

# Current Affairs

## December 2013

President of India Pranab Mukharjee on 1 December 2013 inaugurated the Nagaland's traditional Hornbill Festival in Nagaland.

Indian shuttler PV Sindhu on 1 December 2013 won the Women's Singles trophy at the Macau Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton Tournament.

India's Mars Orbiter Spacecraft successfully placed in Mars transfer trajectory on 1 December 2013 by ISRO scientists.

World AIDS Day was observed on 1 December 2013 across the globe to raise awareness about the HIV/ AIDS.

China on 2 December 2013 successfully sent an unmanned lunar probe with a robotic rover to soft land on the Moon, and to explore moon's surface.

Brazuka, the official 2014 FIFA World Cup match ball was unveiled on 3 December 2013 by manufacturers Adidas.

India Ranked 94th on Global Corruption Perception Index 2013.

Reserve Bank of India on 3 December 2013 eased norms for companies raising foreign funds for infrastructure projects.

International Day of People with Disability was observed on 3 December.

The Bihar government on 3 December 2013 approved a new surrender and rehabilitation policy for Maoists.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni won ICC People's Choice Award 2013.

Gaganjeet Bhullar won Indonesia Open Golf Tournament 2013.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade's e-BRC project won the 2013 eASIA Award under Trade Facilitation category.

The 8th Asia Gas Partnership Summit (AGPS) was held from 3 to 4 December 2013 at New Delhi.

India was chosen as the host country for Under-17 FIFA World Cup in 2017 by the FIFA executive committee in its meeting at Salvador de Bahia in Brazil .

Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa died at 95.

Sushma Singh appointed as the next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.

The Karnataka state assembly on 4 December 2013 passed the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance (ESMA) Bill 2013.

International Volunteer Day Observed on 5 December.

Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013 came into effect in India except Jammu & Kashmir.

International Civil Aviation Day observed on 7 December.

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Ali Osman Taha resigned as Vice President of Sudan.

Alyz Henrich, the Miss Venezuela has been crowned with the pageant of Miss Earth 2013 at the Versailles Palace, Philippines.

International Anti-Corruption Day observed on 9 December

The last King of the erstwhile Mysore royal family Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar died in Bangalore on 10 December 2013 due to heart attack.

Uruguay on 10 December 2013 became the first country in the world to legalise marijuana for recreational use with the state taking control of the trade.

Wipro Chairman Azim Premji received ET Lifetime Achievement Award 2013.

Shivakumar named the Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo India.

Red Beacons are allowed for Constitutional posts and high dignitaries: Supreme Court

Ranjan Mathai took over as the India's High Commissioner to UK

Human Rights Day observed across the World on 10 December.

Pope Francis named as the TIME's Person of the Year.

Antarctica hits Coldest Temperature ever recorded on Earth:-94.7C.

International Olympics Committee cleared Indian athletes to take part in 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

RBI has given the license to Doha Bank to start its banking operations in India. It has been permitted to open a branch in Mumbai.

Retired Justice D.P. Buch on 11 December 2013 took oath as the Lokayukta of Gujarat State.

Justice Sodhi Committee on Insider Trading Regulations submitted report to SEBI.

BJP leader Raman Singh was on 12 December 2013 sworn in as Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh for the third consecutive term.

Waqar Younis inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

India on 12 December 2013 retained its top position in the latest ICC ODI rankings. India is followed by Australia with 114 rating points.

Abdul Kader Mullah of Bangladesh was executed on 12 December 2013 at the Dhaka Central Jail at 22:01 local time.

India on 12 December 2013 won the women's Kabaddi World Cup championship by defeating New Zealand 49-21 in the summit clash in Jalandhar, Punjab.

Olympic medal-winning boxer M C Kom's autobiography, titled Unbreakable was unveiled.

Lt Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag designated as the Vice Chief of Army Staff.

The Union Cabinet on 12 December 2013 approved the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill,

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2011.

Lal Thanhawla sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram for second successive term.

ICC Annual Awards: Pujara bagged Emerging Cricketer of the Year trophy.

Vasundhara Raje sworn in as Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Mumbai University alumni Krishna Iyer appointed President and CEO of Wal-Mart India.

