

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF JULY 2017

Persons

The former Chairman of UGC, Padma Vibhushan awardee, scientist and educationist who passed away on 24 July 2017 – **Prof. Yash Pal**

The former Chairman of ISRO, Padma Bhushan awardee and the first Indian to be inducted into the Satellite Hall of Fame, Washington who passed away on 24 Jul 2017 – **Prof. U.R. Rao**

The new Chief Minister of Nagaland who has taken over from Shurhozelie Liezietsu – **TR Zeliang**

The Union Minister of Textiles who has been given the additional charge as Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting – **Smriti Irani**

The former Chief Minister of Sikkim who passed away on 16 July 2017 – **Nar Bahadur Bhandari**

The Indian-origin Canadian YouTube star and actress known by her digital alias Superwoman, who has been chosen by the UNICEF as its newest Goodwill Ambassador – **Lilly Singh**

The Chinese literary critic, writer, poet, human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who passed away on 13 July 2017 – **Liu Xiaobo**

The new Chief Election Commissioner who has succeeded Shri Naseem Zaidi – **Achal Kumar Joti**

The IPS officer currently serving as Police Commissioner in Rachakonda, Telangana who has been conferred the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report Heroes award by the US State Department – **Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat**

The new Attorney General of India who has taken over from Shri Mukul Rohtagi – **KK Venugopal**

Places

The place in Tamil Nadu where a memorial of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Rameshwaram**

Agaween village at which India has launched solar project with state-of-the-art technology for its electrification is located in – **Egypt**

The place in Uttar Pradesh where the establishment of International Rice Research Institute, South Asia Regional Center has been approved by the Union Cabinet – **Varanasi**

The country to which India has granted a financial aid of 500,000 US dollars to enable it to fight the terror group ISIS – **Philippines**

The country in which China has dispatched troops to establish its first overseas military base – **Djibouti**

The State which has become the first in the country to fix minimum educational qualification for candidates interested in contesting elections to village cooperative societies and various other cooperative bodies – **Rajasthan**

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Georgia which has been removed from the list of WHS in danger – **Gelati Monastery**

The airport which has ranked first in Customer Satisfaction among 49 airports in the country in the latest CSI survey conducted by an independent agency commissioned by the Airport Authority of India for the period of January-June 2017 – **Raipur (Swami Vivekananda Airport)**

The venue of G-20 Summit (12th meeting) held from 7 to 8 July 2017 – **Hamburg, Germany**

The state in which 6.6 crore trees were planted in just 12 hours in an attempt to break the record of 5 crore tree in 24 hours by Uttar Pradesh – **Madhya Pradesh**

Sports

The Indian badminton player who has won the United States Open Grand Prix Gold defeating Parupalli Kashyap in the finals – **HS Prannoy**

The former Indian test cricketer who has been appointed the bowling coach of the Indian national cricket team – **Bharat Arun**

The Indian woman cricketer who has become the first player to cross 6000 runs in the history of women's ODI during the ICC World Cup match against Australia (surpassing England captain Charlotte Edwards's 5992 runs) – **Mithali Raj**

The new coach of Indian cricket team who has been appointed to take over after the former coach Anil Kumble resigned in June 2017 – **Ravi Shastri**

The team which has won the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup defeating Chile in the finals at Krestovsky Stadium in Saint Petersburg (Russia) – **Germany**

Defence

The 1,00,000 ton nuclear powered aircraft carrier commissioned by the United States Navy is named – **USS Gerald R. Ford**

The joint military exercise conducted by the Navies of India, USA and Japan in the Bay of Bengal from 10 to 17 July 2017 – **Malabar 17**

Information Technology

The mobile phone App launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for timely dissemination of Ocean Information and Advisory Services that includes Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories, Ocean State Forecast (OSF), High Wave Alerts and Tsunami early warnings is named – **Sagar Vani**

The mobile phone App for performance based maintenance of rural roads launched by the Ministry of Rural Development is named – **Aarambh**

The recruiting app launched by Google for small and medium sized business enterprises is named – **Hire**

The new tax payer service module compiling various tax tools, live chat facility, dynamic updates, and important links to various processes within the Income Tax Department in a single module is named – **Aaykar Setu**

Miscellaneous

The company which has developed India's first bio-methane bus (bio-methane is produced out of bio-degradable materials like kitchen waste) – **Tata Motors**

The rocket capable of placing a low earth satellite in space, launched by Iran from Imam Khomeini Iranian Space Agency is named – **Simorgh**

The massive supercluster of galaxies (about 4 billion light years away and spreads over a great wall about 600 million light years across) discovered by a group of astronomers belonging to Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune, besides NIT, Jamshedpur and Newman College, Thodupuzha has been named – **Saraswati**

The rank of India in the Global Cybersecurity Index released by International Telecommunication Union (the list is topped by Singapore, USA and Malaysia at 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively) – **23rd**

The company with which the National Book Trust has launched the Har Haath Ek Kitaab scheme to enable people to buy and donate books to underprivileged children – **Snapdeal**

