

Yearly Current Affairs 2017



RIO OLYMPICS 2016



THE 2016 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES FROM INDIA



RIO OLYMPICS 2016



India at the 2016 Summer Olympics

India competed at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August 2016. Indian athletes have appeared in every edition of the Summer Olympics since 1920, although they had their official debut at the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris.

The Indian Olympic Association sent the nation's largest ever delegation (a total of 117 athletes; 34 larger than their previous record of 83 athletes in 2012) in Summer Olympic history.

first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (born 5 July 1995) is an Indian professional badminton player. At the 2016 Summer Olympics, she became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal.



Sindhu came to international attention when she broke into the top 20 of the BWF World Ranking in September 2012 at the age of 17. In 2013, she became the first ever Indian women's singles player to win a medal at the Badminton World Championships. In March 2015, she became the youngest recipient of India's fourth highest civilian honor, the Padma Shri.

first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics

Sakshi Malik (born 3 September 1992) is an Indian freestyle wrestler. At the 2016 Summer Olympics, she won the bronze medal in the 58 kg category, becoming the first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics and the fourth



female Olympic medalist from the country. She is a part of the JSW Sports Excellence Program, along with fellow female wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Babita Kumari and Geeta Phogat. Malik had previously won the silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and the bronze medal at the 2015 Asian Wrestling Championships in Doha.

The 2016 Summer Olympics officially known as the Games of the XXXI Olympiad and branded and commonly known as Rio 2016, was a major international multi-sport event held in *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*, from 5 August to 21 August 2016. More than 11,000 athletes from 207 National Olympic Committees, including first time entrants *Kosovo, South Sudan*, and the *Refugee Olympic Team*, took part. With **306 sets of medals**, the games featured **28 Olympic sports**, including *rugby sevens* and *golf*, which were added to the Olympic program in 2009.

These were the first Summer Olympic Games under the IOC presidency of **Thomas Bach**. The host city Rio de Janeiro was announced at the 121st IOC Session in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 2 October 2009. Rio became the first South American city to host the Summer Olympics. These were the first games to be held in a Portuguese-speaking country, the first to be held entirely in the host country's winter, the first since 1968 to be held in Latin America, and the first since 2000 to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.



The United States topped the medal table for the fifth time in the past six Summer Olympics, winning the most golds (46) and most medals overall (121). Great Britain finished second and became the first country in the history of the modern Olympics to increase its tally of medals in the subsequent games after being the host nation. China finished third. Host country Brazil won seven gold medals, its most at any single Summer Olympics, finishing in thirteenth place.

2016 Summer Olympics medal table

Rank	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States (USA)	46	37	38	121
2	Great Britain (GBR)	27	23	17	67
3	China (CHN)	26	18	26	70
4	Russia (RUS)	19	18	19	56
5	Germany (GER)	17	10	15	42
6	Japan (JPN)	12	8	21	41
7	France (FRA)	10	18	14	42
8	South Korea (KOR)	9	3	9	21
9	Italy (ITA)	8	12	8	28
10	Australia (AUS)	8	11	10	29
67	India	0	01	01	02

Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Silver	P. V. Sindhu	Badminton	Women's singles
Bronze	Sakshi Malik	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 58 kg

LATEST UPDATE

Resolution to rename Madras HC as Tamil Nadu HC passed

On August 1, 2016 the Tamil Nadu assembly unanimously passed a resolution asking the central government to rename the Madras high court as Tamil Nadu high court and not as Chennai high court.

The resolution comes after the central government introduced the High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 in the Lok Sabha to change the name of the Madras high court to Chennai high court.

The demand of renaming the High Court remained dormant since the state got the name Tamil Nadu in 1967. The demand came active in the state after the introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha that wants to change the names of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta High Courts.

The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Law and Justice, Ravi Shanker Prasad with an aim to modify the names of the High Court's (HCs) of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Alteration of names of the HCs: The High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras will be known as the High Courts of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai respectively.

Government to modify relevant laws: In order to give effect to the alteration of names of the three High Courts, the appropriate government will have the power to amend or repeal any laws. This must be done within one year of the coming into force of this Act.

Legal proceedings: Any pending legal proceedings against the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta or Madras as parties will now be substituted with the high courts of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

The decision was taken in light of the name change of the cities where these high courts are located.

Social activist Mahasweta Devi passes away

Mahasweta Devi, a colossal figure in Bengali literature and a respected social activist, passed away on 28 July 2016 at Kolkata. She was 90.

In a literary career spanning over half-a-century, she wrote over 120 books. Most of her work centred on the lives of the poor and downtrodden.

- She has almost a 100 novels and over 20 collections of short

stories to her name, primarily written in Bengali but often translated to other languages.

- In her 90-year-long life, Devi won the Sahitya Akademi award (1979), the Padma Shree (1986), the Jnanpith (1997), the Magsaysay award (1997) and the Deshikottam award in 1999.
- Mahasweta Devi was born into a family of literary figures in Dhaka in 1926.
- Her first book Jhansi'r Rani (The Queen of Jhansi), came in 1956 when she was teaching at Kolkata's Bijoygarh College.
- She was the author behind award-winning Hindi films Rudaali and Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa.
- Few of her other noted stories are Aranyer Adhikar (The Occupation of the Forest), Agnigarbha (Womb of Fire), Dhowli, Bashai Tudu, Dust on the Road, Till Death Do Us Part, Old Women, etc.
- She was also the founding member of Aboriginal United Association and a tribal magazine named Bortika, which she started in 1980.

Veteran tabla maestro Pandit Lacchu Maharaj dies

Tabla maestro Pandit Lacchu Maharaj passed away on 28 July 2016 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He was 72. Lacchu Maharaj has been described as one of the frontline tabla players in the world.

- Pandit Lacchu Maharaj belonged to Banaras Gharana.
- His real name was Lakshmi Narayan Singh.
- Other than his professional performances all over the world, he played the tabla in many Bollywood films.

World Health Organisation declares Brazil free of measles

On 26 July 2016 The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Brazil free of measles. The step was taken after no case of the disease was registered in 2015. From 1985 to 2000, Brazil saw no domestic cases of measles, although it broke out in 2013 in the northeastern states of Pernambuco and Ceara.

The WHO it had worked alongside the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to eradicate the disease, with a joint investment of 335000 US dollar going towards measles control. The health agency also hired 165 dedicated nursing staff in Brazil.

The WHO will issue a certification for the eradication of measles

RIO OLYMPICS 2016

The **2016 Summer Olympics**, officially known as the Games of the **XXXI Olympiad**, and commonly known as **Rio 2016**, is an upcoming major international multi-sport event in the tradition of the Olympic Games due to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August 2016. A record number of countries are participating in a record number of sports. More than 10,500 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), including first time entrants Kosovo and South Sudan, are scheduled to take part. With **306 sets of medals**, the games will feature 28 Olympic sports — including rugby sevens and golf, which were added by the International Olympic Committee in 2009. These sporting events will take place at 33 venues in the host city and at 5 venues in the cities of São Paulo (Brazil's largest city), Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Brasília (Brazil's capital), and Manaus.

These will be the first Summer Olympic Games under the **IOC presidency of Thomas Bach** (German lawyer). The host city of Rio de Janeiro was announced at the 121st IOC Session held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 2 October 2009. Rio will become the first South American city to host the Summer Olympics. These will be the first games to be held in a Portuguese-speaking country, the first to be held entirely during the host country's winter season (the 2000 games began on 15 September – five days before the Southern Hemisphere's spring equinox), the first since 1968 to be held in Latin America, and the first since 2000 (and third overall) to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The lead-up to these games have been marked by controversies—including the corruption and instability of the country's federal government, as well as prominent health and safety concerns surrounding the Zika virus and significant pollution in the Guanabara Bay, as well as a doping scandal involving Russia which has affected the participation of its athletes in these Games.

The 2016 Summer Olympic program features **28 sports** and a total of **41 disciplines** and **306 events**.

Official Logo

The official emblem for the 2016 Summer Olympics was designed by the Brazilian agency Tatil Design and unveiled on 31 December 2010. The logo represents three figures, in the yellow, green, and blue of the Brazilian flag, joined at the arms and in a triple embrace, with the overall shape reflecting that of Sugarloaf Mountain. The logo was based on four concepts: contagious energy, harmonious diversity, exuberant nature, and Olympic spirit. The Rio firm Tatil designed the winning entry for the logo in a competition involving 139 agencies.

The logo has been noted as evoking Henri Matisse's painting *Dance*. There were also allegations by the Colorado-based Telluride Foundation that the logo had been plagiarized from its own. While also consisting of several figures linked in motion, the Telluride Foundation logo contains four figures. This is not the first time that the foundation had alleged plagiarism of its logo by a Brazilian event; in 2004, the linked figures element had been copied for the logo of Carnival celebrations in Salvador.

Tatil agency director Fred Gelli defended the design, stating that the concept of figures linked in embrace was not inherently original as it was "an ancient reference" and "in the collective unconscious". Gelli cited *Dance* as an influence of the logo's concept, and stated that the designers had intentionally aimed to make the interpretation of the concept as dissimilar to others as possible.

Official mascot

The official mascots of the 2016 Summer Olympics and Paralympics were unveiled on 24 November 2014. The Olympic mascot Vinicius, named after musician Vinicius de Moraes, carries design traits of mammals and represents Brazilian wildlife.



According to their fictional backgrounds, the mascots "were both born from the joy of Brazilians after it was announced that Rio would host the Games." Brand director Beth Lula stated that the mascots are intended to reflect the diversity of Brazil's culture and people. The names of the mascots were determined by a public vote won over two other sets of names, tallying 44 percent of 323,327 votes, whose results were announced on 14 December 2014.



