

A Day in the Life of Ruskin Bond

by Shairya Saxena

This is a semi-fictional account, pieced together from the various writings and interviews by Ruskin Bond and the travels of the Macmillan Education editorial team. Mr Bond is a famous writer who spends his days in the quiet and idyllic hamlet of Landour, situated around 1000 feet above the hustle and bustle of Mussoorie.

18 June 2016 (Saturday)

6:15 am

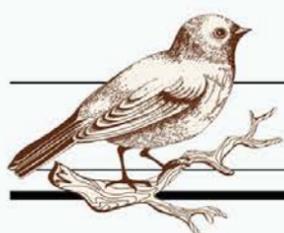
Walking up from Mussoorie and climbing the road along the Landour Bazaar, we pass by small antique shops and bakeries with their shutters still firmly down. As one nears the T-point at the end of the Bazaar, a large colourful building with a plum tree in the front looms up. At least, one-half of the British inn-style building is splashed with bright paintings of ferocious Tibetan-style dragons. The other half of the building is an austere white with cherry-red-rimmed glass windows.



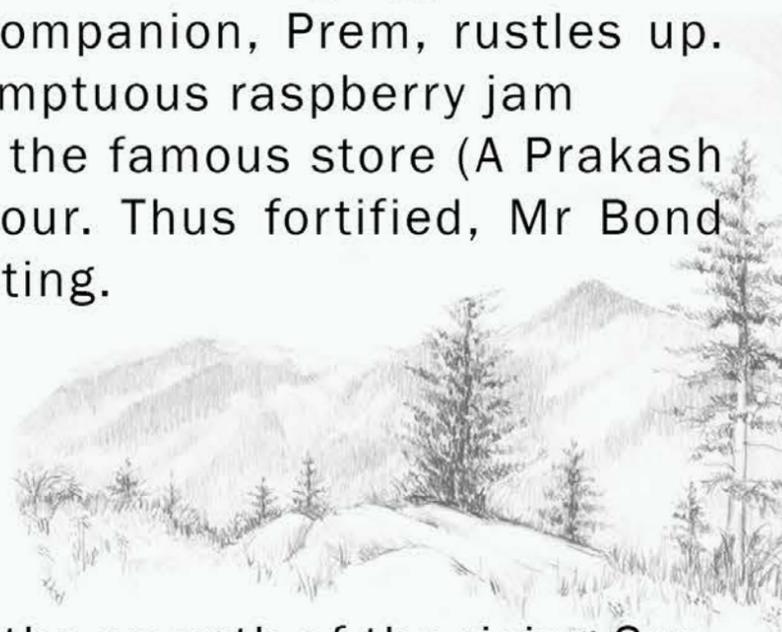
Dragons along the wall

The shutter of the top-left cherry-red window is flung open, and a lone figure (Ruskin Bond) sits near to the ledge pondering into the Doon Valley below. The horizon over the valley has a dull glow signalling the fast approaching sunrise.

Thus, another day begins in the subtly eventful life of the prolific writer. One can almost smell the sizzling eggs and toast that Mr Bond's default son and companion, Prem, rustles up. He does not forget to serve the sumptuous raspberry jam (Mr Bond's favourite) bought from the famous store (A Prakash & Co.) on the other side of Landour. Thus fortified, Mr Bond spends some time reading and writing.



10:00 am



As the morning chill is replaced by the warmth of the rising Sun, Mr Bond checks his mails and updates his correspondence with his publishers.

Sid (Siddharth), who lives next door in the building covered with colourful dragons, is home from school for the holidays. He saunters in and spends time exchanging stories with Mr Bond. A yellow-coloured warbler flies in from the window and cannot find its way out. It flaps its wings against the glass and is finally rescued by Sid. The little yellow warbler perches on Sid's finger for some time and then flies out to the plum tree, from where it flies into the oak forest beyond.



A yellow-coloured warbler

12:00 pm

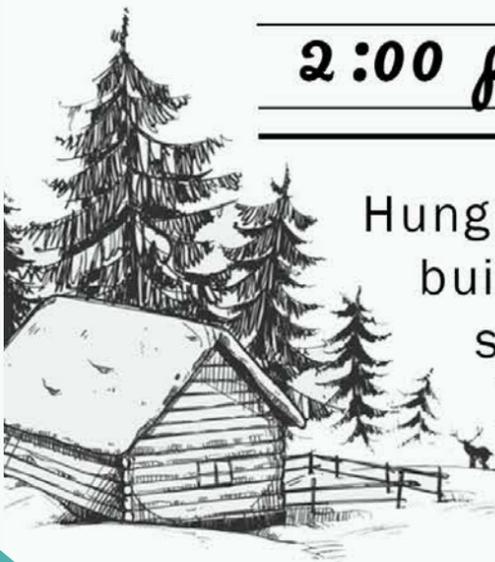
Before the June tourist rush begins its tour of Landour, with many nosy fans coming as far as knocking at Mr Bond's door, our wily writer picks up his umbrella and hastens towards a leisurely walk in the hills. Prem, his companion, has been instructed to tell the nosy tourists that Mr Bond is indisposed due to a stomach upset.

Mr Bond, meanwhile, saunters through the back alleys of Landour, admiring the tenacity of dandelions that grow out of stone crevices and still manage to bloom beautifully.



Dandelions bloom under the sun

2:00 pm



Hungry from his walk, Mr Bond walks up the stairs of the building that leads to his apartment at the top. Prem suggests some pea soup with sunflower seeds, but Mr Bond prefers bread and butter with some tea made with condensed milk. This is followed by a citrusy lemon tart fresh from the oven.

After a hearty meal, Mr Bond settles down to rest, after which he will be ready to meet his readers and fans.

3:00 pm

A long line of people trails outside the Cambridge Book Store on the Mall Road in Mussoorie. Large banners carrying Ruskin Bond's pictures flutter in the light June breeze. The store stocks an impressive collection of Mr Bond's books which the readers are eager to buy to have them autographed. The line of people starts buzzing with noises as a sedan pulls up carrying Mr Bond. Ever comfortable with the crowd, Mr Bond exchanges friendly words as he makes his way to the front of the bookshop where he is given a seat.

The Macmillan editors make their way to Mr Bond and exchange pleasantries.

The sprightly author tells them of a path through the jungle that leads to a hidden cove and stream. He signs their books (all ten of them!) and then graciously poses for pictures.



