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Current Affairs 2015 to 2016

AFFAIRS - JANUARY 2015

- It was announced by the UN secretary General Ban Ki-moon that Palestine will join the International Criminal Court on 1 April 2015. Moreover, other sets of documents enabling Palestine to join 16 international agreements, conventions and treaties were approved by UN chief.
- There was an announcement that India will host the 2nd International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) in December 2015, almost 50 years after it had hosted its first edition.
- Pallewatte Gamaralalage Maithripala Yapa Sirisena Elected as a new president of Sri Lanka. He got 51.3 percent of the votes polled in the Presidential elections held on 8 January 2015.
- It was decided between India and the US that they will set up a task force for jointly developing Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), Ajmer (Rajasthan) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) as Smart Cities.
- Alexis Tsipras Elected as the new Prime Minister of Greece. Formerly, he was a leader of the Syriza anti-austerity party.
- Sergio Mattarella Elected as Italy's President by succeeding Giorgio Napolitano who had resigned earlier in January 2015.
- Telangana launched e-Vahan Bima Scheme. With the launch of this scheme,
 Telangana became the first state in the country to issue a motor insurance policy in digital form.

- Oscar-winning cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond has passed away. He was also nominated for Oscar nominated for Michael Cimino's The Deer Hunter, Mark Rydell's The River and Brian De Palma's The Black Dahlia.
- A small deposit scheme Sukanya Samridhi Yojana for girl child under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Daughter, Teach the Daughter) campaign was launched by PM Narendra Modi.
- The set of three Commemorative Postage Stamps on Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission) has been released by Union government.
- A presidential rule approved in Jammu and Kashmir as per the recommendation of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir N.N Vohra.
- The Mars Orbiter Mission Team of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) won the 2015 Space Pioneer Award in the Science and Engineering category.
- English cricketer Matthew Hobden has passed away. His death was announced by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). However, it did not announce the cause of death.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - FEBRUARY 2015

- the Visit India Year in China in Beijing is launched jointly by India and China to enhance the flow of tourists from China to India and to strengthen the people to people bond.
- India 29th rank among the 30 countries in the international intellectual property index released by U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC).
- Maharashtra Government is planning to revamp the Jeevan Amrut Yojana scheme to make it more beneficial to people.
- The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) project are launched by Virbhadra Singh, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh in the state.
- In New Delhi, the 15th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit was held with a theme, Sustainable Development Goals and Dealing with Climate Change.

- Bharat Puri Appointed as Managing Director of Pidilite Industries Limited. He
 will succeed MB Parekh who will step down from the position of Managing
 Director on 10 April 2015.
- Economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has won the newly instituted Charleston-EFG John Maynard Keynes Prize 2015.
- West Indies opener Chris Gayle became the first ever batsman to score a double-century in the ICC World Cup.
- India's first digital Bank on mobile phones, Pockets has been launched by the
 Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank which enable
 users to instantly send money to any e-mail id, mobile number, friends on
 Facebook and bank account.
- India successfully test-fired its 290-km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from Indian Navy's latest destroyer INS Kolkata.
- Kannan Ramesh Appointed as Judicial Commissioner to Supreme Court Bench of Singapore. Before this, Kannan Ramesh was the managing partner of Tan Kok Quan Partnership.
- sculptor Mrinalini Mukherjee was died on 2 February in New Delhi at the age of 65. She was the first Indian artist whose work was displayed at the Sydney Biennale in 1986.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - MARCH 2015

- Former military ruler Muhammadu Buhari Elected as the president of Nigeria by defeating President Jonathan's People's Democratic Party (PDP) by over 2 million votes.
- An agreement on 'Mutual Protection of Classified Information' is signed between India and Spain to provide the framework for an enhanced cooperation in the defense sector.
- Saudi Arabia becomes the world's biggest weapons importer in 2014 As per the report released by the IHS company.

