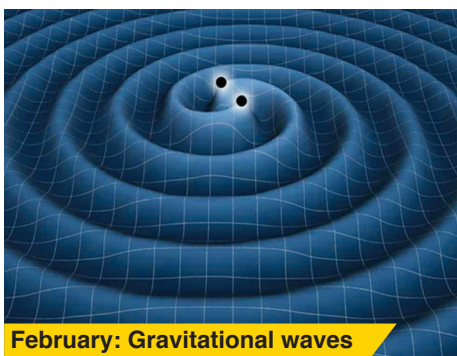


2016: Rise of populism stuns political establishment



January: Zika virus



February: Gravitational waves



April: Battling illegal ivory trade



October: Hurricane Matthew



July: Bastille Day attack



July: Coup foiled



June: Brexit vote



November: Trump victorious



September: Tragedy of Aleppo



August: Rio glory



October: Battle for Mosul

JAN 10 **David Bowie**, one of the most influential musicians of his era, dies aged 69

16 Crippling economic sanctions on Iran are lifted after the IAEA certifies Tehran has restricted sensitive nuclear activities

21 Women in Latin America and the Caribbean are warned to avoid pregnancy amid concerns over the **Zika virus** which causes severe birth defects

FEB 11 Scientists confirm the first direct observation of **gravitational waves**. The sound of two black holes colliding a billion light-years away fulfils the last prediction of Einstein's theory of general relativity

13 **Pope Francis** and Russian Orthodox **Patriarch Kirill** hold the first meeting between their two churches since they split in 1054

MAR 18 Turkey reaches a deal with the European Union to curb the tide of migrants heading for Greece, and take back migrants who are not eligible for asylum



20 President **Barack Obama** visits Havana, cementing the thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations after 54 years of enmity

22 Three suicide bombings in Brussels kill 35 people. So-called **Islamic State** claims responsibility

APR 3 The "**Panama Papers**", 11.5 million leaked confidential documents, reveal how some of the super-rich funnel assets into secretive shell companies in offshore tax havens

21 Pop superstar **Prince** is found dead at age 57 following an accidental drug overdose

30 Kenyan authorities burn the largest ever pile of contraband ivory, valued at over \$172 million, to combat illegal trade

MAY 2 In one of the greatest ever sporting upsets, **Leicester City** football club wins the English Premier League

3 A massive wildfire in Canada forces the evacuation of the entire 88,000-strong population of the city of **Fort McMurray**. Over 2,500 buildings are destroyed

10 **Rodrigo Duterte** wins a landslide election victory to become President of the Philippines, vowing a relentless crackdown on crime



JUN 3 Boxing legend **Muhammad Ali** dies at the age of 74

12 A shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, kills 50 people in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history

23 The UK votes in a referendum to leave the European Union. Prime Minister **David Cameron** announces his resignation as "**Brexit**" sends shockwaves around the globe

JUL 12 China rejects an international ruling in favour of the Philippines over territorial disputes in the South China Sea



13 **Theresa May** becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom as the fallout from Brexit continues

14 A truck deliberately ploughs into a crowd of revellers celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, France, killing 84 people. The attacker is shot dead by police

15 An attempted coup in Turkey is foiled by forces loyal to President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**. A harsh crackdown on political opponents is still ongoing

18 The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) concludes the Russian government was involved in an intensive doping programme

26 **Solar Impulse 2** becomes the first solar-powered aircraft to circumnavigate the Earth, completing a 16-month voyage when it lands in Abu Dhabi

AUG 13 Rio 2016 stars include **Usain Bolt**, who wins a third trio of gold medals, and swimmer **Michael Phelps**, who takes his tally of Olympic golds to 23

24 The historic town of Amatrice is crushed when a 6.2 earthquake strikes central Italy, killing around 300 people



24 The Colombian government and Farc rebels agree a historic peace accord after 52 years of bitter conflict



31 Brazilian President **Dilma Rousseff** is impeached and removed from office

SEP 2 **Mother Teresa** is officially declared a saint of the Roman Catholic Church

9 North Korea conducts its fifth and largest nuclear test to date, bigger than the Hiroshima atom bomb of World War II

20 Syrian government and Russian forces launch a major offensive to retake all remaining rebel-held areas of Aleppo

30 The **Rosetta** space mission ends with a controlled crash landing on comet 67P/CG

OCT 4 **Hurricane Matthew** tears through Haiti, leaving up to 1,600 dead. It later slams into the U.S., killing 49

13 **King Bhumibol Adulyadej** of Thailand, the world's longest reigning monarch, dies at the age of 88

13 **Bob Dylan** becomes the first songwriter to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature

13 Nigeria's Islamic militant group **Boko Haram** releases 21 of the 276 school girls kidnapped from Chibok in April 2014

16 Iraqi troops and Kurdish peshmerga fighters, backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, launch an offensive to retake the city of Mosul from Islamic State

16 French authorities begin clearing the makeshift camp at Calais known as the Jungle, home to up to 8,000 migrants who are relocated to temporary units throughout France

NOV 8 **Donald Trump**, Republican outsider and billionaire businessman, wins a shock election victory to become the first U.S. President never to have held public office or served in the military



25 **Fidel Castro**, former President of Cuba, dies at age 90

28 Most of Brazil's **Chapecoense** football team die in a plane crash en route to play in the Copa Sudamericana final in Colombia

DEC 4 **Alexander Van der Bellen** wins Austria's re-run presidential election, narrowly defeating **Norbert Hofer** of the far-right Freedom Party

4 Italian prime minister **Matteo Renzi** announces his resignation after losing a referendum on constitutional reform