

November 12, 2017

France's Audrey Azoulay to be new UNESCO Director General



UNESCO member states confirmed the nomination of France's former culture minister **Audrey Azoulay** to head the cultural agency. 45-year-old Azoulay becomes UNESCO's second woman director general. Azoulay succeeds **Irina Bokova of Bulgaria**, whose eight-year

term. Ms Azoulay was France's Minister of Culture and Communication from February 2016 to May 2017. Ms Azoulay is the 11th Director-General of UNESCO. She will take office on 15 November 2017.

- The headquarters of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) is in Paris.

Famous writer Manu Sharma passes away



Noted author and **Padma Shri awardee Manu Sharma** died in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh following a prolonged illness. He was 89. He was nominated as one of the navratna of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sharma had donated his lifetime savings of Rs 20 lakh for the renovation of

a ghat in Varanasi to carry out a cleanliness campaign.

- Manu Sharma is a recipient of **Yash Bharti** Award of the Uttar Pradesh government.
- One of his famous books is **Krishna Ki Atmakatha**.

UNHCR to get Mother Teresa Award 2017



The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** has been named as the recipient of the **Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017**. The UNHCR provides humanitarian aid to innumerable people internally displaced by conflicts and helping stateless people all over the world. Harmony Foundation has instituted the only official award in memory of Mother Teresa. Harmony Foundation's theme for 2017 is **Compassion Beyond Borders**.

- Harmony Foundation Chairman is **Abraham Mathai**.
- Mother Teresa Memorial Award was instituted in 2005.
- Past Awardees are The Dalai Lama, Malala Yousefzai, Anna Hazare, Colin Gonsalves.

Haryana becomes first state to treat Hepatitis C with oral medicines



Haryana has emerged as the first state in the country to treat **Hepatitis-C** patients through oral medicine, according to the health minister Anil Vij of the state. This medicine would be provided free of cost to permanent residents of all categories at district level. The medicine and treatment costs about Rs 28,000 to Rs 30,000 in the market, but the state government would provide this facility free of cost.

- The Chief Minister of Haryana is Manohar Lal Khattar while the Governor is Kaptan Singh Solanki.

First ever AYUSH conference and exhibition held in Dubai



The first ever **AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy)** conference was held in **Dubai** between 9th and 11th November 2017. This is the first ever conglomeration of AYUSH practitioners, policy makers, researchers and students anywhere in the world. The Indian Government has assured full scholarship to the first 100 students who study AYUSH in any of the public or deemed Universities anywhere in India.

Housing Loan for Central Government Employees raised to Rs 25 lacs from 7.5 lacs



Incorporating the accepted recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, the government has raised the maximum amount that a central government employee can borrow from the government to Rs 25 lakh for new construction/purchase of new house/flat. Earlier this limit was only Rs 7.50 lakh.

The move is going to benefit about 50 lakh central government employees across the country. Revising the house building advance (HBA) rules incorporating the accepted recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, the government also increased the amount that a central government employee can borrow for expansion of their homes to 34 months of basic pay to a maximum of Rs 10 lakh, from Rs 1.80 lakh earlier.

RBI asks Banks to deliver home service to customers over 70 years of age



The Reserve Bank of India has directed Banks to deliver home service to customers over 70 years of age. This includes basic Banking facilities like pick up and delivery of cash, delivery of Demand Drafts and delivery of KYC documents. Banks have been asked to provide a minimum of 25 cheque leaves every year

free of charge for which the physical presence of any customer including senior citizens and disabled persons should not be insisted upon. Based on KYC Details, the account should automatically be transferred to the Senior citizen category based on the date of birth. These

should be implemented by 31st December 2017. The instructions are applicable to public sector and private sector Banks besides small finance banks and payment banks.

Girija Devi to get Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously



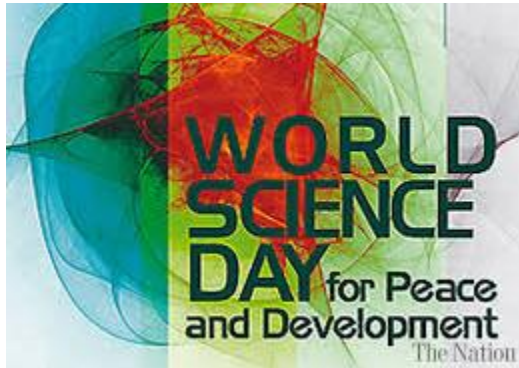
Noted classical music singer **Girija Devi** who died recently, will get the **Sumitra Charath Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement** posthumously. The award will be given away on the 17th Nov 2017 and will be received by her daughter. The award was instituted six years ago in memory of the famous art patron Sumitra Charat Ram, by her daughter. Girija Devi was a **Padma Vibhushan awardee** and a celebrated singer of the Seniya and Benares gharana.

Indian shooters create two new records in Para World Cup shooting events



On the 9th November 2017, two Indian shooters set new world records in the Para World Cup shooting events in Bangkok. While Deepender Singh created a new record in the P1 10 M Air Pistol SH 1 category erasing the earlier record of Iran's Mahdi Zamanishurabhi, 16 year old Manish Nerwal created a Junior World Para record.

November 10th- World Science Day for Peace and Development



The World Science Day for Peace and Development was observed on the 10th November 2017 all over the world. The day was coined by UNESCO for in 2001 and celebrated for the first time in 2002. The day highlights the important role science has in society. It also highlights the need for regular debates on scientific issues. The theme for this year's day is

“Science for Global Understanding”.

India Disaster Response Summit inaugurated



The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju has inaugurated the 'India Disaster Response Summit' in New Delhi. The summit was organised jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook. The summit focuses on how best to

leverage social media platforms to 'prepare, respond and recover' for, during and after a disaster. This partnership is a benchmark and first of its kind as the Government has partnered with Facebook on disaster response.

- The chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority is the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.