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CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF
OCTOBER 2012

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PICK OF THE MONTH

INDIA-AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED NUCLEAR DEAL NEGOTIATION

India and Australia on 17 October 2012 announced the launch of nuclear negotiations for a civil nuclear deal that will enable the sale of uranium from Australian Capital city Canberra to New Delhi.

The deal was announced by Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on her visit to India. The deal is going to provide stretch in India's civilian nuclear ambitions and will also strengthen bilateral ties between both the Countries.

Earlier in 2011, the Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Australian Labour Party refused to sell uranium to India by specifying that India had not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The actual supply of uranium is going to take couple of years as negotiations for the safeguards agreement are complex and lengthy.



Both the Countries also signed four other agreements, the most important of which is agreement on Student mobility and welfare in which they agreed to hold annual meetings at the summit level either bilaterally or during multilateral events.

India and Australia also agreed to launch a Ministerial-level Dialogue on Energy Security, establish a Water Technology Partnership and start negotiations for an Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

UK AND SCOTLAND SIGNED AGREEMENT ON SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

UK and Scotland signed an agreement on 15 October 2012 to hold a referendum in 2014 on Scottish independence. The referendum agreement has been signed following talks in Edinburgh between David Cameron, UK Prime Minister and Alex Salmond, who leads the pro-independence Scottish National Party. The referendum could lead to the United Kingdom breaking up after 300 years, leaving only England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the Union.

The British Government wants Scotland to stay in its political union with England. The Scottish Government led by Alex Salmond favours independence. After months of negotiations, the deal is expected to give Scotland's administration the power to hold a vote in the final quarter of 2014, which will offer Scotland a choice on leaving the United Kingdom.

FRANCE OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED THE 1961 PARIS MASSACRE

France on 17 October 2012 for the first time officially acknowledged the killings of hundreds of unarmed Algerians in the 1961 Paris Massacre. In a communiqué (communication) that was published by the Elysee Palace, a statement by the President Francois Hollande stated about the killing of the Algerians protestors, protesting for their Independence on 17 October 2012 in a bloody repression. He also paid homage to the victims after 51 years of the incident.



Algeria, the North African Country, won its independence in 1962, after fighting 8 years long brutal war in which about a million people died. The official declaration in relation to the acknowledgement of the killings came a week before Mr. Hollande's visit to Algeria.

ABOUT THE INCIDENT

Maurice Papon, the French Nazi sympathizer and the then Prefect of Paris imposed a curfew on Algerians living in France. The Leaders of Algeria tried to challenge the curfew with a protest that was to be done in a peaceful manner. The Protestors on 17 October 1961 were rounded up in Paris on the order of Papon and tortured and beaten up brutally. Many of them were thrown alive in River Seine with their hands tied at their back.

The 1961 Massacre of Paris can be compared to Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in which General Dyer ordered killing of unarmed civilians protesting against colonial presence in the India.

COP 11 EMPHASISED ON THE WELL BEING OF BIODIVERSITIES

The XIth Conference of the Parties (COP 11) - Convention on Biological Diversity was organised by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India from 8 October to 19 October 2012. Eleventh meeting of the COP 11 was held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, and the conference included a high-level ministerial segment meet that was organised by India in consultation with the Bureau and Secretariat and it took place from 17 October to 19 October 2012.

Mobilisation of financial resources was the theme for the COP 11 summit. The next round of the conference is scheduled to take place in Korea after 2 years. Finding out the commendable solution by discussions over the issues of the Earth's bio-diversity is the main agenda of the conference. The conference was attended by more than 5000 delegates from 180 countries. Enrollment of about 14,400 participants in the convention made it the largest biodiversity gathering of its time.

DISCUSSIONS ON TARGETS OF NAGOYA PROTOCOL

Discussion over the 20 identified targets at 2010 Nagoya Protocol was also done to find out the problems that it faced for implementation.

DEMANDS OF DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

- African countries like Namibia demanded developed nations to stand by their promise fund allocation for saving the bio-diversity, made in the 2010 protocol
- The developed nations stood by their demand of creating a baseline of the investments made by now and how much more was needed

INDIA'S STAND

India also demanded steps to be taken for ecosystem restoration and establishment of a relationship between biodiversity and climate change, identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas in marine ecosystems.

India to Chair the Conference for Next Two Years as its President: India will be Chairing the Conference as its President for next two years. The Union Environment and Forests Minister Jayanthi Natarajan took over the charge of COP-11 as its President for next two years.

- The Union Environment and Forests Minister Jayanthi Natarajan, who took over the charge of COP-11 as its President for next two years emphasised on the issue of resource mobilization that remained an unfinished agenda of COP-10 at Nagoya in Japan
- Manmohan Singh the Prime Minister of India announced a grant of \$50 million for strengthening the institutional mechanism of biodiversity conservation in India and other developing countries by the name of Hyderabad Pledge
- The Prime Minister also launched the high level segment of the 11th conference of parties during the UN Convention on Biodiversity meeting at Hyderabad. This conference was the first conference after the launch of Decade of Biodiversity by United Nations in 2011.

The high level meet took place during the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNBD) that was declared by the United Nations General Assembly following its resolution 65/161. This plan was designed to find out the solutions for the objectives like Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Across the UNBD, a trial to encourage government and representatives of different countries to develop, implement and communicate the results established by their national strategies designed for fine implementation of the strategic plan over biodiversity.

CONCLUSION

Amid the discussions and concerns, the COP 11 conference failed to reach to a concrete decision of making resource mobilisation and fund arrangements done. Indian Prime Minister allocated a fund of \$50 million for strengthening the mechanism for preserving the biodiversity in India and other Developing nations. Although several steps and things were critically discussed and concerns were raised to achieve better results and face the upcoming challenges.

PLAN AND PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED DURING COP11 CONFERENCE

- BirdLife International on 16 October 2012 launched an e-Atlas of Marine-Important Bird Areas during COP11. The e-Atlas would act as an inventory and carry data of around 3000 important bird areas from across the world and can play a major role in conserving the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target for protection of 10 percent coastal and marine Areas by 2020
- The NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) also declared its plan to create a national database for tigers, the flagship species of India proving a unique identification code and number to each one of these big cats in India. This was declared by the member secretary of NTCA, Rajesh Gopal during an event organized with a theme Have We Turned the Corner in Tiger Conservation

NOBEL PRIZE-2012

John Gurdon and Shinya Yamanaka, the British and Japanese researchers respectively on 8 October 2012 won the Nobel Prize-2012 in Medicine. They were awarded with the prize for the discovery of reprogramming the specialised and matured cells of the body into blank slate and this may one day this can start repairing the damaged organs. The Prize committee based in Karolinska Institute at Stockholm stated that this discovery has helped in understanding the theory of cell and organism development.

The discovery has turned up to be a tool for the scientists round the world allowing them to make remarkable progress in different areas of medicine and can help in tissue transplantation for treatment of diseases like Diabetes and Parkinson.

The Nobel Prize in Medicine sector is the first announcement made for the year. Awards for physics, Chemistry, Literature and Peace will be announced on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday respectively. The declared prizes will be handed out to their respective winners on the death anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel on 10 December 2012.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER FOR THE YEAR 2011 IN MEDICINE/ PHYSIOLOGY SEGMENT

Bruce Beutler and Jules Hoffmann from America and France respectively won the 2011 Nobel Prize for the discoveries related to the activation of innate immunity. The duo shared the prize with Ralph Steinman of Canada for discovering dendritic cell.

The Canada born, Ralph Steinman died few days before receiving the prize. Although the Posthumous prizes in case of Nobel is not allowed but it remained unchanged just because the decision was made previously without being aware of his death.

[To Read More on Nobel Prize](#)

[Serge Haroche and Wineland won Nobel Prize for Physics](#)

[Robert Lefkowitz and Kobilka Won Nobel Prize for Chemistry](#)

[Mo Yan won the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature](#)

[Nobel Peace Prize 2012 awarded to European Union](#)

WEST INDIES WON THE ICC WORLD TWENTY20 TOURNAMENT

West Indies on 7 October 2012 won the finals of ICC World Twenty20 Championship after defeating the Sri Lankan team by 36 runs at R. Premadasa Stadium. West Indies batting first in the match scored 137 runs for six wickets down. In response to the target, the Lankan team finished off at a score of 101 runs allowing West Indies to win the tournament.

The West Indies team won a world cup title after 33 years. Before this the team won the 1979 ODI World Cup after defeating the English team in the final. In fact, West Indies also won the 1st edition of World Cup in 1975 after defeating Australia in the final match.

The Indian team was out of the Twenty20 World Cup tournament in the super-eight matches after it failed to stop the South African team at the score of the 121 in its last match.



NEW PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING THE DIGNITARIES APPROVED

Pranab Mukherjee, the Hon'ble President of India approved new set of Protocols for addressing, the dignitaries inside and outside the country. Mukherjee also asked the authorities to organise government functions within the premises of Rastrapati Bhawan, this came out of his concern to the inconvenience caused to the public and police during his movement.

Words of colonial era like his Excellency will be replaced by Shree or Smt. before the name of the President or the Governor, in the functions being organised within the country and between the Indian dignitaries. His Excellency can only be used to greet the President during his interaction with foreign dignitaries.

The Hindi word, Mahamahin would be replaced by Rastrapati Mahoday. In official notings in President Secretariat, Mahamahim will be replaced with the word Rastrapati ji. Hon'ble word would be used before the names of the President and the Governor.



For further action to be taken on the protocol, the changed Protocol was conveyed to the Home Ministry. The protocol will be implemented and brought in practice with immediate effect.

LANCE ARMSTRONG STRIPPED OF FROM SEVEN TOUR DE FRANCE TITLES

Lance Armstrong on 22 October 2012 was stripped of from all the seven Tour de France Titles and banned for life from cycling. This event occurred as a follow up of the 202 page report from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) that accused Armstrong of leading a doping programme on his team.

President of International Cycling Union (UCI) Pat McQuaid cleared on 22 October 2012 that the report from the anti-doping agency, USADA was accepted and no appeals would be made in the Court of Arbitration for Sports.

Organisers of Tour de France would now officially remove the name of Armstrong from all its record books that will include omission of his consecutive victories from 1999 to 2005. Christian Prudhomme the Tour Director announced that no official winners of these years would be declared and the race would follow the decisions made by the UCI.

HURRICANE SANDY A CATEGORY 2 CYCLONE STRUCK US

Sandy is the name given to the category 2 Cyclone that struck US, Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba, and was formed in the late Hurricane season of 2012. Sandy was created from the elongated tropical wave that occurred in the Western Caribbean Sea on 22 October 2012.

Hurricane Sandy is one of the fiercest storms to hit the East Coast of Massachusetts on 29 October 2012 and it gave a devastating look to the city leaving behind the torrential rains, with widespread flood and howling winds. The dangerous high rise in the sea along with the flooded coastal areas saw a huge power cut in 385000 homes.

The name Sandy has been provided to the hurricane following the nomenclature set in an alphabetical order by the US authority National Hurricane Center for naming the hurricanes that arises in the North Atlantic Ocean. World Meteorological Organization maintains a list of names for naming the Hurricanes that occurs round the year. This list keeps on rotating on the yearly basis.

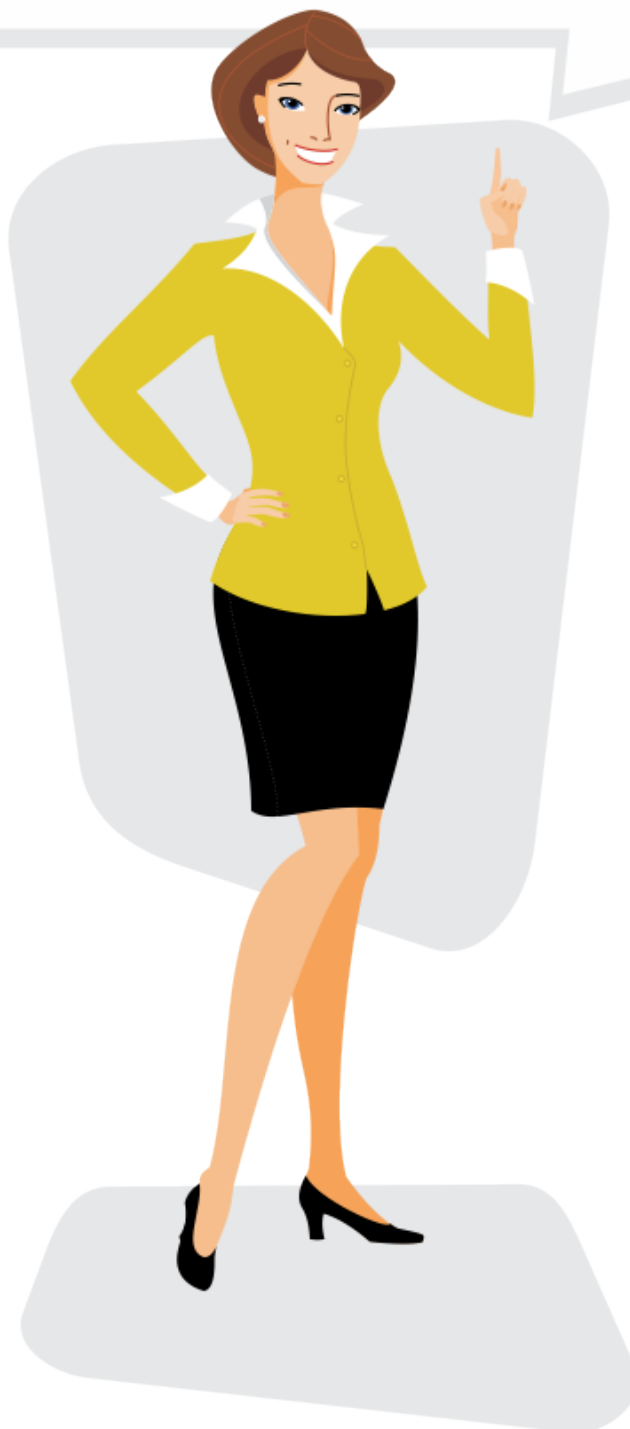
Hurricanes that struck US in past one decade

- Ike in September 2008
- Katrina in August 2005
- Rita in September 2005
- Hurricane Wilma in October 2005
- Charley in August 2004

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INTERNATIONAL

INDIA AND AUSTRIA TIED UP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SMART CITIES

India and Austria on 2 October 2012 tied up to develop smart cities that would include fine planning of the city including the transport system and services of internet. The decision came up after the meeting of Union Minister for Urban Development Kamal Nath with Austrian Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation & Technology Doris Bures.