The Indian telecom company which has launched the Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system, (the longest 100Gbps technology based submarine system) with a length of over 25,000 km from Marseille, France to Hong Kong – **Reliance Jio**

Important Days of July

International Day of Co-operatives: 01 July 2017 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First observed: 1993 Theme: Co-operatives ensure no-one is left behind
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World Population Day: 11 July 2017 Designated by: United Nations Development Programme First observed: 1989 Theme: Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations

World Youth Skills Day: 15 July 2017 Designated by: UNESCO First observed: 2015
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<p>Nelson Mandela International Day: 18 July 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First observed: 2010 Theme: Action Against Poverty</p>
<p>World Hepatitis Day: 28 July 2017 Designated by: World Health Organisation First observed: 2008 Theme: Eliminate Hepatitis</p>
<p>International Tiger Day: 29 July 2017 Designated by: St Petersburg Tiger Summit First observed: 2010 Theme: Fresh Ecology for Tigers' Protection</p>
<p>World Day against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July 2017 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First observed: 2014 Theme: Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons</p>

JIGYASA - Student-Scientist Connect Programme

Jigyasa is a student- scientist connect programme launched by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS). The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning.

The Programme is expected to connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR targeting 100,000 students and nearly 1000 teachers annually.

The program will also enable the students and teachers to practically live the theoretical concepts taught in science by visiting CSIR laboratories and by participating in mini-science projects. The model of engagement includes:

1. Student Residential Programmes
2. Scientists as Teachers and Teachers as Scientists
3. Lab specific activities/ On-site Experiments
4. Visits of Scientists to Schools/Outreach Programmes
5. Science and Maths Clubs
6. Popular Lecture Series/ demonstration programme at Schools
7. Student Apprenticeship Programmes
8. Science Exhibitions
9. Projects of National Children's Science Congress
10. Teacher Workshops
11. Tinkering Laboratories

First Solar Powered DEMU

The Railways on 14.07.17 launched the country's first solar-powered local train at Safdarjung in Delhi with a battery bank facility that ensures sufficient power even in the absence of sunlight.

The 1,600 horsepower train has been manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, its solar system and panels have been developed and fitted by the Indian Railways Organization of Alternative Fuel (IROAF). The IROAF has developed this system with a smart inverter, which optimises power generation on a moving train to cater to full load even during night hours with the help of a battery bank that ensures sufficient electricity.

The system reduces diesel consumption and the carbon signature of these commuter trains by reducing carbon dioxide generation by 9 tonnes per coach per year.

A solar-powered DEMU train with six trailer coaches will save about 21,000 litres of diesel, thereby saving Rs. 12 lakh every year, the Railways added.

Asian Athletics Championship 2017

Host city: Bhubaneshwar (Kalinga Stadium)

Mascot: Olly, the Olive Ridley

Medals Tally

#	Country	G	S	B
1.	India	12	5	12
2.	China	8	9	4
3.	Kazakhstan	4	2	2
4.	Iran	4	0	1
5.	Vietnam	2	2	0

Venue for 2019 games: Doha, Qatar

Wimbledon 2017

Title	Winner	Runner-up
Gentlemen's Singles	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	Marin Cilic (Croatia)
Ladies' Singles	Garbine Muguruza (Spain)	Venus Williams (USA)
Gentlemen's Doubles	Lukasz Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil)	Oliver Marach (Austria) and Mate Pavic (Croatia)
Ladies' Doubles	Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) and Elena Vesnina (Russia)	Chan Hao-ching (Chinese Taipei) and Monica Niculescu (Romania)
Mixed Doubles	Jamie Murray (UK) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland)	Henri Kontinen (Finland) and Heather Watson (UK)

Note: Roger Federer won his 8th Wimbledon title (highest number of Wimbledon Gentlemen's singles titles by any person).

IIFA Awards 2017

Best Film: **Neerja**

Best Director: **Aniruddha Roy Choudhary** for Pink

Best Actor: **Shahid Kapoor** (Udta Punjab)

Best Actress: **Alia Bhatt** (Udta Punjab)

Best Music Direction: **Pritam Chakraborty** (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)

Muntra, India's first unmanned tank

Developed by: DRDO

Three variants: Muntra-S, Muntra-M, Muntra-N

Muntra-S: For unmanned surveillance

Muntra-M: For detecting mines

Muntra-N: For areas where there is nuclear radiation or bio-weapon risk

Women's Cricket World Cup 2017

Host: **England and Wales**

Dates: 24 June to 23 July 2017

Teams: Australia, England, New Zealand, West Indies, India, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistan

Semi-finalists: Australia, England, India and South Africa

Winners and runners-up: **England and India**

Player of the series: **Tammy Beaumont** (England)

Most runs: **Tammy Beaumont** (England)

Most wickets: **Dane van Niekerk** (S Africa)

Captains: **Mithali Raj** (India), **Heather Knight** (England)

Most runs by an Indian: **Mithali Raj**

Most wickets by an Indian: **Deepti Sharma**

Venue for 2021 World Cup: **New Zealand**

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

PMVVY is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens available from 4th May, 2017 to 3rd May, 2018; The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation of India

Following are the major benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY):

Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years.