Australian Open 2016

The Australian Open 2016 was a tennis tournament that took place at Melbourne Park between 18–31 January 2016. It was the 104th edition of the Australian Open, and the first Grand Slam tournament of the year. The tournament consisted of events for professional players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles play. Junior and wheelchair players competed in singles and doubles tournaments.

Men's Singles : Serbia Novak Djokovic defeated United Kingdom Andy Murray, 6–1, 7–5, 7–6(7–3)

Women's Singles : Germany Angelique Kerber defeated United States Serena Williams, 6–4, 3–6, 6–4

Men's Doubles : United Kingdom Jamie Murray / Brazil Bruno Soares defeated Canada Daniel Nestor / Czech Republic Radek Štěpánek, 2–6, 6–4, 7–5

Women's Doubles : Switzerland Martina Hingis / India Sania Mirza defeated Czech Republic Andrea Hlaváčková / Czech Republic Lucie Hradecká, 7–6(7–1), 6–3

Mixed Doubles : Russia Elena Vesnina / Brazil Bruno Soares defeated United States Coco Vandeweghe / Romania Horia Tecau, 6–4, 4–6, [10–5]

to Brazil in the coming months.

India's first green rail corridor launched

The 114-km long Rameswaram-Manamadurai stretch of Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu on 24 July 2016 became India's first Green Rail Corridor.

This green corridor was inaugurated by of Southern Railway via videoconferencing from Chennai Central Station.

While inaugurating this corridor, Prabhu said his ministry was committed to converting all toilets in railways to bio-toilets. Till March 2016, a total of 35104 bio-toilets had been provided and since then till third week of July 7000 more new bio-toilets have been made operational.

During 2016-17, the railway ministry has a target of providing 30000 new bio-toilets and this initiative will also bring down maintenance cost significantly. He also said that till March 2017, the Jammu-Katra section will also be human waste free.

Besides, Railway Minister Prabhu also inaugurated high speed upgraded Wi-Fi facility, set up in association with Google, at Chennai Central Railway Station and a similar facility at Tiruchirappalli through video conferencing. He also launched a traditional medicine centre under Ayush at Perambur Railway Hospital.

India becomes first contributor to UN Trust Fund for sexual abuse victims

On 22 July 2016 The United Nations Department of Field Support (DFS) announced that India provided 100000 US dollar for the Trust Fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. With this, India has become the first country in the world to make a contribution to the Trust Fund.

The UN Secretariat had requested voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund when it was established.

- The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women awards grants to initiatives that demonstrate that violence against

women and girls can be systematically addressed, reduced and eliminated.

- Since its creation in 1996, the UN Trust Fund has awarded 116 million US dollar to 426 initiatives in 136 countries and territories.
- It was established by UN General Assembly resolution 50/166.
- It is administered by UN Women on behalf of the UN System.
- The agency works to prevent violence against women and girls by empowering groups especially at risk of violence.
- It works to improve access to services, such as legal assistance, psychosocial counselling and health care.
- It works to strengthen implementation of laws, policies and action plans on violence against women and girls.

Solar Impulse 2 completes first round-the-world journey

Solar Impulse finished the first round-the-world solar flight in history! Achieving the impossible. Building the first airplane to fly day and night without a single drop of fuel. It took 13 years to achieve, but this is only the beginning.

- It was first publicly displayed on 9 April 2014.
- Its inaugural flight took place on 2 June 2014, piloted by Markus Scherdel.
- The aircraft reached its maximum altitude during a flight on 28 October 2014.
- By the end of May 2015, the plane had traversed Asia.
- Construction of Solar Impulse 2 started in 2011.
- The wingspan of Solar Impulse 2 is 71.9 m, slightly less than that of an Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger airliner.
- It is made of carbon-fibre.
- It weighs only about 2.3 tonnes.

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- It features a non-pressurized cockpit 3.8 cubic metres in size and advanced avionics, including an autopilot.
- It has 17248 solar cells built into the wings that supply the plane with renewable energy, via four motors.

India's first Water Metro launched in Kochi

Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala, on 23 July 2016 launched Kochi Water Metro project in Kochi, Kerala. It is the first ever Water Metro project in the country.

German Development Bank, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is funding 85 million euro for the project. The German bank has inked an agreement with the Kochi Metro Rail Limited for the project worth 747 crore rupees.

Sustainable Development Goal Index released; India ranked 110th

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) of the United Nations and the Bertelsmann Stiftung on 20 July 2016 launched a new Sustainable Development Goal Index (SDG Index) to provide a report card for tracking SDG progress and ensuring accountability.

SDG Index is the world's first comparative study of the Sustainable Development Goals for 149 countries

The SDG Index assess where each country stands in 2016 with regard to achieving the SDGs. The SDG Index ranks countries based on their performance across 17 goals.

The index has been topped by Sweden and India is ranked 110th in the index and is followed by Lesotho on 113th position, Pakistan (115), Myanmar (117), Bangladesh (118) and Afghanistan (139).

Key Highlights

- The countries which are closest to fulfilling the goals are not the biggest economies but comparably small, developed countries.
- OECD countries struggle to meet the goals on inequality, sustainable consumption, climate change and ecosystems
- Many developing countries face major difficulties in providing basic social services and infrastructure access to their populations.
- East and South Asia outperform many other developing regions but unmet challenges persist in health and education.
- A year after world leaders adopted the SDGs, the new index shows that all countries face major challenges in achieving these ambitious goals by 2030.
- No country has achieved the SDGs and even top Sweden scores "red" on several goals.
- Sweden, Denmark and Norway are the top three performing countries.
- Germany and the United Kingdom are the only G7 countries

to be found among the top ten performers

- The United States ranks 25th on the Index, while the Russian Federation and China rank 47th and 76th, respectively.
- Poor and developing countries understandably score lowest on the SDG Index as they often have comparably little resources at their disposal.
- The Central African Republic and Liberia are at the bottom of the Index.

Canada to conduct world's first Zika vaccine test on humans

Zika Virus A Canadian university in July 2016 said that it will conduct the world's first Zika vaccine test on humans. The vaccine that is under development will be tested on humans in the near future. Until now, vaccines have been tested on mice. Professor Gary Kobinger of the Universite Laval, based in Quebec City, said that they are very proud to be part of the first international team in the world to complete all of the steps in the regulatory process for the test. He said that development of the Zika vaccine has been authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada.

What we know?

Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus). These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

Zika can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects.

There is no vaccine or medicine for Zika.

The Florida Department of Health has identified an area in one neighborhood of Miami where Zika is being spread by mosquitoes.

WHO releases report of 2015 Non-communicable Diseases Global Survey

On 18 July 2016 The World Health Organisation (WHO) released a report of 2015 Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Global Survey. The report highlights the need to intensify national action to meet the global targets governments have agreed to protect people from heart disease, cancers, diabetes, and lung diseases.

However, the global survey titled Assessing national capacity for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases shows that some countries are making remarkable progress. The Sustainable Development Goals agenda includes a target to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by 30 per cent by 2030. Trends in national capacity for NCDs were derived from comparing the results of the 2015 survey with those from the capacity surveys conducted in 2013 and 2010.

- Cancer, diabetes and heart diseases account for 55% of the

French Open 2016

The 2016 French Open was a tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts. It was the 115th edition of the French Open and the second Grand Slam event of the year. It took place at the Stade Roland Garros from 22 May to 5 June and consisted of events for professional players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles play. Junior and wheelchair players also took part in singles and doubles events.

Men's singles

Serbia Novak Djokovic def. United Kingdom Andy Murray, 3–6, 6–1, 6–2, 6–4

Women's singles

Spain Garbiñe Muguruza def. United States Serena Williams, 7–5, 6–4

Men's doubles

Spain Feliciano López / Spain Marc López def. United States Bob Bryan / United States Mike Bryan, 6–4, 6–7(6–8), 6–3

Women's doubles

France Caroline Garcia / France Kristina Mladenovic def. Russia Ekaterina Makarova / Russia Elena Vesnina, 6–3, 2–6, 6–4

Mixed doubles

Switzerland Martina Hingis / India Leander Paes def. India Sania Mirza / Croatia Ivan Dodig, 4–6, 6–4, [10–8]

premature mortality in India in the age group of 30-69 years.

- India is the first country to develop specific national targets and indicators aimed at reducing the number of premature deaths from NCDs by 25% by 2025.

Key findings of the survey

- Globally, four NCDs, which are cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, represent the largest cause of death in people aged under 70 years.
- In all, 91% of countries (177) responded to the survey.
- Only 23% of countries reported having a dedicated office, department, or administrative division within the ministry of health exclusively dedicated to NCD surveillance.
- In relation to availability of evidence-based guidelines, protocols or standards for disease management, 75% of countries reported guidelines for diabetes, 67% for cardiovascular diseases, 60% for cancer and 55% for chronic respiratory diseases.
- Criteria for chronic respiratory diseases were available in only 57% of countries.
- In general, palliative care for patients with NCDs in the public health system, in primary health care or as community or home-based care, was not widely available.

11th Asia–Europe Meeting Summit issues Ulaanbaatar Declaration

The eleventh edition of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit on 16 July 2016 issued Ulaanbaatar Declaration.

The Ulaanbaatar Declaration focuses on fight against terrorism and greater connectivity among the Asia and Europe. It has reaffirmed ASEM's commitment for greater partnership

through informal political dialogue and initiatives in economic and socio-cultural fields.