The plans of developing the new cities will be implemented under the second phase of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM II). As per the plans initially two model smart cities will be developed in every state of the country that will include the mid-sized cities with a minimum population of half a million to one million.

70 Cities Are In Plan

Plans are on the paper to convert at least 70 cities with million plus population in India into smart cities. Austria that has been into different types of trade-relations for a long time with India will be offering the potential technical support.

EVERY STATE TO HAVE TWO SMART-CITIES

Austrian Institute of Technology will assist the country in planning and development of the Smart Cities that will include things that it needs to cover, broadband facilities to its maintenance to carbon levels. As per the plans of the Central Government under JNNURM II every state will have two model towns initially.

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

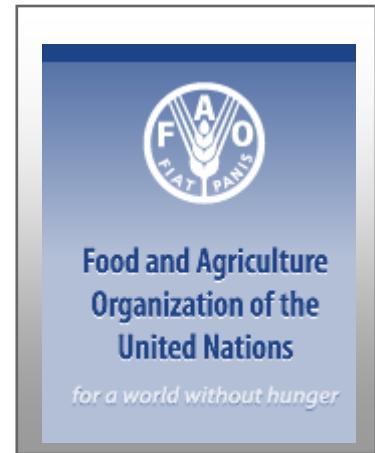
Austrian Institute of Technology and the National Institute of Urban Affairs that is a research, information and training wing under the Urban Development Ministry, would be the partners in the project.

UN WARNED OF PRICE HIKE IN FOOD PRODUCTS

United Nations on 4 October 2012 issued a warning of price rise for meat and dairy products in response to the extreme weather conditions suffered by Europe and associated centers of food production. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) with its headquarters in Rome indicated that the global wheat production saw an expected fall of 5.2 percent and other crops meant for feeding the animals could drop down by 10 percent in the year 2012 to that on the available data of year 2011.

With rise in density of population there has been a fall in the production to manage the demand of consumption and this is a reason that products like wheat have seen 25 percent growth in the price in the year 2012. Whereas, Maize and dairy products have witnessed a price hike of 13 and 7 percent within a month's time, respectively.

The world at present is facing tight conditions in food supply because of decreased cereal production and decline in world reserves. This has turned up to be a reason for hike in prices across the world. This price hike is the reason for decline in demand of these products. [To Read More](#)



INDIA AND WORLD BANK SIGNED DEAL FOR SHIKSHA ABHYAN

World Bank and the Government of India on 5 October 2012 signed a loan agreement of 500 Million US Dollar for Secondary Education Project named Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

The project is going to help in achieving increased and good quality secondary education as directed in the framework of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, the flagship government of India program for gradual Universalisation of secondary education.

The agreement was signed by Prabodh Saxena, the joint secretary, department of economic affairs and Onno Ruhl, the country director of World Bank.

WHAT IS RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN?

Like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Department of School Education and Literacy of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) under Government of India is launching Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) with an aim to achieve Universal Access and Quality Secondary Education.

Under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, the responsibility to develop Secondary-Education Management Information system (SE-MIS) is given to the Department of Educational Planning, National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi.

INDIA AND FRANCE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT

India and France on 7 October 2012 signed an agreement in the field of sustainable Urban Development. The agreement was signed in Paris between Union Minister of Urban Development Kamal Nath and Minister for Foreign Trade of France Nicole Bricq.

Both India and France would benefit from the agreement as it would provide an enabling platform for the officials, professionals, business leaders and local self-governing bodies to

meet and share knowledge and best practices in the urban sector. It would also lead to enhanced cooperation and deepen the engagement between the two countries. India and France also discussed ways to enhance economic and commercial relations between the countries.

NEW CABINET PROPOSED BY PRIME MINISTER OF LIBYA REJECTED

The General National Assembly of Libya on 7 October 2012 rejected the new 10-member Crisis Cabinet proposed by the Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shagur. He had submitted his second list of Cabinet Ministers for approval to the National Assembly. There were 125 votes against, 44 in favour while 17 MPs abstained from voting in the 200 member National Assembly. The rejection implies dismissal of Libyan Prime Minister. The National Assembly can now elect a new Prime Minister within the next four weeks.

The second list of 10 cabinet ministers was proposed as an emergency response by the Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shagur, barely 3 days after the first list of 29 ministers was rejected by the General National Congress on 4 October 2012. The lawmakers at the 200 member National Assembly yet again disapproved it saying it was not representative of all the regions in Libya. After the release of the first list, the Parliament in Tripoli was stormed by the protesters from Zawiya and Zuwara demanding more representation and the resignation of the Prime Minister.

JAPAN AND INDIA LAUNCHED RESEARCH PROJECT ON LNG PRICING

Japan and India on 10 October 2012 launched a joint research project into pricing structures in LNG markets.

Japan's industry minister Yukio Edano and Deputy Chairperson of Planning commission of India Montek Singh Ahluwalia, signed the agreement on joint research in Tokyo. Resource-poor Japan is on the hunt for cheaper energy, with the situation further worsened by the shuttering of all but two of its nuclear reactors amid public distrust following tsunami-sparked meltdowns at Fukushima

Japan is the world's top importer of liquefied natural gas. Asian buyers pay far more than those in North America because the price is index-linked to oil on the continent. Under the present pricing structures in LNG markets, the price in North America is determined on the basis of supply and demand.

India's expanding economy also demand more and more energy keeping this in view both the countries agreed for a research project to study price structure.

ABOUT LNG

LNG is gas that is temporarily liquefied for easier storage and transportation. Liquefied natural gas or LNG is natural gas predominantly in the form of methane, CH₄ that has been converted to liquid form for ease of storage or transport.

Liquefied natural gas takes up about 1/600th the volume of natural gas in the gaseous state. It is odorless, colorless, non-toxic and non-corrosive. Hazards include flammability, freezing and asphyxia.

SAU MADE INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH ASIA A COMPULSORY SUBJECT

South Asian University (SAU) made Introduction to South Asia a compulsory course for every student in the University. The University made it mandatory to pass this non-credit course for gaining a degree from the University. The decision came during the second meet of the University's Academic Council in October 2012.

The taken step will help the students taking admissions in the University from different South Asian Nations to know some facts and relevant importance of the region. A PhD program will also be launched by the University in the next academic year. The University also declared that it would also institute Gold Medal by the name of the University for all the eight different Post-Graduate Programmes that it offers at present. These medals will be awarded to one student from each section at the end of the program after reviewing their academic record and achievement.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ELECTED NON-PERMANENT MEMBER COUNTRIES

The UN General Assembly on 18 October 2012 elected five new non-permanent members to the Security Council. The New Members are South Korea, Luxembourg, Argentina, Australia and Rwanda.

The newly elected member countries are going to serve a two-year term in the powerful UN body that will begin on 1 January 2013. The country of Republic of Korea and Luxembourg were elected to a two-year term in the UN Security Council in the second round of voting. Whereas, Argentina, Australia and Rwanda were elected earlier, to serve as new non-permanent members of the powerful UN body. [To Read More](#)

INDIA AND NEW ZEALAND SIGNED FIVE MOUS ON EDUCATION

India and New Zealand on 19 October 2012 signed, five Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in the different fields of education. The MoUs were signed in New Delhi during the first meeting of India-New Zealand Education Council.

The education institutions of New Zealand especially higher education maintain global standards. India and New Zealand share strong people to people links through increasing

migration, tourism, education and sporting ties. The education can play a vital role in strengthening links between the two countries.

COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND FARC LAUNCHED PEACE TALK

Government of Colombia and Leftist FARC rebels formally launched peace talks in Norway on 17 October 2012 which aimed at ending nearly five decades of conflict that has claimed an estimated 600000 lives.

The peace talk was officially launched by government and the rebels in a hotel in Hurdal, a small town north of Oslo. The core area of discussion focused on five main areas that is land reform, the rebels' future role in political life, a definitive end of hostilities, fighting the illegal drug trade and the situation of the victims. [To Read More](#)

JAPAN LIFTED TRAVEL ADVISORY ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The country of Japan on 19 October 2012 in a step to testimony the fact that security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is improved, relaxed the travel restriction to the state for its nationals. The move to ease restrictions is valid for Srinagar and adjoining areas like Gulmarg. [To Read More](#)

THE 2ND INDIA-JAPAN 2+2 DIALOGUE HELD IN TOKYO

The 2nd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue was held in Tokyo on 22 October, 2012. These 2+2 consultations at Senior Official level are mandated by the Action Plan to Advance Security Cooperation concluded between India and Japan in December 2009. The first India- Japan 2+2 Dialogue was held at New Delhi in June 2010. The two countries briefed the other on their respective defence and security policies in the background of each country's security environment.

In this context, both nations reviewed bilateral security and defence cooperation and discussed ways of further expanding such ties. The two sides also exchanged views on maritime, cyber and outer space security. They agreed to an early meeting of the new India – Japan Cyber Security Dialogue. They also discussed the regional and international security situation.

The next and the 3rd round of the India – Japan 2+2 Dialogue will be held at New Delhi at a mutually convenient date. The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and Defence Secretary Shri Shashi Kant Sharma. The Japanese delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki and Administrative Vice-Defence Minister Hironori Kanazawa.

INDIA, SPAIN SIGNED AGREEMENT ON DEFENCE COOPERATION

India and Spain on 26 October 2012 signed a memorandum of understanding under which they are going to encourage collaboration between their defence industries and exchange of personnel.

The MoU was signed by Indian Defence Minister A.K. Antony and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Morenés Eulate in New Delhi. Both the Countries agreed to exchange defence-related experience and information, and will encourage visits of personnel and collaboration in the defence industry and similar areas of cooperation. [To Read More](#)

INDIA, US AND JAPAN HELD TRILATERAL MEET ON COOPERATION

India, U.S. and Japan on its third trilateral meet on 29 October 2012 discussed trilateral cooperation in maritime security and a route through middle or north of Myanmar leading up to Hanoi.

The other major area of discussion was on exchanging of proposals for doing projects together in Africa as well as cooperating on the economic side in Afghanistan. The three countries were on cycle of talk which they completed following this meet. The talk began with their first meeting in Washington in December 2011 which was followed by next meeting in Tokyo in April 2012. Talking of maritime security the three countries discussed some specific areas of cooperation which will be productive in the next cycle of talks that is going to begin after the U.S. Presidential elections and with the settling down of next US administration.

Each side gave a strategic overview of the Asia Pacific. While Japan's Briefing was primarily focused on dispute with China over the Senkaku islands. India with discussing issues on Myanmar had taken up a trilateral connectivity initiative with Myanmar and Thailand that touched on a route through upper Myanmar that would lead into Vietnam. Also, US briefing was about its much-talked about policy of 'pivot to Asia', which is a move driven by the allure of emerging Asian economies, especially China and India.

INDIA AND UK AMENDED PACT ON AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

India and the United Kingdom on 30 October 2012 signed a protocol amending the 1993 bilateral convention on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion related to taxes on income and capital gains.

The Protocol amends the pact or Convention that was originally assigned on 25 January 1993 in New Delhi. The protocol was signed by India's High Commissioner Jaimini Bhagwati and Exchequer Secretary to the U.K. Treasury, David Gauke.

The amended protocol is going to provide tax stability to the residents of both the countries and also facilitate mutual economic cooperation with stimulating flow of investment, technology and services. Also, the withholding taxes on the dividends would be 10 per cent or 15 per cent and is equally applicable in the UK and in India.

The Protocol integrates provisions for effective exchange of information between tax authorities of the two countries in line with latest international standards including exchange of banking information and supplying of information irrespective of domestic interest.

With the amendment there will now be a new article in the **Convention on Assistance in Collection of Taxes**. It includes provision for taking measures of conservancy. The Protocol also constitutes **the Convention anti- abuse (limitation of benefits) provisions**, which ensure that the benefits of the Convention are not misused.

INTERNATIONAL QUIZZES

1. Union Minister for Urban Development Kamal Nath recently after a meet with his counterpart gave the charge of developing smart cities in India. Name the country to which the contract has been offered.

- a) Austria
- b) Japan
- c) Germany
- d) Russia

Answer. (a) Austria

2. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is a body of which international group

- a) United Nations
- b) UNESCO
- c) UNICEF
- d) World Health Organisation

Answer. (a) United Nations

3. Name the country with which Indian Union Minister of Urban Development Kamal Nath recently signed an Agreement in the Field of Urban Development?

- a) Japan
- b) Korea
- c) Syria
- d) France

Answer. (d) France

4. Name the Maldivian court that issued a arrest warrant against the ex-President Mohamed Nasheed
- a) Magistrate Court of Hulhumale
 - b) Magistrate Court of Farukolhufunadhoo
 - c) Magistrate Court of Funadhoo
 - d) Magistrate Court of Male

Answer. (a) Magistrate Court of Hulhumale

5. Name the organizations involved in project implementation of Smart Cities development in India?
- a) CSIR and Austrian Institute of Technology
 - b) NTPC and Austrian Institute of Technology
 - c) Austrian Institute of Technology and the National Institute of Urban Affairs
 - d) DDA and Austrian Institute of Technology

Answer. (c) Austrian Institute of Technology and the National Institute of Urban Affairs

6. India and Japan launched a joint research project into pricing structures. Name the market in which the research project will take place?
- a) For studying investments in the Nuclear projects
 - b) To study Cyber Security Forum
 - c) To study LNG pricing
 - d) None of these

Answer. (c) To study LNG pricing

7. Name the language that made its official debut among one of the Languages at Pope Benedict's weekly general audiences in the Vatican's
- a) French
 - b) Hindi

- c) German
- d) Arabic

Answer. (d) Arabic

8. UK and Scotland on 15 October 2012 signed an agreement to hold a referendum in 2014 on Scottish Independence. The referendum agreement has been signed in Edinburgh between David Cameron, UK Prime Minister and_____?
- a) Alex Salmond
 - b) Alexander MacEwan
 - c) Andrew Dewar Gibb
 - d) None of these

Answer. (a) Alex Salmond (he is the leader of the pro-independence Scottish National Party)

9. Name the subject the South Asian University made compulsory every student of the University to achieve his/her degree from the University?
- a) Introduction to South Asia
 - b) History of Asian Subcontinent
 - c) Geography of South Asia
 - d) Introduction to the Sub-Continent

Answer. (a) Introduction to South Asia

10. Pakistan's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Asim Hussain met Cabinet Minister of Petroleum and Natural gas of India, Jaipal Reddy in New Delhi on 17 October 2012 in an event PETROTECH 2012. What was the core area of discussion between the duo?
- a) Strengthening of commercial relations between both the nations
 - b) Tapi Gas Project
 - c) On securing the border relations
 - d) None of these

Answer. (b) Tapi Gas Project

11. Tapi Gas Project signed between the three nations Turkmenistan, Pakistan and India for a pipeline project. Name the sea from which the pipeline will transport the Natural Gas

- a) Black Sea
- b) Dead Sea
- c) Red Sea
- d) Caspian Sea

Answer. (d)Caspian Sea

12. Five New Non-Permanent Member Countries were elected to UN Security Council. They are South Korea, Luxembourg, Argentina, Australia and? Name the fifth country.