Prakash, Malaika struck Gold at 57th National Shooting Championship.

CVR Rajendran was on 13 December 2013 appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Andhra Bank.

Union Government on 15 December 2013 appointed Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as the Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Germany on 15 December 2013 lifted the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup by defeating the France in the title clash.

The Central Board of Reserve Bank met at Kolkata and was chaired by the Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Raghuram G. Rajan.

Irrfan Khan has won the best actor award for his brilliant performance in his film The Lunchbox at the 10th edition of Dubai International Film Festival.

Left-wing candidate Michelle Bachelet on 15 December 2013 elected as the Chile President for a second time by a wide margin.

Yemen Parliament on 15 December 2013 banned the use of US drones in the country after dozens of civilians were killed by the unmanned aircraft.

103-year old Park Mansion of Kolkata awarded KMC-INTACH Heritage Award for 2013 for its restoration work.

ICC on 16 December 2013 suspended Shane Shillingford, West Indies offspinner, from bowling in international cricket after his action was found illegal.

Vijay Diwas observed on 16 December.

Angela Merkel was on 17 December 2013 elected as the German chancellor for third term by the German Parliament- Bundestag.

Marthanda Varma, head of Travancore royal family died at 92.

Rann Utsav, a cultural festival of Gujarat state was inaugurated by Gujarat Tourism Minister Saurabh Patel on 17 December 2013 in Kutch, Gujarat.

India and the Arab League inked MoU to elevate political, trade and cultural relations.

Bipan Chandra was awarded Itihas Ratna from Asiatic Society Bihar in the JNU Campus, New Delhi.

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Kapil Dev selected for Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award 2013.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) unveiled indigenously developed thalassaemia and sickle cell anaemia testing kit.

Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill, 2013 passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The first human artificial heart implantation performed in Georges Pompidou Hospital, Paris on 18 December 2013.

Minorities Rights Day observed on 18 December.

Repo Rate kept unchanged by RBI in Mid-Quarter Monetary Policy Review announced on 18 December 2013.

International Migrants Day observed across the world on 18 December.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh resigned from the Vidisha assembly seat and retained Budhni seat.

RBI and Bank of Japan agreed to triple the currency swap agreement to 50 billion dollar.

The Sahitya Akademi Awards 2013 was announced by Sahitya Akademi and the poetry writers have dominated the awards announced this year.

SEBI exempted the Government from making an offer to public shareholders for acquiring the shares of the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).

SEBI laid out the Deposit Requirements for members of the Debt Segment.

Puneet Kumar has been appointed as the Secretary General of Apparel Export Promotion Council (APEC). Amarendra Sahoo was the last secretary general.

Paul Torday, the British author died at 67.

P.H. Parekh elected as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association.

China opened its fourth research station, Taishan, in Antarctica to study bio-ecology of the region.

S B Nayar appointed Chairman and Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Corp Limited.

Canara Bank got license to open branch in New York.

The Cabinet approved free trade agreement between India and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 19 December 2013.

The fourth generation Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas received its second operational clearance on 20 December 2013 in Bangalore.

The Election Commission recognized Aam Aadmi Party as a state party and reserved symbol of broom in Delhi on 20 December 2013.

Usha Sangwan appointed first woman Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation.

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Jayanthi Natarajan resigned as the minister of state for environment and forest from the Council of Ministers (COM) on 21 December 2013.

India and Venezuela signed a Programme on Cultural Exchange. The programme was signed after delegation level talks between the two countries.

England's Graeme Swann announced retirement from International Cricket.

Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed approved as Prime Minister by Somalian Parliament.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar became the Ambassador of US. He is the successor of Nirupama Rao and his position in Beijing will be taken by Ashok k. kantha.

Bayern Munich defeated Raja Casablanca 2-0 in the finals of the Third club World Cup 2013 and became the new world champions.

Vinod Kumar Duggal, the former Home Secretary appointed as the Governor of Manipur.

The veteran journalist Pran Chopra on 22 December 2013 at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

The finance Ministry on 23 December 2013 directed public sector banks (PSBs) to act as insurance brokers from 15 January 2014.