Macmillan editors with Ruskin Bond



7:00 pm

After a rather hectic day meeting his readers, Mr Bond is set for a party at the Savoy Hotel. The party is accompanied by a heavy storm during which the lights go out, giving a surreal appearance to the historic hotel in the hills. The guests and waiters stumble on to one another. There is laughter and chaos. Candles are lit and the food is served. The party continues in the quaint little twin towns of Landour and Mussoorie.



The Savoy Hotel in Mussoorie

Photo credit: <https://www.fortunehotels.in/mussoorie-fortune-the-savoy-photos.dhp.146>



A Growing Concern: Lack of Physical Activity

by Shaihya Saksena



WHY
DO
WE NEED
PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Physical education has become an important topic of concern. This is because of the excessively sedentary lifestyle that the school-going children and young adults have adopted.



Technological advances and sedentary lifestyle

The younger generation is surrounded by technological advances that have become a large part of their everyday lives. Sources of entertainment and leisure such as satellite television with multiple channels, video games, Internet surfing, and so on have encouraged them to lead less physically active lives.



Eating patterns

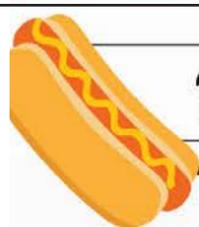
Combined with the sedentary lifestyle brought about by technological advances, the intake of fast foods and sweetened, aerated drinks has increased. In many cases, where junk food was earlier eaten occasionally, it has now become a part of the regular meals of the younger generation.



Obesity

A sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy eating patterns have led to a rising epidemic of obesity in India. Obesity is a condition in which someone is too fat in a way that is dangerous for their health. It has become a major concern for Indians, especially children. A study was conducted recently among 24,000 school children in South India. It showed that the percentage of overweight children increased from 4.94 of the total students in 2003 to 6.57 in 2005.





Diabetes

A sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy eating patterns and in most cases obesity leads to diabetes. Diabetes is a serious medical condition in which your body does not produce enough insulin to reduce the amount of sugar in the blood. Some clinic-based studies have been conducted in different parts of India. These studies show a consistent increase in the proportion of individuals with type 2 diabetes among adolescents. One of these studies from Chennai shows that 49.1 per cent of individuals diagnosed with diabetes at a young age (<25 years) at the clinic during 2006–2009 had type 2 diabetes.



Peer pressure

The question that the children and young adults need to ask themselves is why do they agree to and continue living unhealthy lives. Apart from those who continue such a lifestyle because of lack of inclination towards physical activity, peer pressure may also play a large role in the younger generation choosing an unhealthy lifestyle. When adolescents see their peers enjoying and bonding over a particular activity such as playing video games, they tend to join their peers. Their eating choices are also determined by what their peers are consuming.

WHAT CAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS DO TO LIVE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE LIVES?

According to the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health outlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO), young people between the ages of 5 and 17 should do at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Most of the daily physical activities should be aerobic in nature.

Other activities that strengthen the muscle and the bone should be incorporated at least three times a week. Young people who have been inactive should incorporate physical activity in their day progressively. They should start with smaller amounts of physical activity and then gradually increase the duration and intensity. Along with the right amount of physical activity, children and young adults should choose healthier eating options and avoid junk food.

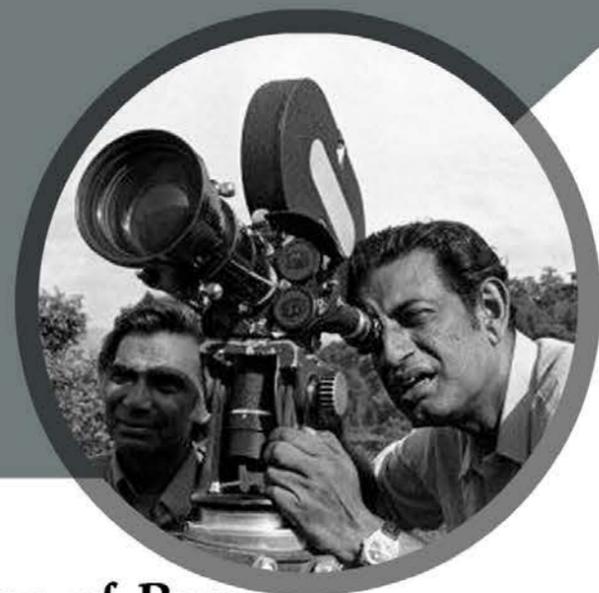




A Ray beyond Oblivion

A tribute to the man who could capture magic

by Tanumoy Bismas



Not to have seen the cinema of Ray
means existing in the world
without seeing the sun
or the moon.

(Akira Kurosawa)

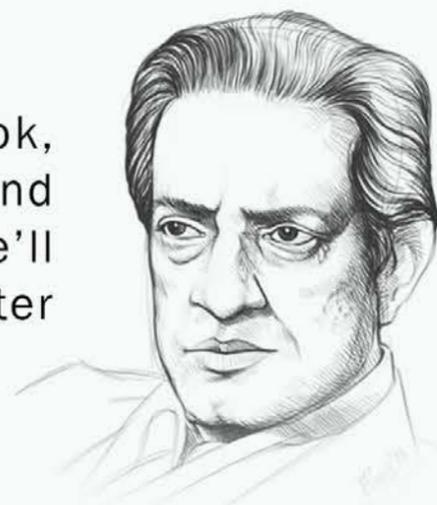
1929. An eight-year-old kid, was visiting Shantiniketan with his mother. Hidden inside his pocket was a newly bought autograph book. Gliding gently to where Rabindranath Tagore was seated, he mustered some courage and whispered into his ears: 'Will you please write something for me?' and then presented a blank page from the autograph book. Tagore smiled, and told him, 'Leave it here with me. Come and take it tomorrow.'

The following day Tagore gave him back the book, with a few lines scribbled on one of the pages and then softly told his mother, 'One day he'll understand the depth of these lines; not now, after a few years.'