- a) New Jersey
- b) Rwanda
- c) Indonesia
- d) Republic of China

Answer. (b) Rwanda

13. During her visit to India Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a Civil Nuclear Deal for the sale of Uranium to India. Name the city mentioned from which the sale would take place.

- a) Sydney
- b) Canberra
- c) Queensland
- d) Tasmania

Answer. (b) Canberra

14. The Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard who was on visit to India in the month of October 2012 belongs to which party?

- a) Australian Labour Party
- b) Liberal/National Coalition

- c) Democratic Labour Party
- d) Australian Greens

Answer. (a) Australian Labour Party

15. The Israeli Authority on 18 October 2012 released documents that described the red line for minimum food needs of people at Gaza Strip to avoid, the issue of Malnutrition. Name the NGO involved behind the publication of the report?

- a) Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA)
- b) Adalah
- c) Gisha
- d) Addameer

Answer. (c) Gisha

16. On 17th October 2012 France Officially recognised the killings of 1961 Paris Massacre. Name the country whose nationals were targeted in the killings?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Vietnam
- c) Algeria
- d) Geneva

Answer. (c) Algeria

17. Government of Colombia and a group of rebels formally launched peace talks in Norway on 17 October 2012 that aims at ending nearly five decades of conflict that has claimed an estimated 600000 lives. Name the group of rebels.

- a) Leftist FARC
- b) Jama'at al-Jihad al-Islami
- c) Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb
- d) Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda

Answer. (a) Leftist FARC

18. Name the Nation that recently lifted travel restrictions from its nationals to visit the Indian state, Jammu and Kashmir?

- a) USA
- b) Brazil
- c) Indonesia
- d) Japan

Answer. (d) Japan

19. Name the country with which India recently underwent its 2+2 Dialogue.

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) US
- d) UK

Answer. (a) Japan

20. India and Austria Tied up for development of smart cities in India and on the proposal there is a declaration of number of cities in every state with over a million population, on the graph plan. How many cities from every state are on the plan list in the first phase of smart city development?

- a) 3 cities
- b) 2 cities
- c) 1 city
- d) 5 cities

Answer. (b) 2 cities

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WORLD DAIRY

2 October 2012

- India and Austria tied up for development of Smart Cities in India

4 October 2012

- UN warned of price hike in food products and a decline in global cereal production

7 October 2012

- National Assembly of Libya rejected the New Cabinet Proposed by Prime Minister
- The Parliament was dissolved in Kuwait for the Sixth Time in Five Years
- Maldivian Court issued an arrest warrant against ex-President Mohamed Nasheed
- India and France signed an Agreement in the Field of Urban Development

10 October 2012

- Japan and India Launched Research Project to Study LNG Pricing
- Arabic made its debut as official language at Vatican

15 October 2012

- UK and Scotland signed an Agreement to hold a Referendum on Scottish Independence

16 October 2012

- South Asian University made Introduction to South Asia a Compulsory Subject

17 October 2012

- India and Pakistan Discussed TAPI Gas Project
- India-Australia Announced Nuclear Deal Negotiation
- France officially recognised the killings of 1961 Paris Massacre
- Colombian Government and FARC Launched Peace Talk

18 October 2012

- Five New Non-Permanent Member Countries Elected to UN Security Council
- Israeli Authorities released Red Line Report for Gaza Strip

19 October 2012

- India and New Zealand signed Five MoUs to cooperate in Education
- Japan Lifted Travel Advisory on Jammu and Kashmir
- Pakistan SC Ordered action against Ex Chiefs of Pak army and ISI

22 October 2012

- The 2nd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue held in Tokyo

26 October 2012

- India, Spain Signed Agreement on Defence Cooperation
- Former Prime Minister of Italy, Berlusconi sentenced with Four Year Jail Term
- Website of New York Times blocked in China

28 October 2012

- Australian Schools would Teach Hindi

29 October 2012

- India, US and Japan held Trilateral meet and Talked on Cooperation

30 October 2012

- India and UK Amended pact on Avoidance of Double Taxation

31 October 2012

- Pakistan Cabinet Ratified the Landmark Visa Pact with India

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ECONOMY

UNION GOVERNMENT CLEARED INCREASE OF FDI IN INSURANCE

The Union Government on 4 October 2012 approved the Companies Bill, 2011 and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill, moving with its proposal to hike the foreign investment in the insurance sector to 49 percent from the present 26 percent with also opening up the pension sector for FDI.

The decision was taken by Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The benefit of this amendment will go to the private sector insurance companies which require huge amount of capital and that capital will be facilitated with increase in FDI to 49 per cent.

With this, the state-run insurance companies will remain in the public sector. The government also gave green signal to foreign investment in pension funds and said the FDI limit could go up 49 per cent in line with cap in the insurance sector. Also with opening up the pension sector, PFRDA bill gives statutory powers to the interim regulator, constituted through an executive order in 2003.

However, it is not easy for the union government to pass this legislation in the parliament because the Opposition Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) opposed the hike in FDI limit in insurance and insisted for the bill to be brought again in Parliament Standing Committee.

12TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOCUSED ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION

The Union Cabinet on 4 October 2012 approved the 12th five-year plan with its aim to renew Indian economy and use the funds from government in improving the facilities of education, sanitation and health. This plan has seen a three-fold increase in the budget constraints when compared to that of the 11th five-year plan. The plan would infuse a huge fund of 47,70,000 lakh crore rupees and this will help to accomplish the economic growth to an average level of 8.2 percent.

12th five-year plan is guided by the policy guidelines and principles to revive the falling Indian economy, which registered a growth rate of meager 5.5 percent in the first quarter of the financial year 2012-13.

The plan aims towards the betterment of the infrastructural projects of the nation avoiding all types of bottlenecks. The document presented by the planning commission is aimed to attract private investments of up to US\$1 trillion in the infrastructural growth in the 12th five-year plan, which will also ensure a reduction in subsidy burden of the government to 1.5 percent from 2 percent of the GDP (gross domestic product). The UID (Unique Identification Number) will act as a platform for cash transfer of the subsidies in the plan. The plan aims towards

achieving a growth of 4 percent in agriculture and to reduce poverty by 10 percentage points, by 2017.

The formulated draft of the plan would be presented for final approval before the National Development Council (NDC) that is headed by the Prime Minister having the Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers on board. National Development Council (NDC) is the apex decision making body and authority to signal the five year plan in the nation. [To Read More on 12th Year Plan](#)

IMF SLASHED INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST FOR 2012 TO 4.9 PERCENT

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 9 October 2012 had slashed India's growth forecast to 4.9 per cent for 2012 due to low business confidence and sluggish structural reforms.

The International Monetary Fund earlier in July projected a growth rate of 6.1 per cent for the year 2012-13. During the first quarter ended in June 2012, Indian economy expanded by 5.5 per cent. In the World Economic Outlook (WEO) released in Tokyo ahead of the IMF-World Bank 2012 Annual Meetings, International Monetary Fund stressed that India's activity suffered from waning business confidence amid slow approvals for new projects, sluggish structural reforms, policy rate hikes designed to rein in inflation, and flagging external demand. [To Read More](#)

U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY DISCUSSED ECONOMY AND TRADE BARRIERS WITH INDIA

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner and Indian Finance Minister P.Chidambaram for the third annual meeting of the India-U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership on 9 October 2012 discussed lowering trade barriers and extending ways to expand capital markets.



Both the countries agreed to deepen cooperation at various multilateral forums, including the G20 and discussed ways to remove trade and investment barriers. Timothy F. Geithner welcomed the economic reform measures announced by the Indian government recently by saying that it would help in boosting private investment. [To Read More](#)

PILOT PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE FRIENDLY ROADS

C.P. Joshi, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways on 11 October 2012, approved two pilot projects for development of People Friendly Roads. This project will involve construction of National highways on corridor redevelopment and spot improvement concepts. This will help in reducing the financial burden from the government making it public friendly.

The pilot projects in this regard will be experimented at the Hero Honda Chowk on the Delhi Gurgaon Expressway for its spot improvement concept and Delhi-Dasna Section of NH-24 will

be used for implementation of corridor redevelopment concept. Additional features like premium cluster, higher education cluster, business cluster, Social Economic Zone (SEZ) and specialty cluster will be provided in the corridor redevelopment concept at Delhi-Dasna section of NH-24. The concept just not focus upon, development of the Highways but also have a prime objective of developing livelihood spaces and residential complexes, for people whose lands will be acquired.

EXPORTS IN INDIA WITNESSED 11 PERCENT DIP IN SEPTEMBER 2012

The Commerce Ministry on 11 October 2012 released a data that showcased the dip of 11 percent in exports and rise of 5.1 percent in imports. Exports in India for the fifth consecutive month reported fall in its percentage. With 11 percent fall to \$23.7 in export, the trade deficit widened to \$18.1 billion in a months' time.

The imports of the country showcased a positive figure in the month of September saw a rise of 5.1 percent at \$41.8 billion to that of \$39.8 percent recorded in the month of August, 2012. The cumulative recorded value of the exports in a period of April to September in 2012-13 down by 6.8 percent at \$143.7 billion as compared to the \$154.1 billion recorded in the same tenure in the previous fiscal year 2011-12.

NO AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT FEE ON TWO AIRPORTS FROM 2013

The Civil Aviation Ministry on 16 October 2012 announced to abolish the airport development fee on Delhi and Mumbai Airports, from 1 January 2013. The ministry directed the operators of the two airports to stop levying the charges for Airport Development Fee from the travellers from next year and also asked the Airport Authority of India to infuse equity in form of joint venture firms that operates the two largest airports of the nation. [To Read More](#)

RBI EXPANDED THE LENDING NORMS ON PRIORITY SECTORS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 18 October 2012 extended the lending's on the Priority sectors like housing, agriculture, small and medium enterprises, and expanded the scope of bank loans for these sectors up to 2 crore Rupees. These amendments would be in effect from 20 July 2012.

The decision came after discussions were held with the CMDs/CEOs of selected banks as well as the heads of Priority Sectors of selected banks and based on the same the new guidelines and amendments were made.

The banks were permitted by the central bank to offer loans up to an aggregate limit of 2 crore Rupees, to corporate that includes farmers' producer companies, co-operatives and partnership firms of famers indulged in agricultural and allied activities including animal husbandry, bee-keeping, dairy, fishery and sericulture. The Priority loan would also be made available for pre-harvest and post-harvest activities like weeding, spraying, grading, harvesting and sorting.

Export Credit loans for exporting one's own farm produce would also be made available. The lending scheme fulfills the criterion mentioned under the MSMED Act-2006. [To Read More](#)

NORTHERN RAILWAYS INTRODUCED PINK COLOURED TATKAL FORMS

The Northern Railways on 18 October 2012 introduced Pink coloured forms for Tatkal reservation. These forms would be made available with a printed warning column at the booking counters itself and would have enough space to fill in the details like names, contact number, address and others.

This step of Railways would help in getting away from the menace created by touts and unauthorized ticket agents. If the passenger is caught for buying the tickets from any of these touts or unauthorized agents, he will be responsible for the consequences that may be a fine in form of penalty or imprisonment following the provisions available in the Railway Act 1989.

In case address or phone number provided in the ticket is found false, the passenger would be de-boarded from the train on the very next station. Tatkal being a special service offered by the Railways requires special documents to be presented and hence the form would serve to the requirements.

RBI SLASHED CRR BY 0.25 PERCENT

The RBI on 30 October 2012 left interest rates unchanged but had cut the cash reserve ratio for banks and indicated that it is going to cut monetary policy further in the January-March 2013 quarter, with inflation remaining a near-term concern.

The decision of leaving the policy repo rate unchanged at 8.00 percent, which is at the same level for the past six months was in line with forecasts in a recent review of macroeconomic and monetary developments by Reuters.

Also, the reverse repo, at which RBI absorbs excess liquidity through borrowings from banks, remained at 7 percent. The new rates will be effective 3 November 2012.



The expectations for a rate cut had grown after India's finance minister P. Chidambaram on 29 October 2012 outlined a plan to trim the country's hefty fiscal deficit. D. Subbarao mentioned in his quarterly policy review that with the reduction in inflation, there is an opportunity for monetary policy to act in conjunction with fiscal and other measures to mitigate the growth risks and take the economy to a sustained higher growth trajectory. The RBI, however, cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (the amount parked by banks with the RBI) by 25 basis points from 4.5 per cent to 4.25 per cent. This measure is expected to infuse Rs 17,500 crore liquidity into the banking system.

