

# **UNITED ACADEMY – CURRENT AFFAIRS 2014**

## **FOR TNPSC AND IBPS- SBI BANKING EXAM**

### **Best Parliamentarian Awards**

President Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday 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.

### **Maharatna CPSEs**

1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
2. Coal India Limited
3. GAIL (India) Limited
4. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
5. NTPC Limited
6. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
7. Steel Authority of India Limited

### **Nayratna CPSEs**

1. Bharat Electronics Limited
2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
3. Container Corporation of India Limited
4. Engineers India Limited
5. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
6. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
7. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
8. National Aluminium Company Limited
9. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited
10. NMDC Limited

11. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited
12. Oil India Limited
13. Power Finance Corporation Limited
14. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
15. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
16. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
17. Shipping Corporation of India Limited

### Fields Medal Winners ( The Noble prize of Mathematics)

Maryam Mirzakhani 2014

Artur Avila 2014







Martin Hairer 2014

Manjul Bhargava 2014

**Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 (MH17/MAS17)** was a scheduled international passenger flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur that crashed on 17 July 2014, presumed to have been shot down, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew on board. The Boeing 777-200ER airliner lost contact about 50 km (31 mi) from the Ukraine–Russia border and crashed near Torez in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, 40 km (25 mi) from the border,<sup>[3]</sup> over territory controlled by pro-Russian separatists.

The grouping has held annual summits since 2009, with member countries taking turns to host. Prior to South Africa's admission, two BRIC summits were held, in 2009 and 2010. The first five-member

BRICS summit was held in 2011. The most recent BRICS summit took place in Fortaleza, Brazil, from 14 to 16 July 2014.

	Date(s)	Host country	Host leader	Location	Notes
1st	16 June 2009	 Russia	Dmitry Medvedev	Yekaterinburg (Sevastianov's House)	
2nd	15 April 2010	 Brazil	Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva	Brasília	Guests: Jacob Zuma (President of South Africa) and Riyad al-Maliki (Foreign Minister of the Palestinian National Authority)
3rd	14 April 2011	 China	Hu Jintao	Sanya (Sheraton Sanya Resort)	First summit to include South Africa alongside the original BRIC countries.
4th	29 March 2012	 India	Manmohan Singh	New Delhi (Taj Mahal Hotel)	
5th	26–27 March 2013	 South Africa	Jacob Zuma	Durban (Durban ICC)	
6th	14–16 July	 Brazil	Dilma Rousseff	Fortaleza (Centro de Eventos do Ceará) <sup>[34]</sup>	BRICS New Development Bank and reserve currency pool agreements signed.

	2014			Brasília	Guest: Leaders of Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) <sup>[35][36]</sup>
7th	2015	 Russia	Vladimir Putin	Ufa <sup>[37]</sup>	

### Current BRICS leaders

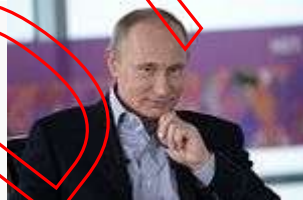
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 **Brazil**

Dilma Rousseff, President

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 **Russia**

Vladimir Putin, President

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 India

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



 China

Xi Jinping, President



 South Africa

Jacob Zuma, President

Avia Indra-2014



The first joint India-Russia Air Exercise 'Avia Indra-2014' is taking place in Russia from August 25 to September 4, 2014. An eighteen member Indian Air Force team is participating in the exercise, which involves exchange of

best practices in counter-terrorism training with helicopters, joint flights in fighter aircraft, fire-fighting and air defence.

'Avia Indra-2014' is part of regular exchanges of joint exercises between the armed forces of India and Russia. In the current sequence, the two navies held joint exercises from July 14 to 19, 2014 off the coast of Vladivostok. The two armies will hold their joint exercise, which will also focus on counter-terrorism actions, in September-October 2014.

## **Digital India Program**

The Narendra Modi Cabinet Wednesday gave approval for Digital India -- an ambitious programme to "transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy". Envisaged by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity), **Digital India will be implemented in phases from the current year till 2018.**

Digital India is transformational in nature and is aimed at ensuring that government services are available to citizens electronically, the government said. It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically.