- As per the announcement in the 2015-16 Budget, Atal Pension Yojna (APY) will be launched which will focus on all citizens in the unorganized sector entitling them to a pension of up to Rs 5,000 per month after 60 years of age.
- "Bhagyashree Scheme" for girl child from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families has been launched by the government of Maharashtra.
- The Fourteenth Multi-Parametric Geophysical Observatory (MPGO) inaugurated in Port Blair by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) to study seismic activities by using multi-techniques.
- The repo rate was reduced by 25 basis points to 7.5 percent with immediate effect as per the report of The Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- As per the data given by World Steel Association (WSA), India has become the third-largest steel producer in the world by overtaking the United States.
- The first indigenous built all-weather armed drone named Burraq and a laser guided missile named Barq has been successfully tested by Pakistan.
- Katsushi Inoue -Appointed as President and CEO of Honda Cars India. he is working as General Manager in Marketing Planning office in Japan. He has been associated with Honda Motor Co for over 29 years.
- Earth Hour 2015 observed globally from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm local time. The tagline was Change Climate Change and it was observed across 172 nations and territories and around 1400+ iconic landmarks of the world switched off the lights.
- The fourth navigation satellite Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) 1D has been launched by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Elected as the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - APRIL 2015

• The first-ever joint military exercises has been hold by Pakistan and Russia. It will a part of their enhanced defence cooperation.

- An agreement on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plans worth 46
 billion US dollars has been signed between both the countries.
- As per the rating released by Social Progress Index (SPI), India was placed at 101st place. At the top, there are Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Iceland.
- Low-class plastic is banned in Ahmadabad now. The ban was issued after it was
 found that low-grade plastic waste is resulting in chocking of man-hall and
 drainage system.
- According to an agreement signed by Canada, the country will supply 3,000 metric tonnes of uranium to India from 2015 under a \$254 million for 5 years.
- The National Air Quality Index (NAQI) was launched first time by the prime minister for assessing the quality of air in major urban centres across the country on a real-time basis.
- The Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has launched 'utsonmobile', a mobile application for paperless unreserved tickets.
- For his outstanding contributions in heavy ion induced radioisotope production, converter targets, tracer packet technique and green chemistry, professor Susanta Lahiri was awarded the Hevesy Medal Award 2015.
- Marathi actress Bimba Modak passed away. She was an eminent Marathi film and stage actress
- As per the latest report of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, India ranks
 125th in the world for fixed broadband penetration.
- The world's first self-powered camera has been created by the scientists of Columbia University. The camera can indefinitely produce an image in each second of any well-lit indoor area.
- German Nobel laureate novelist Guenter Grass has died in Luebeck, Germany at the age of 87.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - MAY 2015

• In the United Kingdom General election 2015, David Cameron's Conservative Party won by securing 331 seats in a Parliament of 650.

- Three social security schemes were launched by the prime minister, Narendra Modi:
- Atal Pension Yojana Under this scheme, the pension subscribers will receive a
 fixed minimum monthly pension ranging from 1,000 rupees to 5,000 rupees at
 the age of 60 years.
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana The insurance subscriber of age group 18-50 years will get an annual life insurance in case of death.
- Punjab becomes the first state to issue health cards to farmers. It has launched a pan-state programme to monitor the soil health of every farm in the state.
- For his outstanding contributions to science and Indo-Japanese science cooperation, scientist C N R Rao was conferred with Japan's highest civilian award.
- The 2015 UNESCO-Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize was presented to Syrian journalist and rights activist Mazen Darwish by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- On the occasion of International Nurses Day, the National Florence Nightingale Awards is conferred to 35 nursing personnel from across the country.
- Gurpreet Singh became 5th Indian to get quota place in shooting for 2016 Rio Olympics. Singh became the fifth Indian shooter to win a quota place for the Rio Olympics after Gagan Narang, Jitu Rai, Apurvi Chandela and Abhinav Bindra.
- State Bank RuPay Platinum debit card in association with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) is launched by the State Bank of India.
- Four Indians are listening among the Forbes 100 most powerful women. These are SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI bank head Chanda Kochhar, Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and HT Media Chairperson Shobhana Bhartia.
- Kundapur Vaman Kamath Appointed as the first President of the New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS nations.
- The Oscar-winning writer of Dances With Wolves, Michael Blake passed away in Tucson, Arizona. He was 69.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - JUNE 2015