These were the lines:

*I travelled miles, for many a year,
I spent a lot in lands afar,
I've gone to see the mountains,
The oceans, I've been to view.
But I haven't seen with these eyes
That, two steps from my home lies,
On a sheaf of paddy grain,
A glistening drop of dew.*

*বহু দিন ধরে বহু ক্রোশ দূরে
বহু ব্যয় করি বহু দেশ ঘুরে
দেখিতে গিয়েছি পর্বতমালা,
দেখিতে গিয়েছি সিন্ধু।
দেখা হয় নাই চক্ষু মেলিয়া
ঘর হতে শুধু দুই পা ফেলিয়া
একটি ধানের শিষের উপরে
একটি শিশির বিন্দু।*



How prescient Tagore was when he wrote those lines, because this kid was going to become one of the greatest auteurs of world cinema in the coming years!



*He was a man of magnificence;
he was a man of substance.
He was a thinker of great capacity,
but a bearer of simplicity.
He gave Indian films and
storytelling a new way.
He was none other than,
Satyajit Ray!*

To Ray, a film was pictures, words, movement, drama, music, and story—thousands of expressive visual and aural elements bound by a magical coherence. He may be long gone, but the iconic director, fiction writer, illustrator and calligrapher, who transported Indian cinema far beyond the country's borders, lives forever in the hearts of many.

A humble poetic tribute to the greatest Indian filmmaker:

*Every time we seek
Every moment we fail,
To retrace and relive
The same old trail.*

*Tides of ticking time
Seem excessively strong,
Trying to wash off
The memories of long.*

*Time surely is cruel,
How fast does it fly!
And moments pass by,
With the blink of an eye.*

*Yet artfully well
The mind does preserve:
The works of marvel,
It barely fails to observe.*

*A few vivid words
It borrows from time;
Drapes them together,
In a jovial rhyme.*

*These are the motion pictures
With aromas from the past:
Which rejuvenate our lives,
When we move too fast.*

*Keep these valued pearls
Forever close to your heart,
As life shall become void
If any of those depart.*

*We all have to travel
Until the day we die;
But the world that Ray created,
Beyond oblivion shall ever lie.*

(The poem has a subtle reference to ***Pather Panchali*** (1955), Ray's greatest work which won eleven international prizes, including Best Human Documentary at the 1956 Cannes Film Festival.)

LANDOUR

A Welsh Town Tucked in the Himalayas

by Parama Majumder

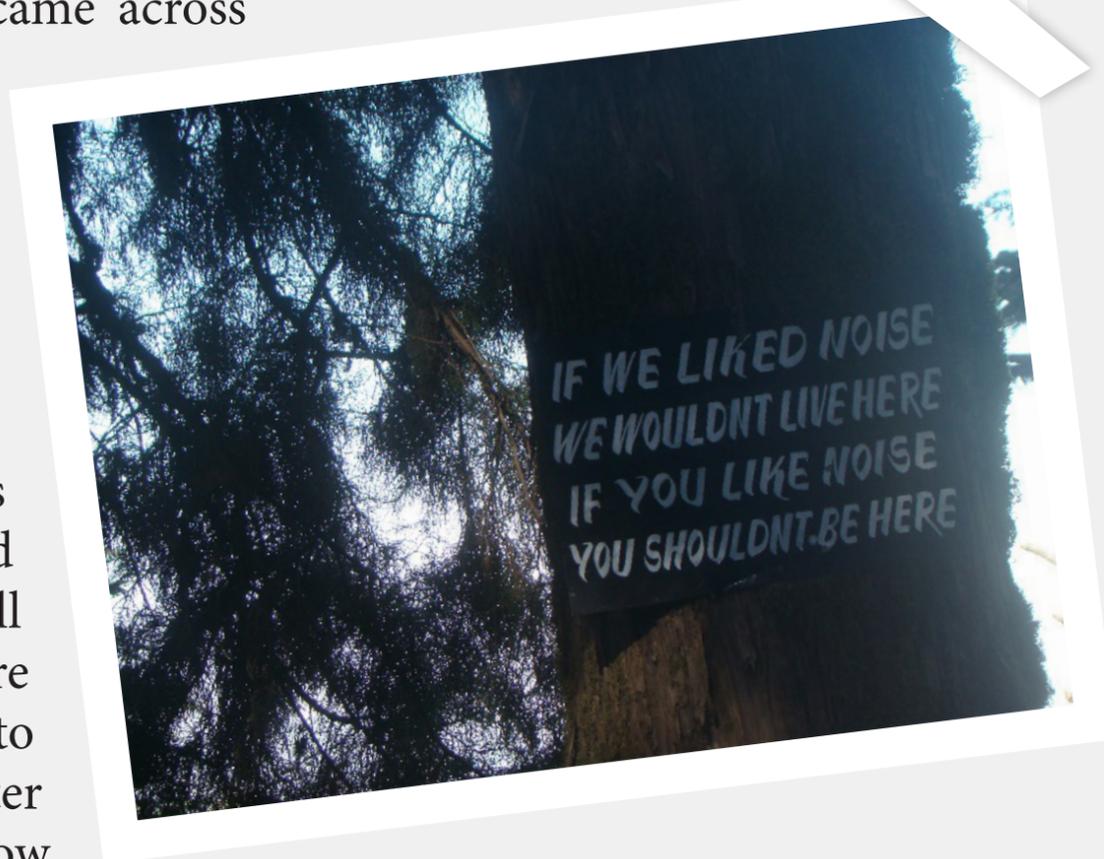


In 2003, while looking through books at the International Kolkata Book Fair as a college kid, my eyes fell on the cover of a tiny book with a watercolour painting of misty blue mountains and a green valley. It instantly caught my interest and I picked the book up to leaf through its pages. It was *Landour Days* by Ruskin Bond. As I turned the cover, I read the inside jacket that the book was about author's reflection on the 'daily happenings in Landour', the everyday beauty of the place and the eccentricities of the inhabitants and the passers-by. The sketches inside the book were friendly and welcoming. I turned the book and there on its back cover was a small excerpt.

'A TINY WARBLER (TIKKELL'S YELLOW WARBLER, PERHAPS) CAME IN AT THE WINDOW AND COULDN'T FIND ITS WAY OUT. TIRED FROM BEATING ITS WINGS AGAINST THE GLASS, IT ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE TAKEN BY SIDDHARTH IN HIS HAND. WHEN WE WENT OUTSIDE, IT REMAINED SEATED ON SID'S FINGER FOR SOME TIME, BEFORE SUDDENLY REALIZING THAT IT WAS FREE. IT DARTED INTO THE...'

The words stayed with me, and so did the name ‘Landour’.