**The programme aims at providing digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen as well as high-speed internet as a core utility in all gram panchayats.**

It also envisions providing a "cradle to grave digital identity" that is "unique, lifelong and online".

**The overall scope of this programme is "to prepare India for a knowledge future", "to make technology central to enabling change" and "to become an umbrella programme covering many departments",** Union Law and Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

The programme aims to seamlessly integrate departments to provide easy and a single window access to all persons. It also aims at making available government services in real time from online and mobile platforms. The government will set up a programme management structure for monitoring implementation of his programme.

The key components of the management structure would consist of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for according approval to projects, a Monitoring Committee headed by the Prime Minister, a Digital India Advisory Group chaired by the Minister of Communications and IT, an Apex Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

## **OTHER DECISIONS:**

\* The Union Cabinet also gave its approval to providing mobile services at 2,199 locations affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand,

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The project implementation cost through the open tendering process is approximately Rs 3,568 crore against the revised cost estimate of approximately Rs 3,216 crore. The project would be executed by BSNL.

\* The Cabinet also gave its approval for the Nagpur Metro Rail Project covering a length of approximately 38.21 km along two corridors. The total project cost is Rs 8,680 crore, with the government of India contributing Rs 1,555 crore in the form of equity and subordinate debt. The project shall be implemented by the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

**The year 2015-16 will be observed as water conservation year** and a public movement will be launched during the year to conserve the precious resource. Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Uma Bharti said.



Bharti said the cooperation of state governments, NGOs, civil society, youth and retired personnel will be taken in efforts aimed at conserving water.

"Public movement has become a necessity for conservation of water and rivers in the country. Water is an important element of development, but in some places the sacred water of river Ganga is not even fit for consumption by animals," Bharti said while inaugurating an international seminar here on water risk and water stewardship.

Poverty line state as per Rangarajan Panel **Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Assam** figure among the poorest states where over 40 per cent of people are below poverty line, according to the C Rangarajan panel.

According to the report of the panel headed by former PMEAC Chairman C Rangarajan, 47.9 per cent people are poor in Chhattisgarh followed by 46.7 per cent in Manipur and 45.9 per cent in Odisha in 2011-12.



**State Tamilnadu has largest number of universities in India.**



**President Pranab Mukherjee presents the Gandhi Peace Prize 2013 to environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday.— Photo: V. Sudershan**

Environmentalist and social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt was presented the Gandhi Peace Prize by President Pranab Mukherjee at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Tuesday.

The prize is an expression of India's belief that the ideals Mahatma Gandhi espoused are part of India's collective living heritage, the President said in his speech.

"This heritage is deeply imbued with the idea of being 'one people'. It is a celebration of our diversity, our plural culture, our many languages, religions and different modes of life. This was the idea that moved those who strove for India's freedom. Our deep and abiding commitment to democracy stems from this idea. We continue to be guided by these ideals; we remain committed to them not because it is our past, but because it is also our future," he said.

Praising Mr. Bhatt for his dedicated, tireless and invaluable work for the conservation of the environment, Mr. Mukherjee said as a life-long Gandhian, his work embodies a unique love, a love that has long since become universal.

"It is a love of nature and nature as encompassing entire creation. The Chipko movement started by him in 1973 followed the same method of peaceful and non-violent Satyagraha for the legitimate rights of the hill people to collect wood and fodder and saving them from natural calamities owing to large scale deforestation."

A Gandhian and a member of the Sarvodaya movement, Mr. Bhatt organised the Dashauli Gram Swarajya Sangh in 1964. He dedicated himself through the Sangh to improve the lives of villagers,



providing employment near their homes in forest-based industries, and fighting against wrong policies through Gandhian non-violent satyagraha.