- USA Freedom Act 2015 has been signed by US President Barack Obama for Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ensuring Effective Discipline Over Monitoring Act of 2015.
- The scientist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim becomes the first woman President of Mauritius by replacing Kailash Purryag.
- Hwang Kyo-ahn becomes the new Prime Minister of South Korea by a vote of 156-120.
- The setting up of six new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in India has been approved by Union Cabinet.
- A new Renewable Energy Policy which aims at achieving 14,400 MW of installed capacity over a period of five years i.e. till 2020 ha been approved by Maharashtra government.
- To protect the endangered species which is also known as Indian darter, 22 June has been declared as the "Snake Bird Day".
- The Columbia's highest civilian award Orden de la Democracia Simon Bolivar en el grado de cruz Caballero (Order of the Democracy Simon Bolivar) by Columbia is conferred to Indian spiritual leader, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.
- 21 June 2015 The first international day of Yoga has been observed all over the world. The idea of celebration is given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi 21 June 2015 during his address to the UN General Assembly.
- The book, Yogikasparsh, a yoga manual in braille written by Nivedita Joshi is released by the president Pranab Mukherjee at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- The 22 Agreements were signed between the two countries during the Prime
 Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh. He and his Bangladeshi
 Counterpart, Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee
 flagged off the Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati and Kolkata-Dhaka-Tripura bus
 services.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - JULY 2015

- Cuba It becomes the first country to eliminate Mother-to-child HIV, as per the announcement of World Health Organisation (WHO).
- After Greece was backed by the 28 member states, the European Union (EU) on 17 July approved a short-term loan of 7.16 billion euros which would help the country to pay all its debt to European Central Bank (ECB).
- During a meeting held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan
 President Islam Karimov in Tashkent, three agreements are signed between the countries.
- India 33rd Most reputable country in the world. Canada is on the top. The data is reclaimed the top spot in the Reputation Institute's annual report, which looks at the government, environment and economy of 55 nations.
- 1 July "Digital India week" is launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to encourage people's involvement and creating awareness among them about various initiatives launched under the Digital India Programme.
- The "Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana" is launched by Narendra Modi in New Delhi aiming to impart skill training to 24 lakh youth with the focus on first-time entrants to the labour market.
- As per the Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011, Uttar Pradesh becomes the state having the largest number of mobile penetration 86.63 per cent. Orrisa is on the last place having 33.56 per cent penetration.
- The Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has inaugurated Asia's first ever institute to train young women to join armed forces Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute.
- For his social work and mission to deliver peace through his foundation The Art of Living, Sri Ravi Shankar was conferred with Peru's one of the highest awards 'Grand Officer'.
- An Indian American teacher, Darshan Jain, has been chosen for prestigious
 Presidential Award for his Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. He

is one of the 108 teachers named by President Barack Obama as recipients of the prestigious award.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUGUST 2015

- Sri Lanka present Prime Minister Ranil Singh Re Elected as the prime minister
 of Sri Lanka. He secured 106 seats and this is all with the support of Tamil parties
 Ranil.
- Bangladesh The first country to receive funds from the United Nations (UN) for its fast-growing solar home systems.
- SAMANVAY The web portal to monitor progress and implementation of the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) for the development of Gram Panchayats has been launched by the minister of Union Ministry of Rural Development, Chaudhary Birendra Singh.
- Delhi High Court Amendment Bill, 2015 was passed in Lok Sabha in order to minimize the workload of the Delhi High Court. he Bill seeks to modify the Delhi High Court Act, 1966.
- During the celebration of 69th Independence Day at Red Fort, a new campaign "Start-up India; Stand up India" has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is aimed to promote bank finance for Start-ups so that more employment in India can be created.
- Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has been empowered by the government of
 Jharkhand to arrest Ministers, MLA and senior civil servants without taking
 permission from the concerned authorities in cases of being caught on taking
 bribes.
- Amitabh Bachchan is appointed as a brand ambassador for Maharashtra's "Save the Tiger" campaign to promote eco-tourism, especially tiger tourism in Maharashtra.
- Gujarat becomes the first state to launch Agro-solar policy'. Under this policy, the farmers will have to tap energy from the sun which will help them to earn additional income from power generation companies.

