

CURRENT AFFAIRS DIGEST – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2011

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Arts, Music

India's most expensive living artist whose untitled painting sold for a record high of Rs. 7.19 crore – **Tyeb Mehta**

The renowned painter who passed away on 02 Sep 2011 - **Jhangir Sabavala,**

The renowned photographer who passed away on 13 Sep 2011 - **Gautam Rajadhyaksha**

Anniversaries, Centenaries, Days

The day which has been selected to be celebrated as Common Service Centre (CSC) Diwas every year to mark the incorporation of CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd on this day in 2009 – **Jul 16**

Appointments

International

The new and the first woman Prime Minister of Thailand – **Yingluck Shinawatra**

The Prime Minister-elect of Tibetan Government in exile who is to take oath on August 8 in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh – **Lobsang Sangay**

Naoto Kan who became The fifth Prime Minister of Japan to step down in five years was the – **Naoto Kan**

The Prime Minister of Nepal who assumed office in Feb 2011 only to resign in Aug 2011 – **Jhalanath Khanal**

The new and the first woman Prime Minister of Denmark – **Helle Thorning-Schimdt**

National

The new Chairperson of National Commission for Women – **Sm t Mamata Sharma**

The new Chief Vigilance Commissioner – **Pradeep Kumar**

The person appointed as the new Solicitor General of India in place of Gopal Subramaniam – **Rohinton F Nariman**

The new Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes – **Shri M.C. Joshi**

The new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand replacing Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank – **BC Khanduri**

The new President of Board of Cricket Control of India – **N Srinivasan**

Aviation

The first aircraft developed by Mahindra Aerospace (which made its maiden flight in Sep 11) in partnership with CSIR-Nal and GippsAero is named – **C-NM5**

Awards

International Awards

The Indian who has been awarded the 2011 Magsaysay Award for "**Guiding villages to find their own ways towards hope and progress**" – **Nileema Mishra**

The Indian who has been awarded the 2011 Magsaysay Award for "**Lighting the way to make solar power work for the poor**" – **Harish Hande**

The former Indian Prime Minister who has been chosen for Bangladesh's highest state honour, '**Bangladesh Swadhinata Sanmanona**' – **Mrs. Indira Gandhi**

The person who has been chosen to receive the **International Award in Statistics**, jointly instituted by Government of India and International Statistical Institute, Woorburg, The Netherlands – **Prof. Victor Yohoi of Argentina**

The recipient of **2011 Right Livelihood Award** for his outstanding success in the development and mass-deployment of cutting-edge technologies for harnessing solar energy – **Huang Ming (China)**

This country's **National Institute for the Education of Adults** has been awarded the **2011 UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize** for its Bilingual Literacy for Life Programme – **Mexico**

This country's **National Literacy Service** was awarded the **2011 UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize** for its National Literacy Programme – **Burundi**

The Indian who has been recently awarded the **Special Book Award**, China's highest literary award – **Prof BR Deepak**

Other Awards

The recipient of V.V.Giri Memorial Award 2010 recognition of his outstanding contributions towards the understanding of the emerging labour issues – **Dr. Panchmal Dinanath Shenoy**

The Hindi authors who have been chosen for Jnanpith Award 2009 – **Amar Kant and Shrilal Shukla**

The Kannada author who has been chosen for Jnanpith Award 2010 – **Chandrasekhar Kambar**

The singer who has been conferred the Viswavidyayata Sangeetha Kala Saraswathi award by the T Subbarami Reddy Lalithakala Parishat – **P Susheela**

The company which has been awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Award for Clean Technology for the year 2009-10 – **Lanco Tanjore Power Co. Ltd**

The company which has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Shield for effective implementation of Official language Hindi – **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd**

The statutory body of Min. of Environment and Forests, which has been selected for Chief Dave Cameron Award 2010 for excellence in Environmental Crimes Enforcement and Education by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) – **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**