Champions

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## Seniors

### Men's singles

Main article: [2014 Wimbledon Championships – Men's Singles](#)

- **[Novak Djokovic](#)** defeated  **[Roger Federer](#)**, 6–7<sup>(7–9)</sup>, 6–4, 7–6<sup>(7–4)</sup>, 5–7, 6–4

### Women's singles

Main article: [2014 Wimbledon Championships – Women's Singles](#)

-  **[Petra Kvitová](#)** defeated  **[Eugenie Bouchard](#)**, 6–3, 6–0

### Men's doubles

Main article: [2014 Wimbledon Championships – Men's Doubles](#)

-  **[Vasek Pospisil](#)** /  **[Jack Sock](#)** defeated  **[Bob Bryan](#)** /  **[Mike Bryan](#)**, 7–6<sup>(7–5)</sup>, 6–7<sup>(3–7)</sup>, 6–4, 3–6, 7–5




### Women's doubles

Main article: [2014 Wimbledon Championships – Women's Doubles](#)

-  **[Sara Errani](#)** /  **[Roberta Vinci](#)** defeated  **[Tímea Babos](#)** /  **[Kristina Mladenovic](#)**, 6–1, 6–3

### Mixed doubles

Main article: [2014 Wimbledon Championships – Mixed Doubles](#)

- **[Nenad Zimonjić](#)** /  **[Samantha Stosur](#)** defeated  **[Max Mirnyi](#)** /  **[Chan Hao-ching](#)**, 6–4, 6–2

The inauguration of India's first dedicated, world-class cycle track at Diu, was marked by a 'Cycle Rally' today. The Cycle Rally witnessed overwhelming participation by both tourists as well as local population. More than 300 cycling enthusiasts took part in the rally to promote green mobility, sustainable living, health and environmental sensitivity alongwith tourism in the island of Diu.

The cycle tracks were inaugurated on 3rd August 2014, by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs in the presence of key authorities of the Administration of UT of Daman & Diu. The Cycle Rally held today is an important awareness initiative aimed at safeguarding the diverse and fragile ecosystem by promoting cycling in Diu.

The 4.3 km long cycle track was dedicated to the people and tourists of Diu on Sunday. It is the first-of-its-kind track in India and built up at a cost of Rs. 3 crore to provide eco-friendly means of transport within the city. The project has been completed with the technical support of Ahmedabad based non-profit organization, Centre for Green Mobility (CGM). CGM is providing hand holding and technical support for creating cycling infrastructure for the whole island of Diu.

The Diu cycling network has been designed & planned as per international standards. The track is separated from the main moving traffic to provide safety to the cyclists. The track has been prepared under phase I of the Rs. 32 crore project being undertaken by the UT administration of Daman & Diu to prepare 11.34 km long track. The track will give tourists an opportunity to enjoy the serenity of Diu in an ideal way. Similarly, the local people can also use it for daily commute, as the length of the entire island is around 13 kms only.

The Diu cycling network has been designed & planned as per international standards and national safety standards too.

Diu is one of the favorite tourist destinations on the coastal belt of Saurashtra and having 21-km long seashore. The first 4.2km length connects Malala Junction to Nagoa beach; the second phase, expected to be completed by the end of the current year, will provide a connection from Beotli Junction right up to Varakbara Village, passing through the popular and beautiful beaches of Nagoa and Gombi. In its third phase, it is planned to connect old Fort and all other popular destinations of Diu including Chakratirth, Jallandar Beach, Naida Caves, St. Paul Church, Diu Museum, Fudam Church, etc. by cycle lanes on the existing beautiful roads.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Bhupinder S Bhalla, Administrator of UT of Daman & Diu, who flagged off the Cycle Rally, said “We are proud of having successfully created such world-class cycling infrastructure in Diu. The dedicated cycle tracks will give a great boost to tourism and environment in the city. Our objective is to transform Diu as an ecologically conscious tourist destination, and the dedicated cycle tracks are a significant step towards promoting green, environment friendly commuting. The aim is clear: to make Diu the cycling destination of India”.

Anuj Malhotra, Executive Director of Centre for Green Mobility said, “Diu has set an example for the Indian cities to help imbibe cycling culture and revive our traditional mobility. Such events will help make cycling popular in Diu. The cycle tracks match the best in the world and it for everyone to experience and enjoy them.”