Dr. Michiaki Takahashi who developed a vaccine for the chicken pox virus died at the age of 85 due to heart failure on 23 December 2013 in Osaka, Japan.

Zaheer fourth Indian bowler to claim 300 wickets in Test cricket.

Kisan Diwas observed across India on 23 December

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad awarded the Sword of Honour for safety management in London.

AGNI-III missile test fired successfully from Wheeler Island.

Mikhail Kalashnikov, inventor of AK47 weapon died at the of 94 on 23 December 2013.

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways cleared quadricycle as a new category of vehicle on 23 December 2013.

Hyderabad high court asked two telugu actors to return their padma awards to government for misusing.

The renowned Kannada poet G. S. Shivarudrappa, died in Bangalore. He was 87.

Sidharth Birla, Chairman of Xpro India Limited took the charge as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Union Government launched e-inclusion project to spread e-literacy.

RBI has launched an inflation indexed saving bonds that offers protection to retail investors from price rise.

Government of India in a major step to allow more autonomy to CBI placed the agency's legal



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wing under the command of the CBI Director.

National Consumers Right Day observed across India on 24 December.

M. Veerappa Moily appointed as the new Environment and Forests Minister.

Fiscal deficit to touch 5.2% in 2013-2014 financial year - Report by CRISIL.

Ashok Lavasa, appointed the New Civil Aviation Secretary.

Hisham Qandil, the former Prime Minister of Egypt has been arrested.

CCEA on 26 December 2013 approved the proposal of Axis Bank Limited to increase its foreign investment to 62 percent from 49 percent.

Jacques Kallis will retire from test and first class cricket after the second test against India in Durban.

RBI has launched an inflation indexed saving bonds that offers protection to retail investors from price rise.

The Centre approved the proposal to set up National Cancer Institute at the Jhajjar campus of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

The Himachal Pradesh High Court on 26 December 2013 banned junk food items in plastic packing and directed to implement the ban.

J.N. Chaudhary got appointed as new head of National Security Guard (NSG).

Arvind Ranjan appointed New chief of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Deepika Kumari won 34th National Archery Championship.

Group of Islamic Scholars in Kashmir issued a fatwa on 26 December 2013 that women whose husbands are missing for the past four years can remarry.

Atul Sarpatdar, leader of MNS died after a brief illness. He was admitted to Leelavati Hospital due to blood sugar-related problems.

Microsoft India introduced Guardian, a new safety application on 26 December 2013 in Hyderabad.

China adopted a resolution that eases the one child policy of the country. The resolution was passed by the standing committee of the NPC.

Bollywood actor Farooq Sheikh died due to heart attack in Dubai. He won 2010 National Film Award for best supporting actor in Lahore.

India and US inked contract for six additional C-130J super Hercules aircraft, worth of 1.01 billion \$ on 27 December 2013.

US President, Barack Obama signed a two year bipartisan federal budget bill to avert the risk of shutdown of the Government in January 2014.

Arvind Kejriwal of Aam Aadmi Party has sworn in as the Chief Minister of Delhi. He has

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sworn in as the youngest Chief Minister of Delhi.

Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt has been declared as a terrorist group by the ruling Government.

BeiDou Navigation System of China is willing to offer navigation system to its neighbouring countries for free.

Pradeep Kumar has been appointed as the Managing Director (Corporate Banking) of SBI. He will look after the corporate banking portfolio.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its 8th Financial Stability Report (FSR) on 30 December 2013. The FSR was released against the backdrop of a mild positive market reaction to the announcement of tapering in the US Federal Reserve bond purchase plan from January 2014.

Colorado and Washington became the first two States in the US to legalize Marijuana.

Tamil Nadu government has launched the first phase of providing free compact fluorescent light bulbs to over hut-dwellers in the state.

Light Combat Aircraft (LAC) Tejas team set new record of flying 500 sorties in 2013.

International Petroleum Conference 2014 (PETROTECH 2014) to be held in New Delhi in January 2014.

Serena Williams won the Female Athlete of the Year award and LeBron James won the Male Athlete of the Year award announced by the Associated Press.