- For ending preventable child and maternal deaths with Ethiopia, the Ministry of Health and family welfare hosted the "call to Action" summit 2015.
- The Ramanujan Prize for 2015 was won by mathematician Amalendu Krishna of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai for his contribution in the area of algebraic K-theory, algebraic cycles and theory of motives.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - SEPTEMBER 2015

- The 70th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War-II is celebrated in China.
 Russian President Vladimir Putin, South Korea President Park Guen-Hye, United
 Nations Secretary-General Ban KI Moon, Indian Minister of State for External
 Affairs general V.K. Singh have participated in the celebrations along with
 delegates from nearly 30 different countries.
- With 900 million regular and active users around the world, following the
 addition of 100 million users in last five months, Whatsapp become one of the
 most used messenger apps.
- A deal is signed by the Boeing company of America to sell 300 aircraft to three Chinese firms and set up an aircraft plant in China.
- Indian Railway Knowledge portal is launched by Railway ministry. It is an initiative of the National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR) which allows the user to access most of the available knowledge about Indian Railways.
- The tallest mountain in North America Mount Mckinley is renamed as Denali by the United States. The summit elevation of Mount Denali is 6,190 m above sea level. The mountain is located in the Alaska Range and Denali National park in the US state of Alaska.
- The joint Naval exercises called, "AUSINDEX-2015" have been started in Vishakapatnam. It first ever exercises between India and Australia which aims at the growing defence cooperation between Australia and India.
- The third edition of a 14 days exercise, India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Excercise "MITRA SHAKTI-2015" started in Pune which aims to share the best military

- practices, to develop joint strategies between the two armies and to build Military to Military Cooperation and inter-penetrability.
- Yoga is recognized as a sports discipline and place it in the Priority category by
 the sports ministry of India. The sports ministry also decided to upgrade Fencing
 from 'Others' to 'General' category, based on the past performance in major
 international events.
- The number of Internet users in India rose 32% last year, to reach 302 million, according to the Internet and Mobile Association of India, which includes members such as Google, Microsoft, eBay, IBM, Flipkart, Ola Cabs and LinkedIn.
- 30 September 2014 International Translation Day. The theme of the International Translation Day 2015 was The Changing Face of Translation and Interpreting.
- The 40-year-old demand of 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) scheme has been announced by Central Government for the retired military personnel.
- The launch of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining-related operations, using the funds generated by District Mineral Foundations has been announced by the Government of India.
- Praveen Dixit Appointed as Maharashtra DGP. He was a 1977-batch IPS officer
 who was heading the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) succeeded Sanjeev Dayal
 who retired from his office.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - OCTOBER 2015

- Eight submarines will be sold to Pakistan by China. China will transfer technology to Pakistan for submarine construction. The deal is for Yuan-class
 Type 041 diesel-electric submarines equipped with air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems.
- To mark the 70th anniversary of the country's ruling party, North Korea the Military parade and mass rally in PyongYang attended by the leader Kim Jong-Un.

- The 1.5 billion US Dollars Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet, built on the Brahmaputra river by China.
- Jioji/George Konrote, the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations has been elected as the next President of Fiji.
- The biggest military exercise called Trident Juncture Military Exercise has been To test the alliance's ability to respond to new security threats, North Atlantic Treaty organization (NATO) launched in Italy.
- 18 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) for cooperation in various fields including higher education, civil aviation, railways and food safety has been signed between India and Germany.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$120 million loans to upgrade the India-Bangladesh electricity network which will allow Bangladesh to meet its increasing power demand and support power exchanges across South Asia.
- As per the data released by the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC),
 India has become the world's largest cotton producer in the season by surpassing
 China.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative postal stamp on Kalam on his birth anniversary celebrations held at DRDO Bhavan in New Delhi on 15 October.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - NOVEMBER 2015

- To build the UK's first nuclear power plant, a deal is signed between Britain and China. Under this, the nuclear power plant will be built at Hinkley point, near London with the total investment of 18 billion pounds.
- Conservative Right-wing Law and Justice Party won the 2015 Parliamentary elections of Poland by 235 of total 460 seats and securing 39.1 per cent of the votes.
- Bidhya Bhandari The first time elected woman candidate as it's President. She is of Communist Party of Nepal has been elected as the new President of Nepal.

