**

The Indian origin boy, with an IQ of 162, who has won Channel 4's Child Genius competition in U.K. – **Rahul Doshi**

The new CEO and MD (interim) of Infosys who has been appointed in place of Vishal Sikka who stepped down on 18 Aug 2017 – **UB Pravin Rao**

India's legendary sportsperson who has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for Physical Activity in South-East Asia Region by the World Health Organisation – **Milkha Singh**

The lyricist, poet and screenwriter who has been appointed the new Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification replacing Shri Pahlaj Nihalani – **Prasoon Joshi**

The former Secretary General of the FICCI who has been nominated to the post of Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog to replace Shri Arvind Panagariya – **Dr. Rajiv Kumar**

The new Prime Minister of Pakistan who has been elected following the resignation of Mr. Nawaz Sharif – **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi**

The scientist, writer and founder of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad who passed away on 01 Aug 2017 – **Pushpa Mitra Bhargava**

The Committee of Experts constituted by the Govt of India comprising of members from Government, Academia and Industry to study and identify key data protection issues and recommend methods for addressing them is headed by – **Justice BN Srikrishna**

### **Places – World**

The venue of World Police and Fire Games held from Aug 7 to 16 (Indian police contingent won 151 gold, 99 silver and 71 bronze (total 321) medals – **Los Angeles, California**

The Spanish city in which a terror attack on La Rambla street killed 30 people and injured several others on 17 Aug 2017 – **Barcelona**

The country which has been declared by World Health Organisation to be polio free since it had not recorded any case of polio in the last 3 years – **Somalia**

The country which has scrapped visa requirements for citizens of 80 countries including India, allowing them to enter the country with a valid passport – **Qatar**

The country which has launched the first spatial environmental research vehicle named Venus (Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite) – **Israel**

The country in which world's longest suspension foot bridge (length 494 m) was opened to the public – **Switzerland**

### **Places – India**

The place in Punjab where India's first Partition Museum was inaugurated on 17 Aug 17 – **Amritsar**

The State which has launched #SheMeansBusiness programme in partnership with Facebook to train women entrepreneurs – **Odisha**

The State which has recently passed the Religious Freedom Bill in an attempt to stop forced conversions in the State – **Jharkhand**

The city near which 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., was inaugurated – **Hyderabad**

## Miscellaneous

The theme on which India and Canada has agreed to jointly issue a set of two commemorative postage stamps on 21 Sep 2017 – **Diwali**

The rocket mission launched by NASA to study disturbances in the upper atmosphere that interfere with communication technology systems at Roi-Namur in Marshall Islands is named – **Waves and Instabilities from a Neutral Dynamo (WINDY)**

The variety of rice grown in Burdwan region of West Bengal which has been accorded the geographical indication (GI) tag – **Gobindobhog**

The case in the Supreme Court of India in which the SC has held that "Right to Privacy is an integral part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty guaranteed in Article 21 of the Constitution" – **Justice KS Puttaswamy versus Union of India**

The case in Supreme Court of India in which the SC has declared the the practice of triple talaq to be illegal – **Shayara Banu versus Union of India**

The strong typhoon which struck the coast of China causing loss of lives and property in Macau and Hong Kong was named – **Typhoon Hato**

The cloud-seeding project launched by the Govt of Karnataka to bring more rains in the State is named – **Project Varshadhare**

The fifth in the series of six 105-metre offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) which was in the Coast Guard at Goa is named (the 4 already in service are ICGS Samarth, ICGS Shoor, ICGS Sarathi and ICGS Shaunak – **ICGS Shaurya**

The mobile app developed by the Indian Army to enable serving soldiers to track details like postings, promotions, pay slips and Form 16 is named – **Humraaz**

The portal launched by MSTC and Central Railside Warehouse Company to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce is named – **e-RaKAM**

The chemicals which have been banned from use in firecrackers by the Supreme Court – **antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead**

The anthem of Swachh Survekshan 2018 scripted by Shri Prasoon Joshi and composed by Shankar Mahadevan – **Swachhata Ki Jyot Jagi Hai**

## Important Days of August

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>International Youth Day:</b> 12 August 2017<br/>Designated by: United Nations General Assembly<br/>First observed: 2000<br/>Theme: Youth Building Peace</p> |
|---|

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>World Elephant Day:</b> 12 August 2017<br/>         Designated by: Patricia Sims and Elephant Reintroduction Programme of Thailand<br/>         First observed: 2012<br/>         Theme: Bringing the world together to help elephants</p> |
| <p><b>World Humanitarian Day:</b> 19 August 2017<br/>         Designated by: United Nations General Assembly<br/>         First observed: 2009<br/>         Theme: #NotATarget</p>   |
| <p><b>International Day against Nuclear Tests:</b> 29 August 2017<br/>         Designated by: United Nations General Assembly<br/>         First observed: 2010</p>  |
| <p><b>International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances:</b> 30 August 2017<br/>         Designated by: United Nations General Assembly<br/>         First observed: 2011</p>  |

### [NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar \(NISAR\)](#)

ISRO and NASA are working towards realisation of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission by 2021.