Much later, while sitting at my computer at the day’s end in office and searching for the weekend getaways from Delhi, I came across the name ‘Landour’ again. That weekend when my car passed through Landour (I had decided to stay in its more popular twin town Mussoorie as my companions intended), I found it unbelievably quiet. Yes, it was unbelievable because it was summer, and Mussoorie, which was within 5 kilometres of Landour, was bursting at its seams with tourists. Placed against the cacophony of Mussoorie’s Mall Road, Landour’s quietude was even more pronounced. I knew I had to come back to this place again. And I did, two years later to feel its stillness and to experience how time lazily rolls by.



We were three of us this time—two colleagues-turned-friends and I. We studied a bit about Landour’s history before setting foot on this place. Situated around 35 kilometres away from Dehradun, Landour is often called the ‘crown’ of the queen of hills, Mussoorie. Born as a cantonment area and a convalescence home for the British soldiers in the early 19th century, following the Anglo-Nepalese War or the Gurkha War, Landour retains much of its Raj-era charm. Back in those days, it was usual among the homesick Britons settled in India to give their homes or newly established towns names that were reminiscent of their provenance. That is how this quaint hill town derived its name from Llanddowror, a village in Carmarthenshire in south-west Wales and became Landour.

Landour with its colonial cottages and churches, shadowy hilly paths and old forests of deodars, pines and oaks has carved its own identity and maintained it so—reticent yet charming,

much unlike its garrulous twin, Mussoorie. History of both the towns has much to do with this distinctness. Following the Revolt of 1857, there was an influx of Europeans in Mussoorie-Landour. The legal distinctness between the two towns came about in 1860s, when the cantonment areas were formally surveyed. The Cantonment Act of 1924 immensely contributed to Landour’s somnolent charm. It banned the felling of trees and prevented rampant construction of buildings in the area. While Mussoorie dazzled with its royal summer homes, fine grounds, and most importantly, the Savoy, and bustled with who’s who of the British Raj, Landour draped around itself a cloak of obscurity.



bustled with who’s who of the British Raj, Landour draped around itself a cloak of obscurity.



Inside view of Doma's Inn

There are many ways to reach Landour. The nearest railhead and long-route bus terminus are in Dehradun. We took an overnight bus from Delhi, which dropped us at Dehradun next day in the early hours of the morning. From there we took a car to Landour. We had already booked a room at Doma's Inn, a charming little place decorated with colourful Tibetan motifs sharing walls with the residence of the prolific Anglo-Indian writer, Ruskin Bond, whose book first drew me to Landour. With cosy rooms, delectable fare and a friendly staff, this place made our stay very comfortable.

Landour is best enjoyed on foot. The walks are invigorating and steeped in history. In our two-day stay, we took in as much as it was possible. Some places we visited were—

Char Dukan

The cosy marketplace that is now known as Char Dukan was once an old cantonment parade ground with a cluster of only four shops. The shops are still few in number. Most of them offer humble outdoor seating arrangements. However, they serve delicious parathas, pancakes, waffles and classic Maggi. On the first day, we had a hearty breakfast at Anil's Café in Char Dukan.



St. Paul's Church



Inside view of St. Paul's Church

Situated just beside Char Dukan is the region's one of the most historic churches, St. Paul's. The church was constructed in 1839 and consecrated by Bishop Daniel Wilson of Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1840. From 1840 to 1947, this church was run by military chaplains and was an important church for the cantonment. It was primarily visited by British residents of Landour and the British Military Hospital. This is the church where Jim Corbett's parents Christopher and Mary Corbett got married in 1859.

Kellogg Church

During the British Raj, Landour was not just inhabited by the British. American missionaries were also very common in the region. The Kellogg Church, also known as the Kellogg Memorial Church, is an American Presbyterian Church built by Reverend Dr Samuel H Kellogg. The



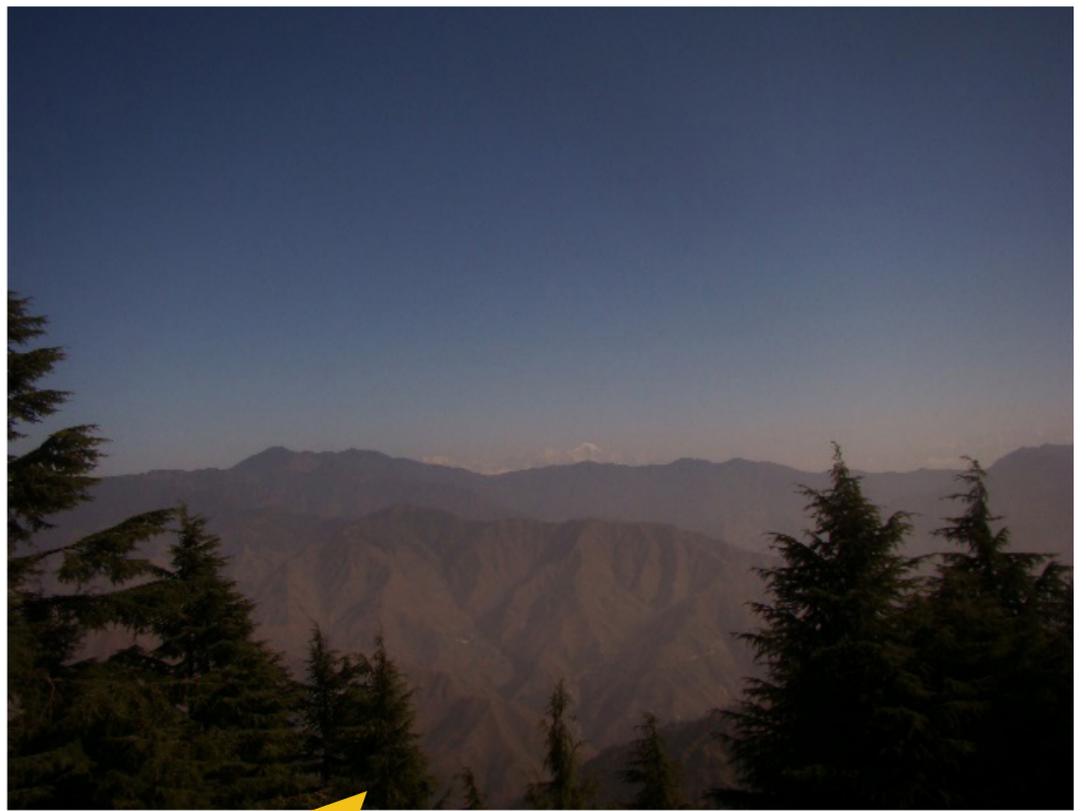
classes of Landour Language School are held in its premises. The school was founded to teach Hindi to the American missionaries. Today, it teaches languages such as Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi to the students who come from across the world.

