

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



MAY 2018

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## Current Affairs – May 2018

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This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **May 2018**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

## Audience

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Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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# Appointments

## 1. Sitanshu Kar took over as DG of Press Information Bureau

Mr Sitanshu Ranjan Kar, a 1983 batch officer of Indian Information Service, took over as the 27th Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau. He succeeds Mr Frank Noronha.

Mr Kar has worked in key positions in various Media Units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. In 1988, he became the first Indian to win the prestigious Visnews Fellowship of London in a world-wide competition. Mr Kar joined the Press Information Bureau in 2003.



## 2. Subhash Chandra Khuntia appointed as new IRDAI Chairman

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Subhash Chandra Khuntia as the Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a period of three years. A 1981-batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer, Mr Khuntia was a former Karnataka Chief Secretary.

Mr Khuntia will replace TS Vijayan. He has also served in various government departments including as Secretary at the Department of School Education & Literacy, Special Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.



## 3. ICICI Bank named Radhakrishnan Nair as Independent Director

ICICI Bank has appointed Radhakrishnan Nair to its board as an Additional (Independent) Director. His appointment will be for a period of five years. Mr Nair has around forty years of experience in the banking industry and in the field of securities and insurance regulation.

Mr. Nair is an independent Director of three subsidiaries of the Bank - ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, ICICI Prudential Trust Limited and ICICI Securities Primary Dealership Limited. In March 2010, he joined Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as Member (Finance and Investment).



#### 4. FB appointed product exec Chris Daniels to take over WhatsApp

Facebook's Vice President of Product Chris Daniels will be taking over WhatsApp after Co-founder Jan Koum announced his resignation. Chris Daniels who was looking after the project Internet.org, the company's effort to bring free internet services to the masses has been given additional charge of WhatsApp. In his new role, Daniels will report to Facebook Chief Product Officer Chris Cox.



Chris Daniels has experience of working with Facebook for more than seven years and previously worked for Microsoft in product management.

#### 5. Uttam Pacharne appointed as Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi

Eminent artist and sculptor, Shri Uttam Pacharne was appointed as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi by President of India. Shri Pacharne is an eminent artist and sculptor. Presently, he is a member of advisory committee, Kala Academy, Goa and member of advisory committee, P.L. Deshpande State Lalit Kala Academy and Director, Janseva Sahakari Bank Borivali.



He is the recipient of National Lalit Kala Award 1985, Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar 1985 from Government of Maharashtra, Junior National Award 1986 and Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar 2017 from Prafulla Dahanukar Foundation.

#### 6. Google appointed Nitin Bawankule as head of India Cloud Business

Nitin Bawankule was appointed as head of India Cloud Business. Prior to this, he was head of sales for its ecommerce, retail and classifieds and education businesses. He has been associated with Google for more than six years. Nitin Bawankule has served at firms like Dell, Motorola Mobility, Whirlpool and Godrej GE Appliances and has an experience of more than 20 years.



It has been estimated that public cloud services market in India is poised to reach \$4.10 billion by 2020. Cloud computing is an emerging technology that helps business to quickly improve service delivery capabilities.



### 7. Anil Kumar Jha Appointed CMD of Coal India

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Anil Kumar Jha as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited. He has been appointed to the post till his superannuation i.e. January 31, 2020.



Jha had replaced Coal Ministry's Additional Secretary Suresh Kumar. Prior to his appointment, he was the CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. CIL is a state-owned coal mining company headquartered in Kolkata.

### 8. Stacey Cunningham appointed as the first Woman Chief of NYSE

Stacey Cunningham became the first Woman Chief of the New York Stock Exchange making her the first woman to be the sole head of the 226-year-old market. Stacey was Chief Operating Officer of NYSE and will replace Tom Farley.



Cunningham became NYSE's COO in June 2015. She joined NYSE in 1994. With Stacey's promotion, two of the top three U.S. stock exchange operators are led by women. Adena Friedman became chief executive officer of Nasdaq Inc. in 2017.

### 9. BHEL appointed Pravin Agrawal as its new Director

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has appointed Pravin L Agrawal as part-time official director on its board. Agrawal is presently joint secretary in the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI), Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.



Agrawal has varied experience in public policy and governance issues. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) owned and founded by the Government of India, is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer.

### **10. Justice CK Prasad appointed as Chairman of Press Council of India for a second term**

A three-member committee headed by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has appointed former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad as the Chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI) for a second term. Justice Prasad had taken over from Justice Markanday Katju in November, 2014.



