

Current Affairs Digest

January to March 2013

Awards

The veteran film actress who was given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Jaipur International Film Festival **Sharmila Tagore**

The State whose tableaux was given the best tableaux award at the Republic Day celebrations 2013 **Kerala**

The best marching contingent award among para-military and other auxiliary forces at the Republic Day celebrations 2013 was won by **CISF**

The best marching contingent award among the three services at the Republic Day celebrations 2013 was won jointly by **The Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force**

The Indian author who became the first Indian to win the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature **Jeet Thayil**

The organisation which was chosen for the National Communal Harmony Award for the year 2012 by the Jury headed by the Vice-President of India **Foundation for Amity & National Solidarity**

The Shiv Sena supremo who was conferred the Shivaji Maharaj Gaurav award **Bal Thackeray**

The noted Indian scientist and founder of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore who was conferred the 2012 Award for International Scientific Cooperation by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) **Dr. CNR Rao**

The film which won the 58th Idea Filmfare Best Film Award **Barfi**

The eminent nuclear scientist who was awarded the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' for 2011-12 instituted by the Maharashtra Government **Dr. Anil Kakodkar**

The Congress leader who was chosen to be awarded the Census 2011 Gold Medal for his outstanding contribution to the successful conduct of census operations **Gurudas Kamat**

The Pune based charitable trust which was conferred the first Nanaji Deshmukh National Award instituted by Madhya Pradesh **Suryash Charitable Trust**

The American dramatic thriller film directed by Ben Affleck which was awarded the Best Picture Award at the 85th Academy Awards 2013 **Argo**

The eminent Hindi litterateur who was selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman for 2012 (instituted by KK Birla Foundation) for his historical novel 'Na Bhooto Na Bhavishyati' which is based on Swami Vivekananda and the era he belonged to

Narendra Kohli

The founder of Self-Employed Women's Association who was presented Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2011 by the President Mr Pranab Mukherjee

Ela Ramesh Bhatt

The Indian Nobel Prize winning economist who was bestowed France's highest honour 'Commandeur de la Legion d'Honneur' (Legion of Honour) by the visiting French President Francois Hollande

Amartya Sen

The state which was given the National Award for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

Himachal Pradesh

The Belgian mathematician who was chosen for the Abel Prize for Mathematics 2013 by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters

Pierre Deligne

Eminent Malayalam poetess and social activist who was chosen for this year's prestigious Saraswati Samman

Sugatha Kumari

Places

The place in Uttarakhand where its Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the assembly building (Vidhan Bhawan)

Gairsain (Chamoli dist.)

The venue of tenth annual bio-technology and life sciences meet — BioAsia 2013 — held in January 2013, with Spain as the Country Partner and Victoria (Australia) as the International State Partner

Hyderabad

The Indian city which was listed as the World's third best city to visit in 2013 by Lonely Planet. (San Francisco and Amsterdam at number 1 and 2 position respectively.)

Hyderabad

The venue of 11th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held from 07 to 09 January 2013

Kochi, Kerala

The place in Gujarat where fire in Indian Oil Corporation terminal killed 2 persons and destroyed fuel worth crores of rupees

Hazira

The venue of 8th South Asia Free Media Association 4-day conference held in Jan 2013

