

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF AUGUST 2017

Awards

The Indian scientist who has been chosen to be awarded the 2017 Von Hippel award, the highest international prize in materials research – **CNR Rao**

The Nigerian lawyer and activist who has been awarded the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] Nansen Refugee Award – **Zannah Mustapha**

Persons

The Indian economist who has been appointed the Chairman of the reconstituted Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister – **Bibek Debroy**

The new Director General of National Investigation Agency appointed in place of Shri Sharad Kumar – **Shri YC Modi**

The former UN Secretary General who has been elected to head the International Olympic Commission's ethics commission – **Ban Ki-moon**

The Indian economist and professor at Manchester University who has been awarded the Balzan Prize for her “heroic” work studying women’s contributions to agriculture in India – **Bina Agarwal**

The Govt of India has decided to issue commemorative coins on the birth centenary of – **Dr. MG Ramachandran and Dr. MS Subbulakshmi**

The new Comptroller and Auditor General of India who has been nominated to take over the post following the retirement of Shashi Kant Sharma – **Rajiv Mehrishi**

Sports

The Indian badminton player who has won Korea Open Super Series women's singles title defeating Japanese player Nozomi Okuhara in the finals – **PV Sindhu**

The former Indian badminton player who has been chosen by the Badminton Association of India to be conferred the first Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for his rich contribution to the sport – **Prakash Padukone**

The State which has been formally chosen to host the 36th national Games in 2018 – **Goa**

The wicketkeeper of Indian cricket team who has become the first in the world to achieve the feat of 100 stumpings in one-day internationals surpassing the record of Kumar Sangakarra (99 stumpings) – **MS Dhoni**

Places

The city in which a multi-agency exercise involving State Government agencies, Police, State Fire & Emergency Services, NDRF, CISF and the Armed Forces, named Pralay Sahayam was held recently – **Hyderabad**

The State which has become the first in the country to launch electric bus service (the bus eBuzz K7 has been built by Goldstone Infratech have a range of 200 km on a single charge) – **Himachal Pradesh**

The venue of 4 day (21 to 24 Sep) international textile and apparel fair titled VASTRA – **Jaipur**

The State which has launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana aimed at developing villages of freedom fighters in the State – **Jharkhand**

The north-eastern State which has been declared as disturbed under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for SIX months – **Assam**

Defence

The first of Scorpene class submarines which was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock limited – **INS Kalvari**

The Indo-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017 is being held from 14 to 27 Sept 2017 at – **Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, USA**

The middle-east country in which the United States of America has established a permanent military base for the first time – **Israel**

Indices and Ranks

The rank of India in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index which is topped by Switzerland, followed by USA and Singapore in the second and third place respectively – **40th**

The rank of India in the World Economic Forum's Global Human Capital Index which is topped by Norway, followed by Finland and Switzerland in the second and third place respectively – **103rd**

Govt Campaigns/Programmes

The scheme launched by the Prime Minister on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay to provide power to all homes is named – **Saubhagya or Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana**

The campaign launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change to promote wood as climate-friendly resource and substitute to materials like steel and plastic is named – **Wood is Good**

The operation launched by Govt of India to provide relief material to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh is named – **Operation Insaniyat**

The online environmental quiz competition launched by the Environment Ministry on Teachers Day (5 Sep) for school children at national level is named – **Prakriti Khoj**

Finance

The digital payment app based on government backed Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform launched by Google is named – **Tez**

The private sector bank which has been listed by the Reserve Bank of India as a domestic systemically important bank (DSIB) (SBI and ICICI Bank were identified as DSIBs in 2015) – **HDFC Bank**

Miscellaneous

The port on the west coast of India which has been renamed Deendayal Port – **Kandla Port**

The member of the canine family which has been reclassified by the IUCN from endangered to vulnerable – **Snow Leopard**

The dwarf planet on which two mountain ranges have been named after Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay (Hillary Montes and Tenzing Montes) – **Pluto**

The hurricane arising in the Atlantic Ocean which severely affected the US States of Texas and Louisiana claiming 70 lives and causing extensive damage to property was named – **Hurricane Harvey**

The theme of the National Nutrition Week 2017 observed from 1st to 7th September to intensify awareness generation on the importance of nutrition for health – **Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health**

The official song of FIFA U-17 World Cup written by Amitabh Bhattacharya, composed by Pritam and sung by Sunidhi Chauhan, Neeti Mohan, Babul Supriyo, Shaan, Papon and Mika – **Kar Ke Dikha De Goal**

Important Days of September

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| International Day of Charity: 05 September 2017 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First observed: 2013 |
| International Literacy Day: 08 September 2017 Designated by: UNESCO First observed: 1966 Theme: Literacy in a Digital World |
| International Day of Democracy: 15 September 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First observed: 2008 Theme: Democracy and Conflict Prevention |