The RBI cut its GDP growth forecast for Asia's third-largest economy to 5.8 per cent for the current fiscal year, from 6.5 per cent previously, and increased its projection for headline inflation in March to 7.5 per cent, from 7 per cent earlier. [For More Info](#)

ECONOMY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. The Union Government of India moving ahead with its proposal to hike foreign investment cap in the Insurance Sector 49 percent from its previous share. What was the previous cap of FDI on Insurance sector?
 - a) 17 percent
 - b) 36 percent
 - c) 26 percent
 - d) 11 percent

Answer. (c) 26 percent

2. With the opening up of the pension sector, PFRDA bill gave statutory powers to the interim regulator, constituted through an executive order in 2003. What does PFRDA stands for?
 - a) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill
 - b) Pension of Foreign Regulatory and Development Authority Bill
 - c) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Act
 - d) Permanent Fund Regulations and Development Authority

Answer. (a) Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill

3. What is the main focus of the 12th five year plan put forward by the Union Government of India?
 - a) Health, Dams and Sanitation
 - b) Poverty Alleviation, Employment and Justice
 - c) Economic Liberalization and Price Control
 - d) Health, Education and Sanitation

Answer. (d) Health, Education and Sanitation

4. Name the apex decision making body and authority to signal the Five Years Plan in India, also name its head at present?
- a) Planning Commission of India headed by Montek Singh Ahluwalia
 - b) National Development Council headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
 - c) National Action Plan Commission of India headed by the Finance Minister P. Chidambaram
 - d) National Authority for Development and Fund Allocation headed by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee
5. In the 12th Year Plan, what is the estimated percentage target of growth to be achieved in agriculture?
- a) 10 percent
 - b) 3 percent
 - c) 8 percent
 - d) 4 percent

Answer. (d) 4 percent

6. The Five Year Plan would infuse a huge fund of 47, 70,000 lakh crore Rupees and this will help to accomplish the economic growth. What is the expected average level of growth decided for the 12th Five Year Plan.
- a) 8.2 percent
 - b) 8.1 percent
 - c) 9 percent
 - d) 7.6 percent

Answer. (a) 8.2 percent

7. Indian Railways recently launched a new website and SMS service facility to identify the real time details of the running trains. To access the facility a person would have to log in to the website named www.trainenquiry.com. Name the organisation with which the Indian Railways managed to obtain permission for operation of the services through satellite.
- a) BARC

- b) MECON
- c) ISRO
- d) IIT-Kanpur

Answer. (c) ISRO

8. Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is responsible for monitoring the Foreign Direct Investments and acts as an agency for government of India Foreign Direct Investments in the country. It also acts as a body that grants single window clearance for FDI proposals in India. Who is the head of FIPB at present?
- a) Arvind Mayaram
 - b) Manmohan Singh
 - c) Anand Sharma
 - d) Sachin Pilot

Answer. (a) Arvind Mayaram

9. Name the one and only Indian Railway station to have more than 100 installed and operational cameras for surveillance purposes?
- a) Delhi Railway Station
 - b) New Delhi Railway Station
 - c) Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
 - d) Howrah Railway station

Answer. (b) New Delhi Railway Station

10. U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner and Finance Minister of India P. Chidambaram in the third annual meeting of the India-U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership held on 9 October 2012 discussed on the ways of expansion of capital market and on the importance improving coordination on bilateral tax matters including with respect to the tax treaty to address offshore tax evasion. They also agreed on implementation of an Act, name the Act?
- a) Ending Economic and Trade Barriers Act
 - b) Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

- c) Act of Addressing Bilateral Tax Matters
- d) Economic and Financial Partnership Act

Answer. (b) Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

11. The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, C.P. Joshi, on 11 October 2012, approved two pilot projects for development of People Friendly Roads. For pilot project implementation, he announced the name of a two places. Name the two opted places for pilot project implementation?

- a) Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and Delhi-Dasna Section of NH-24
- b) National Highway 44 from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Mumbai-Pune Expressway
- c) Ramgarh-Ranchi Section of NH 33 and Noida-Greater Noida Expressway
- d) Bangalore-Nelamangala Section of NH 48 and Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

Answer. (a) Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and Delhi-Dasna Section of NH-24

12. The Commerce Ministry released a data in the month of October that showcased the percentage dip of exports in India in the month of September 2012. What was the identified percentage dip in export?

- a) 5.6 percent
- b) 7.2 percent
- c) 11 percent
- d) 12 percent

Answer. (c) 11 percent

13. Ministry of civil aviation announced omission of Airport Development Fee in fares of the passengers from 2013 from two Airports of India. Name the two Airports?

- a) Delhi and Chennai
- b) Chennai and Mumbai
- c) Mumbai and Chandigarh
- d) Delhi and Mumbai

Answer. (d) Delhi and Mumbai

14. Railway recently introduced new forms for booking of the Tatkal tickets to make the journey in Indian Railways. To create a difference between the normal and the Tatkal forms, the railways has changed the colour of Tatkal forms, what would be the new colour of the Tatkal form?
- a) Blue
 - b) Yellow
 - c) Pink
 - d) Red

Answer. (c) Pink

15. RBI Expanded the Lending Norms on Priority Sectors like housing, agriculture, small and medium enterprises, as well as the central bank also expanded the scope of bank loans for these sectors up to 2 crore Rupees. To come into existence the lending scheme was supposed to fulfill the criterions mentioned under an Act. Name the Act?
- a) Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises Development Act- 2006 (MSMED Act-2006)
 - b) Accident Compensation Act 2001 (AC Act 2001)
 - c) The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)
 - d) Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise Development Act- 2012 (SMMED Act-2012)

Answer. (a) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act- 2006 (MSMED Act-2006)

16. Due to low business confidence and sluggish structural reforms, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) slashed India's growth forecast to a certain percentage. What is the percentage forecast of IMF?
- a) 5 percent
 - b) 4.9 percent
 - c) 6.2 percent
 - d) 3 percent

Answer. (b) 4.9 percent

17. RBI keeping the Repo Rate unchanged at 8 Percent slashed down the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by a percentage due to its concern on growing rate of inflation. What was the percentage cut of CRR

- a) 0.20 percent
- b) 0.28 percent
- c) 0.30 percent
- d) 0.25 percent

Answer. (d) 0.25 percent

18. The Civil Aviation Minister, Ajit Singh asked the DIAL (Dial International Airport Ltd) and MIAL (Mumbai International Airport Ltd) to submit proposals for stopping the Airport Development Fee charged from the travellers from Delhi and Mumbai Airports to the an Authority. Name the Authority to which the DIAL and MAIL has been directed to submit the proposals?

- a) Airports Authority of India
- b) Economic and Regulatory Authority of Airports in India
- c) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority
- d) Airport Economic Management Authority of India

Answer. (c) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERB)

19. An international body in the month of October slashed Indian growth forecast to 4.9 percent for 2012, because of its low business confidence and sluggishness in the structural reforms being practiced. Name the body, who has made this forecast for Indian Economy?

- a) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) World Bank

Answer. (b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

20. To ensure trusted and reliable controls on baggage and personal screening as well as security Surveillance, the Indian Railways has decided to implement, the Integrated

Security System (ISS) different stations across the country. What is the number of stations decided for implementation of the system?

- a) 200
- b) 202
- c) 1000
- d) 50

Answer. (b) 202

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CORPORATE

OIL INDIA & INDIAN OIL BOUGHT 30% STAKE IN CARRIZO SHALE ASSETS

Public sector companies Oil India Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd on 4 October 2012 announced acquisition of 30 per cent stake in Houston-based Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc's liquid rich shale assets in Colorado.

Both the companies together are going to invest \$82.5 million that includes a straight cash payment of \$41.25 million. Remaining \$41.25 million will be paid based on future drilling and development costs. OIL India will have 20 per cent stake, while Indian Oil Corporation would have 10 per cent stake.

Currently, the assets produce 1,850-2,000 barrels of oil & oil equivalent (BOE). The Indian companies would get 600-700 Barrels of Oil Equivalent as their share. This is OIL India and Indian Oil Corporation's first shale gas acquisition in the US.

Carrizo is a Houston-based energy company actively engaged in the exploration, development, exploitation, and production of oil and natural gas, primarily in the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas, the Barnett Shale in North Texas, the Marcellus Shale in Appalachia, the Niobrara Formation in Colorado, the Utica Shale in Eastern Ohio, and in proven onshore trends along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast regions. Carrizo is also actively developing its oil discovery known as the Huntington Field in the UK North Sea.

HDFC AND INDIAN OIL TO PROVIDE BANKING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

HDFC Bank on 4 October 2012 tied up with Indian Oil Corporation where rural Petrol Pump Outlets of Indian Oil will act as HDFC Bank Business Correspondent (BCs).

It is unique and first kind of tie-up, where an oil distribution company is coming up with the bank to make available modern banking services to the people of remote areas. The Indian oil is going to make it possible through Kisan Seva Kendra which is an retail outlet model pioneered by Indian Oil to cater to the needs of customers in the rural segment.

HDFC Bank planned to cover 1000 Kisan Seva Kendras in a phased manner and each of these outlets will be able to serve around 1,500 customers. The Kisan Seva Kendra outlets will offer banking services such as preliminary processing of loan applications, disbursal and collection of small value deposits, sale of micro-insurance, mutual funds and other investment instruments. HDFC plan is to bring 10 million families into its banking fold.

DGCA ORDERED KINGFISHER AIRLINES TO STOP BOOKING TICKETS

Kingfisher Airlines, the struggling airlines company of Vijay Mallya on 9 October 2012 was asked to stop booking tickets with immediate effect by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA). The decision came in effect against the delay of response from the Airlines management on issues of safety and certifications of air operations.

Following the reports that the airline was planning to resume its operation from 13 October 2012, the DGCA asked the airlines to stop booking the tickets as until the airlines doesn't get the clearance from DGCA it can't resume its normal operations.

AIR INDIA RECEIVED ITS THIRD BOEING 787 DREAMLINER

Air India on 9 October 2012 got its third Boeing Dreamliner from the new North Charleston Facility of the American manufacturer. Air India is the first airline in the world to take delivery of a Dreamliner from the US Based manufacturer.

In September 2012, Air India took delivery of its first of the 27 Dreamliners on order. The aircraft is equipped with 18 business class seats and 238 in the economy class.

Air India has currently deployed the Dreamliners on domestic sector to familiarise the pilots with aircraft landings and takeoff procedures. The Boeing 787 fleets of airplane with unmatched efficiency and technology is going to help Air India turnaround plan. The first commercial service of Dreamliner started from 19 September 2012 between New Delhi and Chennai, thereafter followed by New Delhi-Bangalore sector.

Dreamliner is the first commercial jet made primarily of advanced composite materials. It offers amazing passenger comfort features which includes cleaner air, higher humidity, and bigger windows that dim electronically and more overhead storage space. The aircraft's fuel efficiency is 20 per cent better than other airplanes in its class, which also results in 20 per cent lower carbon emissions.

ABOUT BOEING 787 DREAMLINER

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner is a long-range, mid-size wide-body, twin-engine jet airliner developed by Boeing Commercial Airplanes. Its variants seat 210 to 290 passengers. It is the world's first major airliner to use composite materials for most of its construction. Boeing, 787 consumes 20% less fuel than the similarly-sized 767. Its distinguishing features include a four-panel windshield, noise-reducing chevrons on its engine nacelles, and a smoother nose contour. The 787 shares a common type rating with the larger 777 twinjet, allowing qualified pilots to operate both models, due to related design features.



AFFORDABLE BASIC SERVICE OF 70 CHANNELS ANNOUNCED BY DISH TV

Dish TV on 10 October 2012 announced a basic service of 70 channels at affordable rates for five year. This act of the company came up to relive its consumers in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata, who were supposed to get their services digitised by the end of October 2012. In this case it's mandatory for every customer to move themselves from the analog signal to digital signal. [To Read More](#)

MERCEDES BENZ ROLLED OUT ITS FIRST SUV MADE IN INDIA

Mercedes Benz India on 10 October 2012 rolled out the first locally assembled SUV, the ML 250, from its Chakan plant near Pune.

The Mercedes Benz India at presently started with the production of ML 250 CDI while the production of the ML 350 CDI, as well as the GL-Class will going to be started in the next one year. The company is going to manufacture 100 vehicles per month from this facility. India is the only country outside of the USA where the German luxury car maker begun production out of the new ML-Class.

The new Mercedes ML 250 is built from CKD units and is currently localised to a degree of around 30%, with the power train and axles being sourced locally. The company has priced this locally assembled SUV at Rs 46.5 lakh ex-showroom, Delhi.



The benefit of local production is realized in the form of aggressive pricing, easier production availability and flexible production scheduling- each of these will benefit the discerning customers and ensure greater appeal of the M-Class in the high growth luxury SUV segment.

GVK POWER WON GREEN NOD FOR PORT DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRALIA

The Hyderabad-based GVK Power and Infrastructure Limited in second week of October received Australian federal government's approval for its Terminal-III (T3) development at the port of Abbot Point, near Bowen in Australia, under the environment protection and biodiversity conservation Act 1999.

The approval for GVK's Alpha Coal Port Project at Abbot Point follows a separate approval for the Alpha mine and rail projects which was made on August 23 2012. The Project approval came after a rigorous and thorough assessment process by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

GOOGLE LAUNCHED FREE SMS ON GMAIL IN INDIA

Google on 10 October 2012 launched free SMS chat service for its Indian users. Now, the Gmail SMS feature is accessible to Indian users along with 51 other countries in Asia, Africa and North

America. Google had first made this feature available to its users in some African countries in 2011.

With this free Gmail SMS service users can easily send text messages to mobile phones via Gmail Chat. The responses of the SMSs will appear as replies in Gmail Chat and conversations will be stored in users Chat history, like regular chats. The free Gmail SMS is made available to eight major mobile service operators in India that are Aircel, Idea, Loop Mobile, MTS, Reliance, Tata DoCoMo, Tata Indicom and Vodafone.

Initially Google will provide free SMS credit of 50 messages for each user. For every message sent, users' credit will decrease by one. However, this credit would increase by five every time a user responds to the text message by sending a return message. In case, the SMS credit limit slashes down to zero, one credit would increase automatically after 24 hours. Google had also provided the facility of buying SMS credit in case of shortage by sending a text message to their phone and then by replying to that message.

L&T FINANCE ACQUIRED INDO-PACIFIC HOUSING

L&T Finance Holdings Limited, the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) arm of the engineering giant Larsen & Toubro, on 10 October 2012 successfully completed the acquisition of Indo Pacific Housing Finance Limited (IPHF) for 110 crore Rupees.

The L&T Finance Holdings company earlier on 12 March 2012 had announced the signing of the definitive agreement for same acquisition.

ABOUT L&T FINANCIAL HOLDING LIMITED

L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. is a financial holding company offering a diverse range of financial products and services across the corporate, retail and infrastructure finance sectors, as well as mutual fund products and investment management services, through our direct and indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries. The Company is registered with the RBI as an NBFC. It is promoted by Larsen & Toubro Limited. It is headquartered in Mumbai, and has a presence in 23 states in India.

MARUTI SUZUKI LAUNCHED ALTO 800 IN INDIA

India's leading car maker Maruti Suzuki on 16 October 2012 launched its new car which is the new version of best selling model Alto. The launched car is named 'Maruti Alto 800', and is priced between Rs 2.44 lakh and 3.56 lakh (Ex -showroom Delhi). The lower price of car allows it to compete with Tata Nano and Hyundai EON. The new Alto 800 sports a fresh look, is more spacious and delivers 15% better efficiency than its predecessor Alto. [To Read More](#)

ICICI BANK SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH ECO BANK OF AFRICA

ICICI Bank on 15 October 2012 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ecobank Transnational Incorporated of Africa in order to extend their banking services across their combined footprint in India and Africa.

The MoU was signed in Tokyo by Vijay Chandok, President - International Banking Group of ICICI Bank Ltd and Arnold Ekpe, Group CEO of Ecobank. India's trade with Africa has doubled in the past four years. Stronger investment ties are complementing this steady growth in trade with Indian investments in Africa across a range of sectors including oil & gas, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, fertilizers, IT and infrastructure. [To Read More](#)

MAHINDRA SATYAM TIED WITH UPES FOR RESEARCH

Mahindra Satyam, the IT consulting and services company on 15 October 2012 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Dehradun-based University of Petroleum & Energy Studies (UPES) to facilitate joint research and development projects and consultancies in the oil and gas industry.