Malhotra said: At present, the tourists are offered bike on rent, but in next two or three months good quality bicycles will also be offered. Hotel associations will come up with publicity literature for promotion of cycle track. About 50% part of the track will be coastal. Next plans involve tree plantation and construction of walkway.”

**India participated in the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom held from 23 July to 3 August 2014.**

- India fielded a strong 215 member contingent, their second largest ever.

- The sports ministry cleared the 215 athletes from 14 sporting disciplines, including seven para-athletes, at government cost, along with a contingent of 90 officials, coaches and support staff.
- The Glasgow Games had 17 sports and 261 medal events. India did not field athletes only in three disciplines—Netball, Rugby sevens and Triathlon.
- Vikas Gowda won a gold in the Men's Discus throw event, thus winning the first gold medal for India in men's athletics in 56 years.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Joshana Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal scripted history by winning the first gold for India in Squash at Commonwealth Games.<sup>[3]</sup>
- Kashyap Parupalli won a gold in Badminton Men's Singles, becoming the first Indian male shuttler in 32 years to win a gold medal in the singles event at the Commonwealth Games.<sup>[4]</sup>

Medal	Name	Sport	Event	Date
1 Gold	Sanjita Khumukchan	Weightlifting	Women's Weightlifting (48 kg)	24 July
1 Gold	Sukhen Dey	Weightlifting	Men's Weightlifting (56 kg)	24 July
1 Gold	Abhinav Bindra	Shooting	Men's Shooting (10 metre air rifle)	25 July
1 Gold	Apurvi Chandela	Shooting	Women's Shooting (10 metre air rifle)	26 July
1 Gold	Rahi Sarnobat	Shooting	Women's Shooting (25 metre pistol)	26 July
1 Gold	Sathish Sivalingam	Weightlifting	Men's Weightlifting (77 kg)	27 July
1 Gold	Jitu Rai	Shooting	Men's Shooting (50 metre pistol)	28 July

1	Gold	Amit Kumar	Wrestling	Men's Wrestling (57 kg)	29 July
1	Gold	Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling	Women's Wrestling (48 kg)	29 July
1	Gold	Sushil Kumar	Wrestling	Men's Wrestling (74 kg)	29 July
1	Gold	Babita Kumari	Wrestling	Women's Wrestling (55 kg)	31 July
1	Gold	Yogeshwar Dutt	Wrestling	Men's Wrestling (65 kg)	31 July
1	Gold	Vikas Gowda	Athletics	Men's Discus Throw	31 July
1	Gold	Dipika Pallikal Joshna Chinappa	Squash	Women's Doubles	2 August
1	Gold	Kashyap Parupalli	Badminton	Men's Singles	3 August
2	Silver	Mirabai Chanu Saikhom	Weightlifting	Women's Weightlifting (48 kg)	24 July
2	Silver	Shushila Likmabam	Judo	Women's Judo (48 kg)	24 July
2	Silver	Navjot Chana	Judo	Men's Judo (60 kg)	24 July
2	Silver	Malaika Goel	Shooting	Women's Shooting (10 metre air pistol)	25 July
2	Silver	Santoshi Matsa	Weightlifting	Women's Weightlifting (53 kg)	25 July



2 Silver	Prakash Nanjappa	Shooting	Men's Shooting (10 metre air pistol)	26 July
2 Silver	Ayonika Paul	Shooting	Women's Shooting (10 metre air rifle)	26 July
2 Silver	Anisa Sayyed	Shooting	Women's Shooting (25 metre pistol)	26 July
2 Silver	Shreyasi Singh	Shooting	Women's Shooting (Double Trap)	27 July
2 Silver	Katulu Ravi Kumar	Weightlifting	Men's Weightlifting (77 kg)	27 July
2 Silver	Gurpal Singh	Shooting	Men's Shooting (50 metre pistol)	28 July
2 Silver	Gagan Narang	Shooting	Men's Shooting (50 metre rifle prone)	28 July
2 Silver	Vikas Thakur	Weightlifting	Men's Weightlifting (85 kg)	28 July
2 Silver	Harpreet Singh	Shooting	Men's Shooting (25 metre rapid fire pistol)	29 July
2 Silver	Sanjeev Rajput	Shooting	Men's Shooting (50 metre rifle 3 positions)	29 July
2 Silver	Rajeev Tomar	Wrestling	Men's Wrestling (125 kg)	29 July
2 Silver	Lalita Sehrawat	Wrestling	Women's Wrestling (53 kg)	30 July
2 Silver	Bajrang Kumar	Wrestling	Men's Wrestling (61 kg)	30 July