The Press Council of India is a statutory body with a mandate to act as a watchdog to oversee the conduct of the print media.

### **11. Airtel Payments Bank appointed Anubrata Biswas as MD and CEO**

Airtel Payments Bank has appointed Anubrata Biswas as its Managing Director & CEO. Prior to his appointment, Biswas was working with ICICI Bank as Joint General Manager and Retail Business Head - South India. He will replace Shashi Arora who had quit the payments bank after nearly a 12-year stint with Bharti Airtel group.



In his new role, Anubrata will be responsible for driving Airtel Payments Bank's mission of taking convenient and innovative digital banking services to the doorstep of every Indian.



# Awards

## 1. Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle honoured with PC Chandra Puraskaar

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for her contribution in the field of Indian music. In a career spanning over seven decades, Asha Bhosle is known for her breathtaking range and versatility.



The PC Chandra Puraskaar recognises people from various walks-of-life, who have achieved phenomenal success in their fields. The previous recipients of the awards are Manna De (1993), Sunil M Gavaskar (1995), Gulzaar (1997), Sourav Ganguly (2011) to name a few.

## 2. President of India presented 65th National Film Awards

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the 65th National Film Awards. The key winners are:



- Dada Saheb Phalke Award: Vinod Khanna
- Best Director: Jayaraj for Bhayanakam (Malayalam)
- Best Film: Village Rockstars (Assamese)
- Best Popular Film: Baahubali 2
- Best Regional Film: Ladhakh
- Best Hindi Film: Newton
- Best Special Effects: Baahubali 2
- Best Supporting Actress: Divya Dutta, Irada (Hindi Film)
- Best Supporting Actor: Fahad Faazil
- Best Actress: Sridevi for Mom
- Best Actor: Ridhhi Sen, Nagar Kirtan

## 3. Nobel Prize in literature 2018 cancelled

The Swedish Academy has announced that it would not hand out the Nobel Prize in Literature this year following allegations of sexual misconduct, financial malpractice and repeated leaks. The Academy will announce two laureates in 2019 instead.



The honour has not been awarded at all on seven occasions since its launch in 1901. Awarding of the 2018 Nobel prizes in other categories would not be affected.

#### 4. Nisha Bhalla honored with 'WEF 2018' Award

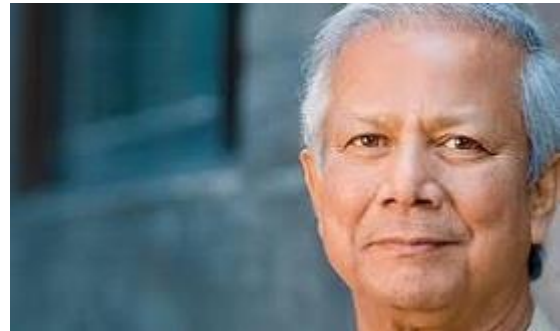
46 years old Mumbai coach 'Nisha Bhalla' was honored with 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award at Annual Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2018 Awards. She was honored for her spiritual service. Nisha Bhalla provides coaching for holistic courses at her institute 'Sai Institute of Kosmic Sciences' in Mumbai. Prior to this award, she has received numerous national level awards.



An associate of ALL Ladies League, the Women Economic Forum (WEF) is a global conference to foster empowering conversations and connections among women committed to foster constructive change in all walks of life.

#### 5. Prof Muhammad Yunus honored with KISS Humanitarian Award 2018

Prof. Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, Bangladesh was conferred with the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award. Prof. Yunus is the second Nobel Prize awardee to get the KISS Humanitarian Award after Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet. The KISS Humanitarian Award was instituted in 2008 by the founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta to honour and recognise individuals with an exceptionally high contribution to the society in various fields related to social issues.



The other prominent individuals who have received the prestigious award are Ibina Du Boisrouvray (FXB International), Switzerland (2015) and Hollywood actor Ashley Judd (2016).

#### 6. National Geoscience Awards

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India conferred the National Geoscience Awards for the year 2017(11 nos.) in New Delhi. Eleven National Geoscience Awards for the year 2017 were conferred by the President on 22 geoscientists for their outstanding contributions in nine different fields of geosciences. Dr. ShibSankarGanguli, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur received the Young Scientist Award – 2017 for his meritorious contributions in the field of Applied Geoscience.



Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines applauded the awardees for their innovation and research in the fields of Geosciences.