The agreement will allow the students and faculty of engineering disciplines of University of Petroleum and Energy Studies to gain industrial exposure and acquire practical competencies through training from Mahindra Satyam's experts. And on the other hand, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies will design certificate programs and conduct training sessions for the engineers at Mahindra Satyam.

Mahindra Satyam is one of the first organisations to be associated with University of Petroleum and Energy Studies. The tie-up is going to help both the organisations in exchanging skill-sets enhancing and strengthening their resources through mutual exposure.

ZEE LAUNCHED EDUTAINMENT CHANNEL ZEE Q FOR CHILDREN

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEE) on 15 October 2012 had launched ZeeQ, an edutainment channel targeting children of 4 to 14 years of age. The channel, will go on-air on 5 November 2012 and will be operated by Zee Learn Ltd, an 18-years old company that also runs a chain of pre-schools and K12 schools. ZEE Q is going to be available as a pay channel, on digital cable and direct-to-home platforms.

Zee has invested around 100 crores Rupees for the channel with a large percentage marked off for content creation and marketing the channel across platforms.

Zee Q will have a mix of home produced and acquired content. Zee already has 31 channels under its ambit.



PETROLEUM MINISTRY'S NON APPROVAL TO RIL'S INVESTMENT PLANS

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry on 17 October 2012 escalating the troubles of Reliance India Limited informed the Prime Minister office that it would not approve the investments of the company on its KG-D6 fields. The ministry came to its decision after the company refused to allow the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) the federal body that would scrutinize spending made by the company during 2008-09 and 2011-2012 in the block.

The Petroleum Secretary, G.C. Chaturvedi at a meeting in the Prime Minister's Office informed Pulok Chatterjee, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister about the issues related to KG-D6 fields and the production fall in the KG-DWN-98/3 Block by 26 mcmd (million cubic metres per day), which was less than half of the target investments approved by the Government.

IOC SIGNED MOU WITH KOREA GAS CORPORATION

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on 17 October 2012 signed a MoU with Korea Gas Corporation, Kogas, to jointly explore and produce oil and gas at the global level. The MoU also provides for developing natural gas infrastructure projects and liquified natural gas or LNG sourcing. It was signed at the Petrotech 2012 conference in New Delhi. The need was emphasized to carry the MoU forward and make progress on areas identified for co-operation in a time bound manner.

EUROPEAN TEA COMMITTEE TO PROTECT DARJEELING TEA

Tea Board of India signed a joint Communique with European tea Committee on 17 October 2012. It was agreed with signing of communiqué that both the organisation will cooperate and work together in distributing information about the Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) registration and its implications in Germany and other tea consuming countries within the European Union. Now with the implementation of PGI, tea produced only in Darjeeling can be labeled and sold as Darjeeling Tea within the territory of European Union.

TATA STARBUCK OPENED ITS FIRST STORE IN INDIA

Tata Starbucks, a joint venture between Tata Global Beverages (TGBL) and Starbucks Coffee Company, on 19 October 2012 opened its first store in India which is located in Horniman Circle of South Mumbai.

The company is going to open two more stores next week in Mumbai — one at Oberoi Mall in suburban Mumbai and another at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in South Mumbai. Also in Early 2013 the company will open its first store in Delhi. It was earlier in January 2012 that the company announced its joint venture with Tata Global Beverages Ltd. Starbucks Company runs 18,000 stores in 60 countries worldwide running over 700 outlets in China, 1000 outlets in Japan and 8000 outlets in the U.S The Tata Starbucks joint venture aiming on sourcing products from India and sells them in Starbucks stores globally. [To Read More](#)

DGCA SUSPENDED THE LICENSE OF KINGFISHER AIRLINES

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on 20 October 2012 suspended the license of the debt-ridden aircraft carrier Kingfisher Airlines. The decision came up after the airlines failed to address the concerns of the regulatory body about its operation that came up after the airlines was directed to stop-bookings till further notifications. [To Read More](#)

BHARTI AIRTEL BECAME WORLD'S FOURTH LARGEST MOBILE OPERATOR

Indian Telecom Service Company Bharti Airtel became the fourth largest telecom operator in the world in terms of subscribers, according to the Wireless Intelligence 'Scoreboard' report.

At the end of the quarter ended June 2012, the Company had over 250 million mobile subscribers across its operations, representing 13 percent Year-over-Year growth. China Mobile is on the top position with 683.08 million connections, which is followed by Vodafone Group with 386.88 million Connections and American Movil Group with 251.83 million connections.

The other Indian telecom operators in the report are Reliance Communications at eighth position, Idea Cellular at fourteenth position and BSNL at twentieth position. Reliance Communications had maintained its global ranking, Idea Cellular has moved up to three places and State-owned and run telecommunication giant BSNL's ranking dropped by two places.

NOKIA INDIA SIGNED DEAL WITH FC BARCELONA

Nokia India on 22 October 2012 signed a deal with Futbol Club (FC) Barcelona making the company a regional partner of the club. It was a step taken Nokia India for capitalising on the huge fan following for European football in the country.

Nokia India by signing the deal became the Barcelona Club's regional partner in India and also became the first ever company in India to be associated with the Barcelona Club in this way. Marking the deal, Nokia India presented the campaign 'Tiki Taka with Nokia Lumia', to increase interest in the game and specifically in FC Barcelona within the country.

BHEL DEPLOYED SOLAR PANEL ON GSAT 10 SATELLITE

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in the Month of October had successfully deployed space grade solar panels on the GSAT-10 satellite of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

BHEL had supplied four solar panels for GSAT-10, that have an area of 5.36 square metre each and comprise multi-junction solar cells in series and parallel combinations, with a total power capacity of 4000 watts. The GSAT-10 satellite was launched from the Kourou launch base in French Guyana, and it is the heaviest Indian satellite built by ISRO and caters to the country's telecommunications and television broadcasting requirements.

Prior to its supply, the space grade solar panels and batteries were manufactured and tested to strict space quality standards at the BHEL facility by highly skilled manpower. BHEL in

collaboration with ISRO, also had established state-of-the-art 10,000 class clean room facilities at its Electronics Systems Division in Bangalore for the assembly and testing of Space Grade Solar Panels using high efficiency solar cells. Till date, BHEL had supplied 55 solar panels totaling to 250 square metres of area and 40 batteries for various satellites of ISRO.

APPLE LAUNCHED SMALLER TABLET IPAD MINI

Apple Inc's on 23 October 2012 unveiled mini iPad tablet, a new tablet half the size of its existing iPad - with prices starting at \$329 to compete with Amazon and Google's tablets.

The new iPad mini is so short and slim that it can be held in one hand. It has a 7.9 inch (20cm) display, weighs in at 0.68 pounds (0.3 kg) and is 7.2 mm (0.3 inches) thick, a quarter thinner than the new fourth generation iPad. [To Read More](#)

MICROSOFT UNVEILED WINDOW 8 IN INDIA

Microsoft on 25 October 2012 launched the latest version of its most awaited operating system Windows 8 in India which is designed to work across PCs, tablets as well as for smart phones.

The new Window 8 operating system comes with a new start screen and adds more colours. The old start menu is replaced by a tile which showcases users' content that can be updated in real time. Windows 8 is available in two versions, Windows 8 and Windows 8 Pro.

User who are running PCs with Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7, can download Windows 8 Pro for an estimated retail price of Rs 1,999. In an offer made by company for its latest user, Windows 7 PCs purchased between 2 June 2012 and 31 January 2013 can download Windows 8 Pro for an estimated retail price of Rs 699 with the Windows Upgrade Offer. [To Read More](#)

IGI AIRPORT GOT INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION

The Indira Gandhi International Airport operator, Delhi International Airport (P) Limited (DIAL) on 22 October 2012 got an ISO 20000 international certification for eliminating and controlling information technology-related threats.

With receiving of this ISO certification, Delhi International Airport (P) Limited (DIAL) became the sixth airport operator to receive the ISO 20000 certification in IT Service Management System (ITSMS) after Dubai, Munich, Abu Dhabi, Incheon and Hyderabad.

ISO 20000-1:2011 is a service management system (SMS) standard, which specifies requirements for the service provider to plan, establish, implement, operate, monitor, review, maintain and improve an SMS. IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) of Delhi International Airport (P) Limited consists of 13 processes which are used in ITSMS to ensure cost effectiveness, availability, zero tolerance and customer satisfaction.

Also in June 2012, DIAL had attained ISO 27001 Continuity, which was an IT information security framework which certifies that the company was demonstrating and following best of the world IT information security principles, processes and procedures. The continuity of the ISO 27001 certification was assessed and adjudged by British Standards Institution (BSI) during their annual audit.

WORLD SPACE RADIO RE-LAUNCHED ON AIRTEL DIGITAL TV

Bharti Airtel on 29 October 2012 announced the comeback of Worldspace Radio – iMusicSpace on Airtel Digital TV, the DTH Service of Bharti Airtel.

The service was launched on the DTH platform in association with Saregama and Timbre Media who will jointly provide the content for the application. The satellite functioning radio station in India had exited in 2009. Now the, DTH customers can listen to an extensive collection of latest and retro Hindi songs, popular ghazals and their favourite regional music channels on the new avatar of Worldspace Radio. The Airtel digital TV customers can access the application via the iTV button on their remote. [To Read More](#)

CORPORATE CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. Public sector companies Oil India Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd in the month of October announced acquisition of 30 percent stake in the asset of a Colorado based Oil and Gas Company. Name the company on which the two public sector companies have made their investments for this acquisition?
 - a) Whiting Petroleum Corp., Oil and gas operations
 - b) Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc's liquid rich shale assets
 - c) Cimarex Energy Co., Oil and gas exploration/production
 - d) MarkWest Energy Partners LP, Natural gas processor

Answer. (b) Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc's liquid rich shale assets

2. Indian Oil Corporation has recently tied up with a Bank to provide banking services in rural areas at places of rural petrol pumps outlets of the company. These outlets would act as Bank Business Correspondent in the areas and 1000 would come up with 1000 Kisan Seva Kendras at different locations. Name the bank with which the tie-up has been done?
 - a) HDFC Bank
 - b) ICICI Bank
 - c) State Bank of India

d) IDBI

Answer. (a) HDFC Bank

3. Kingfisher Airlines was recently issued the show-cause notice asking why the license of the airlines was not a subject of being cancelled. Name the agency that issued this notice and under which section the notice was issued?
- a) Airport Authority of India under Section 93 - 118 PART XII Personnel Of Air Traffic Services
 - b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation under Section 15(2)(b) of Schedule XI of the Aircraft Rules of 1937
 - c) Rule 41 of Aircraft Rules 1937, Section 7 – Flight Crew Standards, Training And License, Series 'G' Part Iv, Issue I
 - d) The regulators of air transport services, Section 5 in The Aircraft Act, 1934

Answer. (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation under Section 15(2)(b) of Schedule XI of the Aircraft Rules of 1937

4. In response to the digitisation of cable channels for eradication of the cable operators control over the content of the presentation, that was about to blackout the screens of almost all the TV Sets in the four cities, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata on 31st October 2012 a setup box providing company, announced services of 70 channels at basic rates for next five years. Name the company?
- a) Airtel
 - b) Dish TV
 - c) Sun TV
 - d) DTH

Answer (b) Dish TV

5. Which of the following statements are true?
- a. Air India in October 2012 got its third Boeing Dreamliner from the new North Charleston Facility of the American manufacturer
 - b. Kingfisher Airlines, the struggling airlines company of Vijay Mallya in October 2012 was asked to start booking tickets with immediate effect by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
 - c. As per Section 15(2)(b) of Schedule XI of the Aircraft Rules 1937, DGCA can't cancel or suspend permit of an Airline services

- d. Carrizo is a Houston-based energy company actively engaged in the exploration, development, exploitation, and production of oil and natural gas
- i. Statement a and b are true
 - ii. Statement a, b and c are true
 - iii. Statement a and d are true
 - iv. Only statement a is true

Answer. (iii) Statement a and d are true

6. Out of the four statements mentioned below, which one of them is false?
- a) Dish TV in October 2012 announced a basic service of 70 channels at affordable rates for five year before the blackout that effected the transmission of television signals from 31st October
 - b) Mercedes Benz India in October 2012 rolled out its first locally assembled SUV, the ML 250, from its Chakan plant near, Pune.
 - c) GVK Power Secured Green Nod for Port Development in Austria
 - d) None of the above statements are true

Answer. (c) GVK Power Secured Green Nod for Port Development in Austria is a false statement

7. Name the company that has unveiled the first locally assembled SUV in the Indian market?
- a) Corolla motors
 - b) Honda
 - c) Mercedes Benz
 - d) BMW

Answer. (c) Mercedes Benz

8. Name the Indian company that received Australian federal government's approval for its Terminal-III (T3) development at the port of Abbot Point, near Bowen in Australia, under the environment protection and biodiversity conservation Act 1999 recently in October 2012.
- a) DLF Group
 - b) GVK Power and Infrastructure Limited

- c) Jay Pee Group
- d) IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd

Answer. (b) Hyderabad-based GVK Power and Infrastructure Limited

9. Name the car making company that recalled 7.4 million on road vehicles for rectification of the faulty Power Window Switches, having a potential of fire hazards?
- a) Honda City
 - b) Skoda Auto
 - c) Toyota Moto Corps
 - d) Hyundai Motor Company

Answer. (c) Toyota Moto Corps

10. Google in October 2012 launched free SMS chat service for its Indian users this feature of Google is available with 51 different countries of the world. Which of the following statements in relation to this feature is true?
- a) Google first started this service from some of the African countries in the year 2011
 - b) To avail the services of Free Gmail SMS, will have to pay a fixed amount following the type of plan the user would choose
 - c) Users can easily send text messages to mobile phones via Gmail Chat, but for this they will have to use iPad or iPhone
 - d) In case, the SMS credit limit slashes down to zero, the credit would increase automatically after 24 hours after getting the plan recharged as per the limitations

Answer. (a) Google first started this service from some of the African countries in the year 2011

11. Maruti Suzuki in the month of October launched a new model of car targeting the competitive market of Nano and Eon. Name the model?
- a) Alto 800
 - b) Alto's 800
 - c) Zen 800
 - d) Omni 800

Answer. (a) Alto 800

12. ICICI Bank in October 2012 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with an African bank to extend its banking services diagonally to their combined footprint in India and Africa. Name the bank with which the MoU was signed?