In NISAR mission, NASA is responsible for development of L-band SAR and ISRO is responsible for development of S-band SAR. The L & S band SAR will be integrated with ISRO's spacecraft and launched on-board India's GSLV. After the launch in 2021, the plan of action includes (i) calibration of instruments & validation of data products; (ii) development of science acquisition plan; (iii) development of data processing procedures & applications; and (iv) conduct of outreach activities in research institutes & academia.

NISAR employs a futuristic SweepSAR technique, which enables very wide swath of more than 200 km and very high resolution of the order of 5-10 m. The L & S band microwave data obtained from this satellite will be useful for variety of application, which include estimating agricultural biomass over full duration of crop cycle; assessing soil moisture; monitoring of floods & oil slicks; coastal erosion, coastline changes; assessment of mangroves; surface deformation studies, ice sheet dynamics etc.

### [IAAF World Championships 2017](#)

Venue: London

Held: 04.08.17 to 13.08.17

#### **Medals Tally**

| #  | Country      | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|----|--------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. | USA          | 10   | 11     | 9      | 30    |
| 2. | Kenya        | 5    | 2      | 4      | 11    |
| 3. | South Africa | 3    | 1      | 2      | 6     |
| 4. | France       | 3    | 0      | 2      | 5     |
| 5. | China        | 2    | 3      | 2      | 7     |

**Justin Gatlin** (USA) won the gold, Christian Coleman (USA) won the silver and Usain Bolt (Jamaica) won the bronze in 100 m.

**Torie Bowie** (USA) won the gold in 100 m (Women)

**Mo Farah** (Great Britain) won the gold in 10000 and 5000 m.

Venue for 2019 Championships: **Doha** (Qatar)

### [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana](#)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the renaming of the new Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) as "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)" for the period of 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. Earlier, CCEA in its meeting held in May, 2017 approved the new Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) with same allocation and period.

**Objective:** The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.

**Financial Allocation:** PMKSY with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore is expected to leverage investment of Rs. 31,400 crore, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing Rs. 1,04,125 crore, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/ indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20.

### [Women Transforming India Awards 2017](#)

Instituted by : NITI Aayog

Jury comprising: P.T. Usha, track and field Olympian; Pooja Thakur, Wing Commander, Indian Air Force; Nirupama Rao, Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador, Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator.

Launched on International Women's Day on 8 March, the contest aimed to gather lesser-known stories of women leading change. It was hosted on MyGov.in and ran till 1 June and was supported by an extensive outreach campaign to promote equal opportunity for women.

### [TOP 6](#)

**Laxmi Agarwal:** Attacked in 2005 in broad daylight at the age of 15, Laxmi Aggarwal is today a champion of violence against women. She has filed public interest litigations in India's highest court to restrict the sale of acid.

**Safeena Husain:** The founder and executive director of Educate Girls, a non- profit organization working for girls' education, Safeena Husain has worked to bring education to some of India's most backward districts.

**Kamal Kumbhar:** Broke free from the shackles of poverty and a suffocating marriage to create a micro-enterprise network, enabling women like herself to realise their dreams of a brighter tomorrow.

**Subasini Mistry:** After losing her husband at a young age, Subasini Mistry saved for two decades to build a hospital for the needy.

**Arunima Sinha:** Is the first female amputee to scale the highest mountain in the world.

**Jamuna Tudu:** Along with her band of women activists, Jamuna Tudu has conserved 50 hectares of forest land around her village in Jharkhand, taking on encroachers with little more than bows and arrows and courage.

### RUNNERS-UP

**Rajlakshmi Borthakur:** Determined to save her child's life, Rajlakshmi Borthakur researched epilepsy for more than three years and developed a simple wearable device, a smart glove, that can predict epileptic seizures before they happen.

**Harshini Kanhekar:** is India's first woman firefighter.

**Sunita Kamble:** As a goat doctor in the severely drought affected region, Sunita Kamble worked with her team to protect the community's livestock and create alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities for women.