2 Silver	Sakshi Malik	Wrestling	Women's Wrestling (58 kg)	30 July
2 Silver	Satyawart Kadian	Wrestling	Men's Wrestling (97 kg)	30 July
2 Silver	Geetika Jakhar	Wrestling	Women's Wrestling (63 kg)	31 July
2 Silver	Seema Punia	Athletics	Women's Discus Throw	1 August
2 Silver	Achanta Sharath Kamal Amalraj Anthony Arputharaj	Table tennis	Men's Doubles	1 August
2 Silver	Laishram Sarita Devi	Boxing	Women's Boxing (Lightweight)	2 August
2 Silver	Devendro Singh	Boxing	Men's Boxing (Light Flyweight)	2 August
2 Silver	Mandeep Jangra	Boxing	Men's Boxing (Welterweight)	2 August
2 Silver	Rajinder Rahelu	Weightlifting	Men's +72 kg	2 August
2 Silver	Vijender Singh	Boxing	Men's Boxing (Middleweight)	2 August
2 Silver	Men's hockey team	Hockey	Men's Tournament	3 August
2 Silver	Jwala Gutta Ashwini Ponnappa	Badminton	Women's Doubles	3 August

3	Bronze	Ganesh Mali	Weightlifting	Men's Weightlifting (56 kg)	24 July
3	Bronze	Kalpana Thoudam	Judo	Women's Judo (52 kg)	24 July
3	Bronze	Swati Singh	Weightlifting	Women's Weightlifting (53 kg)	25 July
3	Bronze	Rajwinder Kaur	Judo	Women's Judo (+78 kg)	26 July
3	Bronze	Omkar Otari	Weightlifting	Men's Weightlifting (69 kg)	26 July
3	Bronze	Mohammed Asab	Shooting	Men's Shooting (Double Trap)	27 July
3	Bronze	Punam Yadav	Weightlifting	Women's Weightlifting (63 kg)	27 July
3	Bronze	Manavjit Singh Sandhu	Shooting	Men's Shooting (Trap)	29 July
3	Bronze	Gagan Narang	Shooting	Men's Shooting (50 metre rifle 3 positions)	29 July
3	Bronze	Lajja Goswami	Shooting	Women's Shooting (50 metre rifle 3 positions)	29 July
3	Bronze	Chandrakant Mall	Weightlifting	Men's Weightlifting (94 kg)	29 July
3	Bronze	Navjot Kaur	Wrestling	Women's Wrestling (69 kg)	30 July
3	Bronze	Dipa Karmakar	Gymnastics	Women's Gymnastics (Vault)	31 July

3 Bronze	Pawan Kumar	Wrestling	Men's Wrestling (86 kg)	31 July
3 Bronze	Pinki Rani	Boxing	Women's Boxing (Flyweight)	1 August
3 Bronze	Sakina Khatun	Weightlifting	Women's 61 kg	2 August
3 Bronze	P. V. Sindhu	Badminton	Women's Singles	2 August
3 Bronze	R.M.V. Gurusaidutt	Badminton	Men's Singles	2 August
3 Bronze	Arpinder Singh	Athletics	Men's Triple Jump	2 August

Medals by sport				
Sport	1	2	3	Total
Wrestling	5	6	2	13
Shooting	4	9	4	17
Weightlifting	3	5	6	14
Badminton	1	1	2	4

Athletics	1	1	1	3
Squash	1	0	0	1
Boxing	0	4	1	5
Judo	0	2	2	4
Hockey	0	1	0	1
Table tennis	0	1	0	1
Gymnastics	0	0	1	1
Aquatics	0	0	0	0
Cycling	0	0	0	0
Lawn bowls	0	0	0	0
Netball	Did not participate			
Rugby sevens	Did not participate			
Triathlon	Did not participate			

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Total	15	30	19	64
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Here is the list of world's most populated cities as reported by the UN.