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| <p>International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer: 16 September 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First observed: 1995 Theme: Caring for all life under the sun</p> |
| <p>International Day of Peace: 21 September 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First observed: 1982 Theme: Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All</p> |
| <p>International Day for total elimination of Nuclear Weapons: 26 September 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First observed: 2014</p> |
| <p>World Tourism Day: 27 September 2017 Designated by: UNWTO General Assembly First observed: 1980 Theme: Sustainable Tourism – a Tool for Development</p> |
| <p>World Rabies Day: 28 September 2017 Designated by: Global Alliance for Rabies Control First observed: 1980 Theme: Zero by 30</p> |
| <p>International Day for Universal Access to Information: 28 September 2017 Designated by: UNESCO First observed: 2016</p> |
| <p>World Maritime Day: 29 September 2017 Designated by: International Maritime Organisation First observed: 1978 Theme: Connecting Ships, Ports and People</p> |
| <p>International Translation Day: 30 September 2017 Designated by: Federation of International Translators and UN General Assembly First observed: 1953 (By FIT) and 2017 (by UN) Theme: Translation and Diversity</p> |

UNESCO Literacy Prizes 2017

UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize was awarded to:

We Love Reading for its Programme in Jordan

The Centre for the Study of Learning & Performance (CSLP) at Concordia University in Canada for its programme 'Using Educational Technology to Develop Essential Educational Competencies in Sub-Saharan Africa'

UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy was awarded to:

The Secretariat of Information and Communications Technologies of the city of Armenia in Colombia for its 'AdULTICoProgram'

The Citizens Foundation in Pakistan for its '**Aagahi Literacy Programme for Women and Out-of-School Girls**'

'FunDza Literacy Trust' in South Africa for its programme '**Growing FunDza readers and writers**'

National Tourism Awards 2015-16

Presented by: The President Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Presented on: 27.09.17 (World Tourism Day)

Hall of Fame Award – Best State for Comprehensive Development of Tourism: **Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh**

Best State for Comprehensive Development of Tourism - 1st Prize: **Andhra Pradesh**

Best State for Comprehensive Development of Tourism - 2nd Prize: **Rajasthan**

Best State for Comprehensive Development of Tourism - 3rd Prize: **Kerala and Goa**

Best Airport (Class X Cities): **Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport**, Mumbai

Best Airport (Other Cities): **Srinagar International Airport**, Srinagar and **Swami Vivekananda Airport**, Raipur

Tourist Friendly Railway Station: **Ujjain Railway Station**, Madhya Pradesh

Best Heritage City : **Warangal**, Telangana and **Chanderi**, Madhya Pradesh

Best Maintained and Differently Aabled Friendly Monument: **Chowmohalla Palace**, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Swachhta Award: **Government of Telangana**

Note: Hall of Fame Awards presented to State Governments / organizations who have won the award in the same category for the last three consecutive years.

Marshal of the IAF Arjan Singh

Born: **15 April 1919** at **Lyallpur**, Pakistan

Years of service: 1938 - 1970

Became Chief of Air Staff: 1964

First Chief to be upgraded to the position of Air Chief Marshal

Made Marshal of the IAF in **2002**

Civilian honour: **Padma Vibhushan** in 1966

Air Force Panagarh in West Bengal is named **Air Force Station Arjan Singh**.

Death: **16 Sep 2017** (*The National Flag was flown half-mast on the day of funeral i.e. 18 Sep 17*)

[Navika Sagar Parikrama](#)

Purpose: **To circumnavigate the globe**

Sailing vessel: **INSV Tarini**

Special feature: **All women crew from the Indian Navy**

Flagged off by: Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman

Crew: Lt. Commander Vartika Joshi (Captain), Lt. Commanders Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, and Lieutenants S Vijaya Devi, B Aishwarya and Payal Gupta.

Stopovers: Fremantle (Australia), Lyttleton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falklands), and Cape Town (South Africa)

Expected arrival: April 2018

[SWACHHTA Ranking - 2017 of Higher Educational Institutions](#)

The following are the first ranked universities/colleges in the Swachhta Rankings 2017 who were awarded by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar

University: 1. O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana

Colleges: 1. Kongu Arts and Science College, Erode, TN

Technical institutions: 1. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, TN

Government institutions: 1. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, UK

[US OPEN 2017](#)

| Title | Winner | Runner-up |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Men's Singles | Rafael Nadal (Spain) | Kevin Anderson (South Africa) |
| Women's Singles | Sloane Stephens (USA) | Madison Keys (USA) |
| Men's Doubles | Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) and Horia Tecau (Romania) | Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez (Spain) |
| Women's Doubles | Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) | Lucie Hradecka and Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) |
| Mixed Doubles | Jamie Murray (UK) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) | Chan Hao-Ching (Chinese Taipei) and Michael Venus (New Zealand) |

[New Union Ministers who took over in Sep 2017](#)

Minister of Railways: Shri Piyush Goyal (also is the Minister of Coal)

Minister of Defence: Smt Nirmala Sitharaman (first woman to hold the post)

Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation: Shri Nitin Gadkari (also is the Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Shipping)

Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation: Ms Uma Bharati

Minister of Commerce and Industry: Shri Suresh Prabhu

[Books in News](#)

Unstoppable: My Life So Far by Maria Sharapova

[Man Booker 2017 shortlist](#)

- 4321 by Paul Aster
- History of Wolves by Emily Fridlund
- Exit West by Mohsin Hamid
- Elmet by Fiona Mozley
- Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders
- Autumn by Ali Smith (UK)

For queries and suggestions please e-mail admin@leadthecompetition.in

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