**Kiran Kanojia:** Survivor of a horrific accident, Kiran Kanojia, is a champion blade runner, constantly pushing the limits on her quest for the next challenge.

**Shima Modak:** For almost a decade, Shima Modak has been working relentlessly for the welfare of the distressed. Albeit with very little financial assistance, Shima has helped improve the future of children in her community by taking free education to the doorstep of the vulnerable.

**Kanika Tekriwal:** A self-made aviation entrepreneur and cancer survivor, Kanika Tekriwal launched her company, JetSetGo in 2013. JetSetGo, India's first marketplace for chartered jets, is an interactive technology-driven platform enabling users to charter aircrafts and helicopters around India.

### World Badminton Championships 2017

Venue: Glasgow, Scotland

Held: 21.08.17 to 27.08.17

#### **Medals Tally**

| #  | Country   | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|----|-----------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. | China     | 2    | 2      | 3      | 7     |
| 2. | Japan     | 1    | 1      | 2      | 4     |
| 3. | Indonesia | 1    | 1      | 0      | 2     |
| 4. | Denmark   | 1    | 0      | 1      | 2     |
| 5. | India     | 0    | 1      | 1      | 2     |

#### **Singles Medallist**

| Event | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|-------|------|--------|--------|
|-------|------|--------|--------|

|                 |                          |                            |   |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Men's Singles   | Viktor Axelson (Denmark) | Lin Dan (China)            | Son Wan Ho (S. Korea)<br>Chen Long (China)          |
| Women's Singles | Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)   | PV Sindhu ( <b>India</b> ) | Chen Yufei (China)<br>Saina Nehwal ( <b>India</b> ) |

Venue for 2018 Championships: **Nanjing** (China)

### Sports Awards 2017

The Sports Awards were presented by the President on National Sports Day, August 29

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2017

| S. No. | Name of the Awardee | Discipline   |
|--------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1.     | Shri Devendra       | Para Athlete |
| 2.     | Shri Sardar Singh   | Hockey       |

### Dronacharya Awards 2017

| S. No. | Name of the Awardee      | Discipline           |
|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.     | Late Dr. R. Gandhi       | Athletics            |
| 2.     | Mr. Heera Nand Kataria   | Kabaddi              |
| 3.     | Mr. G.S.S.V. Prasad      | Badminton (Lifetime) |
| 4.     | Mr. Brij Bhushan Mohanty | Boxing (Lifetime)    |
| 5.     | Mr. P.A. Raphel          | Hockey (Lifetime)    |
| 6.     | Mr. Sanjoy Chakraverthy  | Shooting (Lifetime)  |
| 7.     | Mr. Roshan Lal           | Wrestling (Lifetime) |

### Arjuna Awards 2017

| S. No. | Name of the Awardees         | Discipline   |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1.     | Ms. V.J. Surekha             | Archery      |
| 2.     | Ms. Khushbir Kaur            | Athletics    |
| 3.     | Mr. Arokiya Rajiv            | Athletics    |
| 4.     | Ms. Prasanthi Singh          | Basketball   |
| 5.     | Sub. Laishram Debendro Singh | Boxing       |
| 6.     | Mr. Cheteshwar Pujara        | Cricket      |
| 7.     | Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur         | Cricket      |
| 8.     | Ms. Oinam Bembem Devi        | Football     |
| 9.     | Mr. S.S.P. Chawrasia         | Golf         |
| 10.    | Mr. S.V. Sunil               | Hockey       |
| 11.    | Mr. Jasvir Singh             | Kabaddi      |
| 12.    | Mr. P. N. Prakash            | Shooting     |
| 13.    | Mr. A. Amalraj               | Table Tennis |
| 14.    | Mr. Saketh Myneni            | Tennis       |
| 15.    | Mr. Satyawart Kadian         | Wrestling    |
| 16.    | Mr. Mariyappan               | Para-Athlete |
| 17.    | Mr. Varun Singh Bhati        | Para-Athlete |

### Dhyan Chand Award

| S. No. | Name                  | Discipline |
|--------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1.     | Mr. Bhupender Singh   | Athletics  |
| 2.     | Mr. Syed Shahid Hakim | Football   |
| 3.     | Ms. Sumarai Tete      | Hockey     |

### Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

| S. No. | Name                      | Discipline            |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.     | Smt Premlata Agrawal      | Land Adventure        |
| 2.     | Shri Rohan More Dattatrey | Water Adventure       |
| 3.     | Shri Ashok Abbey          | Life Time Achievement |
| 4.     | Shri Ved Prakash Sharma   | Life Time Achievement |

### Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2016-17

Punjabi University, Patiala

### Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar, 2017

| S. No. | Awardee   | Category  |
|--------|---|---|
| 1.     | Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent        | Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)                              |
| 2.     | Encouragement to sports through corporate social responsibility | Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) |
| 3.     | Sports for Development  | The Golf Foundation   |
| 4.     | Sports for Development  | Reliance Foundation   |

Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was headed by Justice C.K. Thakkar (Former Judge Supreme Court of India, Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal and Bombay). Selection Committee for Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards was headed by Shri Pullela Gopichand.

