

CURRENT AFFAIRS 2013

1. Oscars Awards-2013

85th Oscar awards presentation ceremony held in Los Angeles on 25 February 2013. In this ceremony Life of Pi cinema got a 4 Oscar awards.

Best Picture: Argo

Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis (Lincoln)

Best Actress: Jennifer Lawrence (Silver Linings Playbook)

Best Supporting Actor: Christoph Waltz (Django Unchained)

Best Supporting Actress: Anne Hathaway (Les Misérables)

Best Directing: Ang Lee (Life of Pi)

Best Adapted Screenplay: Chris Terrio (Argo)

Best Original Screenplay: Quentin Tarantino (Django Unchained)

Best Documentary Feature: Searching for Sugar Man

Best Original Song: "Skyfall" from Skyfall, music and lyrics by Adele Adkins and Paul Epworth

Best Original Score: Life of Pi

Best Animated Feature: Brave

Best Cinematography: Life of Pi Best Costume Design: Anna Karenina

Best Documentary Short Subject: Innocente

Best Film Editing: Argo

Best Foreign Language Film: Amour (Austria)

Best Makeup and Hairstyling: Les Misérables

Best Production Design: Lincoln

Best Short Film (Animated): Paperman

Best Short Film (Live Action): Curfew

Best Sound Editing: Skyfall (TIE), Zero Dark Thirty (TIE),

Best Sound Mixing: Les Misérables

Best Visual Effects: Life of Pi

- 2.The Chief Justice who was sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Nepal by taking over the office from Baburam Bhattarai- Khil Raj Regmi
- 3.The new leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), who was appointed as the President of China- Xi Jinping
- 4.The India Tourism Film, which claimed First Prize at 11th Golden City Gate Awards- Find What You Seek
- 5.The Venezuelan President who died due to cancer on 5 March 2013 at Caracas-Hugo Chavez
- 6.Venezuelan Vice- President who was sworn in as Venezuela's acting president- Nicolas Maduro
- 7.The city which won the award for most liveable Indian city by IPSOS Best City Survey and Awards 2013 event in New Delhi –Nagpur
- 8.The Person who was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya for the second term by taking oath as 26th CM of the state-Mukul Manda Sangma
- 9.The Person who conferred with the Liberation War Honour Award by the President of Bangladesh, Zillur Rahman-Pranab Mukherjee
- 10.The Business tycoon who retained his title as the richest person of India for the sixth consecutive year with the net worth of 21.5 billion US Dollars-Mukesh Ambani
- 11.Famous Italian musician and composer who had written the scores for about 300 films died at the age of 95- Armando Trovajoli
- 12.The book released by the Vice President of India, M. Hamid Ansari which is written by K. Natwar Singh, the former Union Minister for External Affairs-Walking with Lions: Tales from a Diplomatic Past
- 13.The new communication satellite launched by NASA on 31 January 2013 to stay in touch with its space station astronauts-TDRS(Tracking and Data Relay Satellite)

14. President of Republic of Mauritius who visited India from 3 Jan 2013 to 10 Jan 2013 and was honoured with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award- Rajkeswur Purryag

15. The King of Bhutan who visited India from 23 to 30 January 2013 and was the Chief Guest for the Republic Day Celebration- Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

16. US Marine General who took over the command of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan- Joseph Dunford

17. Code name given to secret plan for executing Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist Afzal Guru in Tihar Jail on 9 February 2013 -Operation Three Star

18. The Person appointed as the chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi on 12 February 2013- Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty

19. Prime Minister of the Himalayan Kingdom Bhutan was on an official visit to India from 7 Feb. to 9 Feb. 2013- Lyonchhen Jigmi Y. Thinley

20. World Radio Day was observed on which day to raise awareness about the importance of radio- 12 February 2013

21. The person who was appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations on 13 February 2013- Asoke Kumar Mukerji

22. The Country which banned the Japanese cartoon Doraemon in the third week of February 2013 because of the fears of Hindi invasion- Bangladesh

23. The Person who was conferred with Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development Award 2011 by the President of India Pranab Mukherjee on 18 Feb 2013 -Ela Ramesh Bhatt

24. The Ecuador's President who was re-elected for a third term with more than 50 percent of the vote- Rafael Correa

25.The former LIC chief who took over as the Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) on 21 February 2013- T. S. Vijayan

26.The Person who had sworn -in as the first woman President of South Korea on 25 February 2013- Park Geun-hye

27.Pakistan Hands Over Strategic Gwadar Port To China

On 18 February Pakistan and China signed an agreement to hand over control of the strategic Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea to a Chinese company.Under the agreement for transfer of concession rights, the deep sea port will remain the property of Pakistan while the Chinese company will share profits from its operation. China Overseas Port Holdings Limited will fully assume responsibility for Gwadar port in Balochistan province.