- Bangladesh has signed a 250 million US Dollar deal with French-Italian firm
 Thales Alenia Space in Dhaka to build the country's first communications
 satellite.
- The fourth edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral Naval Exercise 'SLINEX15' begins in Sri Lanka's Trincomalee coast which will enhance the capability of the two nations to work together and contribute towards maritime security in the region.
- A civil nuclear pact is signed between India and UK and the countries has decided
 to collaborate in the field of defence and cyber security besides launching a
 railway rupee bond in UK.
- An approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Vietnam for cooperation in the field of Animal Health is given by the Indian Union Cabinet.
- The Indian Police Foundation and the Indian Police Institute has been inaugurated by the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day.
- The foundation stone for the construction of new capital of Andhra Pradesh, 'Amaravati' has been laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Singapore government will help in the master plan of the city.
- As per the announcement of the finance minister, Arun Jaitley, Prime Minister
 Narendra Modi launched three gold related schemes. The schemes are Gold
 Monetization Scheme, Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme and Indian Gold Coins.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - DECEMBER 2015

- In the Cabinet meeting presided by state Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada, the government of Andhra Pradesh decided to hike the wages of Anganwadi workers.
- An agreement signed between Japan and South Korea which aims to resolve a
 decades-old dispute over Korean women who were used as sex slaves by Japanese
 soldiers during World War II.

- Dr Gyanendra D Bandgaiyan Appointed as the DG of National Centre for Good Governance. Formerly, he was an IAS officer of the UT cadre and worked as the Chief Economist in the United Nations Development Programme.
- Bjorn Isberg Tournament Director of 2016 Hockey India League and Muthukumar Balakrishnan from Malaysia was given the role of the Assistant Tournament Director in the 4th edition of the Coal India Hockey India League.
- The former Newcastle United goalkeeper passed away nine days after suffering cardiac arrest.
- On Christmas, Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik's Santa Claus sculpture featured in Limca Book of Records.
- The Veteran singer Suber Singh passed away. From the 1950s till the 1980s, the melodious singer had sung a number of hit songs. He had also sung duets with Asha Bhonsle and Lata Mangeshkar.
- Oscar-winning cinematographer Haskell Wexler passed away who was famous work like One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and American Graffiti.
- Karan Adani -New Ceo of Adani Ports. He will take over the post from outgoing CEO Sudipta Bhattacharya, who is moving to the US to take over a Group position as CEO, North America.
- Amitabh Kant Took Additional charge of CEO of NITI Aayog by replacing the incumbent NITI Aayog CEO Sindhushree Khullar whose extended tenure will end on 31 December 2015.
- Renowned science-fiction writer George Clayton Johnson died. He debuted into the entertainment business in 1959 when he wrote the I'll Take Care of You episode for Alfred Hitchcock Presents.
- One couple and one child policy in China. The amended policy is aimed at balancing the country's population structure by allowing all couples to have two children.

- Sadhana Shivadasini has passed away. She was the highest-paid actress in Hindi cinema during 1962–1965. Her fringe haircut became popular during the 1960s and came to be known as Sadhana cut.
- Idea The 3rd mobile operator to launch 4G service. It is the third largest mobile operator in terms of revenue and subscriber base, launched the 4G services across 75 towns in the 4 telecom circles of South India.
- The 30th National Consumer day is observed to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- During the review meeting of the environment and forests department under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the decision of 15-year-old diesel vehicles from plying on Patna roads is banned by the Bihar Government.

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