### All India Elephant Population

As per a recent census of elephants, the number of elephants in the country has been estimated at 27,312.

Karnataka has the highest number at 6,049 followed by Assam 5,719 and Kerala 3,054.

### Ceiling Prices of Knee Implants

The Govt has fixed the ceiling prices of knee implants to prevent unethical profiteering and ensure affordable and quality healthcare for the common man.

| Type of Knee implant          | Average MRP earlier | New ceiling price |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Cobalt chromium               | Rs. 1,58,324        | 54,720            |
| Titanium & oxidized zirconium | 2,49,251            | 76,600            |
| High flexibility implant      | 1,81,728            | 56,490            |
| Revision implants             | 2,76,869            | 1,13,950          |

### [Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana \(AGEY\)](#)

The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas.

The Community Investment Fund (CIF) provided to Community Based Organization (CBOs) under DAY-NRLM will be utilized to support the SHG members in this new livelihoods initiative. The beneficiary SHG member will be provided an interest free loan by the CBO from its Community Investment Fund upto Rs.6.50 lakh for purchase of the vehicle which could be either e-riksha, 3 wheeler or 4 wheeler. All vehicles under the scheme shall have a defined colour code and carry AGEY branding to ensure their identity and avoid diversion to other routes.

AGEY will be initially implemented in 250 Blocks in the country on pilot basis with each Block provided upto 6 vehicles to operate the transport services.

### [Solar Installed Capacity as on 31.07.2017](#)

The following is the position of solar installed capacity as on 31.07.17 as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

| #  | State          | Capacity   |
|----|----------------|------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2048.82 MW |
| 2. | Rajasthan      | 2022.72 MW |
| 3. | Tamil Nadu     | 1697.32 MW |
| 4. | Telangana      | 1609.27 MW |
| 5. | Gujarat        | 1262.10 MW |
| 6. | Karnataka      | 1260.58 MW |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | 1116.64 MW |

### [New Vice-President of India](#)

**Shri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu.**

In office since: 11 August 2017.

Cabinet portfolios held earlier in his career: Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of Rural Development

Born: **01 July 1949**

Place of birth: **Chavatapalem**, Nellore (A.P.)

Sworn in by: President Shri Ram Nath Kovind

### [Launch of Exchange Traded Fund - BHARAT 22](#)

A new Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) by the name BHARAT 22 was announced by the Union Govt recently. Bharat 22 consists of 22 stocks of CPSE's, PSB's & strategic holding of SUUTI. Compared to energy heavy CPSE ETF, Bharat 22 is a well Diversified portfolio with 6 sectors (Basic Materials, Energy, Finance, FMCG, Industrials & Utilities). The Bharat 22 Index will be rebalanced annually. ICICI Prudential AMC will be the ETF Manager and Asia Index Private Limited (JV BSE and S & P Global) will be the Index Provider.

In the Budget Speech of 2017-18, the Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley had promised to use ETF as a vehicle for further disinvestment of shares. The target for CPSE's disinvestment in 2017-18 was set at Rs 72,500 crore. During the current Financial Year 2017-18, the Government has realised approx Rs 9,300 crore through nine disinvestment transactions so far.

The 22 constituents of BHARAT 22 are:

1. National Aluminium Co Ltd, 2. Oil & Natural Gas Corp Ltd, 3. Indian Oil Corp Ltd, 4. Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd, 5. Coal India Ltd, 6. State Bank of India, 7. Axis Bank Ltd, 8. Bank of Baroda, 9. Rural Electrification Corp Ltd, 10. Power Finance Corp Ltd, 11. Indian Bank, 12. ITC Ltd, 13. Larsen & Toubro Ltd, 14. Bharat Electronics Ltd, 15. Engineers India Ltd, 16. NBCC (India) Ltd, 17. Power Grid Corp of India Ltd, 18. NTPC Ltd, 19 Gail India Ltd, 20. NHPC Ltd, 21. NLC India Ltd, 22. SJVN Ltd

### Books in News

**Godman to Tycoon: The Untold Story of Baba Ramdev** by Priyanka Pathak-Narain