The department which has been awarded **Today's Traveller Award** for Best Customer Service Organisation for the year 2011. (Note: Today's Traveller is an Indian monthly travel magazine published by Gill India Communications Pvt Ltd) – **Department of Posts**

Books, Magazines

The author of the controversial book **Controversially Yours** – **Shoaib Akhtar**

Corporate, Commerce, Financial News

The South Korean power equipment-maker which will set up a power equipment manufacturing unit at Chennai, in Tamil Nadu – **Doosan**

The government recently cleared international oil company BP Plc buying 30% stake in most of Reliance Industries' (RIL) oil and gas blocks, including the showpiece KG-D6 gas fields, for \$7.2 billion. BP Plc is headquartered in – **London, U.K.**

The United States derivative contracts in which Indian investors will be able to trade at the National Stock Exchange from 29 Aug 2011 – **Dow Jones Industrial Average and S & P 500**

The company which is being sued by thousands of South Koreans who claim it had invaded their privacy by storing a hidden log of their movements on their iPhones – **Apple Inc.**

Colleges, Universities, Institutes

The place where setting up of Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC), has been approved on project basis for a period of five years – **New Delhi**

The place where Indian Statistical Institute has opened a new centre – **Tezpur, Assam**

Committees, Commissions etc.

The Committee on Customer Service in Banks, constituted by the RBI in 2010, which submitted its report in Aug 2011 was headed by – **M. Damodaran**

Countries

The African nation where famine has been declared in its two regions – **Somalia**

The country with which India has signed a Civil Nuclear Deal in Jul 2011. (India has already signed Civil Nuclear Deal with US, France, Russia, Canada, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Argentina and Namibia since 2008) – **South Korea**

The newly opened world's longest cross-sea bridge, the Jiaozhou Bay bridge (26 miles (42 kilometers) long) linking city of Qingdao to the island of Huangdao is in – **China**

The country which has passed the controversial boycott law making it a civil offence to call for an economic, cultural, or academic boycott of people or institutions – **Israel**

The country which has become the 193rd country of the world to be recognised by the UN on 09 Jul 11 after its independence from Sudan. Its first President is President General Salva Kiir Mayardit and its capital is Juba – **South Sudan**

The SAARC nation which has recently banned smoking in public places **Nepal**

The country with which India has signed Double Tax Avoidance Agreement in Aug 2011 – **Georgia.**

The country which has become the 62nd nation to ratify the Convention on Cluster Bombs – **Afghanistan**

The country which lifted the state of emergency it had imposed 30 years ago – **Sri Lanka**

The country which has granted its women citizens the right to vote and contest in elections for the first time – **Saudi Arabia**

Marcoule nuclear processing plant which witnessed an explosion resulting in death of 1 person and injury of 3 others is located in – **France**

Deaths

The 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai, who died on 25 Sep belonged to – **Kenya**

Defence

The indigenously built fast attack craft (FAC), built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineer Limited of Kolkata, which was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Jul – **INS Koswari**

The new chief of the Indian Air Force – **Air Chief Marshal Norman Anil Kumar Browne**
INS Teg, INS Tarkash and INS Trikhand, the three frigates which will be inducted into the Indian Navy are being built by – **Russia**

The Indian Air Force base where the C-17 Globe III, the largest strategic heavy lift aircraft being acquired from US are planned to be inducted – **Hindan**

The new tactical short-range missile with a range of 150 km developed by DRDO is named – **Prahar**

The oldest commissioned ship of the Indian Navy which has been decommissioned this month – **Sharabh**

The indigenously built fast attack craft (FAC), which has been inducted into the Indian Navy as a part of strengthening the coastal surveillance. (The ship has been named after a historic island off Kerala's Wayanad coast and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited of Kolkata) – **INS Karuva**

The country to which Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has supplied its indigenously manufactured helicopter Dhruv – **Ecuador**

The second of Shivalik class stealth frigate manufactured by Mazagaon Docks inducted into the Indian Navy in Aug 2011 – **INS Satpura**