- a) Bank of Africa
- b) Ecobank Transnational Incorporated of Africa
- c) State Bank of Africa
- d) Environmental Insurance Bank of Nigeria

Answer. (b) Ecobank Transnational Incorporated of Africa

13. Name the new channel launched by ZEE network for children

- a) ZeeEdu
- b) ZeeQ
- c) ZeeLife
- d) ZeeChild

Answer. (b) ZeeQ

14. Mahindra Satyam signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a University to facilitate joint research and development projects and consultancies in the oil and gas industry. Name the University and the place where it is located?

- a) University of Petroleum & Energy Studies (UPES), Dehradun
- b) CSIR- Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun
- c) Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Gujarat
- d) School of Petroleum Technology, Gujarat

Answer. (a) University of Petroleum & Energy Studies (UPES), Dehradun

15. Vikram Pandit, the former CEO of Citigroup Inc. Serve the bank as CEO resigned in the month of October 2012. What was the period during which he handled the bank as its CEO?

- a) October 2008 to October 2012
- b) 2007 to 2012
- c) 2006 to 2012

d) 2008 to 2012

Answer. (b) 2007 to 2012

16. Polaris Financial Technology recently in the month of October 2012 entered into a business purchase agreement with a company for strengthening its capabilities of consultations. Name the company with which Polaris signed the agreement?

- a) Peacock Realty & Financial Consultants
- b) Hbk Financial Consultants
- c) Adecco
- d) Pyxis

Answer. (d) Pyxis

17. Antiplatelet Drug Brilinta was recently launched by a pharma company for oral antiplatelet treatment of adult patients of acute coronary syndromes. Name the pharma company that launched the drug?

- a) Astrazeneca Pharma India Ltd
- b) Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals]
- c) Charak Pharmacy
- d) Apothecaries Sundries Mfg. Co.

Answer. (a) Astrazeneca Pharma India Ltd

18. In the month of October Bharti Airtel reached a position among top 10 mobile service providers of the world. At what position the company was ranked?

- a) Second
- b) Fourth
- c) Seventh
- d) Ninth

Answer. (b) Fourth

19. To capitalise the huge fan following of European football, Nokia India recently signed a deal with the European football club, name the football club?

- a) Universitatea Cluj, Romania
- b) Girondins de Bordeaux, France

- c) Futbol Club (FC) Barcelona
- d) Ferencvárosi TC, Hungary

Answer. (c) Futbol Club (FC) Barcelona

20. Name the organisation that deployed space grade solar panels on the GSAT-10 satellite of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the month of October 2012.

- a) GAIL (India) Limited
- b) BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited)
- c) HEC (Heavy Engineering Corporation)
- d) BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)

Answer. (b) BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited)

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This will help us serve you in a better way.



NATIONAL

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED NIRMAL BHARAT YATRA

Ministry of rural development on 3 October 2012 started a campaign named Nirmal Bharat Yatra which focuses on making the country free from open defecation.

The yatra will begin from Wardha District of Maharashtra from 3 October 2012 and will go through Indore, Kota, Gwalior, and Gorakhpur and end up in Bettiah district of Bihar on November 17, covering about 2000 km of distance. The Indian Bollywood actress Vidya Balan is the brand ambassador of the campaign.

The campaign is being promoted by several NGOs and private companies and it is going to be completed at a cost of over Rs 12 crore and is going to target over 9 crore people to spread awareness about sanitation. The well known NGOs that are participating in the programme are Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. [To Read More](#)

SC: ORDERED GOVT. TO PROVIDE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCHOOL

The Supreme Court of India on 3 October 2012 directed the Union government of India and state governments to provide basic infrastructure, including drinking water and toilets, in all schools within six months. A bench headed by justice K S Radhakrishnan fixed the time limit and directed the governments to take steps to provide the basic facilities in schools across the country.

The Supreme Court bench noted that all its previous directions pertaining to providing infrastructure should be implemented within the time-frame fixed by it. On 18 October 2011, the apex court had directed all states and union territories to build toilets, particularly for girls, in all government schools. The court passed the order on a PIL seeking its direction to the Centre and state governments to provide basic facilities of drinking water and toilets in schools.

KAPIL SIBAL LAUNCHED HOCKEY AND CRICKET LEAGUE

In order to give encouragement to the talented sportsmen of the University system and promote sports in Universities, the Union Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal on 5 October 2012 launched hockey and cricket league under the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Association of Indian Universities has been organising the Rohinton Baria Cricket Trophy, the Inter University Hockey Tournament and other events for promotion of sports in the Universities throughout the country.

It was after an offer made by the NDTV Group for assisting in sponsoring sports events, it was decided to organise every year, a National Level University Cricket League (UCL) and University Hockey League (UHL).

So For this purpose an Organising Committee chaired by the Minister of Human Resource Development, Communication and IT has been constituted, composed of senior representatives of University Grants Commission (UGC), AIU, NDTV, Vice Chancellors of several Universities, NDMC, DDCA Hockey India and eminent persons in the field of sports. The University Cricket League would be played among 8 top University teams in the T 20 format, from amongst those who qualify through a zonal competition. Similarly the University Hockey League would be played among the top 8 teams selected through the zonal competitions.

PASSIVE EUTHANASIA SUPPORTED BY THE LAW PANEL

The Law Commission which advice government on legal issues made a recommendation to the government to initiate measures to enact a comprehensive law on passive euthanasia, subject to certain safeguards.

According to the Commission, Passive Euthanasia is not objectionable from a legal and constitutional point of view. It was in April 2011 that the UPA government had asked the law commission to study the feasibility of framing a law for euthanasia after the legalization of Passive Euthanasia in Aruna Shanbaug case after the Supreme Court verdict. The verdict was just law of the land till it would be enacted by the Parliament.

In its report on passive euthanasia the law commission recommended that a “competent” adult patient, who can take an informed decision, has the right to insist that there should be no invasive medical treatment by way of artificial life sustaining measures.

It was also suggested by the commission that if patients cannot take a decision on their own, then the decision of the doctors or relatives to withhold or withdraw the medical treatment will not be final.

Also, the same rule will apply to a minor above 16 years of age who has expressed his or her wish not to have such treatment provided the consent has been given by the major spouse and one of the parents of such patient.

Whereas, Active euthanasia still remain a crime under Section 302(murder) or 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC, along with the physician assisted suicide under **section 306 IPC (abetment of suicide)**.

ABOUT EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia is the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve pain and suffering.

Passive euthanasia entails the withholding of common treatments, such as antibiotics, necessary for the continuance of life.

Active euthanasia entails the use of lethal substances or forces, such as administering a lethal injection, to kill and is the most controversial means.

SC: REFUSED TO RESTRAIN CENTER FROM PROVIDING TRAINING TO SRI LANKAN ARMED FORCES

The Supreme Court on 8 October 2012 denied from restraining the centre from offering training the armed forces of Sri Lanka. Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice Aftab Alam including Ms. Ranjana Desai stated that it was the government policy and the court cannot interfere in the government policy decisions.

The court in its verdict declared the petition as misconceived, dismissed the petition. The decision came in response to the petition filed by N Raja Raman against nine Lankan defence personnel's, who are being trained in the Indian Air Force base at Karnataka.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT OF INDIA INCREASED SPEED POST RATE

The postal department of India had increased the rates of Speed post deliveries by 42-56% from 1 October 2012.

Domestic charges were increased from Rs 12 to Rs 17, including service tax, and the 'One India' tariff escalated up from Rs 25 to Rs 39. It is first time since 2007 that the rates have been revised. The biggest users of Speed Post are institutional users, law firms and corporate entities that dispatch bulk mails. Many Banks, uses this service to send credit card statements and also credit cards. The difference is particularly distinctive with respect to foreign dispatches. A person is supposed to pay Rs 600 to a courier and merely Rs 150-odd to Speed Post delivery.



On the occasion of World Post Day on 9 October 2012, the postal department also announced a proposal to install ATMs at several post offices in the state of Maharashtra. Banking services are already available at several locations but this will enable anywhere, anytime banking. [To Read More](#)

SC: DEMANDED FRESH GUIDELINES ON TIGER RESERVES

Supreme Court of India on 9 October 2012 asked the center to present fresh guidelines on tiger conservation within a week. The court in its verdict also said that the guidelines issued by the court on banning all types of tourists' activities in Tiger reserves given on 24 July, may be modified.

The Supreme Court bench of Justices A K Patnaik and Swatanter Kumar in its statement also stated that the court will not allow the given directives on tiger-reserves to be open ended and in case the state government is not happy with the issued guidelines, they can challenge the decision in the court. The bench also cleared that ultra vires will not be declared in case the states challenged the guidelines issued by the apex court.

MOS SIGNED TO PROVIDE AUTONOMY TO THE HILLS COUNCIL IN ASSAM

Tripartite Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) was signed on 9 October 2012 for providing autonomy for the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council in Assam and a special package for speedier socio-economic development of the area. It was signed between Centre, Assam government and both factions of Dima Haram Daogah (DHD). DHD used to be a group with violent activities in the state but gave up violence and resorted to peace for getting into the mainstream of development.

Under the MoS, a committee will be constituted to deal with the matters relating to the 6th schedule councils. Under the agreement, the DHD will dissolve as an organization within a reasonable timeframe as a precursor to the government initiating further process to implement the agreed decisions.

EC: ISSUED GUIDELINES TO CURB PRACTICE OF PAID NEWS

The Election Commission (EC) of India on 9 October 2012 issued stricter guidelines to curb the practice of Paid News. It asked candidates to reply within 48 hours to notices sent to them regarding Paid News. The Commission also asked the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees, MCMC at the districts and state levels to decide such cases within the 48 hours of getting the reply from a candidate.

Election Commission Issued fresh instructions to Chief Electoral Officers of all states, including the poll-bound states of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. In case the candidate did not reply within the specified time, the MCMC decision will be considered final. Returning officers were till now required to send notices within 96 hours of the publication or telecast of the paid news on references from the MCMC. The guidelines issued by the Election Commission will cover cinema halls, besides TV channels, cable networks and radio including private FM channels.

AMENDMENT OF INDECENT REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ACT APPROVED

The Union Cabinet on 11 October 2012 approved the introduction of Amendments to the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 in Parliament under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED ARE AS

(a) Broaden the scope of the law to cover the audio-visual media and material in electronic form which includes Internet, satellite-based communication, multi-media messaging and cable television, among others.

(b) Penalties to be enhanced to a maximum of three years of imprisonment and fine of between 50000 to 100000 Rupees for first conviction, and imprisonment of not less than two years, but which may extend to seven years, and a fine between 100000 Rupees to 500000 Rupees for second conviction.

(c) Police officers not below the rank of Inspectors authorized to carry out search and seizure, in addition to State and Central Government officers authorized by the State or Central Government.

The Act was enacted in 1986 to prohibit the indecent representation of women through advertisement, publication, writing, and painting or in any other manner. With the increased use of advanced technology and communication devices in everyday life, the Government felt the scope of the Act should be amended. The amendments were introduced after consultations with stakeholders, including lawyers and civil society organisations, on the draft Bill. [To read More](#)

The Act Under its Ambit Covers

Advertisement that includes any notice, circular, label, wrapper or other document. It also includes any visible representation made by means of any light, sound, smoke or gas.

RAILRADAR, WEBSITE TO TRACK THE POSITION OF TRAIN

RailRadar, the new online application was launched by the Indian Railways on 10 October 2012, to find out the location of 6500 trains on real-time basis on Google Map. It can be accessed from the website trainenquiry.com.

To identify the train running status that whether the train is running on-time or late from its schedule, color codes have been created. Blue color is a code for trains running on time and red markers are the symbol of trains running behind schedule. On clicking upon the name of the train, the map will show the route along with stoppages and running status of the train on real time-basis. [To Read More](#)

SC: ORDERED FRESH SURVEYS ON BONDED LABOUR PROBLEMS

The Supreme Court of India on 15 October 2012 directed all states and Union Territories to conduct fresh surveys to identify bonded labour problems in the country and regretted that a large number of children continue to work as domestic help even after the enactment of the Right to Education Act (RTE act).

A bench of justices K S Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra ruled in a judgment that it shall be the duty of the local bodies and panchayats to identify such children and ensure that they get proper education. Referring to bonded labour practice, the apex court noted that after the perusal of the NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) and other reports it is clear that the

practice is rampant. The court passed the directions while dealing with a 1985 PIL filed by Public Union For Civil Liberties, highlighting bonded labour practice in the country.

LAND ACQUISITION BILL CLEARED BY GROUP OF MINISTERS (GOM)

The Land Acquisition Bill was cleared on 16 October 2012 by a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar. It is going to be presented to the Cabinet this month

The bill was cleared after three rounds of vigorous debate with few changes from the version presented to the Union Cabinet in September 2012. With the clearance of Bill, the Group of Ministers agreed with the proposal to seek consent of two-third of land owners, instead of the existing 80 per cent of project-affected families, for acquiring land for public-private-partnership or private projects.

The GoM also agreed on flexibility in the validity period for the Social Impact Assessment (SIA), based on the assessment of the state chief secretary's committee which has to be constituted to review SIAs for acquisitions above 200 crore. The Bill is now named as, The Right to Fair Compensation, Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Bill. It was originally introduced in Parliament in September 2011.

UNION CABINET CLEARED PLAN TO TACKLE JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

The Union Cabinet of India on 18 October 2012 approved a 4038-Crore Rupees comprehensive multi-pronged plan for prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in the country.

The plan will implemented in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Assam within five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17. The Plan is going to be jointly implemented by the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Social Justice and Empowerment, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Women and Child Development.

The proposal for Prevention and Control of Japanese Encephalitis came after the recommendation of Group of ministers (GoM) to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. For making up a sum of 4000 crore rupees for Contribution, the biggest component of 2301.57 crore of Rupees is given by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation while the Health ministry's contribution is of 1131.49 crore of rupees. [To Read More](#)

SETTING UP OF NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE BOARD APPROVED

The Union Cabinet on 18 October 2012 gave its nod for setting up of the National Automotive Board (NAB). The body will be responsible for promoting the research and development activities of the industry and act as a facilitator in between the industry and the government.

NAB would also be responsible as a specialized body to promote sustainable development of the Nation's Auto Sector along with skill development for the automobile sector.

SC ORDERED STATES TO HAVE A CHECK ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The Supreme Court of India on 19 October 2012 made it mandatory for every state, union territory and regulatory bodies to bring in practice/operations the legal mechanism for implementation of the guidelines issued in Vishaka Case that requires the employers to observe and ensure prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplaces.