Ulaanbaatar Declaration

- It commits to foster greater understanding between Asia and Europe.
- The 11th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit commenced on 15 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- The Summit brought together high-level delegation from 51 ASEM partners and two intergovernmental organizations.
- The theme for the summit was 20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity.
- The 11th ASEM Summit also marked the 20th Anniversary since the Asia-Europe Meeting dialogue process was inaugurated on 1-2 March 1996 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- It commits to broaden political dialogue, enhance economic cooperation and increase socio-cultural exchanges.
- It commits to deepen Asia-Europe inter-connectedness, shape and forge links and mutually beneficial, multi-layered cooperation for peace and development.
- It commits to create opportunities for broader people-to-people connections, including through the Asia-Europe Foundation.
- It commits to promote effective multilateralism and strengthen other multilateral processes.

Three Indian sites listed among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 17 July 2016 listed Franco-Swiss architect Le Corbusier's works among its World Heritage Sites.

The listed works include Chandigarh's Complexe du Capitole,

Khangchendzonga National Park and Nalanda Mahavihara.

It is the first time that any country got three sites inscribed in the World Heritage List at a single session of the committee meeting.

The chosen works of Le Corbusier depict his contributions to the Modern Movement that emerged after World War I. His works emphasize on functionality, bold lines and materials such as concrete, iron and glass.

Three Indian sites listed in the World Heritage Sites are:

Complexe du Capitole, Chandigarh

- The site comprises three buildings, i.e., Legislative Assembly, Secretariat and High Court.
- Following the independence of India, the divided Punjab required a new capital as Lahore was now in Pakistan. Therefore, Le Corbusier was commissioned by first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru to build a new city of Chandigarh as the capital of Punjab.
- The brief for the design was a city unfettered by the traditions of the past, a symbol of the nation's faith in the future.
- Later, Corbusier and his team constructed large assembly and high court building, and also the major buildings in the city.
- At present, many of the buildings are considered modernist masterpieces.
- The park is located at the heart of the Himalayan range in Sikkim.
- It includes a unique diversity of plains, valleys, lakes, glaciers and snow-capped mountains covered with ancient forests, including the world's third highest peak, Mount Khangchendzonga.
- It is the first 'Mixed Heritage' site of India.

Besides these, *Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites (Antigua and Barbuda)* and *Pampulha Modern Ensemble (Brazil)* were also included in the list.

Theresa May appointed Prime Minister of United Kingdom

On 13 June 2016 Queen Elizabeth-II appointed Theresa May as the 76th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK). She was appointed as prime minister following her election as the leader of Britain's ruling Conservative Party.

With this appointment, she became the second women to assume the office of Prime Minister of the UK. The first women prime minister was Margaret Thatcher who was in the office of PM from 1979 to 1990.

She succeeded David Cameron who resigned from the post on the same day following Brexit vote. Cameron tendered his resignation to the Queen. Britons on 22 June 2016 voted to exit the European Union.

Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in favor of The Philippines on South China Sea

On 12 July 2016 The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruled in favor of the Philippines in a maritime dispute on South China Sea. The tribunal concluded that China do not have legal basis to claim historic rights to the bulk of the Sea.

- The tribunal gave a ruling that China does not has the right to resources within its nine-dash line which extends hundreds of miles to the south and east of its island province of Hainan and covers some 90 percent of the disputed waters.
- The tribunal also found that none of the sea features claimed by China were capable of generating what's called an exclusive economic zone which gives country maritime rights to resources such as fish and oil and gas within 200 nautical miles of that land mass.
- It found that they were rocks or low-tide elevations such as reefs, rather than islands.
- The tribunal found that some of China's activities in the region were in breach of the Philippines' sovereign rights.
- Tribunal in its ruling also stated that China had violated those rights by interfering in fishing and oil exploration, constructing artificial islands and failing to stop Chinese fisherman from fishing the zone.
- It found that China had caused severe harm to coral around the site of its artificial islands. It had also violated its obligation to preserve and protect fragile ecosystems.
- Chinese fisherman had also killed endangered sea turtles and giant clams on a substantial scale that too with the knowledge of China.
- The tribunal said it "lacked the jurisdiction to consider the implications of a stand-off" between the Chinese and Philippines military, specifically at Second Thomas Shoal, and said any resolution of the dispute was "excluded from compulsory settlement."
- The tribunal did not order China to take any particular steps to remedy the situation, dismantle construction on the islands or provide reparations to the Philippines.
- The ruling doesn't just affect China and the Philippines, but other countries that have competing claims with the nation over large areas of the sea.
- Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia have also taken exception to China's growing presence in the region and could now be emboldened to take further action.
- While the ruling in The Hague is regarded as legally binding, there is no mechanism to enforce it.

Background

- The Philippines and China have longtime maritime dispute as China claims of sovereignty over large swaths of the South China Sea, and Manila took its fight to the court in 2013.
- It increased the tensions as China reclaimed the land in massive dredging operations, turning sandbars into islands equipped with airfields, ports and lighthouses.
- China refused to participate in the case, which marks the first time an international court has ruled on the region's mess of overlapping claims.

WHO declares India as Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus free

On 14 July 2016 The World Health Organization (WHO) declared India as Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus free. In this regard, WHO presented certificates to the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda.

Previously in May 2016, WHO certified India yaws-free after a team of experts verified interruption of disease transmission in the country. India is the first country under the 2012 WHO neglected tropical diseases (NTD) roadmap to eliminate yaws. Yaws is a chronic bacterial infection that affects the skin, bones and cartilages.

PM Modi's four nation tour to Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Mozambique concluded

PM Narendra Modi visited Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya from July 7-11. PM Modi held deliberations with President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique, South African President Jacob Zuma, President John Magufuli of Tanzania and President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya. PM Modi's four-nation tour strengthened India's ties with the African mainland.



Visit to Kenya

India and Kenya signed seven agreements with regard to: (i) line of credit of USD 30 million for Kenyan textile industry, (ii) line of credit of USD 15 million for development of small and medium enterprises in Kenya, (iii) housing policy, (iv) defence cooperation, (v) visa exemption for diplomatic passport holders, (vi) taxation policy, and (vii) expertise sharing in the field of standardisation.

- There has been a long gap of nearly 35 years for the visit of Indian Prime Minister.

India and Kenya have had a very special relationship

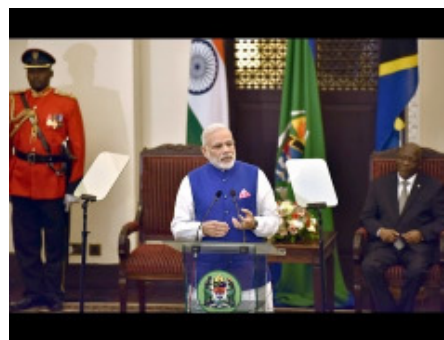
- Thousands of Indians were brought here to build railways in 19th and 20th centuries;
- Mahatma Gandhi has been a common inspiration for the Struggle against colonialism;
- Indian banks have been operating in Kenya since 1953.
- The first cuttings of the famous tea plantations of Kericho came from our Assam state.
- In addition to being loyal citizens, Indians are also the third largest group of tourists to Kenya.
- Your scholars and students consider India as a very comfortable place to live, learn and work;
- No wonder, many words in Swahili language have their origin in Indian languages;
- Both countries have had very old maritime contacts over the Indian Ocean;
- Many Indian companies have made Kenya their base to operate in the entire East Africa.

India-Kenya signed seven agreements

- The two nations held delegation level talks at State House in Nairobi
- Modi received Guard of Honour during Ceremonial Reception at State House in Nairobi
- Modi laid wreath at the Mausoleum of Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, First President of Kenya in Nairobi
- He addressed the Indian Diaspora at Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi
- He addressed students at the University of Nairobi during his visit to Kenya

Visit to Tanzania

India and Tanzania signed five agreements with regard to: (i) line of credit of USD 92 million to Tanzania for improving water supply, (ii) water resource management, (iii) cooperation among small scale industries, (iv) establishment of a vocational training centre in Tanzania, and (v) visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders of both countries.



- Modi met members of Indian diaspora in Dar es Salaam

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Wimbledon Open 2016

Wimbledon Wimbledon, the third Grand Slam of the 2016 tennis season concluded on 10 July 2016. It was held for two weeks beginning on 27 July 2016 at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London.

Winners of Wimbledon

Category	Winner	Runner-up
<i>Men's Singles</i>	Andy Murray (Great Britain)	Milos Raonic (Canada)
<i>Women's Singles</i>	Serena Williams (United States)	Angelique Kerber (Germany)
<i>Men's Doubles</i>	Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut (France)	Julien Benneteau and Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)
<i>Women's Doubles</i>	Serena Williams and Venus Williams (both USA)	Timea Babos (Hungary) and Yaroslava Shvedova (Russia)
<i>Mixed doubles</i>	Heather Watson (Britain) and Henri Kontinen (Finland)	Anna-Lena Groenefeld (Germany) and Roberto Farah (Colombia)

- He also meets Solar Mamas in Dar es Salaam during his visit to Tanzania
- Modi and John Magufuli lead delegation level talks in Dar es Salaam
- Modi inspected the Guard of Honour at the Ceremonial Reception in Dar es Salaam

Visit to South Africa

India and South Africa signed four agreements with regard to information and communication technology, grassroots innovation in science and technology, tourism and cultural cooperation.