The Sukhoi fifth-generation stealth fighter, which is being jointly developed by Russia and India is named – **T - 50**

The first aircraft carrier of China is undergoing sea trials, the aircraft carrier, named Shi Lang, was acquired from Russia and formerly named – **Varyag**

Exercises

The country which conducted joint naval exercise with India (termed Passex) in the Arabian Sea – **Turkey**

The largest ever joint naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka being conducted off the coast of Trincomalee is code-named – **SLINEX II**

Environment

The animal which has been added by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to the list of animals that cannot be trained or used as a performing animal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960 – **Bull**

The theme of National Environment Awareness Campaign 2011-12 launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests – **Forests for Sustainable Livelihood**

The Palpur-Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary which has been selected for re-introducing cheetahs under Project Cheetah is in – **Madhya Pradesh**

The highly endangered cat species, Rusty Spotted Cat or Felis Rubiginosa, which is endemic to India and Sri Lanka was spotted at – **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve**

The bio-diversity hot spot region in India where 12 new species of frogs have been discovered by the researchers from Bombay Natural History Society, the Zoological Survey of India and Belgium's Vrije University – **Western Ghats**

The smuggling of this wood which has increased substantially after reports of using Pterosibilin, its extract to make pills similar to Viagra – **Red Sanders**

Films and Actors

The person who has been conferred honorary doctorate by Middlesex University, London in recognition of his contribution to entertainment in India and throughout the world – **Shiamak Davar**

The Indian actress who has been awarded Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters from France in recognition of her contribution to the world of cinema and to the development of Franco-Indian co-operation in the film industry – **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan**

The film Gandhi to Hitler is directed by – **Rakesh Ranjan Singh**

The actor who has been chosen as the Brand Ambassador for Ministry of Women and Child Development for spreading the message of curbing malnutrition among children – **Aamir Khan**

The Indian actor who has been awarded the Best Actor International Award at the New York City International Film Festival (NYCIFF) for his performance in the Hollywood film 'Desperate Endeavours' – **Gulshan Grover**

The director of controversial Hindi film Aarakshan – **Prakash Jha**

Government Programmes, Schemes, Missions

The GoI scheme which envisages promotion of e-Governance with the objective to provide IT enabled services to farmers and also for computerization of various offices in the States in agriculture & allied sectors is known as – **AGRISNET**

Health

The material which has been sought to be banned by National Human Rights Commission, for it being responsible for various incurable diseases including cancer – **Chrysotile Asbestos or White asbestos**

The disease affecting animals which has been declared to be globally eradicated – **Rinderpest**

Scrub Typhus which has taken the lives of at least 12 people in Himachal Pradesh is caused by the bite of an infected – **mite**

A herbal formulation named **Perfomax** to improve physical and mental performance in High Altitude and Hypoxic Conditions has been developed by – **DRDO**

The organisation which has developed **Lukoskin**, a herbal product for Leucoderma – **Defence Institute of Bio-energy Research (DIBER) under DRDO**

Legal Issues

The chemical which has been recently notified as an explosive by the Government of India – **Ammonium Nitrate**

Meets, Summits, Conferences, Fairs, Festivals

The venue of **TECHNOTEX 2011**, 1st International Exhibition & Conference on Technical Textile jointly being organized by Ministry of Textiles, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) – **Mumbai**

The venue of cultural programme "**Remembering Tagore**" held to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore – **UNESCO HQs, Paris**

Venue of first ever World Gaming Festival to be held from Sep 23, 2011 – **Goa**

Miscellaneous

The Indian queen who has been listed among 10 wives who were resolute even in troubled times by the Times magazine – **Rani Lakshmbai**

The ICT based solution for vehicle registration launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is named – **Vaahan**

The one stop solution to Motor Vehicle Driver Licensing launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is named – **Sarathi**