28.India-Malaysia Double Taxation Agreement in Force

On 2 February India and Malaysia signed on double-taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA). Dividends paid by Indian companies to Malaysian investors or entities will attract a lower withholding tax of 5 percent against 10 per cent earlier. The new agreement has also, in line with international practice, introduced a new article for taxing capital gains from alienation of property.

29.India Failed To Curb Sexual Violence Against Women

According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW) ‘ World Report 2013 ‘ India has been accused of failure to curb incidents of sexual violence against women and for restrictions on right to free speech, India “has a thriving civil society, free media, and an independent judiciary”, the city-based rights group said in its assessment of rights abuses in India.

30.India won Kishanganga Case Against Pakistan

On 18 February the Court of Arbitration at the Hague allowed India to go ahead with the Construction of the Kishanganga hydroelectric project in Gurez valley near Bandipura in North Kashmir, the court

rejected the plea of Pakistan that the construction was a violation of 1960 Indus Water Treaty. The Court of Arbitration, chaired by Stephen M. Schwebel in its orders stated that India can move ahead with the diversion of water plans of Kishanganga that is a tributary of Jhelum, for generation of hydro-electric power. But it restrained India from adoption of the drawdown technique of flushing for clearing the sedimentation of the run-of-the river project that had been designed and asked it to adopt a different technique for generation of 330 MW power facilities

31. President Gave Assent to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013

On 3 February President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 which provides for, amongst other things, stricter punishment for crimes against women. The Ordinance was to be largely based on the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee. However, the Ordinance will have to be passed by Parliament within six months otherwise the same shall lapse.

32. Wrestling Dropped From 2020 Olympic Games List

On 12 February the International Olympic Committee (IOC) leaders dropped wrestling from the 2020 Olympic Games. Wrestling will be included at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The IOC board acted after reviewing the 26 sports on the current Olympic program. Eliminating one sport allows the IOC to add a new sport to the program later this year. Wrestling will now join seven other sports in applying for inclusion in 2020. The others are a combined bid from baseball and softball, karate, squash, roller sports, sport climbing, wakeboarding and wushu. They will be vying for a single opening in 2020. The last sports removed from the Olympics were baseball and softball, voted out by the IOC in 2005 and off the program since the

2008 Beijing Games. Golf and Rugby will be joining the program at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

33. PSLV-C20 Successfully Launched 'SARAL' and 6 Other Satellites

On 25 February ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dawan Space centre at SPSR Nellore in Sriharikota, launched the Indo-French satellite "SARAL" along with six commercial payloads from Austria, Britain, Canada and Denmark into a 785-km polar sunsynchronous orbit. It was the 23rd mission of PSLV, which has an impeccable record of 21 consecutive successful flights.

About SARAL:- – The Saral mission results from the common interest of both ISRO and CNES in studying the ocean from space. For instance, it can provide information on seasonal forecasting, study on animal migration, locating 'buoys' and fishing vessels, collecting environmental data such as ocean temperature profiles and currents. Besides Saral, the PSLV-C20 has put into orbit two micro-satellites UniBRITE and BRITE (both from Austria), AAUSAT3 from Denmark and STRaND from UK. It also carried one micro-satellite (NEOSSat) and one mini-satellite (SAPPHIRE) from Canada. With a lift-off mass of 407 kg, Saral is the 56th satellite to be launched by PSLV. The six commercial payloads from abroad together have a lift-off mass of 259.5 kg. PSLV-C20 is the ninth PSLV in 'core alone' configuration (without solid strap-on motors).

34. "Khushwantnama: The Lessons of My Life" Book Released

On 2 February 2013 The indomitable Khushwant Singh has released a new book named "Khushwantnama: The Lessons of My Life" on his 98th birthday in which he writes about his life, lessons it has taught him, politics, future of India and what religion means to him. The book, published by Penguin Books India, is dedicated to Kaur who is a close friend of the author. Khushwant Singh was a Member of Parliament from 1980 to 1986. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974 but returned the decoration in 1984 in protest against the

storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar by the Indian Army. In 2007, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan.

35. "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Germany" Book Released

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose new book named 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Germany' released on 6 February. The First copy of the book by Professor Anita B. Pfaff was given to the President of India Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan at New Delhi. The book was brought out by the Federation of Indo-German Societies in India. The book is a collection of the records shared by Professor Anita Pfaff as well as other known biographers and writers. The book portrayed some interesting facets of the life of Netaji and his extraordinary contribution to India's freedom struggle.