- Modi and Jacob Zuma holds delegation level talks in Pretoria
- He met with Gounder and Moonsamy, two surviving members of 1946 Passive Resistance
- He planted a pepper and a bark tree at the Phoenix settlement



- He visited Sarvodaya, Mahatma Gandhi's residence in Phoenix, the farm where Mahatma Gandhi spent formative years of his political carrier
- He inaugurated exhibition at the waiting hall where Mahatma Gandhi spent the night in Pietermaritzburg
- He also visits the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was offloaded at Pietermaritzburg
- He visited Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg
- He met with the anti-apartheid revolutionaries and their

families in Johannesburg

- He visited Constitutional Hill in Johannesburg during his visit to South Africa
- Prime Minister inspected Guard of Honour at Union Buildings in Pretoria during his 3 day visit to South Africa

Visit to Mozambique

India and Mozambique signed three agreements with regard to: (i) purchase of pulses from Mozambique to meet India's pulse requirements, (ii) prevention of drug trafficking, and (iii) youth and sports cooperation.

India also agreed to donate essential medicines for the Mozambican public health system, including medicines for treatment of AIDS.

- Three agreements were inked and three announcements were made including gifting 100 ton medicines and medical equipment
- At Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, Modi received a ceremonial welcome at the presidential palace.
- Modi and Filipe Nyusi held delegation level talks
- India has handed over 30 SUVs to Mozambique
- He attended the Indian community reception in Maputo.
- India, Mozambique agreed to cooperate to meet strategic, security challenges.

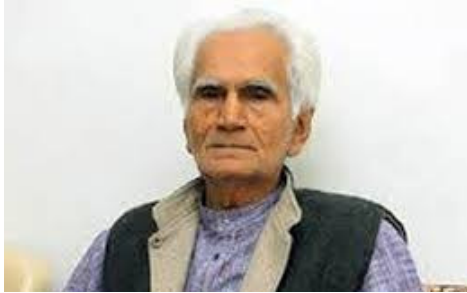


- Under long-term agreement India will buy pulses from this African nation to meet its recurring shortfall and contain

prices of this commodity.

51st Jnanpith Award

President Pranab Mukherjee on 11 July 2016 conferred the 51st Jnanpith Award on renowned Gujarati writer Dr. Raghuveer Chaudhari at Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. He was awarded with the India's highest literary honour for the year 2015.



He was given a cash prize, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati. With this, he also became the fourth Gujarati literary artist to receive the prestigious award. The other Gujarati recipients of the award are poet Umashankar Joshi (1967), novelist Pannalal Patel (1985) and poet Rajendra Shah (2001).

NATO Summit 2016 concluded in Warsaw

NATO 2016 The 2-day long NATO Summit concluded on 9 July 2016 in Warsaw, Poland. It was the 27th summit biannual summit of NATO since its inception in 1949.

The summit was attended by Heads of State and Heads of Government of NATO members including the USA President Barack Obama, Polish president Andrzej Duda and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Besides, the summit also saw the presence of Heads of Government of non-member States and organizations of NATO including Afghanistan.

The agenda of the biannual summit included :

- The situation in Eastern Europe
- The risks emanating from the Middle East
- Reform of NATO's partnership policy
- Question of enlargement
- Debate about the future nuclear strategy of the Alliance

At the end of the summit, the leaders agreed to deploy more troops along its eastern borders in Poland and Estonia. Besides, the leaders also supported Georgia's membership aspirations.

Networked Readiness Index 2016

India was placed at 91st position in the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) 2016 that was released by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) on 6 July 2016. The index was released as the part of the WEF's Global Information Technology Report 2016. It measures countries' success in creating the necessary

conditions for a transition to a digitised economy and society.

- Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Israel, Singapore, the Netherlands and the US are leading the world when it comes to generating economic impact from investments in information and technology.
- Singapore leads the Index followed by Finland, Sweden, Norway and the United States.
- India (91st) was ranked the lowest among the BRICS countries- Russia (41st), China (59th), South Africa (65th) and Brazil (72nd).
- India's position on the list has come down for the fourth consecutive year in a row in 2016 from 89th in 2015, 83rd in 2014 and 68th in 2013.
- In different parameters of Index, India has scored better in terms of political and regulatory environment (78th position).
- It ranked very high (8th) place in terms of affordability.
- It scored worse in terms of business and innovation environment (110th).
- In terms of infrastructure, it scored worse place at 114th position.

Logistic Performance Index 2016 released by World Bank

On 1 July 2016 World Bank released the Logistics Performance Index 2016 titled '*Connecting to compete: 2016: Trade Logistics in the Global Economy.*' The 2016 Logistics Performance Index (LPI) allows for comparisons across 160 countries.

The 2016 LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance.

Germany tops the 2016 rankings and is followed by Luxembourg, Sweden, Netherlands, and Singapore. Hong Kong SAR, China was ranked at 9th position while United States was placed at 10th Position in the list of rankings. Mainland China was placed at 27th position.

Syrian Arab Republic was ranked at 160th position in the list.

- India's ranking jumped from 54 in 2014 to 35 in 2016.
- India is ahead of comparatively advanced economies like Portugal and New Zealand.
- In 2016, India's international supply chain efficiency was at 75 percent of top-ranked Germany. This is an improvement over the 66% efficiency when compared to the leader (again Germany) in 2014.
- The improvement was credited to recent reforms made into practice in the country like
 - a) Single Window Interface for Trade (SWIFT)
 - b) Electronic messaging system between Shipping lines and

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Custodians for electronic delivery order

- c) Filing of import and export declarations and manifests online with digital signature
- d) Extension of Customs' risk management system to other regulatory agencies to ensure risk-based inspection
- e) Reduction of documents required for export and import
- f) Extension of 24x7 customs clearance facilities to 19 seaports and 17 air cargo complexes
- g) Removal of limit on the number of consignments released under direct delivery and many more
- India's performance on the six core pillars of logistics performance Index that is used to rank the countries by World Bank in its study is
- The ability to track and trace consignments: From 57 to 33
- The quality of trade and transport infrastructure: From 58 to 36
- The competence and quality of logistics services: From 52 to 32

The Logistics Performance Index is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance. The LPI consists of both qualitative and quantitative measures and helps build profiles of logistics friendliness for these countries. It measures performance along the logistics supply chain within a country and offers two different perspectives: international and domestic.

India's first Integrated Defence Communication Network launched

India's first Integrated Defence Communication Network (DCN) was launched on 30 June 2016. The DCN was inaugurated by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at South Block.

The network enables the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decision-making process. It is the first tri-service communication and IT network of the Armed Forces.

- The Defence Communication Network is a strategic, highly secure and scalable system.
- It has a pan-India reach, i.e., from Ladakh to the North East to island territories.
- The DCN offers high quality voice, video and data services covering 111 entities spread across India.
- The network provides converged voice, data and video services to the three Services based on secured system with adequate redundancy.
- The tri-communication network makes voice data and video data accessible to the three services over a secured net-

work.

- It is capable of working on terrestrial as well as satellite mode of communication.
- It has also been fixed onboard different military vehicles.
- The network has been fully designed and developed in India by HCL Infosystems.

International Solar Alliance Cell and World Bank sign Declaration

The Interim Administrative Cell of the International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell) and the World Bank on 30 June 2016 signed declaration to promote solar energy globally. The declaration was signed during the visit of the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to India in June 2016.

The declaration was signed by Upendra Tripathy, Secretary of Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Chairperson, ISA cell and Onno Ruhl, India Country Director of the World Bank.

The Joint Declaration will help in accelerating mobilization of finance for solar energy. The World Bank will have a major role in mobilizing more than 1000 billion US dollars in investments that will be needed by 2030 for the massive deployment of affordable solar energy.

- Working on mobilization of concessional financing through existing or new trust funds
- Developing a roadmap to mobilize financing
- Developing financing instruments including credit enhancement, reduce hedging costs/currency risk, bond raising in locally denominated currencies etc. which support solar energy development
- Supporting ISA's plans for solar energy through technical assistance and knowledge transfer

India becomes 35th member of Missile Technology Control Regime

India becomes 35th member of Missile Technology Control Regime June 27, 2016. No comments India became the 35th full member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). It would be mutually beneficial in the furtherance of international non-proliferation objectives. In this regard, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar signed the instrument of accession to MTCR in New Delhi. It marks India's first entry into any multilateral export control regime. India's accession to the regime was conveyed by the MTCR Point of Contact in Paris through the French Embassy in New Delhi as well as Embassies of The Netherlands and Luxembourg. India was able to successfully enter this multilateral export control regime with the unopposed support of all 34 MTCR Partners. Earlier in 2015, India's bid for the membership to the group had failed after it was blocked by Italy.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) on July 13, 2016. PMKVY aims at skilling one crore people over the next four years (April 2016 to March 2020) with an outlay of Rs 12,000 crore. The scheme will impart fresh training to 60 lakh "individuals and certify skills of 40 lakh individuals that have been acquired nonformally.

The scheme was launched in July 2015 with the objective of enabling Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training and help them secure a better livelihood.

The major features of revised PMKVY include:

- **Training centres:** Training centres under the scheme will be categorized on the basis of their infrastructure, training capacity, past performance and other relevant parameters, to improve the quality of training imparted by them. In addition, targets assigned to these training centres will be on a long term basis along with a review mechanism.
- **Common norms:** The scheme will be aligned to common norms (these norms outline the base cost of training per candidate for different sectors in various job roles). The scheme will be based on a grant based model where the training and assessment cost will be directly reimbursed to training providers and assessment bodies, in accordance with the common norms.
- **Special projects:** A special cell will be created to aggregate demand for training across various sectors. Special projects will be promoted for sector specific skilling initiatives, such as Swacch Bharat, Digital India and Smart Cities. 10%-15% of the respective schemes' budgets will be made available for these special projects.
- **Validation of candidates through Aadhaar number:** Under the scheme, training partners will be required to ensure the validation of the Aadhaar number when enrolling a candidate.
- **Involvement of state governments:** Respective state governments will be responsible for 25% of the total training targets under the scheme.