The 168-year old newspaper owned by News International (Chairman - James Murdoch) which was finally shut down in the face of the raging phone hacking scandal – **News of the World**

The Padmanabhaswamy Temple which was in news recently for the discovery of huge amount of wealth is located in – **Thiruvananthapuram**

Professor Amartya Sen was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Literature, honoris causa, by the National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA) which is located in – **New Delhi**

The honorarium payable to Anganwadi workers has been increased by the Government from Rs. 1500/- to – **Rs. 3000/-**

The Audio-Visual presentation of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 'Jana Gana Mana' poem in full five stanzas by various artists unveiled in Aug 11 by Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is named – **Jaya Hey**

The joint operation launched by the security forces of Bihar, U.P. and Jharkhand to apprehend the maoists is named – **Operation Vishwas**

The variety of mango grown around foothills of Girnar mountains in Gujarat's Junagadh district, which has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag – **Gir Kesar**

The variety of fish which has been declared to the official fish of Madhya Pradesh by its Chief Minister – **Mahaseer**

The chemical which, (originally used to preserve dead bodies in mortuaries), has been found to be used to preserve fish during transportation by unscrupulous businessmen in Punjab – **Formalin**

Miss Leila Lopes who was crowned Miss Universe 2011 at the pageant held **Sao Paulo, Brazil** belongs to – **Angola**

The river in South America under which an underground river about 6000 km long has been discovered. (The river has been named **Hamza** after a scientist of Indian origin Mr Valiya Mannathal Hamza) – **Amazon**

The para-military force which has been allowed to grant five percent reservation for women – **Assam Rifles**

Budh International Circuit, which will witness India's first F1 car race is located in – **Greater Noida**

Seas, Ports, Ships etc.

The cruise ship which sank recently in Volga river in Russia on Jul 10 was named – **Bulgaria**

The cargo vessel Nafis-I which was found to be carrying weapons and intercepted by the Indian Navy belongs to – **Iran**

The world's largest floating library which has recently docked in at Visakhapatnam – **MV Logos Hope**

The cargo ship which started sinking off the coast of Mumbai and the crew of which were rescued by Indian Coast Guard – **M.V. Rak Carrier**

M T Pavit, an oil tanker that drifted in from the Persian Gulf and lay stranded at Mumbai on 31 Jul 11 belongs to (the ship was set afloat on Aug 15 and set on sail to Dighi port) – **Panama**

The oil tanker which has been hijacked by Somali pirates with 21 Indian sailors aboard, off the coast of Oman – **Fairchem Bogey**

The ship carrying valuable silver from India which was destroyed by the Germans during World War II and whose wreckage has been discovered in North Atlantic was named – **SS Gairsoppa**

States

The state which has recorded the highest number of domestic tourists for the year 2010 – **Andhra Pradesh**

The state where the pollution control board has ordered closure of 22 coal mines – **Jharkhand**

The state in which the Government has taken an initiative to set up shops known as Kalavara shops to supply building materials to poor at affordable price – **Kerala**

The state which has been awarded the Decadal Literacy Award for achieving highest decadal growth in literacy rate in the country – **Bihar**

The state which has become the first state in the country to have launched Swarnajayanti Aarogya Bima Yojana providing health insurance cover for the entire resident population of the state – **Goa**

The state which has resorted to culling of birds to prevent spread of avian flu reported in some of its districts – **Assam**

Sports News

The venue of 46th World Archery Championship 2011, held during 3 - 10 Jul 11 – **Turin, Italy**

The mascot of FIFA Women's World Cup 2011 held in Germany – **Karla Kick, the cat**

The team which has won the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011 held in Germany by defeating USA in the finals – **Japan**

The venue of 5th World Military Games to be held from Jul 16 to Jul 24 – **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

The team which has topped the medals tally at 19th Asian Athletics Championship held at Kobe, Japan. India finished 8th with 11 medals (1 gold, 2 silver and 8 bronze) – **Japan**