Amritsar

The state which started issuing unique green passports to young wildlife enthusiasts which would be an official stamp of approval for future conservation activities to be done along with state wildlife officials across wild life sanctuaries and parks in the state	Kerala
Santa Maria, the place where a major fire in a nightclub killed over 200 people and injured 100 others in January 2013 is located in	Brazil
The venue of 16th National Conference on e-Governance held on 11 and 12 February 2013	Jaipur
The place in Arunachal Pradesh, where the foundation stone of the state's first National Institute of Technology was laid by the Union HRD Minister Shri Pallam Raju	Jote Village
The place in Bihar where world's tallest statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar	Patna
The place in Russia at which a meteor fall injured over 900 persons and also caused damage to buildings	Chelyabinsk
The place in Maharashtra, from where Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, a comprehensive healthcare programme to improve the quality of life of children was launched by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 06 Feb '13	Palghar
The venue of Special Olympics World Games held from 29 Jan to 05 Feb 2013	Pyeongchang, South Korea
The state which became the first in the country to ban manual scavenging and has barred the deployment of 'safai karamcharis' (cleaning staff) for manual sewer cleaning	Delhi
The Pakistani port on the Arabian Sea which was taken over by China as part of a drive to secure energy and maritime routes	Gwadar
The venue of Language Journalism Festival held in March 2013	Indore (M.P.)
The venue of Fifth BRICSs Summit held on 26 and 27 of March 2013, India represented by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh	Durban, South Africa
The place in Uttar Pradesh at which the Govt has decided to set up India's first National Aviation University	Rae Bareli
The building in New Delhi, where India's first all women Post Office was inaugurated by Union Minister of Communications & IT Shri Kapil Sibal	Shastri Bhawan
The place in China, where the world's tallest statue of Lord Buddha (height 48 metres) was unveiled recently	Jiujiang City of Jiangxi province

The African nation which plunged into anarchy after its President Francois Bozize fled to Cameroon following seizure of country's capital by rebels **Central African Republic**

The African nation in which a new constitution was approved by popular referendum, curbing the powers of the president paving the way for elections in the next few months **Zimbabwe**

The river in Shanghai city of China in which about 6000 pigs were found dead in less than 2 days **Huangpu**

Persons

The new Chairman of University Grants Commission **Prof. Ved Prakash**

The Chief of Army Staff of Nepal who was conferred the honorary rank of General of the Indian Army by the President of India **General Gaurav Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana**

The new Chairman of the 20th Law Commission of India which has been constituted with a 3-year term ending on August 31, 2015 **Justice D.K. Jain**

The former Governor of Reserve Bank of India who was appointed the Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission **Dr. Y.V. Reddy**

M.S. Gopalakrishnan, a recipient of Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri and Sangita Kalanidhi title, who passed away on 02 Jan 2013 was a legendary **Violinist**

Jasu Shilpi, who passed away on 14 January 2013 was a renowned **Sculptor**

The new Solicitor General of India, who was appointed in place of Shri Rohinton Nariman who resigned earlier in Feb '13 **Mohan Parasaran**

The Indian space scientist who was inducted into the Satellite Hall of Fame in Washington DC by the Society of Satellite Professionals International, in the US. **Prof. U.R. Rao**

The new caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan who was sworn in to oversee the general elections scheduled in May 2013 **Mir Hazar Khan Khuso**

The 20-year old contestant from Patiala who was crowned Miss India 2013 **Navneet Kaur Dhillon**

The President of Bangladesh who died on 20 March 2013 at a hospital in Singapore at the age of 84 **Mr. Zillur Rahman**

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, (to be called Pope Francis), who became the first non-European to be appointed the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church belongs to **Argentina**

The new Premier of People's Republic of China who was elected to replace Wen Jiabao **Li Keqiang**

The seven-year old Indian child who became the youngest mountaineer to climb Africa's highest peak, Mt. Kilimanjaro **Aaryan Balaji**

The new Director General of Sports Authority of India **Jiji Thomson**

The committee constituted by Ministry of Finance to prepare a blue print for the proposed India's first Women's Public Sector Bank is headed by **Shri M.B.N. Rao, Ex-CMD, Canara Bank**

Padma Bhushan Sripada Pinakapani, who passed away on 11 March 2013 was a renowned **Vocalist**

Hugo Chavez, who died of cancer on 05 March 2013, was the President of **Venezuela**

Sports

The team which won the Ranji Trophy defeating Saurashtra in the finals at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai **Mumbai**

The Serbian player who won the Australian Open Men's title (3rd time in succession) defeating Andy Murray in the finals **Novak Djokovic**

The Belarusian player who won the Australian Open Women's title (2nd in succession) defeating China's Li Na in the finals **Victoria Azarenka**