Implications

By becoming MTCR member, India will now be able to buy high-end missile technology and also can enhance its defence joint ventures with Russia. India's inclusion to the MTCR will also strengthen its own export controls, which will in turn help it to justify transferring sensitive technology in front of other MTCR members. Further, it will pave way for India's bid to become the member of Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), Wassenaar Arrangement (dealing with conventional arms, dual-use goods and technologies) and Australia Group (dealing with chemical weapons).

Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) MTCR was established by G-7 countries in 1987. The aim of the MTCR is to restrict the proliferation of missiles, unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), complete rocket systems and related technology for those systems capable of carrying a 500 kilogram payload for at least 300 kms, as well as systems intended for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

SCO Summit 2016

The 2016 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit concluded on 24 June 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The 2-day meeting was conducted under the presidency of Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan signed the Memorandum of Obligations on 24 June 2016. The signing of Memorandum of

Obligations by India and Pakistan started the formal process of joining the SCO as a full member. They are expected to become full members by the next meeting at Astana in 2017.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded in 2001 in Shanghai by the leaders of the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. These countries, except for Uzbekistan had been members of the Shanghai Five, founded in 1996; after the inclusion of Uzbekistan in 2001, the members renamed the organisation. On July 10, 2015, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members.

India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations on 24 June 2016 at Tashkent, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as a full member, the process will take some months, by which they are expected to become full members by the next meeting at Astana in 2017.

Human Capital Report 2016

On 28 June 2016 The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Human Capital Report 2016. The WEF prepared the report in collaboration with Mercer, an American global human resource and related financial services consulting firm.

The report presents an analysis by focusing on a number of key issues that can support better design of education policy

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and future workforce planning.

The Human Capital Index 2016 ranks 130 countries on how well they are developing and deploying their human capital potential.

Top ten Countries in the Human Capital Index are:

1. Finland
2. Norway
3. Switzerland
4. Japan
5. Sweden
6. New Zealand
7. Denmark
8. The Netherlands
9. Canada
10. Belgium

Bottom ten Countries in the Human Capital Index are:

- Lesotho (121)
- Senega (122)
- Côte d'Ivoire (123)
- Burundi (124)
- Guinea (125)
- Mali (126)
- Nigeria (127)
- Chad (128)
- Yemen (129)
- Mauritania (130)

Majuli in Assam declared as island district

On 27 June 2016 Majuli was in news as the Government of Assam approved its up gradation as a district. The approval was given by the State Cabinet in its first meeting after the formation of the government on 24 May 2016.

At present, Majuli is a Mohkuma, a sub division of the Jorhat District and represented by the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in the Assembly.

Key facts

- Geographical features: It is a fluvial landform (a riverine delta), a unique geographical occurrence and a result of the dynamics of the Brahmaputra river system.
- Each Sattra, represents, within its region, a centre for cultural activities and even acts as a democratic institution to settle local disputes.
- Most of the villages associate with respective Sattra, and the villagers partake in the activities of their own Sattra during festivals and occasions.
- These sattra villages and other vernacular settlements house people from various ethnic origins all of whom have settled in Majuli like Mishings, Deori, Sonowal Kachari,

Koch, Kaivartta and Nath.

- Flora and fauna: It is a hotspot for flora and fauna, harbouring many rare and endangered avifauna species including migratory birds that arrive in the winter season.
- Among the birds seen here are the greater adjutant stork, pelican, Siberian crane and the whistling teal.
- Agriculture: Paddy, mustard, potato, pulses, sugarcane, wheat are the main crops cultivated on the island.
- Various seasonal vegetables and fruits like orange, banana, pineapple, jackfruit, etc are also grown in abundant quantity.
- In March 2011, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of the Union Ministry of Culture proposed to nominate the island for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list. The application is in pending.
- It is bounded by the river Subanisri and her tributaries on the North West, the kherkatia Suli (a spill channel of the river Brahmaputra) in the northeast and the main Brahmaputra River on the South and the South west.
- It is the largest mid river delta system in the world. It is also comprised of many islets locally called the Chaporis.
- Its area has shrunk from about 1250 square kilometers in 1891 to about 515 square kilometers due to the erosion of river-bank.
- Vaishnavite cultural centre: It is the abode of the Assamese neo-Vaisnavite culture initiated around 15th century by the revered Assamese saint Srimanta Sankardeva and his disciple Madhavdeva.
- There are a total of 30 Sattras or Vaishnavite monasteries including the Dakshinpat Satra which was established in 1584 AD.

World Investment Report 2016

On 21 June 2016 The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a report entitled World Investment Report 2016 – *Investor Nationality: Policy Challenges*. India continues to be among the top ten countries in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows globally and the fourth in developing Asia, as per the World Investment Report 2016 by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

India's FDI inflows have increased to \$44 billion in 2015 as compared to \$35 billion in 2014, and the growth has been across the board, the report said.

A surge in investments in the first four months of 2016 is mainly on account of the Make in India initiative, along side liberalization measures and reforms initiated by the National Democratic Alliance, which make India an attractive investment

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decision, according to Nagesh Kumar, who heads the South, South-West Asia office of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

ISRO launches record 20 satellites from Sriharikota

On 22 June 2016 PSLV-C34 Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a record 20 satellites in a single mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. With this launch of 20 satellites, ISRO also managed to break its previous record of placing 10 satellites into orbit in a single mission in 2008.

The 20 satellites including India's latest earth observation satellite Cartosat-2 was launched on-board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV C-34. The other 19 satellites were from the US, Germany, Canada and Indonesia as well as two satellites from Sathyabama University, Chennai, and the College of Engineering, Pune.

Cartosat-2 Series Satellite

The Cartosat-2 series satellite is the primary satellite carried by PSLV-C34. This satellite is similar to the earlier Cartosat-2, 2A and 2B. After its injection into a 505 km polar Sun Synchronous Orbit by PSLV-C34, the satellite will be brought to operational configuration following which it will begin providing regular remote sensing services using Panchromatic and Multispectral cameras.

The imagery sent by the satellite will be useful cartographic applications, urban and rural applications, coastal land use and regulation, utility management like road network monitoring, water distribution, creation of land use maps, precision study, change detection to bring out geographical and manmade features and various other Land Information System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) applications.

Cartosat-2 along with its 19 co-passenger satellites together weighing about 560 kg at lift-off was injected into a 505-km polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.

Other satellites included

- **LAPAN A3 of Indonesia:** The micro-satellite will be used for earth surveillance and magnetic field monitoring.
- **BIROS from Germany:** This is meant for remote sensing of high temperature events.
- **SKYSAT GEN 2-1 from USA:** It will be used for earth imaging. The micro-satellite was developed by Google Company Terra Bella's SkySat Gen2-1.
- **Dove Satellites from USA:** it comprises of a total of 12 Flock-2P Earth imaging satellites.
- **Maritime Monitoring and Messaging Microsatellite (M3MSAT) from Canada:** This micro-satellite of Canada will

be used for collection and study of automatic identification system signals from low earth orbit.

- **GHGSat-D from Canada:** It is an Earth observation satellite and is meant for measuring the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (Carbon Dioxide and Methane).
- **Sathyabamasat (Sathyabama University, Chennai):** The satellite aims to collect data on green house gases.
- **Swayam (College of Engineering, Pune):** The satellite aims to provide point to point messaging services to the HAM (amateur radio) community.

42nd G7 Summit concluded in Japan

The 42nd G7 Summit was held at Ise-Shima in Japan for 2-days from 26 May to 27 May 2016. During the summit, the member countries discussed a wide range of major global economic and political challenges and approved the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration.

The summit assumed significance as it was the first one to be held after the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by the United Nations in September 2015.

During the summit, global economy and trade, climate change and energy, development, health and quality infrastructure investment were discussed by the leaders.

The Summit was attended by all the seven members' viz., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States and the European Commission (EC). EC is a permanently welcome participant in all meetings and decision-making since 1981.

Global Peace Index (GPI) 2016

On 10 June 2016 Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released the 2016 Global Peace Index (GPI). It is 10th edition of GPI that measured peace, its causes and its economic value during 2015 for 163 countries.

India ranked 141 among the 163 countries with 2.566 GPI score. It showed an improvement in peace building as it held 143th rank in 2014 and 2015.

- The countries that topped the 2016 GPI for being most peaceful are Iceland (1), Denmark (2), Austria (3), New Zealand (4), Portugal (5), Czech Republic (6), Switzerland (7), Canada (8), Japan (9) and Slovenia (10).
- The least peaceful countries are Pakistan (153), Libya (154), Sudan (155), Ukraine (156), Central African Republic (157), Yemen (158), Somalia (159), Afghanistan (160), Iraq (161), South Sudan (162) and Syria (163).
- Pakistan (153rd), Libya (154th), Sudan (155th), Ukraine (156th), Central African Republic (157th), Yemen (158th), Somalia (159th), Afghanistan (160th), Iraq (161st), South Sudan (162nd) and Syria (163rd).

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- The majority of the global deterioration is due to the developments in the Middle East and Africa (MENA) which is already the least peaceful region in the world.

GPI as a measure of world peace was launched in 2007. It is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace. The Index is composed of 23 indicators, ranging from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighbouring countries and the percentage of prison population in 163 countries. The IEP is a Sydney-based international and independent think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress.