### 7. Lata Mangeshkar honored with Swara Mauli award

Veteran melody queen singer Lata Mangeshkar was honoured with the Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami. Lata Mangeshkar has an experience of almost a decade and has received many such honors. Jagatguru Shankaracharya had earlier honoured Lata Mangeshkar with Swara Bharati award.



Lata Mageshkar has also received Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of India and three national awards. She is the second vocalist, after MS Subbulakshmi to receive Bharat Ratna. Lata Mangeshkar has sung songs in more than 1000 films and over thirty-six regional Indian languages and foreign languages.

### 8. Veteran journalist Mark Tully received Mumbai Press Club's RedInk Award 2018

The RedInk Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism for 2018 was bestowed on veteran journalist Sir William Mark Tully. The Lifetime Achievement Award for Mark Tully is the recognition of his long and outstanding contribution to Indian journalism. Over several decades Mark Tully came to personify BBC's timely and truthful delivery of news in the subcontinent. Tully was a front-running reporter for all major news breaks in South Asia. He worked with the BBC for a period of 30 years.



The RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' was awarded to Faye D'Souza, executive editor of Mirror Now channel.

### 9. Anindita honored with Jayadev Rashtriya Yuva Puraskar 2018

UK-based Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam received Jayadev Rashtriya Yuva Puraskar 2018 for her talent and outstanding contribution to the field of art. The award ceremony was held at Bhubaneshwar, Odisha during four-day Jayadev International dance festival.



Anindita has experience of working as a Kathak instructor in Wisconsin with an aim to popularise the classical dance form globally. She is also famous for her way of blending two dance forms like jazz and ballet with classical form.



### 10. Actress Sridevi honoured at Cannes film festival

Famous Bollywood actress Sridevi was honored with the Reginald F. Lewis Film Icon Award at the Cannes Film Festival. It was given to salute the women of the film industry who left impact on world of cinema. Filmmaker Subhash Ghai and producer Namrata Goyal received the award on behalf of late actress Sridevi.



Sridevi was an Indian actress and film producer who starred in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada films. She was known as Indian cinema's first female superstar. She received National Film Award, two Filmfare Awards and three South Filmfare Awards.

### 11. India's Jagriti Yatra bagged charity award in UK

Jagriti Yatra, is an Indian charity that organizes series of worldwide charities. It recently organized 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise that has won an award in London. 15 day journey highlights the importance of building the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise. The Cleft Lip and Palate Association won the Charity of the Year award for helping those affected by cleft lip and palate.



Asian Voice Charity Awards are organised by Britains oldest Asian diaspora publication Asian Voice and Europes first charity 'Charity Clarity'.

### 12. NMDC bagged S&P PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 under CSR category

NMDC Limited has bagged the prestigious S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category at London. NMDC is the largest iron ore mining company in India. This is the first time since inception of this award that an Indian Company bagged an award in this category. S&P Global Platts is the leading independent provider of information, benchmark prices and analytics for the energy and commodities markets.



The S&P Global Platts Global Metals Award recognizes top performers – industry leaders and innovators. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Award recognizes the organization that best demonstrates leadership.

### 13. DRDO Awards – 2016 & 2017 presented by Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman

Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman gave away the DRDO Awards- 2016 & 2017 to various DRDO scientists for their outstanding contributions, while commemorating the National Technology Day.

DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award (2017)	Dr VKSaraswat (Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D)
DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award (2016)	Dr VasudevKalkunteAatre (Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General, DRDO)
Technology Leadership Award – 2016	Dr G Satheesh Reddy (Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, Distinguished Scientist & Director General)

### 14. Japanese director won Cannes' top award

Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda won the top prize, the Palme d'Or, in the 71st Cannes Film Festival. Kore-eda is only the second Asian Palme d'Or winner this millennium (after Thailand's Apichatpong Weerasethakul for 'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives', 2010).



The Best Director prize went to Poland's Pawel Pawlikowski for the wonderfully well-crafted black-and-white 'Cold War', a 1950s story of impossible love between a music composer and a gifted singer, two strong-willed individuals from dissimilar backgrounds drawn to each other amid disruptions caused by history.

### 15. CSIR won the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category. IIT Bombay has won the award in the Academic Institutions category. The award places IIT Bombay among the top 12 innovators in India.