1. **Tokyo, Japan** : Tokyo tops the list and remains the world's largest city with 38 million dwellers.

Though the UN has predicted a decline in the city's population, it will still remain the world's most populous city in 2030 with 37 million inhabitants.

2. **Delhi, India**: With 25 million, the Indian capital is the second-most populated city in the world. The UN has projected that the population can swiftly rise to 36 million in 2030.

3. **Mexico City, Mumbai and São Paulo**: Each of these cities is ranked third on the population index with around 21 million urban inhabitants.

4. **Osaka, Japan**: This Japanese city has population just above 20 million and is ranked fourth.

5. **Beijing, China**: The Chinese capital is fifth in the UN urban population chart with just below 20 million city dwellers.

6. **New York-Newark area and Cairo**: These two cities complete the chart for the top ten most populous urban areas with around 18.5 million dwellers each.

## FIFA WORLD CUP

2018 – RUSSIA

2022 – QATAR

What is the name of India's first multi-sensor moored observatory that was deployed between North Pole and Norway during July 2014?

– IndARC

Explanation : The IndARC observatory has been termed as a major milestone in India's scientific endeavours in the Arctic region. This observatory has been designed and developed by the Earth System Science Organisation-National Institute of Ocean Technology (ESSO-NIOT) Chennai and ESSO-National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR). It was deployed from the

Norwegian Polar Institute's research vessel R.V. Lance in Kongsfjorden Fjord of the Arctic roughly halfway between North Pole and Norway on 23 July 2014.

## **Expenditure Management Commission (EMC)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the constitution of an Expenditure Management Commission (EMC) that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced in his Budget Speech in July. The Commission is expected to recommend major expenditure reforms that will enable the government to lower its fiscal deficit. Over time, a fiscal deficit in control will help the Government to strengthen the macro economy and ease inflation in the country.

The Commission will be mandated with the task of suggesting an overhaul for reducing the food, fertiliser and oil subsidies and other ways of controlling India's fiscal deficit. It is expected to submit its interim report before the presentation of the 2015-16 Budget next February. The final report is expected before the Budget of 2016-17. The Government will shortly issue the terms of reference for the Commission.

**Former Reserve Bank Governor Bimal Jalan will head the Commission. Members include former Finance Secretary Sumit Bose and former Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn, according to an official release issued here.**

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government had twice extended Dr. Jalan's tenure as the Reserve Bank Governor in 2000 and then again in 2002.

Mr. Jaitley had said in his Budget speech: "my Government is committed to the principle of Minimum Government Maximum Governance."