United Nations World Humanitarian Summit concluded in Istanbul

The United Nations World Humanitarian Summit concluded on 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. The summit was organised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

More than 50 heads of state and government attended the summit, which commenced on 23 May 2016. However, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon voiced his disappointment at the absence of world leaders from G7 countries.

The World Humanitarian Summit's main achievement was the Grand Bargain, which is the name for a set of 51 commitments to reform humanitarian financing to make emergency aid finance more efficient and effective.

In the summit, a New charter for Persons With Disabilities was also endorsed. The charter aims at improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities during emergencies.

Ban Ki-moon, in his Five-Year Action Agenda, released in January 2012, set out his vision to develop a humanitarian system that was more global, accountable and robust.

UNODC launches inaugural World Wildlife Crime Report

On 24 May 2016 The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched its inaugural World Wildlife Crime Report. The report highlights how the poaching and illegal trade of thousands of different species across the globe present real environmental dangers.

The report also urges shared responsibility in tackling this crime given how products made from illicit flora and fauna such as fashion items, furniture, food, and pets, may be hidden in plain sight.

The report is a part of UNODC's ongoing Global Programme on Wildlife and Forest Crime.

The report was developed by UNODC with data provided by

partner organizations under the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), including the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Indian Organic Sector Vision 2025: A white paper released

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the Indian Organic Sector Vision 2025: a white paper on June 15, 2016.

The organic sector in India includes categories of crops such as oilseeds, cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables, spices, condiments, sugar and tea, as well as edible oils, honey, and medicinal or herbal products. The paper seeks to remove bottlenecks in the organic sector in India by providing a road map in areas such as policy, infrastructure, regulation, and skilling. Key features of the Vision 2025 paper are as follows:

- Focus on products and markets: There is a need to identify and focus on producing selected organic products for export, in order to increase the efficiency in the value chain from the farmer to the exporter. This will enable the farmer as well as the exporter to get the best price for the products. There is also a need to develop a country-wise sales plan for the identified products. The top markets would be chosen based on market potential, size, growth rate and exporters' confidence levels.
- Policy support: The domestic organic policy should be in line with international market development and exports requirements. Two separate bodies should be established, one for the uniform regulation of organic products and one for their promotion and awareness. An incentive based policy framework should be set up, with features such as: (i) encouraging international licensing agencies to set up labs in India, (ii) no bans or restrictions on exports, (iii) incentives for new products and market development, (iv) brand building for new product categories, etc.
- Infrastructure: The interventions to improve the supply chain of organic products include: (i) setting up food testing laboratories at the farm level, processing and consumer level, and port levels, (ii) setting up Organic Food Parks in key organic food production clusters, and (iii) enabling organic processors to control the entire process from the farm-level to processing.
- Skilling: Organic farming should be included in the National Skill Development Mission. A credit course on organic farming should be included in agricultural universities.
- Promotion and branding: A comprehensive plan for branding, identification, and communication needs to be mapped

out. An overall marketing strategy for the sector is required, which would include a short-term marketing and promotional program for the first five years, outlining the activities, targets and cost estimates for each year.

Prime Minister visits Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, USA and Mexico

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, United States of America (USA) and Mexico in June 2016. During the visits, he signed key agreements with USA and Qatar. These include:

USA: India and USA signed six agreements during the visit regarding: exchange of counterterrorism intelligence and maritime information, expedited clearance for low-risk passengers on arrival in USA, and cooperation on clean energy, production and distribution of natural gas, and wildlife conservation. In addition, two more, defence agreements were finalised regarding joint exercises and training of defence personnel, and sharing of aircraft carrier technologies.

USA also expressed support for India's application to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and called on other countries to do the same. The NSG regulates international nuclear trade. However, the NSG did not take a decision with regard to India's membership in a meeting held on June 24, 2016, though the matter was discussed.

USA also re-affirmed its support with regard to India's entry into other export control groups, i.e. Australia Group (which regulates export of chemical or biological weapons), Wassenaar Arrangement (conventional arms) and Missile Technology Control Regime (missiles and related technology).⁵³

During the visit, India and USA also announced several initiatives regarding financing clean energy. This includes creation of a Clean Energy Finance Initiative that is expected to mobilise USD 400 million to provide renewable electricity to about 1 million households in India by 2020.

Qatar: Seven agreements were signed with Qatar regarding: financing infrastructure projects in India, cooperation on skill development, health, tourism, sports and intelligence sharing (customs and terror issues).

Bill to amend SARFAESI and RDDBFI Acts introduced in Lok Sabha

The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Arun Jaitley, on May 11, 2016. It was subsequently referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament (Chair: Mr. Bhupender Yadav) for examination. The Committee is expected to submit its report by the first week of Monsoon session of Parliament this year.

The Bill seeks to amend four laws: (i) the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI), (ii) the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (RDDBFI), (iii) the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, and (iv) the Depositories Act, 1996.

Key provisions of the Bill include:

- **The SARFAESI Act:** The Act allows secured creditors to take possession over a collateral, against which a loan has been provided, in the case of a default in repayment. This process is undertaken with the assistance of the District Magistrate, and does not require the intervention of courts or tribunals. The Bill provides that this process will have to be completed within 30 days by the Magistrate.
- The Act created a central registry to maintain records of transactions related to secured assets (collateral). The Bill creates a central database to integrate records of the central registry with those of other registration systems. This includes integration of registrations made under the Companies Act, 2013, the Registration Act, 1908 and the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- The Act empowered the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine the statements and information of asset reconstruction companies related to their business. The Bill further empowers the RBI to also carry out audit and inspection of these companies.
- **The RDDBFI Act:** The Act provides that banks and financial institutions will be required to file cases in tribunals having jurisdiction over the defaulter's area of residence or business. The Bill allows banks to file cases in tribunals having jurisdiction over the area of bank branch where the debt is pending.

Committee constituted to review FRBM

The Ministry of Finance set up a Committee to review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 on May 17, 2016. The FRBM Act, 2003 sets yearly fiscal deficit targets to be met by the government. The Finance Minister, in his Budget speech of 2016-17 had announced that the FRBM Act was to be reviewed in this year, to explore the possibility of having a fiscal deficit target range.

The Committee has been constituted following this announcement. The terms of reference of the Committee include: (i) reviewing the functioning of the Act over the last 12 years and suggesting the way forward, (ii) reviewing the factors taken into consideration while determining yearly targets under the Act, (iii) examining the need and feasibility to have a fiscal deficit target range for every year, as opposed to a fixed target, and

(iv) examining the feasibility for the government to align fiscal deficit with changes in the credit flow in the economy.

The Committee is expected to submit its report by October 31, 2016.

Prime Minister visits Iran

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Iran from May 22-23, 2016. During the visit, India and Iran entered into 12 agreements related to various sectors, including trade and transit, transportation, aluminium manufacturing, and policy and cultural exchanges.

Some of the key agreements signed between both countries are with regard to the development of the Chabahar Port.

Chabahar Port is located in the Gulf of Oman in south eastern Iran, and provides a trade and transit route to Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. India and Iran agreed to the joint development and operation of two terminals and five berths at the port for 10 years. India also promised the availability of about USD 500 million for this purpose.

In addition, a trilateral agreement was signed during the visit between India, Iran, and Afghanistan. This agreement provides for establishment of a transport and transit corridor linking the Chabahar Port with Afghanistan.

India agreed to provide construction services and financing worth USD 1.6 billion for this project.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Forbes list of World Billionaires 2016

Forbes list of World Billionaires 2016 was released on 1 March 2016. In its 30th annual guide to the world's richest, Forbes found 1810 billionaires in 2016 compared to 1826 in 2015.

Bill Gates remained as the richest person in the world with a net worth of 75 billion US dollars. He has been No. 1 for 3 years in a row and topped the list 17 out of 22 years.

Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg and Head of Amazon, Jeff Bezos made their first appearance in the top ten of Forbes' annual ranking of the world's wealthiest.

The 31-year-old Zuckerberg added 11.2 billion US dollars in this year and moved up to No. 6 from 16.

Forbes list of top 10 World Billionaires 2016

1. Bill Gates

Net Worth: \$75 B

Source of wealth: Microsoft

2. Amancio Ortega

Net Worth: \$67 B

Source of wealth: Zara

3. Warren Buffett

Net Worth: \$60.8 B

Source of wealth: Berkshire Hathaway

4. Carlos Slim Helu

Net Worth: \$50 B

Source of wealth: telecom

5. Jeff Bezos

Net Worth: \$45.2 B

Source of wealth: Amazon.com

6. Mark Zuckerberg

Net Worth: \$44.6 B

Source of wealth: Facebook

7. Larry Ellison

Net Worth: \$43.6 B

Source of wealth: Oracle

8. Michael Bloomberg

Net Worth: \$40 B

Source of wealth: Bloomberg LP

9. Charles Koch

Net Worth: \$39.6 B

Source of wealth: diversified

10. David Koch

Net Worth: \$39.6 B

Source of wealth: diversified

36. Mukesh Ambani

Net Worth: \$19.3 B

Source of wealth: petrochemicals, oil & gas

45. Dilip Shanghvi

Net Worth: \$16.7 B

Source of wealth: pharmaceuticals

55. Azim Premji

Net Worth: \$15 B

Source of wealth: software services

47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2015

Veteran Film Actor and Director Manoj Kumar will be conferred the 47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2015.

A five member jury consisted of Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Salim Khan, Nitin Mukesh and Anup Jalota unanimously recommended Kumar for the prestigious Award.