CSIR has a dynamic network of 38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units. According to the SCImago Institutions Ranking World Report 2017, CSIR has been ranked 9th in the world amongst the 1207 government institutions, with an overall global ranking of 75 in the world, covering 5250 institutions.



### 16. Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 presented to the INSV Tarini Team

The Six-member all-women team comprising of Lt Commander Vartika Joshi, Lt Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lt Commander Swathi Patarpalli, Lt Aishwarya Bodapatti, Lt SH Vijaya Devi and Lt Payal Gupta have received the Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017.



The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, had conferred the Nari Shakti Puraskars on International Women's Day (08th March 2018) in Rashtrapati Bhavan. As the INSV Tarini team was sailing then, the award could not be presented to the team.

### 17. Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve won India Biodiversity Award 2018

The Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh has won the India Biodiversity Award 2018 in the "Conservation of Wildlife Species" category conferred by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and presented by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.



The tribal members of the Bugun community of Singchung Village joined hands with the Forest Department to launch the Singchung Bugun Community Reserve (SBVCR) — a 17 square kilometre hotspot for biodiversity in January 2017.



# Books & Authors

## 1. English translation of Polish novel 'Flights' won Man Booker Prize

Polish author Olga Tokarczuk has won the Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'Flights'. The novel, translated by Jennifer Croft, interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body. It bagged the 67,000 US dollar prize after topping a shortlist of six titles, with Tokarczuk becoming the first Polish writer to win the award.



Other finalists included Iraqi writer Ahmed Saadawi's horror story 'Frankenstein in Baghdad' and South Korean author Han Kang's meditative novel 'The White Book'. The Man Booker International Prize celebrates the English translations of works of international literature.

## 2. Book on 'Indian Military Judicial System' released by Chief of Army Staff

Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff released the book 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System' by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan, former Army Commander and Member 'A', Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench.



The book deals with military judicial system vis-a-vis command and management issues within the military establishments besides the whole gamut of issues relating to veterans, their families and dependents. 'Across the Bench' is the first of its kind that delves into the depths of Military Judicial System.

## 3. Shri Ashwini Lohani launched 'Guidebook for Creating a Child Friendly and Protective Environment for Children in Contact with Railways'

A 'Guidebook for Creating a Child Friendly and Protective Environment for Children in Contact with Railways', developed by National Commission for protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with Railway Children India, was launched at World Habitat. The document will serve as a framework to develop child friendly environment at all Railway Stations.



The launching of 'The Standard Operating Procedure for Railways to ensure care and protection of children who are in contact with railways in 2015 served as a pioneering document in successfully protecting children.

# Committees

## 1. 15th Finance Commission constituted Advisory Council

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted an Advisory Council to advise and assist the Commission. The role of the Advisory Council will be to advise the Commission on any issue, assist in the preparation of any research and help in practices on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution.

Advisory Council will have 6 members named as Arvind Virmani (President, Forum for Strategic Initiatives), Surjit S. Bhalla (part-time member of PMEAC), Sanjeev Gupta (Ex-Deputy Director, IMF), Pinaki Chakraborty, Sajjid Chinoy (JP Morgan) and Neelkanth Mishra (Credit Suisse India Economist).



## 2. Committee constituted to probe into black money recovery of PSBs

A thirty member estimates committee has been formed to probe recovery of black money and performance of public sector banks among a host of subjects. The parliamentary panel will be headed by veteran BJP leader Murali Manohar Joshi. The panel has also been named continuous economy committee, to study import of uranium for nuclear plants, mining activities and environment, upgrading of India Post offices and the drought situation among other matters.



On the other hand, Public Accounts Committee has also been looking into the issue of black money recovery after demonitisation.

## 3. High-level committee approved central assistance of Rs 1,161 crores to states

A high level committee chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh approved central assistance of Rs 1,161.17 crores to states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Rajasthan and UT of Lakshadweep, affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18. Committee included Union Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Shri Ajay Narayan Jha and senior officers of the Ministries of Home Affairs.

Assam	Rs 480.87 crore
Himachal Pradesh	Rs 84.60 crore
Sikkim	Rs 67.40 crore
UT of Lakshadweep	Rs 2.16 crore
Rajasthan	Rs 526.14 crore

#### **4. 15th Finance Commission constituted a High Level Group for enabling balanced expansion of Health Sector**

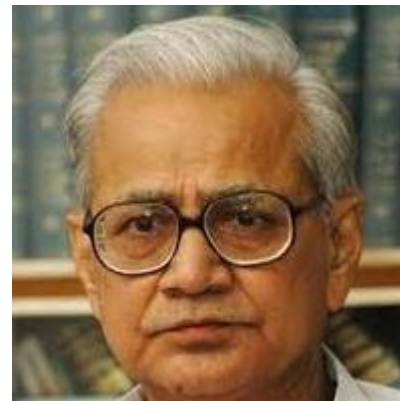
The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted a high level group consisting of eminent experts from across the country in Health Sector. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi will be its Convenor.



