

## MAJOR EVENTS OF 2016 IN INDIA

We are at the edge of completing the remarkable year 2016. The major events that occurred in India during the year 2016 are listed below:

- **Demonetization of 500 and 1000 Rupees**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the surprise announcement on November 8, 2016 that the 500 and 1000 Rupees are to be discontinued. The 500 and 1000 Rupees notes have been banned to fight back money and money-laundering. Also the new 2000 and 500 Rupees notes were released on November 8, 2016. The aftermath of demonetization, banks and ATM across the country faced severe cash shortages.
- **Legislative Assembly election, 2016**  
A legislative Assembly election was held on May 16, 2016. This election was the 16th legislative assembly election organised and conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI). It was held in single base. In Tamil Nadu AIADMK won a majority, In Assam, BJP won a majority. In West Bengal Mamata Benarjee-led TMC won a majority. In Puducherry Congress won a majority.
- **Goods and Services Tax Bill Passed**  
Goods and Services Tax bill were passed on August 8, 2016. GST is a proposed system of indirect taxation in India merging most of, the existing taxes into a single system of taxation. It would be a comprehensive indirect tax on the manufacture, sale and consumption of goods and services throughout India, to replace taxes levied by the state and central governments.
- **J. Jayalalithaa Death**  
Jayalalithaa Jayaram was a Politician and Indian actress who served five terms as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. She was the general secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). On September 22, 2016, she was admitted in Apollo Hospital in Chennai, as she suffered from acute dehydration and infection. On December 4, 2016, Jayalalitha suffered from sudden cardiac arrest and On December 5, 2016, Apollo hospital officially announced Jayalalitha's death.
- **Indian Air Force An-32 disappearance**  
Antonov An-32 twin engine Turboprop Aircraft of the Indian Air Force disappeared while flying over the Bay of Bengal. The aircraft was en route from Tambaram Air force station in the city of Chennai to Port Blair in the Andaman Nicobar Islands. There were 29 people on board in the aircraft, 6 crew members, 11 Indian air force personnel, 2 Indian army soldiers, 1 Indian navy, and 1 Indian coast guard, 8 defence civilians working with naval armament depot. 8 civilian passengers. On September 15, 2016, the search and rescue mission was called off; all 29 persons on board were assumed to be dead and their families were notified.
- **Mariyappan Thangavelu Won Gold Medal**

Mariyappan Thangavelu is an Indian Paralympics high jumper. He represented India in 2016 summer Paralympic games held in Rio De Janeiro. In the men's high jump T-42 category, he won the gold medal in the finals. He is India's first Paralympian gold medallist.

- **Surgical Strike Against Pakistan**

The Indian said that it had conducted "Surgical Strikes against suspected militants in Pakistani-administered Kashmir on September 29, 2016. Lt Gen Ranbir Singh (DGMO) said that it had received "very credible and specific information" about "terrorist teams" who were preparing to "carry out infiltration and conduct terrorist strikes inside Jammu and Kashmir and in various metros in other states". The Indian action was meant to pre-empt their infiltration.

- **Puttingal temple fire**

On April 10, 2016, Puttingal Temple in Paravur, Kollam, India, experienced an explosion and fire after firework celebrations went wrong. As a result, more than 350 were injured, including some with severe burns and 111 people were killed. The aftermath of this event, the high court of Kerala banned the display after sunset of sound-emitting firecrackers in all places of worship in the state.

- **Uttarakhand Rain**

This year Uttarakhand got heavy monsoon rain, which caused 30 people to die. The state receives an average of 1229 mm of rainfall in the four-month-long rainy season. In July, Uttarakhand state received about 151 mm of rainfall, while normally it should have received just 146 mm. Such heavy spells of rain caused cloudbursts, landslides and mudslides

*Source : [www.telegraph.com](http://www.telegraph.com)*

## **IMPACT OF DONALD TRUMP ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE USA**

Does Donald Trump present an opportunity or a challenge for India? That depends on how seriously you take what he's said. Until he acts we've nothing else to go by.

First, the impact of his broad handling of international relations. Trump has spoken warmly of President Putin, talked of lifting sanctions and wants engagement with Moscow. His secretary of state is a close friend of the Russian President. In contrast, Trump has threatened a tougher line against China. The one-China policy is open for reconsideration and the country could be penalised for currency manipulation.

Friendly relations between the United States and Russia suit India because we can then pursue closer relations with both without contradiction. Also, a US-Russia détente would diminish Russia's dependence on Beijing. And any policy that confronts China's expansion cannot disadvantage India.

More important is Trump's direct impact. During the campaign he famously said "I am a big fan of Hindu. I am a big fan of India."

In terms of Indo-Pakistan relations, Nawaz Sharif claims Trump's expressed a willingness to sort out Indo-Pak differences. During the campaign Trump called Pakistan "the most dangerous country in the world today" and said "the only country that can check Pakistan is India".