Manoj Kumar is remembered for his films Hariyali Aur Raasta, Woh Kaun Thi, Himalaya Ki God Mein, Do Badan, Upkaar, Patthar Ke Sanam, Neel Kamal, Purab Aur Paschim, Roti Kapda Aur Makaan, and Kranti. He is known for acting in and directing films with patriotic themes. He is a recipient of National Film Award for the film Upkaar. In 1992, he was honoured with the third highest civilian award Padma Shri by the Government of India.

India won Asia Cricket Cup 2016

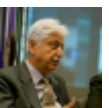
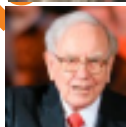
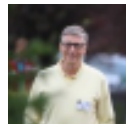
Indian cricket team led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the Asia Cup for the record sixth time. Asia Cup 2016 was played from 24 February to 6 March 2016.

To win the trophy, India defeated Bangladesh by eight wickets in the final played at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, Bangladesh.

Batting first, Bangladesh made 120 runs by losing 5 wickets in rain truncated 15 over while India chased down the target by losing two wickets and seven balls to spare.

Shikhar Dhawan was adjudged Man of the Match for his 44-balls 60 runs.

This was the first time that Asia Cup was played in T20 format and the countries that played in 2016 Asia Cup were India,



NOBEL PRIZE WINNER 2015

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2015

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 is to be awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011. The Quartet was formed in the summer of 2013 when the democratization process was in danger of collapsing as a result of political assassinations and widespread social unrest. It established an alternative, peaceful political process at a time when the country was on the brink of civil war. It was thus instrumental in enabling Tunisia, in the space of a few years, to establish a constitutional system of government guaranteeing fundamental rights for the entire population, irrespective of gender, political conviction or religious belief.



The Nobel Peace Prize 2015 was awarded to National Dialogue Quartet "for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011".

The **National Dialogue Quartet** has comprised four key organizations in Tunisian civil society: the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT, Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail), the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA, Union Tunisienne de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat), the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH, La Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme), and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers (Ordre National des Avocats de Tunisie). These organizations represent different sectors and values in Tunisian society: working life and welfare, principles of the rule of law and human rights. On this basis, the Quartet exercised its role as a mediator and driving force to advance peaceful democratic development in Tunisia with great moral authority. The Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 is awarded to this Quartet, not to the four individual organizations as such.

The Arab Spring originated in Tunisia in 2010-2011, but quickly spread to a number of countries in North Africa and the Middle

East. In many of these countries, the struggle for democracy and fundamental rights has come to a standstill or suffered setbacks. Tunisia, however, has seen a democratic transition based on a vibrant civil society with demands for respect for basic human rights.

An essential factor for the culmination of the revolution in Tunisia in peaceful, democratic elections last autumn was the effort made by the Quartet to support the work of the constituent assembly and to secure approval of the constitutional process among the Tunisian population at large. The Quartet paved the way for a peaceful dialogue between the citizens, the political parties and the authorities and helped to find consensus-based solutions to a wide range of challenges across political and religious divides. The broad-based national dialogue that the Quartet succeeded in establishing countered the spread of violence in Tunisia and its function is therefore comparable to that of the peace congresses to which Alfred Nobel refers in his will.

The course that events have taken in Tunisia since the fall of the authoritarian Ben Ali regime in January 2011 is unique and remarkable for several reasons. Firstly, it shows that Islamist and secular political movements can work together to achieve significant results in the country's best interests. The example of Tunisia thus underscores the value of dialogue and a sense of national belonging in a region marked by conflict. Secondly, the transition in Tunisia shows that civil society institutions and organizations can play a crucial role in a country's democratization, and that such a process, even under difficult circumstances, can lead to free elections and the peaceful transfer of power. The National Dialogue Quartet must be given much of the credit for this achievement and for ensuring that the benefits of the Jasmine Revolution have not been lost.

Tunisia faces significant political, economic and security challenges. The Norwegian Nobel Committee hopes that this year's prize will contribute towards safeguarding democracy in Tunisia and be an inspiration to all those who seek to promote peace and democracy in the Middle East, North Africa and the rest of the world. More than anything, the prize is intended as an encouragement to the Tunisian people, who despite major challenges have laid the groundwork for a national fraternity which the Committee hopes will serve as an example to be followed by other countries.

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2015

The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2015 is awarded to the

CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Belarusian author Svetlana Alexievich *"for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time."*



Two People have Declined the Nobel Prize in Literature

Boris Pasternak, the 1958 Nobel Prize in Literature, "Accepted first, later caused by the authorities of his country (Soviet Union) to decline the Prize".

Jean Paul Sartre, the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature, declined the prize because he had consistently declined all official honours.

Youngest Literature Laureate

To date, the youngest Literature Laureate is Rudyard Kipling, best known for The Jungle Book, who was 42 years old when he was awarded the Literature Prize in 1907.

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015 recognises Takaaki Kajita in Japan and Arthur B. McDonald in Canada, for their key contributions to the experiments which demonstrated that neutrinos change identities. This metamorphosis requires that neutrinos have mass. The discovery has changed our understanding of the innermost workings of matter and can prove crucial to our view of the universe.

Takaaki Kajita

Arthur B. McDonald



"for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass"

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015

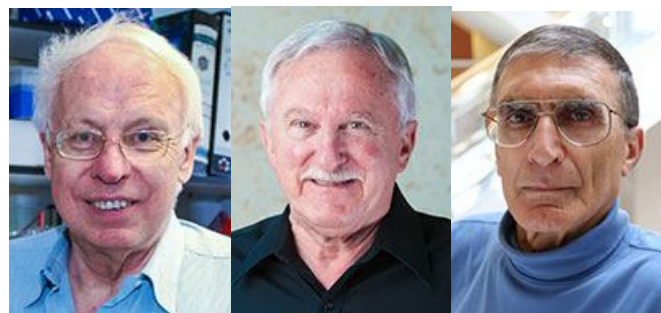
The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015 is awarded to Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sançar for having mapped, at a molecular level, how cells repair damaged DNA and safeguard the genetic information. Their work has provided fundamental knowl-

edge of how a living cell functions and is, for instance, used for the development of new cancer treatments.

Tomas Lindahl

Paul Modrich

Aziz Sançar



"for mechanistic studies of DNA repair".

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015

The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet has today decided to award the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

with one half jointly to William C. Campbell and Satoshi Omura *"for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites"* and the other half to Youyou Tu *"for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria"*.

Youyou Tu

Satoshi Omura

William C. Campbell



Diseases caused by parasites have plagued humankind for millennia and constitute a major global health problem. In particular, parasitic diseases affect the world's poorest populations and represent a huge barrier to improving human health and wellbeing. This year's Nobel Laureates have developed therapies that have revolutionized the treatment of some of the most devastating parasitic diseases.

William C. Campbell and Satoshi Omura discovered a new drug, Avermectin, the derivatives of which have radically lowered the incidence of River Blindness and Lymphatic Filariasis, as well as showing efficacy against an expanding number of other parasitic diseases. Youyou Tu discovered Artemisinin, a drug that has significantly reduced the mortality rates for patients suffering from Malaria.

These two discoveries have provided humankind with power-

ful new means to combat these debilitating diseases that affect hundreds of millions of people annually. The consequences in terms of improved human health and reduced suffering are immeasurable.

The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2015

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2015 was awarded to Angus Deaton (Princeton University, NJ, USA) *"for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare"*.



The consumption of goods and services is a fundamental determinant of human welfare. The distribution of consumption among individuals has a bearing on many important issues – including inequality and poverty – in society’s economic, political and social domains. In most countries, aggregate consumption is the largest component of aggregate demand and, as such, accounts for much of the time variation in economic activity. For a given level of income, consumption determines savings and thus investment through the supply of capital. It is thus quite natural that consumption has been at the center of economic research throughout the last century.

Over the last three to four decades, the study of consumption has progressed enormously. While many scholars have contributed to this progress, Angus Deaton stands out. He has made several fundamental and interconnected contributions that speak directly to the measurement, theory, and empirical analysis of consumption. His main achievements are three.

First, Deaton’s research brought the estimation of demand systems – i.e., the quantitative study of consumption choices across different commodities – to a new level of sophistication and generality. The Almost Ideal Demand System that Deaton and John Muellbauer introduced 35 years ago, and its subsequent extensions, remain in wide use today – in academia as well as in practical policy evaluation.

Second, Deaton’s research on aggregate consumption helped break ground for the microeconomic revolution in the study of consumption and saving over time. He pioneered the analy-

sis of individual dynamic consumption behavior under idiosyncratic uncertainty and liquidity constraints. He devised methods for designing panels from repeated cross-section data, which made it possible to study individual behavior over time, in the absence of true panel data.

He clarified why researchers must take aggregation issues seriously to understand total consumption and saving, and later research has indeed largely come to address macroeconomic issues through microeconomic data, as such data has increasingly become available.

Third, Deaton spearheaded the use of household survey data in developing countries, especially data on consumption, to measure living standards and poverty. In so doing, Deaton helped transform development economics from a largely theoretical field based on crude macro data, to a field dominated by empirical research based on high-quality micro data. He showed the value of using consumption and expenditure data to analyze welfare of the poor, and identified shortcomings when comparing living standards across time and place.

Deaton’s research has addressed issues of great practical significance, and his contributions have influenced policymaking in developing and developed countries. His work covers a wide spectrum, from the deepest implications of theory to the grittiest detail of measurement. The common themes are connecting theory and measurement, and linking micro and macro data by using relevant statistical methods.