The Indian cricket player who was chosen as the CEAT International Cricketer of the Year 2011-12 **Virat Kohli**

The Serbian tennis player who won the ATP Chennai Open defeating Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut in the final **Janko Tipsarevic**

The Argentinian football star who was crowned with FIFA's prestigious Ballon d'Or title for the fourth time **Lionel Messi**

The 19-year old table tennis player became the youngest National Champion by defeating Sharath Kamal in the finals of 74th National Table Tennis Championships **Soumyajit Ghosh**

The golf player who won the 112th Amateur Golf Championship by defeating Viraj Madappa in the finals **Shubhankar Sharma**

The country which won the Women's Cricket World Cup for the sixth time defeating West Indies in the finals at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai **Australia**

The Olympic medallist who was awarded the Best Sportsperson of Year award by FICCI **Sushil Kumar**

The sport, which the International Olympic Committee has decided to exclude from Olympics 2020 **Wrestling**

The team which won the 22nd Sultan Azlan Shah hockey tournament by defeating Malaysia in the finals **Australia**

The Indian cricketer who created a new record for fastest century by a debutant scoring it in 85 balls (surpassing the record of West Indian Dwayne Smith who scored a century in 93 balls) **Shikhar Dhawan**

The American pole vaulter, who has set a new world record in women's indoor pole vault at the US Track and Field Championships breaking the previous record of Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva **Jennifer Suhr**

The team which won the Santosh Trophy Football tournament defeating Kerala in the finals at Kochi **Services**

The team which won the Vijay Hazare Cricket Trophy defeating Assam in the finals **Delhi**

Defence

The first ever day-night fire power exercise of the Indian Air Force conducted in Feb 2013 in Pokhran was named **Exercise Iron Fist**

The armed version of indigenously made Advanced Light Helicopter which was handed over to the Indian Army by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd is named **Rudra**

The Swiss training aircraft which was inducted into the Indian Air Force in place of HPT-32 at Air Force Station Dundigal, Hyderabad **Pilatus PC-7 Mark-II**

The advanced jet designed and built indigenously which was unveiled recently by Iran is named **Qaher-313 (Conqueror-313)**

The first indigenous warship which was commissioned in the Bangladesh Navy is named **BNS Padma**

Miscellaneous

The helpline number launched by Indian Railways for commuters to register their complaints regarding railways' catering services like food quality, over charging etc is **1800-111-321**

The common bird which was announced to be the state bird of Bihar by its Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar	House Sparrow
The Indian state whose legislature celebrated 125 years of its formation on 08 January 2013	Uttar Pradesh
The theme of 100th session of Indian Science Congress held in Kolkata from 3rd Jan 2013 to 07th Jan 2013	Science for shaping the Future of India
The subsidiary of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited whose merger with BHEL was approved by the Union Cabinet	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.
The language in which the e- version of popular employment weekly Rozgaar Samachar was released recently	Urdu
The Navratna Public Sector Enterprises which were conferred the status of Maharatna PSEs wef 01 Feb 2013	BHEL and GAIL
The luxury liner and one of the world's largest ocean liners, which called at the Kochi port on 02 Feb 2013	Queen Mary 2
The theme state of Surajkund International Crafts mela which was inaugurated by the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 02 Feb 2013	Karnataka
The number of High Courts in India after opening of three new High Courts of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura has gone up from 21 to	24
The day in March which has been declared as the first ever International Day of Happiness by the United Nations General Assembly	20 March
The world's largest solar power plant which went online with effect from 19 Mar 2013 near Abu Dhabhi is named	Shams 1
The film by Ministry of Tourism which was awarded the first prize at the 11th Golden City Gate Tourism Media Awards Ceremony held in Berlin to coincide with ITB Berlin 2013	Find What You Seek
The Indo-French satellite which was launched into space by PSLV-C20 along with six other commercial payloads from Sriharikota by ISRO is named	Saral (Satellite with ARgos and ALtiKa)
9th edition of Aero India 2013, which began in Bengaluru on 06 February 2013 was inaugurated by	Shri A.K. Antony