

Current Affairs March 2014

International:

- The US handed over to India three stolen antique sculptures which valued more than 1.5 million dollars, in a display of cooperation between the two countries following a month-long row over the arrest and indictment of an Indian diplomat here. US wants to maintain friendly ties with India.
- WHO announced and certified South East Asia region as a polio-free after India's victory over polio disease on 27th March, 2014.
- On the 26th of March General Sedki Sobhi pledged as the Defence Minister and Army Chief of Egypt
- According to the reports from WHO, 7 million people died in 2012 due to Air pollution.
- Earth Hour was observed by the world on 29th March, 2014 i.e. Saturday at 8:30 PM- 9:30 PM.
- Australia has decided to take the steps to deploy a modified Boeing 737 to act as a flying air traffic controller over the Indian Ocean, whose task is to prevent a mid-air collision among the aircraft searching for the Malaysia Airlines jet that went missing over three weeks ago, an official said on Tuesday.
- Military Government of Fiji has announced that it is going to regulate the democratic elections on 17 September.
- Saudi King has announced that his half-brother Moqren will be appointed as next heir to throne.
- According to a global rights watchdog, domestic workers from Asian countries, including India, who accompany their employers to the UK are being subjected to serious abuses, including forced labour and no wages are given to them. They suffer physical and psychological torture. In April 2012, the UK abolished the right of migrant domestic workers to change employer once they are in the UK. This makes it harder for them to escape.

National:

- 100th Birthday of Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw will be celebrated on 03 April 14.
- The feat of shrinking the ion source that requires very little voltage was achieved by a team led by Prof. T. Pradeep of the Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras. The results were published last week in the Angewandte Chemie International journal. Mass spectrometers that are as small as a smart phone and require as little as one volt — a 3,000-time reduction in potential — to create an electric field which would turn a sample into ions for identification of composition may soon become a reality.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has called its mission to send Indian astronauts to space under the Human Space Flight (HSF) programme. This mission is a really valuable asset for India as it holds the significance of the mission that it will be a forerunner to India sending its astronauts to space. For, the GSLV-Mk III in this flight will carry a crew capsule without

astronauts. The capsule will return to earth with the help of parachutes. The mission will take place in June or first week of July.

- According to our reports, sixth Indian national has been jailed for his role in the December 8 riots here in which mobs indulged in vandalism after a private bus ran over another Indian. Krishnan Saravanan, 31, was convicted of the amended charge of failing to disperse despite being lawfully commanded to do so. He has been jailed for 18 weeks, the Straits Times reported Tuesday.
- With actor-turned-politician Smriti Irani who has entered the fray as a BJP candidate in Amethi, a war of words seems to have broken out between her and AAP contender Kumar Vishwas over his remark that any “Irani or Pakistani” will not make any difference in the constituency.
- Supreme Court on Tuesday demanded from the Centre to produce all the records relating to the notification to include Jaat community in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list for seven States to find out whether the government had applied its mind before such inclusion. Supreme Court has observed it as a serious issue.

Sports:

- Rusi Dinshaw, Pakistan’s only Parsi cricketer expired on 24th March, 2014.
- Novak Djokovic won his fourth career title at the Miami Masters on Sunday with a 6—3, 6—3 defeat of top seed Rafael Nadal.
- Lewis Hamilton has emerged as the winner of the Malaysian Grand Prix.
- Without giving any opinion on the merits of the allegations against BCCI president N. Srinivasan, the Supreme Court on Friday appointed the former India skipper, Sunil Gavaskar, as the interim president of the board to discharge the functions of the Indian Premier League 2014 until its final order on the IPL spot-fixing and betting scandal. Gavaskar is going to supervise the the IPL 2014.
- The BCCI on Friday accepted the Supreme Court’s without posing any resistance against the decision. BCCI accepted SC’s decision of not to suspend the Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals from the IPL and said the order to make Sunil Gavaskar interim president was “acceptable” to the Board.

Science & Technology:

- For the first time ever a miniature planet with two rings has been spotted by the astronomers.
- According to the latest researches done by the scientists, it was reported in UN panel that water issue may cause problems in the coming future. This report on Climate Change was released by the US panel on 30 March 2014 and it has warned that the climate change being faced in Asia has increased the risk of armed conflict among India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China. According to the report, there is a possibility that the war might occur due to the severe stress on water resources and food-grain production in future, due to climatic change.
- China has announced that it has started constructing a \$330-million underground neutrino detector this week which, upon completion, is going to have similar goals as the Indian Neutrino

Observatory (INO) coming up in Theni, Tamil Nadu. The underground neutrino detector is going to be situated at a site 150 km west of Hong Kong, the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) is going to be build underground under the supervision of the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP), Beijing.

- Google has recently launched the indoor maps in India that are going to be helpful to the users in browsing through and locating specific locations inside venues like malls and museums. It has also been announced that the service is going to be available for free to Android and iOS users.
- Archaeologists have recently unearthed a 3300 year old tomb which was known to have a 7-metre-high pyramid at its entrance in an ancient cemetery in Egypt. The tomb is located at the site of Abydos and it contained disarticulated skeletal remains from three to four men, 10 to 12 women and at least two children.

Awards:

- Dr. Sumit Chugh who is a renowned Indian- American Cardiologist and another researcher has been chosen for the Prestigious Simon Dack Award for Outstanding Scholarship. He is going to be awarded in recognition of his contributions to the organization's peer-reviewed medical journals.