

# 1 August 2014 Current Affairs

## **2014 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees Announced**

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation announced that this year (2014) five individuals and one organization from Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Philippines will receive Asia's premier prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Award. **The 2014 Awardees are:-**

- 1) **Saur Marlina Manurung (Indonesia)** :- She was cited for "her ennobling passion to protect and improve the lives of Indonesia's forest people" through jungle schools put up by her organization. An anthropologist by profession, she put up a "Jungle School" program for children of Indonesia's Orang Rimba, or forest people.
- 2) **Randy Halasan (The Philippines)** :- He was chosen for the award for serving the indigenous Matigsalug tribe. He put in huge efforts in teaching the children of the Matigsalug tribe in one of the remotest mountain villages in Mindanao.
- 3) **Hu Shuli (China)** :- He is a Chinese investigative journalist whose work has led to the ouster of corrupt officials. He is the founder and former editor of 'Caijing' a business magazine famed for its groundbreaking investigative reporting that has had a profound impact on China.
- 4) **Omara Khan Masoudi (Afghanistan)** :- Masoudi was awarded for his courage in protecting Afghan cultural heritage. At great risk to his life, the deputy director of the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul led his colleagues in moving some of the museum's most precious objects to safety during the Taliban's assault on his country's cultural treasures in the 1990s.
- 5) **The Citizen Foundation (Pakistan)** :- The Citizen Foundation, a non-profit organisation (NGO) in Pakistan founded by six business leaders, was recognized for building 1,000 schools over hundreds of cities and towns in the country with the world's second highest number of children who are out of school.
- 6) **Wang Canfa (China)** :- Wang Canfa founded the Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims, which has offered free legal services to thousands of people and provided environmental law training to lawyers and others.

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## **SS Mundra Takes Charge As RBI Deputy Governor**

Subhash Sheoratan Mundra, the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Bank of Baroda (BoB), took over as the new Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term. With this appointment, Mundra will look after banking supervision, currency management, financial stability, rural credit, customer service and also the Reserve Bank's human resources & security. He was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the KC Chakrabarty who in April 2014 took voluntary retirement. Chakrabarty resigned from the Deputy Governor post two months before his five-year tenure.

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# 2 August 2014 Current Affairs

## **Noted Filmmaker Muzaffar Ali Selected For Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award**

Noted filmmaker Muzaffar Ali, director of Bollywood classic 'Umrao Jaan', has been selected for Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award. The award is given every year for contribution to promotion of communal harmony and social goodwill. This will be the 22nd edition of the sadbhavana award, which will be presented at a special ceremony at Jawahar Bhavan on 20 August

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2014, the birthday of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

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### **‘One Life is Not Enough’: Autobiography of Natwar Singh Released**

One Life is Not Enough: An autobiography written by former External Affairs Minister and veteran Congress Party leader Natwar Singh was released. The book has been published by Rupa. This book has been in news and controversy since past few days because it discloses much information about Sonia Gandhi, the President of the Congress Party.

## **3 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **India Finish Fifth AT 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games**

India finished fifth in the 2014 Commonwealth Games with 64 medals (15 gold, 30 silver, 19 bronze). England took the top spot with 174 medals of which 58 were gold. 4929 athletes from 71 countries and territories of the erstwhile British Empire participated in the 11-day competition. The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) were held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 3 August 2014. The 21st Commonwealth Games will be held in Gold Coast in Australia.

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### **6.1 Earthquake Strikes China’s Yunnan Province**

Earthquake of magnitude 6.1 on Richter scale struck southwest Yunnan province of China on 3 August. The quake left behind a trail of destruction and devastation in the province and killed about 380 people and injured about 1800 others. This was the strongest earthquake to hit the province in 14 years.