**Order of Award**

**Top - Parma Vir Chakra**

**Then Ashok Chakra**

**Lower - Padma Vibhushan**



**Ashoka Chakra Award, the highest peace , time gallantry award of india**

Date	Name	Notes
2014	<u>Major Mukund Varadarajan</u>	of 44th Battalion of the <u>Rashtriya Rifles</u> (22 Rajput) - Varadarajan was leading a search for militants in Qazipathri in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on April 25 when a group of <u>Hizbul Mujahideen</u> terrorists fired on his unit. Varadarajan displayed exemplary leadership skills and raw courage under fire, eliminating three members of the terror outfit in a gunfight that lasted for more than 20 hours. Varadarajan and sepoy Vikram Singh from Haryana's Rewari were killed in the exchange of fire.
2013	<u>Inspector KLVSSNV Prasad Babu</u>	of <u>Andhra Pradesh Police</u> - Prasad had played a crucial role in gunning down 10 Maoists in the encounter in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh in April 2013. However, while returning to the state along with his team, the Maoists opened fire on an IAF chopper which arrived in Kancharla forests to pick up the Greyhounds personnel. In the melee, Prasad Babu got lost in the forest and the chopper had to take off without him. According to Greyhounds sources, Prasad Babu fought with the Maoists bravely for several hours till his ammunition got exhausted. He was then captured and killed by the left-wing extremists.
2012	<u>Lt. Navdeep Singh</u>	of 15 <u>Maratha Light Infantry</u> – LT Navdeep Singh, commander of the Ghatak platoon, was posted on a line of control of a high altitude area. On 20 August 2011 at 0030 Hrs, he received information of terrorist infiltration and decided to attack. In the middle of gunfire, he himself killed three terrorists from close range. He was shot in the head, but he fearlessly carried on and killed the 4th terrorist. He showed great valor and brotherhood while saving his fellow soldier. Despite being injured, he kept on firing till he fainted. He sacrificed his life while carrying out this operation.
2011	<u>Major Laishram Jyotin Singh</u>	who was posted at the Indian Embassy in Kabul during 26 January Suicide

Date	Name	Notes
		Attack at the Embassy. When a terrorist killed three perimeter guards and entered the compound firing wildly, he counterattacked with his bare hands and caused a bomb vest worn by a terrorist to explode outside, causing less damage than intended. He was awarded the Ashoka Chakra for extreme bravery in the face of danger.

#### 4 C Signed with Nepal and PM Visit after 17 Years

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday wound up his "historic" visit to Nepal with a slew of sops focusing on the 4 Cs — cooperation, connectivity, culture and constitution — to enhance bilateral ties.

Modi, the first Indian prime minister to visit Nepal in 17 years, stressed the importance of the constitution writing to the Nepalese leadership including President Ram Baran Yadav and Prime Minister Sushil Koirala.

"You should not think about the party but the country. Nepal needs a constitution at the earliest," Minister of external Affairs spokesman Syed Akbaruddin quoted Modi as telling them.

#### Human Development Index – India at 135 as UNDP

The HDR covers 187 countries across the world and is published annually by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In the current report, the top five countries ranked in terms of the HDI are Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Netherlands and the US. The bottom five in this ranking are Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Chad and Sierra Leone.

India is ranked at 135, among the 'medium development' countries like Egypt, South Africa, Mongolia, Philippines and Indonesia. Among India's neighbours, Bhutan and Bangladesh too figure in this category. Pakistan (ranked 146) and Nepal (145) are in the 'low development' category, while Sri Lanka (73) is in the 'high development' category.

While most of the world is trying to diminish child labour, Bolivia has become the first nation to legalise it from age 10. Congress approved the legislation early this month, and Vice-President Alvaro Garcia signed it into law on Thursday in the absence of President Evo Morales, who was travelling.

The bill's sponsors say lowering the minimum work age from 14 simply acknowledges a reality: Many poor families in Bolivia have no other choice than for their kids to work. The bill offers working children safeguards, they say.

"Child labour already exists in Bolivia and it's difficult to fight it. Rather than persecute it, we want to protect the rights and guarantee the labour security of children," said Sen. Adolfo Mendoza, one of the bill's sponsors.

Under the legislation, 10-year-olds will be able to work as long as they are under parental supervision and also attend school. It sets 12 as the minimum age for a child to work under contract. They also would have to attend school.

"To eliminate work for boys and girls would be like eliminating people's social conscience," Mr. Morales said in December in support of unionised young workers who marched on Congress to prevent it from ratifying a bottom-end work age of 14.

"The President gave us his support. He also worked as a boy, herding llamas," Rodrigo Medrano, head of the Union of Boy, Girl and Adolescent Workers, told The Associated Press. He said there is no alternative in a society where half the population is poor.

Jo Becker, the children's rights advocacy director at New York-based Human Rights Watch, disagrees.

"Bolivia's move is out of step with the rest of the world," she said. "Child labour may be seen as a short-term solution to economic hardship, but is actually a cause of poverty."