The main role and function of the High Level Group on Health Sector will be to evaluate the existing regulatory framework in the Health sector and examine its strength and weaknesses for enabling a balanced yet faster expansion of the health sector keeping in view of India's demographic profile.

#### **5. Inter-State Council Standing Committee completes deliberations on Punchhi Commission report**

The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council (ISC) has completed the onerous task of deliberations on all the 273 recommendations of the Punchhi Commission. The ISC is headed by the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.



The Punchhi Commission was notified in 2005 submitted its report in 2010. The Commission made 273 recommendations in its seven volume report. The recommendations of the Punchhi Commission pertain to History of Centre-State Relations in India; Constitutional Governance and Management of Centre-State Relations etc.

# Deaths

## 1. Eminent economist Ashok Mitra passed away

Eminent economist and former finance minister in the Jyoti Basu government in West Bengal (1977-86), Ashok Mitra, passed away at the age of 90 years.

Mr Mitra also worked with the Central Government as the Chief Economic Adviser and was a member of Rajya Sabha. He also taught in UN Economic Commission and was associated with World Bank for many years. Mitra was also associated with the prestigious Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) journal in its formative years.



## 2. Noted Malayalam novelist Kottayam Pushpanath passed away

Renowned detective novelist Kottayam Pushpanath passed away at the age of 80 years. He has penned more than 300 novels. Many of his works have been translated into Tamil, Telugu and Kannada languages.

Among his novels, 'Brahmarakshas' and 'Chuvanna Anki' were later adapted into movies. Pushpanath is the creator of the two private detectives Marks and Pushparaj who were the central characters in most of his novels. Pushpanath gained popularity after his first novel 'Chuvanna Manushyan' was published in Manorajyam weekly in 1967.



## 3. Renowned Artist-Philosopher Ravinder Sharma passed away

Renowned Artist-Philosopher Ravinder Sharma, popularly called as "Guruji" passed away at the age of 65 years. He was the founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram and is credited to playing a vital role in protecting ancient rural and tribal art forms and knowledge system of the country for nearly four decades.

Guruji had been awarded with Kala Ratna by the Andhra Pradesh State government in 2014. The Telangana government awarded him the Ugadi Puraskaram in 2015. Guruji was also conferred the D. Litt (Honoris Causa) by the SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana.





#### 4. Veteran Marathi Singer Arun Date passed away

Veteran Marathi singer Arun Date passed away at the age of 84 years. He was famous for non-film 'bhavgeet' (lyrical poetry) songs. He was known for his popular song "Shukratara" and "Ya Janmavar".

Arun Date was the first recipient of the state government's 'Gajananrav Vatave Puraskar'. His song "Shukratara" was adjudged as song of the month by Mumbai Radio Station in 1962.



#### 5. Oscar-Winning Film Editor Anne V. Coates died

92 years old Oscar-Winning 'Lawrence of Arabia' Film Editor 'Anne V. Coates' passed away. She was honored with BAFTA's highest honour, a BAFTA Fellowship and was given an Academy Honorary Award (Lifetime Achievement Oscar).

Some of her best work as editor in films were Lawrence of Arabia, Becket (1963), The Elephant Man (1980), In the Line of Fire (1993) and Out of Sight (1998). She also worked as an assistant at a production company specializing in religious films.



#### 6. Veteran poet Balkavi Bairagi passed away

Balkavi Bairagi, famous lyricist, poet and politician passed away. He was known for his best poem "Jhar gaye paat, bisar gayi tehni". He was also a politician, a Lok Sabha member between 1984 and 1989 and a former Rajya Sabha MP. He wrote songs for more than a dozen films such as "Tu Chanda Main Chandni" from the film "Reshma aur Shera", 'Mujhko bhi radha bana le" etc.



Many poems were also written by him such as 'Chand meidhabba' and 'Khudhsagar ban jao'. Balkavi Bairagi was popularly named as Balkavi due to his outstanding work in classical poems.

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