This document presents the three pillars of Deaton’s research. Section 1 surveys his analysis of demand across commodities at a given point in time, with a focus on Deaton and Muellbauer’s Almost Ideal Demand System. Section 2 discusses his most important contributions on aggregate consumption across time, with a focus on the use of individual (or household-level) data and careful handling of the aggregation problem. Section 3 deals with Deaton’s contributions to welfare measurement in developing countries, with a focus on measurement and analysis of the living standards of the poor. Section 4 briefly mentions a couple of related contributions.



Ramon Magsaysay Awards for year 2016

The prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award winners for the year 2016, as announced on July 27, 2016.

THE 2016 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES

BEZWADA WILSON (INDIA) : *“Asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity”*

CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES (PHILIPPINES) : *“Restoring faith in the rule of law”*

DOMPET DHUAFA (INDONESIA) : *“Expanding the transformative impact of zakat”*

JAPAN OVERSEAS COOPERATION VOLUNTEERS (JAPAN) : *“Building a world of genuine solidarity”*

THODUR MADABUSI KRISHNA (INDIA) : *“Ensuring social inclusiveness in culture”*

VIENTIANE RESCUE (LAOS) : *“Volunteering to save lives at risk”*



A celebrated Carnatic vocalist, TM Krishna performing ever since he was six. Born in a family of musically influenced people, he went on to be a disciple of the late Padma awardee, Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer. Krishna has also received a bachelor's in Economics from the Vivekanand College in Madras, but music remained to take the centerstage in his life and he had launched a formal career as a vocalist by the time he was 20. The Carnatic musical vocalist won the award for *“social inclusiveness in culture”*.

As for Bezwada Wilson, he has been recognised by the board of trustees for ‘asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity.’ Wilson, the founder of Safai Karmachari Andolan, an organisation that is working towards eradicating the practice of manual scavenging from Indian villages, won the award for *“asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity”*.

“In electing Bezwada Wilson to receive the 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Award, the board of trustees recognizes his moral energy and prodigious skill in leading a grassroots movement to eradicate the degrading servitude of manual scavenging in India, reclaiming for the Dalits the human dignity that is their natural birthright,” his citation read.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's premier prize and highest honor, celebrates greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia. In the past five decades, the award has been bestowed on over three hundred outstanding men, women and organizations whose selfless service has offered their societies, Asia, and the world successful solutions to some of the most intractable problems of human development. Ramon Magsaysay was the third president of the Republic of the Philippines after World War II. His life had great impact not only in his country but on many people in many lands. He was one of the outstanding leaders of his time.



It is not the first time that citizens from India have been included in the list. Here is a list of all the winners of Magsaysay Award 2016.

Emergent Leadership

2002: Sandeep Pandey: The social activist co-founded Asha for Education, which focused on RTI and other forms of citizen participation in battling corruption to improve the government's efficiency.

2006: Arvind Kejriwal: Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief minister of Delhi won the Award in the year 2006, for his involvement in grassroots movement 'Parivartan', which used RTI legislation to fight against corruption.

2011: Nileema Mishra: Nileema Mishra, a social worker from Maharashtra worked with Vigyan Ashram, under guidance of Dr Kalbagh.

2015: Sanjiv Chaturvedi: Sanjiv Chaturvedi, an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, is currently serving as the deputy secretary at AIIMS.

CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Uncategorized

2009: Deep Joshi: The social worker was recognised for bringing professionalism to NGO movement in India.

2011: Harish Hande: The social entrepreneur is recognized for being a co-founder of SELCO India.

2012: Kulandei Francis: Kulandei Francis, an activist and a social worker is the founder of NGO Integrated Village Development Project in the state of Tamil Nadu.

2015 Anshu Gupta: Anshu Gupta, a social entrepreneur is the founder of Goonj, a Delhi-based NGO which aims to use under-utilised urban material as a development resource in rural areas of the country.

Government Service

1961 Amitabha Chowdhury: The Indian investigative journalist was recognized for reporting on community interests and individual rights in the country.

1994 Kiran Bedi: The current LG of Kerala, served as an Indian police officer, and worked as a social activist. She was recognized worldwide for introducing several reforms at Tihar Jail.

2003 James Michael Lyngdoh: James Michael Lyngdoh is an Indian civil servant who served as the Chief Election Commissioner of India from 14 June 2001 to 7 February 2004.

Public Service

1965 Jayaprakash Narayan: Popularly known as 'Lok Nayak'. Jayaprakash Narayan was an independence activist, social reformer and political leader. He gained recognition for leading the mid-1970s opposition against PM Indira Gandhi.

1974 M.S. Subbulakshmi: The Carnatic vocalist, was the first musician to be honoured with the Bharat Ratna.

1982 Manibhai Desai: The social activist, and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, was known as a pioneer of rural development. He was the founder of Bharatiya Agro-Industries Foundation (BAIF) which introduced Indo-European hybrid cattle breed in India.

1985 Baba Amte: Murlidhar Devidas Amte, the social activist gain recognition for his work in rehabilitating and empowering people suffering from leprosy.

1989 Lakshmi Chand Jain: The Gandhian activist, and a former bureaucrat won the award for "his informed and selfless commitment to attack India's poverty at the grass-roots levels".

1993 Banoo Jehangir Coyaji: The physician gained recognition for his work in introducing family planning and spreading awareness regarding population control.

1997 Mahesh Chandra Mehta: The public interest attorney fought in courts against against pollution-causing industries.

2005 V. Shanta: Dr.V. Shanta, a Cancer specialist gained recognition for organizing severak care for cancer patients. Her research work in prevention and cure of cancer won her several prestigious awards.

2010 Himanshu Aggarwal

Community Leadership

1958 Vinoba Bhave: Vinoba Bhave advocated the use of nonviolence and human rights. He is regarded as the spiritual successor to Mahatama Gandhi.

1963 Verghese Kurien: The co-founder of Amul India, is known as the 'Father of White Revolution' in India, which converted India from a milk-deficient nation to World's largest producer of milk products.

1963 Dara Nusserwanji Khurody: The founder of Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union in 1946.

1963 Tribhuvandas Patel: The Indian entrepreneur gained recognition for his contributions to the dairy industry in the country.

1966 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: The social reformer is mostly remembered for her contribution during India's freedom struggle, to upliftment the socio-economic conditions of Indian women.

1971 M.S. Swaminathan: The Indian geneticist gained wide recognition for playing a leading role in Green Revolution. The program led to high-yield varieties of wheat and rice in India and helped the poor farmers in the country.

1977 Ela Bhatt: The Gandhian activist founded Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) in 1972.

1979 Mabelle Arole and Rajanikant Arole: The couple won the prestigious award for their groundbreaking Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP), an organization which works to provide primary healthcare in rural areas.

1981 Pramod Karan Sethi: The orthopaedic surgeon co-invented the "Jaipur foot", a non-expensive and flexible artificial limb.

CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

1982 Chandi Prasad Bhatt: The environmental activist, founded Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) which started the Chipko Movement in India.

1996 Pandurang Shastri Athavale: The spiritual leader founded Swadhyaya Parivar which was a self-study process based on the Bhagavad Gita. The program spread across nearly 100,000 villages in the country.

2000 Aruna Roy: The political and social activist is recognized for co-founding Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS).

2001 Rajendra Singh: Rajendra Singh is known as the “waterman of India”. He is recognized for his efforts in conservation of water in parts of Rajasthan.

2003 Shantha Sinha: Professor Shantha Sinha has gained recognition worldwide as an anti-child labour activist. She founded Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation (MV Foundation).

2008 Prakash Amte and Mandakini Amte: The couple won the award for their philanthropic work in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Journalism, Literature, and the Creative Communication Arts

1967 Satyajit Ray: The Bengali filmmaker, is internationally regarded as one of the greatest filmmakers of the 20th century.

1975 Boobli George Verghese: The senior Indian journalist worked as the editor of leading newspapers such as Hindustan Times (1969–75) and The Indian Express (1982–86).

1976 Sombhu Mitra: The widely known film and stage actor, director, playwright and reciter is known mainly for his contribution in Bengali theater.

1981 Gour Kishore Ghosh: Prem Kumar Mahato was a celebrated humanitarian Kurmali writer and journalist, who won several awards for his works.

1982 Arun Shourie: A journalist, author and a politician, Arun Shourie has worked with the World Bank, has been a consultant to Planning Commission of India, and also has worked as an editor of Indian Express and The Times of India.

1984 R. K. Laxman: The political cartoonist gained worldwide recognition for his creation ‘The Common Man’ and for his daily cartoon strip, “You Said It” in The Times of India.

1991 K.V. Subbanna: The acclaimed Kannada dramatist founded the world famous NINASAM (Neelakantheshwara Natya Sangha) drama institute.

1992 Ravi Shankar: Pandit Ravi Shankar, the Hindustani classical musician, gained worldwide recognition as an exponent of the sitar.

1997 Mahasweta Devi: Mahasweta Devi is a social activist and a writer. She is currently associated with TMC.

2007 Palagummi Sainath: The journalist has gained recognition for his works on social problems, rural affairs, poverty and the aftermath of globalization in India.

Peace and International Understanding (PIU)

1962 Mother Teresa: The Nobel Peace Prize winner is known for her work in serving the needs of poor people of India, mainly living in slum areas.

2000 Jockin Arputham: Jockin Arputham worked for more than 40 years in slums and shanty towns, to battle for improving the urban living conditions of poor people.

2004 Laxminarayan Ramdas: Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas has served as Chief of Naval Staff. He was recognized for his efforts in trying to demilitarise and denuclearize South Asia.