Now to the economic impact. The key concern is what happens to H1B visas. Both the US President and his attorney general talk of reducing H1B visas. This would be bad news for India's information technology industry, 60 percent of whose \$108 billion exports go to the US. Companies like Infosys, Wipro and TCS could suffer.

However, that could also impact the American enterprises which rely on them. As the latter's costs rise they will be passed on to their American customers. The question is could this make Trump change his position?

Finally, what about Trump's attitude to American companies that establish factories abroad? Ford has three in India and intends to export most of its cars. Now, undoubtedly, exports to the US will be affected but will that make such companies rethink their India strategy?

*Source : [www.cbc.com](http://www.cbc.com)*

# **SWACCH BHARAT ABHIYAN SUCCESS STORIES OF SANITATION IN GUJARAT**

## **Bhimasar In Kutch District- A Nirmal Gram With A Difference**

Can you imagine that a village once ruined in the devastating earthquake of 2001 was honoured with the prestigious NIRMAL GRAM PURASKAR in the year 2004, merely three years after the tragedy?

The area that has rebuilt to such a level of excellence is none other than Bhimasar, a village in the Anjar taluka of Kutch district. Today it boasts of a Gram panchayat office that can easily pass off as a corporate infrastructure and also have sustainable sanitation system, beautiful gardens and clean tar roads with pavement and plantations. It is difficult to fathom that this is the same village that was once ruined in the destructive earthquake of January 26, 2001 and faced enormous damage, besides the loss of 18 lives. Though nature did unleash unprecedented panic, what it could not shatter was the indomitable spirit of the people residing in this area. It was this spirit, coupled with the support of a big Industrial group that helped villagers to not just build back, but rebuild even better than before, ensuring that the village remained clean, beautiful and green thereafter. The efforts paid rich dividend when the village was honored with the Nirmal Gram Puraskar in the year 2007-08. Today, all the 839 houses of the village, as well as the schools and anganwadis have toilets and courtyards, along with underground drainage system. Roads are surfaced with tar, have pavements on both the sides and road side plantation is done in a planned manner. The residential area is mostly pucca and is built uniformly with good space in front. This small village also has a well-designed building for scheduled bank and post office, along with 5 community halls for cultural and social activities.

The area has been further beautified with aesthetically landscaped gardens, which are adorned with decorative trees and flowers. Not to forget the road-crossings that give the feel of Gandhinagar's structures and are as well-laid with flowers, green grass and botanical trees as these circles are in the capital of Gujarat. Even Panchayat office looks like a corporate office and is situated amidst gardens. All this is possible because gardeners have been employed to maintain the greenery. Besides, a water tanker regularly waters the gardens at the cost of Rs. 44 thousand per annum. Shri Zaroo the Deputy Sarpanch, lists the professional tax paid by the industrial units surrounding the village as the main source of revenue that helps the panchayat in the maintenance work and ensures that the never say die spirit of community gets the necessary wings of development.

## **Innovative Animal Waste Management System Of Joshipura Village**

Joshipura can easily pass off as a non-descript, small village of any state. But it is the out of box thinking that makes it stand apart from the rest. The village has a population of 1400 that resides in 175 houses, all of which boast of sanitation facility. But it was the innovative and pioneering efforts of the villagers toward animal waste management system that made it win the Nirmal Gram Puraskar for the year 2007-08.

It is a common sight in the villages to find cow dung and other animal waste scattered on the

roads. It is this waste that takes the shape of a menace when flies and mosquitoes swarm the area in plenty, making the surroundings unhygienic. Villagers residing in this small village of Viramgam taluka in Ahmedabad district not only understood the importance of managing this waste, but also tackled it in an innovative manner.

It all started with the identification of an area where this waste could be collected, for which the Gram Panchayat designated a wasteland. Accordingly, 77 cemented dung tanks, 15X 10 feet long and 10 X 10 feet wide, were constructed.

All the tanks were given serial numbers and tanks with specific numbers were allotted to the villagers, who wanted to use it, on a yearly basis, for a rent of Rs.200 and 300. These users deposited dung and other waste in the allocated cemented tanks. Over a period of time, the waste converted into compost, which the farmers could use in their fields. Care was also taken to empty these tanks, every year, before the monsoon.

Encouraged by the response received, coupled with the positive impact of this collective effort on the village surroundings, cemented tank allocation has now become a yearly process for the village panchayat. On one hand these tanks give a clean look to the village roads, streets and public places and on the other hand, it has become a source of income generation for the Gram Panchayat.

Sarpanch Shri Hargovindbhai Patel mentioned that the Panchayat earned almost Rs 10,000 last year from this facility. He added that due to sanitation awareness, not a single case of any major sanitation related disease has been diagnosed in the village after the village was bestowed with Nirmal Gram Puraskar. Joshipura Gram Panchayat has indeed set an example for many Indian villages suffering from similar sanitation challenges.

*Source : [www.sba.com](http://www.sba.com)*