The venue of 21st President's Cup International Boxing Tournament – **Jakarta**

The venue of 19th Asian Athletics Championship 2011 – **Kobe, Japan**

The Ukrainian coach who has been removed from his position for being responsible for Indian athletes failing in the the dope test – **Yuri Ogrodnik**

The biennial Asia-Pacific Golf Championships for the Nomura Cup, at which the Indian team a bronze medal were held in – **Fiji**

The venue of 1st Asian Men Circle Style Kabbadi Championship which India won defeating Pakistan in the finals – **Tabriz in Iran**

The team which topped the medals tally at the 51st National Open Athletics Championship with 17 gold, 13 silver and 8 bronze – **Railways**

The venue of 51st National Open Athletics Championship held in Sep 2011 – **Kolkata**

The country which topped the medals tally at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea – **United States of America**

The venue of 8th International Abilympics, a vocational skill competition among the person with disability – **Seoul, Korea**

The city in which a newly-laid Astro-turf hockey pitch, has been named after Indian hockey legend Dhyan Chand – **London**

The country which has won the Women's Asian Champions Trophy defeating China in the final at Ordos, China. Japan defeated India to take the 3rd place – **South Korea**

The team which has won the Federation Cup 2011 by defeating East Bengal in the finals – **Salgaocar**

Sportspersons in News

The ace Indian shooter who has been chosen for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2010 – **Gagan Narang**

The Chess player who has become the second Indian Grandmaster among Indian woman (Koneru Humpy being the first) – **D Harika**

The Indian cricketer who has become the second highest run-getter in test cricket (the first slot being occupied by Sachin Tendulkar) – **Rahul Dravid**

Cadel Evans, the cyclist who recently won the 2011 Tour de France belongs to – **Australia**

The East Bengal footballer who has been awarded the Fan's Player of the Year and also the FPAI Player of the Year 2011 by Football Players Association of India – **Mehtab Hossain**

The Jamaican athlete who won the men's 100 meters event at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea after Usain Bolt was disqualified for a false start – **Yohan Blake**

The Serbian tennis player who has won the US Open 2011 Men's singles title – **Novak Djokovic**

The Australian tennis player who has won the US Open 2011 Women's singles title – **Samantha Stosur**

The sportspersons who have been conferred the rank of honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army by President Pratibha Patil – **MS Dhoni and Abhinav Bindra**

The Indian cricketer who has been awarded the International Cricket Council's Spirit of Cricket Award 2011 – **MS Dhoni**

The player from Serbia who has won Wimbledon 2011 Men's title by defeating Spain's Rafael Nadal – **Novak Djokovic**

The Czech national who has won the Women's Wimbledon title for the year 2011, defeating Russian Maria Sharapova – **Petra Kvitova**

The winner of men's singles title in the 2011 Rogers Cup held in Montreal, Canada – **Novak Djokovic**

The winner of National Snooker Championship held in Chennai – **Aditya Mehta**

The winner of National Billiards Championship held in Chennai – **Pankaj Advani**

The Woman International Master (IM) who has been chosen for the Dilip Sardesai Award by the Goa government – **Bhakti Kulkarni**

The former football player who has been awarded the Dhyanchand Award in recognition for his lifetime achievement in sports – **Shabbir Ali**

The Indian shooter, who has secured number one ranking in the world in doubletrap shooting – **Ronjan Sodhi**

The person who has been awarded the Tenzing Norgay Lifetime Achievement Award, 2010 – **Late Col Balwant Singh Sandhu**

Surveys, Census, Reports

The Maternal Mortality Rate of India as per the latest figures released for 2007-09 is – **212**

According to the World Investment Report 2011 released by UNCTAD in July 2011, India's position among the top 20 FDI recipients is – **14th (it was 8th in 2009.)**

The number of unemployed persons in the country as the latest reports available for 2009-10 is – **9.50 million**

As per a report by Global Financial Integrity, the total present value of India's illicit assets held abroad is – **\$462 billion**