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## **4 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Indian Named Microsoft Office Specialist World Champion In PowerPoint**

Sixteen-year old Delhi student Arjit Kansal has been named the 2014 Microsoft Office Specialist World Champion in PowerPoint 2010, it was announced in New Delhi on 4 August. Certiport, a Pearson VUE business and a test delivery solution provider for the global workforce and academic markets, announced the award. Among other things, Kansal was also awarded a \$5,000 scholarship during the event at Disney’s Grand Californian Resort.

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### **New Species of Humpback Dolphins Identified**

Scientists identified a new species of Australian humpback dolphin with the scientific name *Sousa sahalensis*. The Australian humpback dolphins are a widespread group of coastal cetaceans ranging from the coast of West Africa to the northern coast of Australia. The scientific name *Sousa sahalensis* is derived from the Sahul Shelf. Sahul shelf is an underwater shelf stretching between northern Australia and southern New Guinea, where the Australian humpback dolphin occurs.

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## **5 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Ex-IFS Officer Arvind Gupta Appointed As Deputy NSA**

Former Indian Foreign Service officer Arvind Gupta was appointed as Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA). The post of Deputy National Security Adviser fell vacant after the resignation of Nehchal Sandhu, former IPS officer of 1973 batch who was appointed as Deputy National Security Adviser during UPA rule. Gupta will also be working as Secretary of National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), a body that performs advisory functions for Government of India suggesting political, economic and strategic safety concerns.

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### **Bharatiya Mahila Bank Bagged Core Banking System Initiative Award-2014**

Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd bagged the Core Banking System Initiative Award for the year 2014 at the Asian Banking and Finance – Retail Banking Awards 2014. The award ceremony was held in Singapore. Usha Ananthasubramanian, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharatiya Mahila Bank received the award. It got the award as it launched its operations with Core Banking Solutions and ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) from first day of its operation and it was achieved within a period less than 2 months from the grant of license by RBI to the launch date on 19 November 2013.

## **6 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Legendary cartoonist Pran Kumar Sharma Died**

Pran Kumar Sharma, creator of the iconic character Chacha Chaudhary, died in Gurgaon on 5 August. He was 75. He was born on 15 August 1938 in Kasur near Lahore (now Pakistan). He created or sketched Chacha Chaudhary for the Hindi magazine Lotpot in 1969, this character was the one that made him famous. His Chacha Chaudhary strips found a permanent place in International Museum of Cartoon Art, USA. According to Maurice Horn notes, Pran was given a title of Walt Disney of India in the World Encyclopedia of Comics.

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### **Mizoram Governor Kamla Beniwal Removed**

Kamla Beniwal has been relieved of her charge as Mizoram Governor on 6 August. President Pranab Mukherjee directed that Beniwal will cease to hold the office of the Governor of Mizoram. Vinod Kumar Duggal, Governor of Manipur, has been directed to discharge the functions of the Governor of Mizoram, in addition to his own duties, until regular arrangements for the office of the Governor of Mizoram are made. Beniwal was removed as Governor of Gujarat when the NDA government took over. She was transferred to Mizoram on 6 July 2014.

## **7 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Liberia Declared State of Emergency Over Ebola Virus**

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has declared a state of emergency as the country grapples with an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus. A statement released by World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed the death of 932 patients due to the Ebola Virus in West Africa so far. Ebola crisis in Liberia got worse because many people are keeping sick relatives at home instead of taking

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them to isolation centres.

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### **Kapil Dev To Head Arjuna Award Selection Committee**

Former India cricket captain Kapil Dev will head the Arjuna Awards selection committee for choosing this year's outstanding sportspersons of the country while former hockey skipper Ajitpal Singh is likely to be in charge of selecting the Dronacharya awardees. While Kapil, who bagged 434 wickets in 131 Tests in his 16-year-long career, got the Arjuna in 1980, former Olympian Ajitpal was conferred the Award in 1970, and awarded it in 1972.