Chandra Kant Birla resigned from Hindustan Motors Limited.

Sashi Tharoor named PETA's Person of the Year for taking steps to advance animal protection.

A career diplomat Anurag Bhushan has taken the charge as the Consul General of India in Dubai and Northern Emirates in the UAE.

Devendra Kumar Pathak has been appointed as the Special DG, Border Security Force (BSF).

Indonesian Government announced to build new sanctuary to save World's rarest Javan Rhinos.

Finance Minister asked financial sector regulators to implement FSLRC proposals.

Sushil Kumar got land to set up wrestling academy by Haryana Government.

Ashraf Jehan, first female judge in Pak's National Sharia Court.

China has banned its officials from smoking in public places.

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### Person Appointed

- Sushma Singh appointed as the next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India
- Ahmet Uzumcu re-appointed as OPCW Director General
- Shivakumar appointed as the CEO of PepsiCo India
- Lt Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag designated as the Vice Chief of Army Staff
- Krishna Iyer appointed CEO of Wal-Mart India
- CVR Rajendran appointed CMD of Andhra Bank
- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala appointed Chairman of NABARD
- Puneet Kumar appointed as the new secretary general of AEPC
- S.B. Nayar appointed CMD of IIFCL
- P.H. Parekh elected as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association
- Usha Sangwan appointed first woman managing director of LIC
- Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed approved as Prime Minister by Somalian Parliament
- Subrahmanyam Jaishankar became the Ambassador of US
- Vinod Kumar Duggal, the former Home Secretary appointed as the Governor of Manipur
- Siddarth Birla took charges as President of FICCI
- M. Veerappa Moily appointed as the new Environment and Forests Minister
- Ashok Lavasa, appointed the New Civil Aviation Secretary
- Arvind Ranjan appointed New chief of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- J.N.Chaudhary appointed New Head of NSG
- Pradeep Kumar appointed as MD Corporate Banking of State Bank of India
- Devendra Kumar Pathak appointed as Special DG, BSF
- Ashraf Jehan, first female judge in Pak's National Sharia Court.

### Summit

- The 8th Asia Gas Partnership Summit (AGPS) was held from 3 to 4 December 2013 at New Delhi.
- The 9th WTO Ministerial Conference was concluded on 6 December 2013 at Bali, Indonesia by agreeing the revised draft of Bali Package.



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### Obituary

- Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa died at 95
- The Last King of Mysore Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar Died
- Former footballer, Babul Phukan died in Guwahati
- Union Labour Minister, Sis Ram Ola died
- Peter O' Toole, the Lawrence of Arabia's star dead
- Marthanda Varma, head of Travancore royal family died at 92
- Ronnie Biggs, the man behind the Britain's Great Train Robbery died
- Paul Torday, the British author died at 67
- Michiaki Takahashi who developed Chickenpox vaccine died
- Veteran journalist Pran Chopra died
- Renowned Kannada poet Shivarudrappa died
- Mikhail Kalashnikov, inventor of AK47 weapon died at the of 94 on 23 December 2013
- Atul Sarpotdar leader of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena died
- Farooq Sheikh, the Bollywood Veteran actor died at 65.

### Person Resigned

- Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit resigned
- Panruti Ramachandran retired from active Politics
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan resigned from Vidisha Assembly seat
- Ali Osman Taha resigned as Vice President of Sudan
- Jayanthi Natarajan resigned as the minister of state for environment and forest from the Council of Ministers (COM) on 21 December 2013.
- Chandra Kant Birla resigned from Hindustan Motors Limited.

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### **Person to Visit**

- Official visit of External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid to the Kingdom of Bahrain .
- Official visit of HH Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of UAE.
- Visit of President of Afghanistan to India, December 12-15, 2013.
- Official Visit of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to India, 16-18 December 2013.
- State Visit of His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives to India.