The training-cum-placement programme for unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir launched by Ministry of Rural Development under National Rural Livelihood Mission is named – **Himayat**

The rank of India in The Global Competitiveness Index rankings published by World Economic Forum recently – **56**

The country which ranks first in The Global Competitiveness Index rankings as per the report of 2011-2012 published by World Economic Forum recently – **Switzerland**

According to America's Census Bureau's annual report for 2010 released recently the overall percentage of poverty in the USA is (As per new US Census Bureau methodology reports released in Nov 2011, the overall percentage is 16 % or 49.1 million) – **15.1% or 46.2 million**

As per data released by Ministry of Home Affairs (for 2010), the age group in which maximum percentage of people commit suicide is – **15 - 29 years**

Space News

The spacecraft of NASA which is on a mission to two largest members of the asteroid belt, the Vesta and the Ceres (it reached Vesta on Jul 16, 2011) – **Dawn**

The mini satellite to be launched by astronauts aboard International Space Station on Aug 3 in honour of the 50th anniversary of Russian astronaut Yury Gagarin's pioneering space flight is named – **Kedr**

The last of the US space shuttles which completed its last trip to the space by landing at Kennedy Space Centre on Jul 21 – **Atlantis**

GSAT-12, India's latest communication satellite has been launched on 15 Jul from Sriharikota aboard – **PSLV C-17**

The last active Space Shuttle of the United States which was launched on its final mission from Kennedy Space Center on July 8, 2011, in Cape Canaveral – **Atlantis**

The planet which is completing its first revolution of the sun this year since its discovery in 1846. (The period of revolution is 164.79 years) – **Neptune**

The spacecraft launched by NASA on a journey to Jupiter is named – **Juno**

The experimental module, the first of series in China's programme to finally launch a space station, launched by China from the Jiuquan launch centre on 29 Sep 2011 is named – **Tiangong - I**

The place at which Oceansat-2 ground station (data reception and processing system) has been set up to receive and process data from Ocean Colour Monitor on-board the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite Oceansat-2 – **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (Incois), Hyderabad**

NASA on Sep 10, 2011 launched a pair of washing-machine-sized satellites on a mission to map the Moon's inner core for the first time. The spacecrafts are named – **GRAIL-A and GRAIL-B**

Towns in News

The place in Andhra Pradesh which is reported to have about 49,000 tonnes of uranium — three times the original estimate of the area's deposits, with the potential of becoming the world's largest uranium mine – **Tumulapalli**

Eran, the place at which archeological monuments and remains have been declared monuments of national importance is located in – **Madhya Pradesh**

The village in Darjeeling where a historic tripartite agreement has been signed by the Central Govt, WB State Govt and Gorkhaland Janmukti Morcha on the Gorkhaland issue – **Pintail**

The place at which a new Officers Training Academy for training military officers for short-service commission has come up – **Gaya, Bihar**

The place where Prabhash Prasang, a two-day festival on vernacular journalism is being held – **Indore**

The venue of 71st World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to be held from September 3rd, 2011 – **Hyderabad**

The venue of 4th SAARC Folklore and Heritage Festival to be held from September 30, 2011 – **Agra**

Typhoons, Cyclones

The typhoon which lashed Luzon, the main island of Phillipines on Sep 28, 2011. The typhoon later moved on to China and Vietnam – **Typhoon Nesat**

The typhoon which struck Japan on 21 Sep 11, killing people and disrupting public transportation in northeastern Japan including the tsunami-crippled Fukushima was named – **Typhoon Roke**

The Typhoon that recently lashed Japanese island of Shikoku and Honshu – **Talas**

The hurricane which lashed the east coast of the United States of America in Aug 2011 is named – **Irene**

Volcanoes

Mount Lokon, a volcano which started erupting on Jul 14 is located in **Indonesia**

Soputan, the volcano which has erupted recently is located in **Indonesia**

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