

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## CAC – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017:

### 1. Announcement of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

i. The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet has decided to award the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly to the American trio of Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm. All three winners are from the US.

ii. It is the 108th time the prize has been awarded and was announced at the Nobel Forum at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. The winners will share a prize of 9m Swedish kronor (£825,000), and each receives a medal engraved with their name.

#### Pro Tip:

Jeffrey C. Hall was born 1945 in New York, USA. He received his doctoral degree in 1971 at the University of Washington in Seattle and was a postdoctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena from 1971 to 1973.

Michael Rosbash was born in 1944 in Kansas City, USA. He received his doctoral degree in 1970 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Michael W. Young was born in 1949 in Miami, USA. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1975.

### 2. Nation Pays Homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 148th Birth Anniversary

i. The nation pays homage to Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 148th birth anniversary on 02nd October 2017. An all-religion prayer was also organised at Rajghat. A series of functions are planned to mark the occasion.

ii. Mahatma Gandhi was born on 02nd October 1869 in Porbunder, a small town in Gujarat. He studied law in U.K and practised law in South Africa. In his autobiography "My experiments with Truth" Gandhiji read his childhood and teenage years, his marriage with Kasturba at the age of 13 and a pure devotion to his country.

### 3. International Day of Non-Violence: 02nd October

i. The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

ii. According to General Assembly of United Nations resolution of 15 June 2007, which established the commemoration, the International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

### 4. Nation Pays Homage to Former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on his Birth Anniversary

- i. The nation also pays homage to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary on 02nd October 2017. Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on 02nd October 1901 at Mughalsarai, a small railway town seven miles from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- ii. Lal Bahadur Shastri led the country during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 and gave the slogan - "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" which is remembered even today.

#### Pro Tip:

Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Prime Minister of India from 09th June 1964 to 11th January 1966.

Lal Bahadur Shastri, who had earlier suffered two heart attacks, died of a third cardiac arrest on 11th January 1966 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

He was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award posthumously in 1966. Vijay Ghat is the memorial of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

#### 5. International Day of Older Persons: 01st October

- i. On 14th December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly (by resolution 45/106) designated 1 October the International Day of Older Persons. This was preceded by initiatives such as the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing – which was adopted by the 1982 World Assembly on Ageing – and endorsed later that year by the UN General Assembly.
- ii. In 1991, the General Assembly (by resolution 46/91) adopted the United Nations Principles for Older Persons. The theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2017 is “Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.”

#### Pro Tip:

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.

The 2017 theme for International Day of Older Persons- will explore effective means of promoting and strengthening the participation of older persons in various aspects of social, cultural, economic and civic and political life.

Antonio Guterres is present Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### 6. India, EU to Hold 14th Summit Talks in New Delhi

- i. President of European Council, Donald Franciszek Tusk and President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker will be on a three-day visit to India to hold the 14th India-EU Summit on 6th of next month in New Delhi.

ii. The summit aims at deepening the India-EU Strategic Partnership and advance collaboration in priority areas for India's growth and development. During their visit starting from 5th of October, they will also attend India-EU Business event on the sidelines of the summit.

**Pro Tip:**

EU is India's largest regional trading partner with bilateral trade in goods standing at 88 billion dollars in 2016.

India and EU are also strategic partners since 2004.

### 7. Sikh man becomes first minority politician to lead major party in Canada

i. A 38-year-old Sikh lawyer was elected the leader of Canada's New Democratic Party, becoming the first non-white politician to head a major political party in the country.

ii. Jagmeet Singh, the Ontario provincial lawmaker, was elected on the first ballot to lead the party into the 2019 election against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals. He won the decisive first-ballot victory over three other candidates by receiving 53.6 % of the vote.

### 8. Indian Entrepreneur wins UK Business Award for Innovative IT Solutions

i. A Ghana-based Indian entrepreneur has won a prestigious business award in the UK for his efforts to bring innovative IT solutions to Africa.

ii. Birendra Sasmal, CEO of Subah, bagged the International Business Person of the Year at the Asian Achievers Awards in London for turning the company into a thriving IT, telecoms and manufacturing success story with operations across West Africa.

**Pro Tip:**

The United Kingdom made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is an island nation in northwestern Europe.

London is the capital city of the United Kingdom.

Theresa May, who has served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since 2016, the second woman to hold both positions, the first being Margaret Thatcher.

### 9. India opens two border crossing points with Myanmar, Bangladesh

i. India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh. In a gazette notification, the Home Ministry stated the Central government has designated Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram as an authorized immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Myanmar.

ii. The Central government has also designated Kawrpuichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram as an authorized immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Bangladesh.

#### 10. Burqa Ban Comes into Effect in Austria

i. Austria's law banning face veils such as burkhas or niqabs has come into effect from now. according to the government, acceptance and respect of Austrian values are basic conditions for successful cohabitation between the majority Austrian population and people from third countries living in Austria.

Exemptions under certain conditions include items like clown disguises at cultural events, work wear such as medical masks, and scarves in cold weather. There are around 7 lakh Muslims in Austria.

#### Pro Tip:

Vienna is the capital of Austria.  
Euro is the Currency of Austria.

#### 11. China Marks 68th National Day: 01st October 2017

China marked the 68th National Day on 01st October 2017 with more than 115,000 people from across the country gathering at the Tian'anmen Square to watch the raising of the National Flag in Beijing. The National Day is celebrated with a week-long holiday.

Major parks in Beijing have been decorated with around 1.6 million potted flowers of 150 different species.

#### Pro Tip:

Xi Jinping is the current president of China.  
Beijing is the capital city of China.  
China is the most populous country in the World.  
Li Keqiang is the current Premier China.