### **Person in News**

- Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa died at 95
- Ali Osman Taha resigned as Vice President of Sudan
- Miss Venezuela, Alyz Henrich became Miss Earth 2013
- Ranjan Mathai took over as the India's High Commissioner to UK
- Supreme Court Judge Justice GS Singhvi retired
- Pope Francis named as the TIME's Person of the Year
- Lal Thanhawla sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram for second successive term
- Angela Merkel elected as German Chancellor for third term
- Devyani Khobragade transferred to India's Permanent Mission in United Nations
- Hisham Qandil, the former Prime Minister of Egypt has been arrested
- Tyler Armstrong became the youngest person to reach the Summit of Aconcagua
- Anurag Bhushan took charge as the Dubai Consul General of India
- Sashi Tharoor named PETA's Person of the Year for taking steps to advance animal protection.

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### Important Days

- December 1 World AIDS Day
- December 3 World Disability Day
- December 4 Navy Day
- December 7 Armed Force Flag Day
- December 10 Human Rights day
- December 11 UNICEF Day
- December 14 National Energy Conservation Day
- December 19 Goa's Liberation day
- December 23 Kisan Divas (Farmer's Day)

### Awards/ Recognition

- East Timor film Beatriz's War won Golden Peacock Award at IFFI 2013.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade's e-BRC project won the 2013 eASIA Award under Trade Facilitation category.
- Wipro Chairman Azim Premji received ET Lifetime Achievement Award 2013.
- Irrfan Khan won best actor award in the 10th edition of Dubai International Film Festival for his film The Lunchbox.
- 103-year old Park Mansion of Kolkata awarded KMC-INTACH Heritage Award 2013.
- Bipan Chandra was awarded Itihas Ratna from Asiatic Society Bihar in the JNU Campus, New Delhi.
- IRCON won the India Pride Award for Excellence in Central PSUs in India Image Enhancement.
- Rajiv Gandhi International Airport of Hyderabad received Sword of Honour award.
- Two Indian American researchers Dr. Karunesh Ganguly of San Francisco and Dr. Hardeep Singh of Houston got US Presidential Early Career award.

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### Sahitya Academy Awards 2013

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Bengali	<b>Dwaipayan Hradar Dhare</b> (Poetry)	Subodh Sarkar
Bodo	<b>Delphini Onthai Mwdai Arw Gubun Gubun Khonthai</b> (Poetry)	Anil Boro
Dogri	<b>Doha Satsai</b> (Poetry)	Sitaram Sapolia
English	<b>Laburnum For My Head</b> (Short Stories)	Temsula Ao
Hindi	<b>Miljul Man</b> (Novel)	Mridula Garg
Kannada	<b>Akyana-Vyakyana</b> (Essays)	C.N. Ramachandran
Kashmiri	<b>Aina Aatash</b> (Short Stories)	Mohi-ud-Din Reshi
Konkani	<b>Manmotayam</b> (Essays)	Tukaram Rama Shet
Maithili	<b>Sangharsh Aa Sehanta</b> (Memoirs)	Sureshwar Jha
Malayalam	<b>Kathayillathavante Katha</b> (Autobiography)	M.N. Paloor
Manipuri	<b>Chinglon Amadagi Amada</b> (Travelogue)	Makhonmani Mongsaba
Marathi	<b>Vachanaryachi Rojanishee</b> (Essays)	Satish Kalasekar
Nepali	<b>Manka Lahar Ra Raharharu</b> (Travelogue)	Man Bahadur Pradhan
Odia	<b>Banaprastha</b> (Play)	Bijoy Misra
Punjabi	<b>Nirvaan</b> (Novel)	Manmohan
Rajasthani	<b>Aanthyo Nahi Din Hal</b> (Poetry)	Ambika Dutt
Sanskrit	<b>Chaladuravani</b> (Poetry)	Radhakant Thakur
Santali	<b>Chanda Bonga</b> (Poetry)	Arjun Charan Hembram
Sindhi	<b>Mansh-Nagari</b> (Poetry)	Namdev Tarachandani
Tamil	<b>Korkai</b> (Novel)	R.N. Joe D' Cruz
Telugu	<b>Sahityaakashmlo Sagam</b> (Essays)	Katyayani Vidmahe
Urdu	<b>Lava</b> (Poetry)	Javed Akhtar

**Note:** Assamese & Gujarati Awards will be declared later

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