

Current Affairs : October 2016

National Current Affairs for October 2016

- 1.** India has been placed on the 112th position in the Economic Freedom of the World, 2016 Annual Report, suffering 10 positions loss this year. Hong Kong topped the list, having the highest level of economic freedom worldwide while Venezuela remained on the last position. The report is based on data from 2014 and measured the economic freedom by analysing the policies and institution of all 159 countries in the list.
- 2.** President Pranab Mukherjee on September 23, 2016 released the book 'Citizen and Society' written by Vice President of India Hamid Ansari at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. This book is a collection of lectures on diverse themes such as polity, women empowerment and other traits of a democratic country. Prime minister Narendra Modi, his several cabinet colleagues, former PM Manmohan Singh were present at the function of the launching of 'Citizen and Society'.
- 3.** Deepa Malik became the first woman para athlete of India to win a medal in the Paralympic a Games when she clinched the silver medal in the women's shot put – F53 event at the Rio Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on September 12, 2016. Deepa threw her personal best 4.61 meters to finish second in the event behind Bahrain's Fatema Nedham who Claimed the gold with a superb performance of 4.76 meters. Dimitra Korokida of Greece clinched the bronze in the women's shot put – F53 event.
- 4.** Junaid Ahmad of Bangladesh has been appointed the world bank's country director for India, succeeding Onno Ruhl on his post. Prior to this new assignment, Mr Ahmad was the Chief of staff to World Bank President Jim Yong Kim. He has been serving the World Bank on numerous post since 1991.
- 5.** India & US on August 29, 2016 signed a crucial defence pact that establishes basic terms, conditions etc. for reciprocal provisions of logistic support. The pact known as the Logistics Exchange Memorandum Agreement (LEMOA) will enhance operational capacity of Indian Armed forces. The agreement between two countries was first proposed in 2002 but India did not agree to sign the pact until earlier this year.
- 6.** ISRO has launched GSLV with the India Cryogenic Upper Stage on-board four times earlier. But September 8's launch was the first operational flight of the launcher. GSLV missions of the past (GSLV-D5 and D-6), launched in January 2014 and August 2015 respectively, were test flights. India has successfully built the GSLV launches after a 20-odd year old struggle. The cryogenic engine technology was denied to Indian due to restrictions by the US.

7. The 14th ASEAN-Indian Summit and the 11th East Asia Summit were held in September in Vientiane, the capital of Laos. Leaders of ASEAN nation and PM Modi attended the ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit was attended by ASEAN and other Pacific Nations.

8. Afgan President Ashraf Ghani visits India on September 14, 2016. Mr Ghani and Indian PM Narendra Modi exhibit a new sense of camaraderie, both viewing each other as a most friendly countries, committed to talking mutual cooperation to a high level. Both sides sign three agreements-extradition treaty cooperation in civil and commercial matters and the memorandum of understanding on cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space.

9. India successfully test-fired a new, long range surface-to-air missile jointly developed with Israel from a defence base off Odisha's coast on September 20, 2016. The long range missile, a product of joint venture between India and Israel, was test launched from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha's Chandipur at around 10.13 am, a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) official said.

10. The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) of Malappuram, Kerala was conferred the UNESCO Confucius Prize-2016 for literacy for 2016 on September 8, 2016 as the JSS Chairman P. V. Abdul Wahab received the award from UN-Secretary-General Ban ki-moon in Paris. The JSS Malappuram got the honour for its literacy-linked skill development activities among underprivileged in rural areas and its initiatives in applying new technology in literacy.

International Current Affairs for September 2016

1. Nadia Murad Basee Taha, a young iraqi woman of Yazidi community was on September 16, 2016 named the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the dignity of survivors of Human Trafficking. The 23rd year old brave girl survived rape and abuse as sex slave by the terrorist of the Islamic State. As the UN goodwill ambassador she will raise voice against cruelties and atrocities committed against women and children through trafficking worldwide. She will spread awareness about the plight of the countless victims of trafficking especially in Iraq.

2. The first BRICS Film Festival was organised from September 2-6, 2016 in New Delhi. Total 20 Movies from BRICS nations were screened at the Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. Four movies from each BRICS nation (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) were screened. The opening film of the festival was Veeram, a Malayali movie. The closing movie was 'Skiptrace', a Chinese movie directed by Renny Harlin. The Kannada movie 'Thithi' from India was awarded the best film honour of the festival. Special Jury honour went to 'between valleys', a Brazilian Film. Mr Thabo Rametsi (South Africa) and Mr Yulia Pereslid (Russia) were felicitated with best actor and actress awards respectively.

3. China commissioned the world's largest radio telescope, 'Five hundred meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST)' in Pingtang, in Southwestern China's Guizhou province on September 25, 2016. China says this project will help humanity search for alien life. Built at a cost of 1.2 billion Yuan (\$180 million). The FAST is much larger than the Arecibo observatory in Puerto Rico, the world's largest radio telescope before the commissioning of the FAST in China

4. Pope Francis on September 4, 2016 declared revered nun Mother Teresa a saint in a canonisation mass at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, Rome. (About Mother Teresa : Born : 25th Aug, 1910, Nobel Prize : 1979, Bharat Ratna : 1980, Died : 5th Sept 1997, Beatified : 19 Oct 2003, No of Missionaries of Charity Branches : 4500)

5. The Non-Aligned Movement Summit was held in Venezuela in the second week of September 2016. India was represented at the summit by Vice-President Hamid Ansari. The non-aligned movement wrapped up the meet on September 18, 2016 with an expression of support for its embattled host President Nicolas Maduro and scathing attacks on US 'interventionism' around the world. The 120-member group issued a statement at the end of the meet calling for peace, urging world powers not to meddle in other country's affairs.

6. Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland clinched the US Open Men's Singles title on September 11, in New York as the third-seed champion beat world's No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia in a nail-biting final by a margin of 6-7(1),6-4,7-5,6-3. It was Wawrinka's third Grand Slam singles title of his career as he had clinched the Australian Open in 2014 and French Open in 2015. He defeated Kei Nishikori of Japan to secured his place in final. Germany's Angelique Kerber won the US Open Women's singles title, beating Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic in the final.

8. The United States and Russia reached a deal on a new Syrian ceasefire on September 9, 2016, which if it holds, could see the first joint military effort by the two powers against Islamic militants. The truce came into force on September 12, 2016 the first day of the muslims holiday of Eid al-'Adha'.

9. Russia's ruling United Russia party has won a record number of seats in parliamentary polls, held in third week of September 2016, that could pave the way for President Vladimir Putin to glide to a fourth term in 2018 elections. The United Russia party garnered about 55% of these votes, giving it a constitutional majority in Parliament, according to results announced on September 19, 2016.

10. The 28th and 29th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held in Vientiane, Laos from September 6 to 8, 2016 under the theme of 'Turning Vision Into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community'. Vientiane, the capital of Laos also hosted the 14th ASEAN-India Summit on September 8. The 11th East Asia Summit was also organised in Vientiane after the conclusion of the 14th ASEAN-India Summit.