Lal Tibba

The highest point in Landour, Lal Tibba, gives an unhindered panoramic view of the Himalayas. There are two shops, which sell basic food and drinks and also provide binoculars to take a better view of the range. The shop we went to also had a telescope perched on the terrace. This definitely gives you an excellent view of the range on a clear day.



Macmillan editors at Lal Tibba



A view from Lal Tibba on a semi-cloudy day

Prakash's Store, Sisters' Bazaar

Sisters' Bazaar derives its name from the nurses who worked in the military sanatorium during the British Raj and visited this market frequently. Landour, being home to many American missionaries, was one of the first places in India to make peanut butter commercially. Today, Prakash's Store, one of the oldest shops at Sisters' Bazaar, sells home-made peanut butter, cheese, jams, preserves and many such things. The store has a long history. It was set up in 1928, and cheese and jams are mostly made in the family. Jawaharlal Nehru, whose sister, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit lived in Landour for some time, used to stop at this store whenever he visited Landour to pick up cheese and berry jam. We too bought some cheese and plum jam, and they were delicious.

Devdar Woods

Devdar Woods, a small hotel amidst the thick Deodar forests, was a perfect location for us to have a lazy lunch. Their wood-oven pizzas and the alfresco sitting arrangement made our day. There is an ancient deodar tree on the premises. The tree, the old building with its antique furniture and the winds murmuring through the thick Deodar woods, together evoked an eerie feeling in me. On a foggy wintry night, this could very well be a set-up of a supernatural movie.



The mighty Deodar

Besides Ruskin Bond, many well-known personalities have their homes in Landour. On one of our languorous walks, we came across the cottage owned by the thespian Victor Banerjee. Named 'Parsonage', the cottage is located atop a hill and is shaded by tall conifers. With its burnt red brick walls, dark wooden carved columns and panels and a colourful chimney, Parsonage looked like a cottage straight from a fairytale. There was a white picket fence, which wound its way up from the road with ivies peeping from here and there. We also spotted a charming golden bell on the front door. In short, it was absolutely breathtaking.



Victor Banerjee's Parsonage

Little ahead of this delightful cottage was the Landour cemetery, with terraced mossy ground dating back to the 19th century, tall trees loomed over it. There was an absolute silence in the air broken only by occasional rustling of leaves and bird calls. One could feel the memories hanging in the air. They were left behind, but they were content. They were in peace.

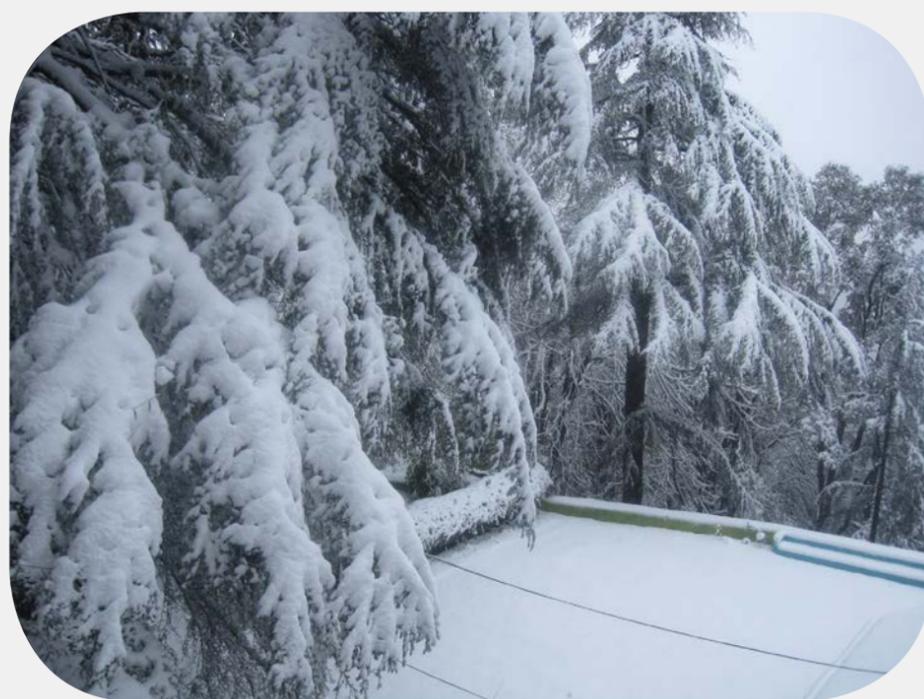
We also walked down to Mussoorie to meet Ruskin Bond who comes to Cambridge Book Store for an autograph session every Saturday for two hours. We visited the Everest House as well, which was a few kilometres away from the Mall Road. This was once the residence of Sir George Everest, one of the Surveyor-Generals of India and after whom Mount Everest is named. We found the house, which was at the end of a cliff, in complete ruins, but the view of the valley down from that place was spectacular.

Every good thing comes to an end. So did our trip. When we left the salubrious air of Landour and its green solitude, our senses had been soothed and our mind calmed. Above all, we were in peace with ourselves.



The guard at the cemetery

LANDOUR'S WINTER: A PHOTO STORY





THE SMILE MODULE

Most of us have heard—If you smile at life, life will smile back at you. Well... this module is a journey to arrive at this quote. Each letter in the term—SMILE—is a step in that journey. It will definitely deepen the smile on your face. So let's get going ...

Straighten up—This is as much about your posture as about your attitude. Sit straight, stand straight, walk straight. Greater confidence and an enhanced ability to learn new things are just the beginning of the amazing list of benefits of something as simple as straightening up. And don't we all appreciate straightforward people. So take the first step to SMILE ... straighten up!

Make a difference—You may top your class, be the best in the game, perfect with your manners, but none of this matters if you cannot make a difference. The best part ... it need not cost you anything! You can make a difference with the smallest of gestures. Well ... there is a rider ... it's got to be genuine. It may require as little effort as a welcoming handshake, a friendly look, a genuine apology, a heartfelt thanks. Try it ... it's a bigger success than anything else. What's more the returns are rich!