The three Judge Bench of Supreme Court that included Justices, R.M. Lodha, Anil R. Dave and Ranjan Gogoi explained that the implementation of the guidelines issued in Vishaka Case was not only to be followed in a form but was also a matter of substantiating the same with an spirit to make sure that a safe and secured space and environment in all aspects was made available to the woman at her workplace, which enables them to work with decency, dignity and respect as a whole. The bench also pointed out towards the lack of a legislation and proper mechanism to address the complaints of sexual harassment of women at their work place. [To Read More](#)

PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHED AADHAAR BASED TRANSFER SYSTEM

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 20 October 2012 launched Aadhaar Enabled Service Delivery in Dudu district of Rajasthan to mark the 2nd anniversary of Aadhaar.

Also marking the second anniversary, the 21st crore Aadhaar number was given to a local resident of Kurawar, district of Udaipur. With this launch of delivery system the government is going to start out Aadhaar Enabled Service Delivery initiatives in 51 districts across the country. [To Read More](#)

IGMRI AND CWC SIGNED MOU FOR POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Department of Food & Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) on 25 October 2012 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for creating a Centre of Excellence focusing on capacity building in the areas of post harvest management of food grain by providing training on latest developments to the aspirants internationally.

The MOU was signed by S. Gupta, Director of Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur on behalf of Department of Food & Public Distribution and G. Mathialagan, Director of CWC. [To Read More](#)

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON DIRECT CASH TRANSFERS CONSTITUTED

The Union Government on 25 October 2012 constituted a [National Committee on Direct Cash Transfers](#). The committee would be responsible to coordinate in development of the process

for making the transfer of the cash directly to the individuals, being provided under different types of government schemes and programs.

The Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh would be the Chairperson of the committee and the group of members would include eleven Cabinet Ministers, two Ministers of State with independent charge, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, the Chairman UIDAI, the Cabinet Secretary with the Principal Secretary to the PM as the Convenor. The Prime Minister can invite some more officers, minister or any expert for the committee's meet.

PROPOSED TASKS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON DIRECT CASH TRANSFERS

- a) With a clear objective of establishment of transparency, accountability and efficiency in the process the committee would guide and provide a vision and direction for enabling the cash transfers directly to ensure that the individuals are benefitted by the schemes and programs being run by the Government. They would also control the investments being made in the Aadhaar Project that includes the financial initiatives of the government.
- b) Policy objectives and strategies would be determined and framed by the committee for direct cash transfers
- c) Identification of the schemes and programmes of the Government in which the process of direct transfer of cash to individuals can be adopted and formulated for the country
- d) The committee would be responsible for coordination of activities of all the departments, ministries and agencies that are involved in the process of transferring cash to make sure that a coordinated action for ensuring speedy roll-out of the cash transfers directly without delay across the country
- e) The committee would be responsible for specifying the timeliness on the cash transfers of the deliverables
- f) It would be responsible for reviewing the process for implementation of direct cash transfer as well as guide the mid-term corrections on it
- g) All shots of matter related to it

To assist the National Committee on the issue of Direct Cash Transfer, an Executive Committee for Direct Cash Transfer under the chairmanship of Prime Ministers' Principal Secretary is constituted along with the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and the DG UIDAI. Convenor for this committee would be the Secretary of the Planning Commission. [To Read More](#)

BROADBAND NETWORK PACT SIGNED WITH 16 STATES

The central government on 26 October 2012 signed a tripartite pact with 16 state and UT governments for laying digital highway and also formed a special purpose vehicle BBNL for facilitating connection to every gram Panchayat with broadband network.

The states which signed the pact include Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. [To Read More](#)

CABINET RESHUFFLE IN INDIA

The Cabinet Reshuffle that took place on 28 October 2012 witnessed reshuffling of 5 ministers along with 17 new faces, which were inducted to take on the charge. All these 22 ministers would take the charge of their new offices, on 29 October 2012. Few of the most important names in this cabinet reshuffle were the lifting of the former Law Minister Salman Khurshid to External Affairs Minister of India, and Ajay Maken, who has been promoted to Cabinet Rank and got the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee appointed and administered the oaths of the office and its secrecy to the newly elected members in the council of ministers following the advice of the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh. The President following the advice of the Prime Minister directed the change of portfolios of different ministers.

There are seven new faces in the list of cabinet minister and they include K. Rahman Khan was given Minority Affairs, Dinsha J. Patel was given Mines, whereas Ajay Maken took the charge of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, M.M. Pallam Raju took over Human Resource Development, Ashwani Kumar took over the Law & Justice, Harish Rawat got Water Resources, and Chandresh Kumari Katoch became got the portfolio of Culture.

List of total Ministers in different segment

- Cabinet Ministers- 17
- Ministers of State with Independent Charge- 7
- Minister of State- 20

Two new members were inducted in the list of Ministers of State with Independent Charge and they are Manish Tewari for Information & Broadcasting and Dr. K. Chiranjeevi for Tourism.

New faces in the list of Ministers of State to be included were Shashi Tharoor getting Human Resource Development, Kodikunnil Suresh got the charge of Labour & Employment, Tariq Anwar became the incharge of Agriculture & Food Processing Industries, K. J. Surya Prakash Reddy got the Railways and Ranee Narah took over the Tribal Affairs. Few more of the names in this list for Ministers of State as new faces to be inducted includes Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also got Railways, A.H. Khan Choudhury took over Health & Family Welfare, Sarvey Sathyanarayana would handle the Road Transport & Highways, Shri Ninong Ering would take the charge of Minority Affairs, Deepa Dasmunsi got the Urban Development, Porika Balram Naik took charge Social Justice & Empowerment, Kruparani Killi became Communications & Information Technology and Lalchand Kataria got Defence.

[To Read More](#)

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. What is the main focus of the Nirmal Bharat Yatra launched by the Ministry of rural development?
 - a) To make the country free from open defecation
 - b) To make the countrymen aware of the causes of neatness and cleanliness
 - c) To make people aware of rain water harvesting
 - d) To train people about the modern and scientific processes of agriculture

Answer. (a) To make the country free from open defecation

2. Name the NGO's engaged in supporting the cause of Nirmal Bharat Yatra?
 - a) Amnesty International and UNESCO
 - b) WHO and Sammaan Foundation
 - c) Teach for India and CRY
 - d) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

Answer. (d) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

3. Name the state that has been successful in achieving the ODF (Open Defecation Free) states in India?
 - a) Sikkim
 - b) Kerala
 - c) Himachal Pradesh
 - d) Haryana and Maharashtra

Answer. (a) Sikkim

4. What are the scheduled dates for election in Himachal Pradesh?
 - a) 4 November 2012
 - b) 17 November 2012

- c) 13 December 2012
- d) None of these

Answer. (a) 4 November 2012

5. Name the case based on which the UPA government suggested law commission to study the feasibility of framing a law for euthanasia, after the verdict of Supreme Court in relation to legalization of Passive Euthanasia?
- a) I.C. Golak Nath and Ors. vs. State of Punjab and Anr.
 - b) Aruna Shanbaug Case
 - c) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala
 - d) Minerva Mills v. India

Answer. (b) Aruna Shanbaug Case

6. Name the Brand Ambassador of Nirmal Bharat Yatra?
- a) Sunil Shetty
 - b) Ajay Devgan
 - c) Sonakshi Sinha
 - d) Vidya Balan

Answer. (d) Vidya Balan

7. India and World Bank a loan agreement 500 million dollar in form of a deal on 5 October 2012 for Secondary Education Project. Name the project?
- a) Rashtriya Gramin Madhyamik Sikhsha Abhiyan
 - b) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
 - c) Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
 - d) National Literacy Mission

Answer. (b) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

8. When is the World Post Day Celebrated?
- a) 10 October 2012
 - b) 9 October 2012

c) 17 October 2012

d) 18 October 2012

Answer. (b) 9 October 2012

9. As per the new protocol of addressing the dignitaries inside and outside the country approved by the Indian President, Excellency is to be replaced by?

a) Shree or Smt.

b) Rastrapati Mahoday or Rastrapati Mahodaya

c) Hon'ble or Mahamahim

d) None of these

Answer. (a) Shree or Smt.

10. What is the Memorandum of Understanding signed in between the Center and the Assam Government and both factions of Dima Haram Daogah (DHD) for providing the autonomy for the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council called

a) Triplet Memorandum of Settlement

b) Tripartite Memorandum of Settlement

c) Dima Haram Daogah Memorandum of Settlement

d) North Cachar Hills Memorandum of Settlement

Answer. (b) Tripartite Memorandum of Settlement

11. Name the Website launched by the Railways to Track the Position of Train by Indian Railways

a) Indianrailtimining.com

b) trainenquiry.com

c) railenquiry.com

d) enquiryrail.com

Answer. (b) trainenquiry .com

12. What is the name of the new online application launched by the Indian Railways?

a) Googlerrail

b) Indianrailradar

- c) Railradar
- d) IRCTCRadar

Answer. (c) Railradar

13. Election Commission issued Stricter Guidelines to Curb the Practice of Paid News, name the act in which the amendments are to be done?

- a) Amendment of article 101. clause (3)
- b) Amendment of article 190, clause (3)
- c) Short title and commencement Act, 1975
- d) Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

Answer. (d) Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

14. Supreme Court directed all States and UTs to conduct Fresh Surveys to identify Bonded Labour Problems. The direction came in response to breaking of which right?

- a) Right to life
- b) Right to Equality
- c) Right to Education Act
- d) Right to expression

Answer. (c) Right to Education

15. The Land Acquisition Bill has been renamed after few amendments done by the Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar?

- a) Right to Resettlement, Fair Compensation, Rehabilitation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Bill
- b) The Right to Fair Compensation, Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Bill
- c) Transparency in Land Acquisition Fair Compensation, Resettlement, Rehabilitation Bill
- d) None of these

Answer. (b) Fair Compensation, Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Bill

16. The Union Cabinet of India approved a 4038-crore Rupees budget on 18 October 2012 to create a comprehensive plan to prevent and control a disease. Name the disease?

- a) Q Fever
- b) Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)
- c) Epidemic Typhus
- d) Dengue

Answer. (b) Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)

17. Japanese Encephalitis is caused by?

- a) Coxiella burnetii, a bacterium
- b) Rickettsia prowazekii
- c) Bacteria
- d) Mosquito

Answer. (d) Mosquito

18. Union Cabinet of India on 18 November 2012 approved name of the board to take care of the Automobile sector of the nation. The board would be responsible for specialized body to promote sustainable development of the Nation's Auto Sector along with skill development for the automobile sector. Name the Board?

- a) National Automotive Pannel
- b) National Automotive Board
- c) Indian Automotive Board
- d) Indian Auto and Heavy Vehicle Management Authority

Answer. (b) National Automotive Board

19. Supreme Court of India on 19 October 2012 ordered States and Union Territories of India to have a check on sexual exploitation of women at workplaces and develop a regulatory body and bring it into operation. The Apex Court also directed the states to frame the mechanism and follow the guidelines of a case. Name the Case?

- a) Vishaka Case
- b) Sierra case
- c) Geetika Suicide case

d) Rohtak Apna Ghar

Answer. (a) Vishaka Case

20. Who is the person responsible for appointing and administering the oaths of the office and its secrecy to the newly elected members in the council of ministers?

- a) President of India
- b) Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament
- c) Chief of the Ruling party
- d) Prime Minister

Answer. (a) President of India

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INDIAN DIARY

1 October 2012

- India and Austria signed an MoU to strengthen bilateral cooperation on Rail and Road
- Postal Department of India Increased Speed post rate by 56 Percent

3 October 2012

- Ministry of Rural Development Launched Nirmal Bharat Yatra
- Supreme Court directed Government to provide Basic Infrastructure in School
- Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly Election Date Announced

4 October 2012

- Passive Euthanasia Supported by the Law Panel

5 October 2012

- India and World Bank Signed 500 Million Dollar Deal for Shiksha Abhyan
- Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal Launched Hockey and Cricket League

8 October 2012

- SC: Refused to restrain Center from providing training to Sri Lankan armed Forces

9 October 2012

- Supreme Court directed Centre to present fresh guidelines on Tiger Reserves within a week
- President of India approved new protocol for addressing the dignitaries
- MoS was signed to provide Autonomy for the Hills Council in Assam
- Election Commission issued Stricter Guidelines to Curb the Practice of Paid News

10 October 2012

- Supreme Court worried about the status of growing pollution in Yamuna
- RailRadar, Website launched by the Railways to track the position of train

11 October 2012

- Union Cabinet Approved Amendment of Indecent Representation of Women Act

12 October 2012

- Abhijeet Mukherjee of Congress Won from Jangipur in Lok Sabha Bypoll
- SC: All States and UTs to conduct Fresh Surveys to identify Bonded Labour Problems

16 October 2012

- Land Acquisition Bill Cleared By Group of Ministers (GoM)

18 October 2012

- Union Cabinet Cleared 4000 Crore Rupees Plan to Tackle Japanese Encephalitis
- Union Cabinet Approved setting up of National Automotive Board

19 October 2012

- Election Commission Banned Broadcast of Opinion Polls during Assembly Election in Gujarat and HP
- SC Ordered States to have a Check on Sexual Exploitation of Women at Workplaces

20 October 2012

- Prime Minister Launched Aadhar Based Transfer System

25 October 2012

- IGMRI and CWC Signed MoU for Post Harvest Management of Foodgrains
- Union Government Constituted a National Committee on Direct Cash Transfers

26 October 2012

- Broadband Network Pact Signed with 16 States and UT Government

28 October 2012

- Cabinet Reshuffle in India: Salman Khurshid got External Affairs Ministry

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STATE

THE TRIAL RUN OF RAPID METRO GREEN SIGNALLED IN GURGAON

Chief Minister of Haryana, Bhupinder Singh Hooda on 2 October 2012 flagged off the first trial run of Rapid Metro in Gurgaon. On this day, he also laid down the foundation stone of the seven kilometers long phase-II metro project.

The rapid metro in its first phase was tested between two stations DLF Phase II and Phase III U Block. It is a 1,088 Crore Rupees project and is expected to be completed by March 2013.

PLEA AGAINST PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON LALIT KALA AKADEMI REJECTED

Delhi High Court on 6 October 2012 dismissed the PIL (Public Interest Litigation) that challenged the decision of the President for appointment of Saryu V. Doshi as the member of the three member committee constituted for short listing the name of three people to head Lalit Kala Akademi.

The High Court Bench of Chief Justice D. Murugesan and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw dismissed the plea stating that where the President is the ultimate decision maker in such cases his decision can only be challenged if the nominee is not fit for nomination in any of such committees on any ground. [To Read More](#)

5 OCTOBER OBSERVED AS DOLPHIN DAY IN BIHAR

Bihar on 5 October 2012 observed Dolphin Day. This day was observed in wake of spreading awareness for conservation of the Gangetic Dolphins the rare and endangered species that is found only in the Gangetic River System and its Tributaries.