## **8 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Ivory Coast Striker Didier Drogba Retires From International Football**

Didier Drogba has announced his retirement from international football after 12 years playing for the Ivory Coast. Drogba played in three World Cups for his country and made 104 appearances and scored 65 goals, over a 12-year period. His last appearance was in the 2014 FIFA World Cup concluded in Brazil, where he last time appeared in the cap for Ivory Coast against a match with Greece on 24 June 2014. He has been a two-time African Footballer of the Year.

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### **Union Government Introduced Two Labour Reform Bills In Lok Sabha**

The Union Government introduced two Labour Reform Bills in the Lok Sabha. The two bills are The Factories (Amendment) Bill 2014 and the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill 2014. The two bills aim at enabling the government to make certain rules in consultation with the States to ensure safety and welfare of workers at workplace. The purpose is to reform years-old Labour Laws- the Factories Act 1948 and the Apprentices Act 1961.

## **9 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2014 was Observed Across The World**

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was observed across the world on 9 August 2014. The theme of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People was "Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of indigenous peoples". The annual event is celebrated to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. It was first pronounced by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994, marking the day of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in 1982.

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### **WHO Declared Ebola As International Health Emergency**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Ebola as International Health Emergency. The decision was taken after a two-day emergency session held in Geneva. During the two-day session, WHO appealed for global aid to help afflicted countries. Ebola has claimed at least 932 lives and

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infected more than 1700 people since outbreak of the virus in Guinea in early 2014. States of emergency has been declared across Ebola affected West African nations, including Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

## **10 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Indian Women Archers Won Gold Medal At Archery World Cup**

Indian Women's Recurve team won gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage IV in Wroclaw, Poland. The second seeded Indian team led by Deepika Kumari and included Bombayala Devi Lashram and Lakshmi Rani Manji defeated the Mexican team 6-0. Overall, India bagged a total of five medals on the last day of Archery World Cup Stage IV. The men's recurve team settled for a silver after losing to Mexico 3-5 in the final.

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### **Uttarkhand Government Forms Committee On Industries Using Silica Dust**

Uttarkhand government has formed a high level committee to conduct a detailed survey of the industries using silica dust in the state. This committee will be headed by Additional Chief Secretary S Raju. The committee would conduct its study and submit its report within two months. Apart from this, it was also decided to conduct a health check up of those working in such industries that use silica dust. The health check-up will be conducted to find that so they suffer from silicosis or any other respiratory disease, which can be caused after coming in contact with silica dust.

## **11 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Oscar Winning Actor Robin Williams Died**

Oscar-winning actor and comedian Robin Williams was found dead at his home in Tiburon, California on 11 August 2014. He was 63. Robin Williams was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 21 July 1951. Williams earned an Oscar award for his performance in Good Will Hunting as a supporting actor. In his lifetime, Williams received four Golden Globe Awards, two Screen Actors Guild Awards and five Grammy Awards. He was voted 13th on Comedy Central's list "100 Greatest Stand-ups of All Time" in 2004.

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### **Bombay HC Banned Govindas Below Age of 18-years In Dahi Handi Festival**

The Bombay High Court on 11 August banned participation of children below 18 years in forming human pyramids during the popular 'Dahi Handi' festival, citing fatal accidents during the celebrations. The court also directed the Maharashtra government to restrict the height of human pyramids to 20 feet.

## **12 August 2014 Current Affairs**

### **Jaitley, Karan Singh, Sharad Yadav Conferred with Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards**

President Pranab Mukherjee on 12 August presented the outstanding parliamentarian awards to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Congress leader Karan Singh and JD-U president Sharad Yadav for 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. The awards were given for their invaluable contribution in discharge of their parliamentary duties.

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## **World Elephant Day Observed Across The World**

World Elephant Day was observed across the world on 12 August 2014. It is an international annual event and is dedicated towards the preservation and protection of the world's elephants. The goal of World Elephant Day is to create awareness around the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants. The first World Elephant Day was observed on 12 August 2012 and the day was declared by the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in Thailand. Patricia Sims, a Canadian filmmaker was also one of the founder members of the day. It was a Royal initiative of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

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