Improvise—We've reached the mid-point of SMILE ... And lots to do here. Innovate, Invent, Impart, Inspire, in other words, improvise whatever comes to you ... Unleash your creative potential. Break free of the sheep mentality. Mark your unique imprint to make the world a richer and more vibrant place. You have it, you improve it and you share it. And then it comes back to you ... in a much better form.

Let go—Life believes in variety. We all are handed a mixed bag ... some of it is wonderful, a lot can be improvised, but then there are the rotten apples as well. Just let go. You may not be able to change all that is not right. But there is no reason for you to shoulder the baggage of something that is of no use to you. Just let go. It may not leave right away. That's OK. Just don't let it be a part of your personality.

Evolve—This is reason for the SMILE module. If the first four steps of this module are implemented, this is actually an automatic effect. Human beings are hardwired to evolve. We have evolved from the Great Ape to the present modern human. We have seen great strides in science and technology. We have created amazing works of art. It's time to go beyond this ... time to evolve to the greater heights of being a humane human.

So let's put the SMILE in action ...

—V SriRanjani



Baira and Bela

Comic Strip

HAPPY NEW YEAR

What happened? Why are you shouting?

"Bela!"

I want to do something cool for our new year party. What can we do?

Something cool? Hmm. How about dancing ghosts?

Dancing ghosts? Really? That will be so cool. Let's do it.

Ok then. Get me some tissues, scissors and a marker. I'll get the balloons and thread.

When the siblings had accumulated all things needed, Bela set to work.

When the duo were done with their work, Bela took a balloon and rubbed it against Baira's hair.

Baira, blow these balloons and tie their mouths tightly with the thread. I'll draw the tissue ghosts by then.

Hey! Don't spoil my hairstyle!

Come on! Watch how your hair makes the ghosts dance.

Wow! This is amazing. How did you do it? And we should have used this idea for Halloween!

When I rubbed the balloon to your hair, the plastic of the balloon got charged with static energy. This energy attracted the tissue ghosts which looked like they had started dancing.

When Bela brought the balloons near the tissue ghosts, they started moving about.



1. What has a head and a tail, but no body?
2. What has an eye but cannot see?
3. Paul's height is six feet. He is an assistant at a butcher's shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?
4. What kind of room has no doors or windows?
5. What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?
6. Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?

7. If you have me, you want to share with me. If you share with me, you haven't got me. What am I?
8. What gets broken without being held?
9. Take off my skin, I won't cry, but you will! What am I?
10. Feed me and I live, yet give me a drink and I die. What am I?



Answers

Ans 5: A palm
Ans 10: Fire

Ans 4: A mushroom

Ans 9: An onion

Ans 3: Meat

Ans 8: A promise

Ans 2: A needle

Ans 7: A secret

Ans 6: Incorrectly

Ans 1: A coin

Question

	8	9	4	1				
		6	7			1	9	3
2						7		
3	4		6				1	
			9					5
				2			5	
6	5			4			2	
7	3		1					



8 3 4 7

SUDOKU



Answer

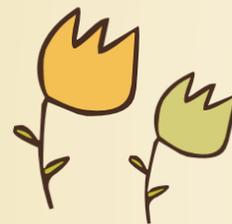
1	7	3	2	6	9	5	8	4
5	8	9	4	1	3	6	7	2
4	2	6	7	5	8	1	9	3
2	9	1	5	8	4	7	3	6
3	4	5	6	7	2	8	1	9
8	6	7	9	3	1	2	4	5
9	1	4	8	2	6	3	5	7
6	5	8	3	4	7	9	2	1
7	3	2	1	9	5	4	6	8



R	A	J	A	S	T	H	A	N	I	M	Q	M
G	W	E	R	T	Y	K	A	N	N	A	D	A
U	R	D	U	U	I	O	P	L	K	R	J	L
J	X	Z	A	S	D	O	F	G	H	A	S	A
A	A	C	H	I	N	D	I	B	V	T	A	Y
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A	S	O	R	I	Y	A	T	P	E	I	S	L
T	A	M	I	L	P	L	T	U	L	U	K	A
I	M	Z	X	C	V	B	N	N	U	M	R	M
O	E	I	U	Y	T	R	E	J	G	W	I	Q
P	S	L	K	J	H	G	F	A	U	D	T	S
H	E	J	K	L	M	N	V	B	C	X	Z	A
G	F	B	E	N	G	A	L	I	S	A	Q	W

The above given grid has the following 16 languages hidden. Find them vertically and horizontally.

- HINDI
- GUJARATI
- BENGALI
- MALAYALAM
- TAMIL
- ASSAMESE
- PUNJABI
- URDU
- KANNADA
- MARATHI
- SANSKRIT
- ORIYA
- RAJASTHANI
- TULU
- TELUGU



 A boy calls up a random number and asks a man who answers the call:

Boy: Do you have a fridge?

Man: Yes.

Boy: Is it running?

Man: Yes.

Boy: Hold it otherwise it might run away.

A man slams down the phone. A boy calls again after some time.

Boy: Do you have a fridge?

Man (angrily): No!

Boy: Didn't I tell you to hold it?! Look, now it has run away!

 **Ramu:** Why do some people eat snails?

Shamu: They don't like 'fast' food, I guess!

 Two men, who got lost in a desert, were very hungry.

Man 1: What are we going to do now?

Man 2: Make 'sand' witches maybe!

 **Santa:** What did zero say to eight?

Banta: What?

Santa: Your belt looks too tight!

 All students of a class were asked to write an essay on their pet. Danny wrote the essay on his pet dog. When the teacher asked Rick for his homework, he said he did not have it with him.

Teacher: If you did your homework, then why don't you have it with you?

Rick: Ma'am, Danny's homework ate my homework.

 **Teacher:** 1 book + 1 book?

Student: 2 books

Teacher: 2 books + 2 books?

Student: 4 books

Teacher: 61,340 books + 45,981 books?

Student: A library

 **Q:** What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?

A: A receding hareline!