Pension is payable at the end of each period, during the policy term of 10 years, as per the frequency of monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase.

The scheme is exempted from Service Tax/ GST.

On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, Purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.

Loan upto 75% of Purchase Price shall be allowed after 3 policy years (to meet the liquidity needs). Loan interest shall be recovered from the pension installments and loan to be recovered from claim proceeds.

The scheme also allows for premature exit for the treatment of any critical/ terminal illness of self or spouse. On such premature exit, 98% of the Purchase Price shall be refunded.

On death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the Purchase Price shall be paid to the beneficiary.

Minimum / Maximum Purchase Price and Pension Amount:

Mode of Pension	Minimum Purchase Price	Maximum Purchase Price	Minimum Pension amount	Maximum Pension amount
Yearly	Rs. 1,44,578/-	Rs. 7,22,892/-	Rs. 12,000/-	Rs. 60,000/-
Half-yearly	Rs. 1,47,601/-	Rs. 7,38,007/-	Rs. 6,000/-	Rs. 30,000/-
Quarterly	Rs. 1,49,068/-	Rs. 7,45,342/-	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 15,000/-
Monthly	Rs. 1,50,000/-	Rs. 7,50,000/-	Rs. 1,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-

New President of India (14th)

Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Date of Birth: 01 October 1945

Place of Birth: Derapur (U.P.)

Governor of Bihar: From 16 August 2015 to 20 June 2017

To take office on: 25 July 2017

Global Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons

A global treaty banning nuclear weapons was adopted at the United Nations on July 7 despite opposition from nuclear powers. The treaty was adopted by a vote of 122 in favour with one country, NATO member The Netherlands voting against. Singapore abstained.

None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons viz. the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel, took part in the negotiations or the vote. Even Japan, the only country to have suffered atomic attacks, in 1945, boycotted the talks as did most NATO countries.

The treaty will be open for signature to all States at UN Headquarters in New York on 20 September 2017, and enter into force 90 days after it has been ratified by at least 50 countries.

National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination

National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22) was launched by Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare recently. The Strategic Plan gives year wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria in the next 5 years. The target year for elimination of malaria is 2027.

The National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) launched in 2016 outlined India's commitment for eliminating malaria by 2030.

National Biopharma Mission

National Biopharma Mission is the first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India. The program named Innovate in India (i3) will witness an investment of USD 250 million with USD 125 million as a loan from World Bank and is anticipated to be a game changer for the Indian Biopharmaceutical industry.

India has been an active player in the pharmaceutical industry and has contributed globally towards making life saving drugs and low cost pharmaceutical products accessible and affordable for those in need. Be it the Rotavirus vaccine, heart valve prosthesis or affordable insulin, India has been a forerunner in these and many more. Despite these advances Indian biopharmaceutical industry is still 10-15 years behind their counterparts in the developed countries and faces stiff competition from China, Korea and others. The lacuna primarily exists due to disconnected centers of excellence, less focus on translational research and staggered funding. There was an immediate need felt to focus on consolidated efforts to promote product discovery, translational research and early stage manufacturing in the country to ensure inclusive innovation.

i3 is committed to addressing these gaps with a Mission to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions. The aim of the Mission is to Enable and nurture an ecosystem for preparing India's technological and product development capabilities in biopharmaceuticals to a level that will be globally competitive over the next decade, and transform the health standards of India's population through affordable product development.

The Mission to be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology will bring together expertise from national and international corridors to provide strategic guidance and direction to move promising solutions through the product development value chain. The program thereby stands unique in its approach as it becomes a cradle to innovate, co-create and co-facilitate scientific discoveries and offers young entrepreneurs an avenue to engage with the best in the industry.

UNESCO - World Heritage Sites

The following are the new additions to the World Heritage Sites list of UNESCO

Cultural Properties	
Site	Country
Aphrodisias	Turkey
Assumption Cathedral and Monastery of the town-island of Sviyazhsk	Russia
Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura	Germany
Historic city of Yazd	Iran
Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap	Denmark
Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region	Japan
Taputapuatea	France
Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System	Poland
The English Lake District	United Kingdom
Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site	Brazil
Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th centuries: Stato da Terra - western Stato da Mar	Croatia, Italy and Montenegro
Historic city of Ahmedabad	India
Asmara, a modernist city of Africa	Eritrea
Hebron/Al-Khalil, old town	Palestine
Kulangsu, a historic international settlement	China
Mbanza Kongo, Vestiges of the Capital of the former Kingdom of Kongo	Angola
Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura	Cambodia
Khomani Cultural Landscape	South Africa
Natural Properties	
Landscapes of Dauris	Mongolia and Russia
Los Alerces National Park	Argentina
Qinghai Hoh Xil	China

Books in News

Pranaber Preyosi – **Sangeeta Ghosh**

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness – **Arundhati Roy** (featured in Man Booker Prize 2017 long list)