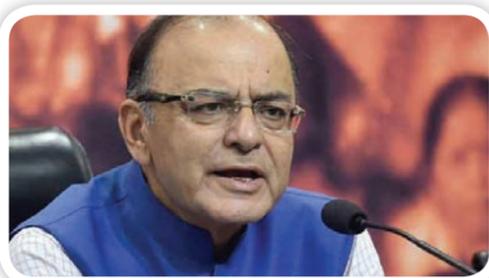
JOKES



CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

1 October 2016

- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announces that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has received total disclosures of 65,250 crore under the Income Disclosure Scheme, 2016 in the form of cash and other assets.



- China blocks a tributary of the Brahmaputra River in Tibet to construct a hydro project on Xiabuqu River, a tributary of Brahmaputra in Xigaze in Tibet, closely located to Sikkim.

2 October 2016

- Gaganjeet Bhullar adds sixth title on the Asian Tour by winning the 2016 Shinhan Donghae Open Golf in South Korea.

3 October 2016

- Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan accepts the invitation to be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2017.

4 October 2016

- In another roller-coaster hearing, the Supreme Court puts on hold its order to constitute the Cauvery Management Board (CMB) and finally settle for the Centre's suggestion to appoint a 'technical team' to visit the Cauvery basin and report back on the ground reality there.

5 October 2016

- Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres unanimously selected by the UN Security Council as the next UN Secretary-General.

6 October 2016

- India's communication satellite GSAT-18 successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana.
- Indian shooter Jitu Rai clinches a silver medal in the 50m pistol event of the ISSF World Cup Final at Bologna.

7 October 2016

- The Delhi Waqf Board dissolved by Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung after charges of alleged corruption and procedural irregularities in functioning.
- The Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos wins the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end.

8 October 2016

- Luo Zhaohui appointed as China's Ambassador to India in accordance with a decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature of China.

9 October 2016

- Andy Murray wins the 2016 China Open Men's Singles title at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China. Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska wins the 2016 China Open Women's Singles at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China.

11 October 2016

- India wins the three-match Test series against New Zealand, 3-0. In the third and final test played at Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore, India wrapped up the New Zealand innings at 153 in 44.5 overs claiming a huge victory by 321 runs.
- All the portfolios including Public, Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Forest Service, General Administration, District Revenue Officers, Police and Home, being held by the ailing Chief Minister Jayalithaa reallocated to Finance Minister O. Panneerselvam on her advice.

13 October 2016

- The world's longest reigning monarch, Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej (88), passes away at Bangkok, Thailand.



- Bob Dylan wins 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.



14 October 2016

- Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat retains his welterweight Asia title. In the final bout played in New Delhi, Goyat defeated Australian Ben Kite 120-110, 119-109, 115-113.



15 October 2016

- At least 24 people including 14 women were killed and many were injured in a stampede near Rajghat bridge on the border of Varanasi and Chandauli districts.

16 October 2016

- The BRICS member nations, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, ink three agreements during the eighth BRICS summit in Goa, to boost the bilateral cooperation.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

- Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma clinches the men's singles title at the Chinese Taipei Open badminton defeating Malaysia's Daren Liew.

19 October 2016

- India and Myanmar sign three agreements to boost the bilateral relations between the two nations after delegation-level talks with the visiting State Counsellor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi in New Delhi.

22 October 2016

- Iraq's Parliament passes a law banning the sale, import and production of alcohol in the country.
- India defeats Iran in the final to lift the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

24 October 2016

- The board of Tata Sons replaces Cyrus Mistry as Chairman of the India's largest conglomerate and names his predecessor Ratan Tata as the interim chairman for four months.
- In a huge victory for equal rights to worship for women, the Haji Ali Dargah Trust allows women to enter the sanctum sanctorum of the famed dargah in Mumbai 'at par with men'.

25 October 2016

- Paul Beatty becomes the first US author to win the Man Booker Prize for his racial satire, *The Sellout*.

26 October 2016

- A day after a Pakistan High Commission (PHC) staffer, Mehmood Akhtar, was allegedly caught receiving defence-related information from two Indian 'Spies', he was declared *persona non grata* and asked to leave India by October 29.

29 October 2016

- India wins the five-match ODI series

against New Zealand, 3-2. In the fifth match played at Visakhapatnam, India defeated New Zealand by 190 runs.

NOVEMBER 16

1 November 2016

- PM Modi launches 'Saur Sujala Yojana' in Chhattisgarh. The scheme aims at providing solar-powered irrigation pumps to farmers at a subsidised rate.

3 November 2016

- Google ties up with the Archaeological Survey of India for 360 degree virtual tour of 280-odd monuments in the country.
- Kolkata-born Sarbjit Singh Marwah becomes the first Sikh to be appointed as the Senator of Canada.

4 November 2016

- The Union Govt. launches Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) to provide free health check-ups to pregnant women at government health centres and hospitals.

5 November 2016

- Indian women's hockey team has won the 2016 Asian Champions Trophy held in Singapore. It was the maiden win of Indian women's hockey team in Asian Champions Trophy.

7 November 2016

- India and the United Kingdom signed two pacts to boost cordial relations between the two nations when PM Theresa May was on a three-day visit to India.

8 November 2016

- China has decided to once again block India's bid for Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership ahead of plenary meet of NSG in Vienna, Austria.

- The Union Government has announced that ₹ 500, ₹ 1,000 notes will cease to be legal tender. It was announced by the Prime Minister in a surprise address to the nation.

9 November 2016

- Real estate mogul-turned politician and Republican Party candidate Donald Trump was elected as 45th President of United States of America.



10 November 2016

- Former world number one Roger Federer won the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award at the ATP awards for the 12th time in his career.



11 November 2016

- India and Japan have signed ten agreements to boost the bilateral cooperation between the two nations. The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Japan.
- Indian women's carrom team has defeated Sri Lanka to win the gold at the seventh World Carrom championship in Birmingham (UK).

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

15 November 2016

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed Special Task Force to speed up the process of recalibration of automated teller machines (ATM) to dispense the new denomination notes.
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for the first time, has deployed a team of women commandos in anti-Naxal operations in Jharkhand.

20 November 2016

- Olympic silver medallist P.V. Sindhu won her maiden Super Series Premier title after edging out Sun Yu of China in the final of the China Open tournament in Fuzhou, China.
- PM Narendra Modi launched the flagship housing scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana' in Agra. Under this scheme, the Government aims to provide affordable, environmentally safe and secure pucca house to every rural household living below the poverty line by 2022.



21 November 2016

- India's longest expressway connecting Agra and Lucknow was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav at Bangarmau in Unnao district of UP.

22 November 2016

- An acclaimed physicist and former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Prof MGK Menon passes away, aged 88 years.
- Legendary vocalist, playback singer and composer Mangalamapalli Balamuralikrishna (86) passes away due to age-related geriatric problems in Chennai.

26 November 2016

- Cuba's former president and leader of the Communist revolution Fidel Castro (90) passes away due to old age.

30 November 2016

- The Supreme Court released an order that all cinema halls across the country to play the national anthem before the screening of films and that all present must 'stand up in respect' till the anthem ended.



- A plane carrying Chapecoense football team crashed in Columbia, killing 71 players, journalists and crew members.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that it will launch 83 satellites, 80 of them being foreign, in one go in January.
- Magnus Carlsen won the 2016 World Chess Championship in New York City, USA. Carlsen defeated Sergey Karjakin to retain the World Chess Champion title.

1 December 2016

- China and Pakistan have launched a direct rail and sea freight service with the first cargo train departing from China's south-western Yunnan province.
- Thailand named its crown prince Maha Vajiralongkorn as its new king, 50 days after the passing of King Bhumibol Adulyadei.
- Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav flagged off the trial run of Lucknow Metro train.

2 December 2016

- UAE-based Indian Kehkashan Basu has won the prestigious 2016 International Children's Peace Prize. She was bestowed with this prestigious award for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation.

4 December 2016

- Independent candidate and pro-European Alexander Van der Bellen has won the Austria's re-run presidential election with around 53.5 per cent votes.

5 December 2016

- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Jayalithaa, passes away at the age of 68 due to prolonged illness. The AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam was sworn in as her successor.

6 December 2016

- The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries have agreed to share tax information automatically as per their commitment to ensure the fairness of the international tax system.
- Bernard Cazeneuve, currently French interior minister, has replaced Manuel Valls as the country's new prime minister. Valls is stepping down in order to seek the Socialist Party's nomination to be its presidential candidate in the 2017 election.
- Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar (64) will be the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). He will be the 44th CJI and shall succeed Chief Justice T S Thakur who retires on 3 January 2017.



CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won the readers' poll for TIME's 'Person of the Year 2016'. Mr. Modi won 18 per cent of the vote, significantly more than his closest rivals, including US President Barack Obama, US President-elect Donald Trump and Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange.

7 December 2016

- Donald Trump, the US President-elect, has been named TIME's Person of the Year.

8 December 2016

- The Allahabad High Court has ruled that the practice of triple talaq (Talaq-e-bidat) among Muslims is unconstitutional and said, 'Personal laws of any community cannot claim supremacy over the rights granted to individuals by the Constitution.'
- Former US aviator, astronaut John Glenn passed away in Columbus, Ohio, US. He was 95. He was the last surviving member of the Mercury Seven Mission. He was the first American to orbit Earth and had circled it three times in 1962 aboard Friendship 7 space capsule.

9 December 2016

- India and Vietnam have signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement. With this, Vietnam became the 14th country with which India has signed the civil nuclear deal.

10 December 2016

- US Secretary of State John Kerry has been awarded the Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, the highest French civilian distinction for his contribution in peace effort.

11 December 2016

- President Pranab Mukherjee launched a '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The campaign was conceptualised by Nobel peace prize winner Kailash Satyarthi.



- The Indian Space Research Organisation has signed an agreement with a consortium of six companies based in Bengaluru to deliver India's first industry-built satellite by late 2017.

12 December 2016

- Cyclone Vardah wrecks havoc in Chennai and brings it to a standstill.
- Paolo Gentiloni was sworn in as Italy's new Prime Minister following the reformist leader Matteo Renzi's resignation in the wake of a crushing referendum defeat.



- Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won his 11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships title by beating Peter Gilchrist of Singapore in the summit clash in Bengaluru.
- Chapecoense goalkeeper Danilo, who died in Colombia plane crash, was declared as the Brazilian Player of the Year posthumously.

14 December 2016

- The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU signed between ISRO and United States Geological Survey (USGS) for cooperation in the exchange and use of US Land Remote Sensing Satellite Data.
- Haryana became the first state in the country to launch Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) initiative for safety of women. It was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

15 December 2016

- New United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has announced Nigeria's environment minister, Amina Mohammed as his Deputy Secretary-General (DSG).

16 December 2016

- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah inaugurated state's first air ambulance services at HAL airport in the state capital Bengaluru.



17 December 2016

- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) comes into effect.
- India and Tajikistan have signed four agreements in areas including on double taxation avoidance, money laundering and counter-terrorism.
- In Himachal Pradesh, the first Cyber Crime Police Station has been opened at state police headquarters at Shimla.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

18 December 2016

- India beat Belgium 2-1 to win the hockey junior World Cup in Lucknow. This is India's second world title.
- Noted economist and former member of erstwhile Planning Commission Saumitra Chaudhuri passed away due to lung cancer. He was 62.

19 December 2016

- Puerto Rico's 19-year-old Stephanie Del Valle has been crowned as the Miss World 2016 at an event held in Maryland, US. Miss Dominican Republic Yaritza Miguelina Reyes Ramirez was the first runner-up.
- US researchers have developed a vaccine for chikungunya fever made from an insect that does not have any side effects on people, making the vaccine safe and effective.
- The Madras High Court has banned all unauthorised Sharia Courts in mosques across Tamil Nadu saying centres of worship were only to be used for religious purposes.

21 December 2016

- Union cabinet gives its approval to the cadre review and formation of a new service in the name of Indian Enterprise Development Services (IEDS).

22 December 2016

- Indian off-spinner R Ashwin has been declared ICC Cricketer of the Year and Test Cricketer of the Year.



23 December 2016

- India dished out a clinical performance to beat Sri Lanka by 34 runs and lift the Asian Cricket Council Under-19's Asia Cup title.

26 December 2016

- India defeated South Korea 3-0 to secure the bronze medal at the 4th Women's U-18 Asia Cup 2016 Hockey tournament in Bangkok.
- Argentina claimed 'Team of the Year' title after finishing top of FIFA rankings.
- Meghalaya will host the 2022 National Games, which will coincide with the state's 50 years of statehood.

31 December 2016

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased cash withdrawal limit from ATMs to ₹ 4,500/- per day from the current ₹ 2,500/- .