Bihar that observed the World Wildlife Week from 2 to 8 October 2012, decided to observe 5 October as Dolphin Day every year. Sushil Kumar Modi, the Deputy Chief Minister of the state on this occasion declared that the state will come up with a Dolphin Watch Center at places where these rare aquatic species are seen.

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE GANGETIC DOLPHINS IN UTTAR PRADESH

A three day campaign named Save Ganga, Save Dolphin started on 5 October 2012 in Uttar Pradesh. 18 boats were flagged off by the Transport Minister of the State Raja Mahendra Aridaman Singh on this day to have a check on the population of the dolphins in the Gangetic River System in the state.

The World Wild Life Fund (WWF) in association with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and some of the local volunteers including 16 NGOs started the campaign in the 2800 kilometer long Ganga and its tributaries. Save Ganga Save Dolhpin was initiated with an aim of spreading awareness about the Riverine species the Gangetic Dolphins and its protection. This campaign was called off on 7 October 2012 by the Chief Minister of the state Akhilesh Yadav.

WB GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO INTRODUCE SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

The West Bengal (WB) Government in the last week of September 2012 decided to introduce single window system in the agriculture sector for the benefit of farmers. The main objective of the plan is that the farmers need not visit various organizations repeatedly to meet their needs. This will be set up on the line of industrial sector where farmers will get all necessary helps and information under one umbrella. The system will be launched in all 341 blocks in the state by October 2012. [To Read More](#)

FIVE PLACES IN TENTATIVE LIST OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Union Culture Minister Kumari Selja declared on 14 October 2012 that the five sites in Tamil Nadu, including famous Lord Sri Ranganathar temple in Srirangam, have been included in the tentative list by the Union Culture ministry for UNESCO's world heritage status

The 17th century Fort St George in Chennai, Chettinad, Kazhugumalai rock sculptures and Pulikat Lake were the other sites in the list.

ABOUT UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place such as a forest, mountain, lake, desert, monument, building, complex, or city that is listed by the UNESCO as of special cultural or physical significance. The list is maintained by the international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 states parties which are elected by their General Assembly. As of 2012, 962 sites are listed: 745 cultural, 188 natural, and 29 mixed properties, in 157 states parties. By sites ranked by country Italy is home to the greatest number of World Heritage Sites with 47 sites, followed by Spain with 44 and China with 43.

LIVELIHOOD COLLEGE ESTABLISHED IN DANTEWADA, CHHATTISGARH

The Chhattisgarh government in the first week of October 2012 established a Livelihood College in Dantewada to fight unemployment in the Naxal affected areas of the state. Dantewada district has always been ridden with Maoist violence but nowadays this district is in news for its innovative initiative to fight unemployment. District administration recently started a unique livelihood college where educated and even illiterate youth are being given skill enhancement training so that they could earn livelihood.

Livelihood College runs a course in repair and maintenance of solar energy equipment, hand pumps, carpentry, plumbing, office management, hospitality, sales and marketing. More than 1000 local youth have been trained from this college and were successfully employed in different places.

UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT APPROVED IT POLICY 2012

The state cabinet of Uttar Pradesh Government in Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on 17 October 2012 approved the IT Policy 2012. With the approval of IT Policy 2012, the IT and Electronics Department got 150 acres of land from the Animal Husbandry Department free of cost to develop IT city.

Also taking an another Step, the Uttar Pradesh Government approved the second phase of Ghaziabad metro rail from Dilshad Garden, New Delhi, to the bus stand in Ghaziabad. The UP State Cabinet also came up with approval to the proposal of doubling the prize money for Yash Bharti Award which is given to Singers, Filmstars, Sportspersons, and Journalists etc. The award is now made to 11 lakh Rupees from earlier 5 lakh rupees. [To Read More](#)

GOVERNMENT'S NOD TO IMPLEMENT ISLANDING SCHEME IN DELHI

The Union Power Minister Veerappa Moily on 17 October 2012 announced the implementation of Islanding Scheme for Delhi by January 2013 to protect it from massive disruptions caused due to grid failures in power supply. The scheme of Delhi is different to that of the existing ones in cities like Mumbai and Kolkata because the transmission lines of different states is routed through Delhi.

This scheme is being implemented as a solution against the problems like the massive blackout that occurred in July 2012 after the failure of Northern Grid, affecting the power supplies of different states including Delhi. Implementation of this scheme would help in assuring an unaffected flow of electricity to the VVIP areas, Indian Railways, airport, hospitals, Metro Rail, water treatment plants and other essential places during the issues of Northern Grid failure. These facilities overall requires 930 MW of power for being operational. [To Read More](#)

DELHI CABINET APPROVED A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF CNG BUSES

The Delhi Cabinet on 22 October 2012 approved a proposal for procurement of 1100 standard floor height buses by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). The state would make an estimated investment of 330 crore rupees in the purchase of these buses in the next financial year.

The Cabinet has approved the proposal for replacement of the standard buses which are in existence at present and have completed their set life time of economic run. These buses would be procured by the process of global tender.

DELHI HC: CHILD WITNESS CANNOT BE REJECTED OUT RIGHTLY

Delhi High Court in the month of October ruled that the evidence of a child witness cannot be rejected outright while upholding a case in which life sentence awarded to a man for kidnapping and then raping a minor girl in 2009.

A bench of justices comprising Sanjiv Khanna and S P Garg gave the ruling dismissing Delhi resident Amrit Sharma appeal against his conviction and sentence of life imprisonment that was awarded by the trial court on 27 September 2010 on basis of the testimonies of the victim and her friend. [To Read More](#)

DELHI AND MOSCOW GOVERNMENT A MOU ON COOPERATION

Delhi and Russian capital Moscow on 26 October 2012 signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation in 11 key areas including culture, healthcare, education, transport management, trade and housing.

The MoU was signed by Sergey Cheremin, Minister in charge of the International Economic Relations of Moscow government, and Urban Development Minister of Delhi Government Arvinder Singh Lovely. The signing of the MoU between the two capital cities also commemorated the beginning of a three-day cultural celebration — Days of Moscow in Delhi — under which a series of cultural, academic and business events took place in the city. [To Read More](#)

HCL SIGNED A MOU WITH MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT

Public sector Enterprise Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) on 31 October 2012 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Madhya Pradesh government for obtaining required clearances of its proposed investment of 1856 crore Rupees in the state.

The MoU was signed between HCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director K.D. Diwan, and Arun Kumar Bhatt, Managing Director, MP Trade & Investment Facilitation Corporation Ltd (TRIFAC), at a global investor summit in Indore. HCL is Planning to build a five million tonne capacity underground mine beneath its present opencast mine at Malanjkhand by 2017-18.

With signing of MoU, HCL is entitled to obtain necessary clearances, concessions and waivers for the Malanjkhand project from the State Government. In turn, the government has the right to terminate the MoU, if HCL does not initiate work on the project within six months of timeline.

The basic idea of the project is to construct an underground mine of 5 million tonne facility in Malanjkhand. Malanjkhand is the single largest copper deposit of India and is estimated to have around 221 million tonne of reserves. Malanjkhand Copper Project was established in 1982. The Project was initially set up by Hindustan Copper Ltd to exploit the copper ore through an open pit mine.

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SPORTS

GERMAN FOOTBALLER MICHAEL BALLACK QUIT HIS CAREER

The Former Germany captain Ballack, who had played for Bayern Munich and Chelsea, had called a halt to his professional football career on 3 October 2012.

It was the downtime in his career which showed him that the time was right to stop. Ballack became a free agent at the end of June after Leverkusen opted not to offer their former captain a contract extension. Ballack began his professional career in 1995 and won the first of four Bundesliga titles with Kaiserslautern in 1998. [To Read More](#)

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT

Michael Schumacher, the German Formula one driver and the seven times world Champion on 4 October 2012 announced his retirement from Formula one Race.

Michael Schumacher will retire from Formula 1 for the second time at the end of the 2012 Season. He first retired in 2006 but made a comeback with the Mercedes team in 2010. The retirement came after Mercedes announced that Lewis Hamilton would replace him in the side although it was clear that the Michael Schumacher will join Sauber for the next Formula one season.

Michael Schumacher dominated the F1 world at the start of 20th century when he won five world titles in a row from 2000-2004. He is popularly regarded as the greatest F1 driver of all time. Michael Schumacher made his debut at the Belgium Grand Prix in 1991 and won 91 Grand Prixes in his career. [To Read More](#)

KAPIL SIBAL LAUNCHED HOCKEY AND CRICKET LEAGUE

In order to give encouragement to the talented sportsmen of the University system and promote sports in Universities, the Union Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal on 5 October 2012 launched hockey and cricket league under the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Association of Indian Universities has been organising the Rohinton Baria Cricket Trophy, the Inter University Hockey Tournament and other events for promotion of sports in the Universities throughout the country. [To Read More](#)

SEBASTIN VETTEL WON TITLE RACE OF THE JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

Sebastin Vettel on 7 October 2012 won the Formulae One title race of the Japanese Grand Prix for the season. He left Ferrari's Felipe Massa 20 seconds behind in the race to conquer the title.

Kamui Kobayashi, the home favorite of the tournament took the third position on the podium. Sebastin Vettel is this year only man to bag back-to-back victories in the Grand Prix.

AUSTRALIA RETAINED WOMEN T-20 WORLD CUP TITLE

The Australian Women Cricket team on 7 October 2012 defeated England by four runs to retain the Women T-20 world cup title. It is Australia's second win in women T-20 World cup. Before this, Australia had won T-20 World Cup in 2010.

Australia Batted first and made 142 runs in 20 over with 6 wickets in hand, In response to that England women cricket team managed to make only 138 runs in 20 over losing the tournament to Australia.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKETER SHANE WATSON NAMED PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Australian all-Rounder Shane Watson on 7 October 2012 at the conclusion of T-20 World Cup in Premadasa Stadium named player of the tournament.

It was his outstanding form in T-20 World cup that helped Australian Team getting into semi-final before they were knocked out by West Indies. Shane Watson batted six innings in the tournament, scoring a total of 249 runs at an average of 49.80 and took 11 wickets at an average of 16 and an economy rate of 7.33. Shane Watson is also the only Player in the tournament who got four consecutive man-of-the-match awards.

ANIL KUMBLE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF ICC CRICKET COMMITTEE

Former India cricketer and captain Anil Kumble on 11 October 2012 was named the new head of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricket committee, replacing former West Indies skipper Clive Lloyd.

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricket committee is a 16-member committee which meets twice a year to consult on playing matters and offer recommendations to the ICC on technical aspects and rules of the sport. Also in another separate reshuffling of members former West Indies paceman Ian Bishop was replaced by England's Andrew Strauss, who retired from all forms of cricket at the end of August. Anil Kumble also heads the Board of Control for Cricket in India's board's technical Committee. Anil Kumble is 41 years old and has 619 Test and 337 One-Day International wickets to his name.

KALTENBORN IS THE FIRST WOMAN TEAM PRINCIPAL IN FORMULA ONE

India-born, Monisha Kaltenborn Became the First Woman Team Principal in Formula one on 11 October 2012 after taking the control of team Sauber, a Swiss Formula one team with the stepping down of team founder Peter Sauber from day to day management.

The news of Monisha Kaltenborn appointment came after Peter Sauber made it clear that he did not wish to run the team, which he built more than forty years ago. Monisha Kaltenborn joined Sauber in 2000 as head of its legal department and has been its CEO since January 2010.

Monisha secured her bachelor's degree in law from the University of Vienna in 1995 and also holds a Master's degree in International Business Law from the London School of Economics which she did in 1996.

ABOUT SAUBER TEAM

Sauber F1 Team is a Swiss Formula One team. It was founded in the 1970s by Peter Sauber, who progressed through hill climbing and the World Sportscar Championship to reach Formula One in 1993. [To Read More](#)

NOVAK DJOKOVIC WON SHANGHAI MASTERS

Novak Djokovic defeated British Tennis Player Andy Murray, on 14 October 2012 saving five match points to seal a stunning 5- 7, 7- 6 (13/ 11), 6- 3 victory in the Shanghai Rolex Masters final.

With the winning of match Novak Djokovic became the first player to win seven of the nine ATP World Tour 1000 Masters events. Also in the Double's Category, Leander Paes and Radek Stepanek won the Shanghai Rolex Double title by defeating Mahesh Bhupati and Rohan Bopanna.

Novak Djokovic has won five Grand Slam singles titles: the 2008, 2011, and 2012 Australian Open; the 2011 Wimbledon Championships; and the 2011 US Open. By winning three Majors in 2011, Djokovic became the sixth male player in the open era to win three Majors in a calendar year.

He is the first male player representing Serbia to win a Major singles title and the youngest player in the open era to have reached the semifinals of all four Grand Slam events, separately and consecutively.

ABOUT SHANGHAI ROLEX MASTERS

The 4th Edition of Shanghai Rolex Masters is one of the world's biggest tennis tournaments and the only such tournament to be staged outside North America and Europe. The Shanghai Rolex Masters is one of only nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments in the world and is the culmination and feature event of the Asian Swing. The Shanghai Rolex Masters was named ATP Masters 1000 Tournament of the Year for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Total prize money for the Shanghai Rolex Masters is US\$3240000.

JULIA GILLARD ANNOUNCED ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOR SACHIN

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on her visit to India on 16 October 2012 announced that Sachin Tendulkar would be conferred with the membership of the Order of Australia. This is the honor that is rarely bestowed on any non-Australian. The Prime Minister, while announcing this special honour for Sachin said that he deserves the award because he was a special cricketer.

Sachin will be conferred with this award during the visit of Australian Minister Simon Crean to India. Tendulkar will be honoured with AM award, one of the six different grades of the Order of Australia honour. Sachin is the Second Indian after Soli Sorabjee, the former Attorney General of India to be conferred with this award. Before Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara the cricketer from West Indies was conferred with this honour in the year 2009.

DECCAN CHARGERS NOW OUT OF INDIAN PREMIUM LEAGUE

The Supreme Court of India on 19 October 2012 rejected the plea of Deccan Chargers to put a stay order on the decision of Mumbai High Court that supported the decision of BCCI to terminate the franchise from being in Indian Premier League (IPL).

The Bench of Supreme Court headed by the Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir including Justices S.S. Nijjar and J. Chelameswar after dismissal of the plea made by the Deccan Chronicle Holding Ltd. cleared that the arbitrator can't overrule an order passed by the Court. With this development by the side of Supreme Court it is clear that the Deccan Chargers are completely out of the League. [To Read More](#)

MARTIN GUPTILL WON NEW ZEALAND TOP CRICKET AWARD

Opening batsman of New Zealand Cricket team Martin Guptill on 18 October 2012 claimed the top honour at the New Zealand Cricket Awards in Auckland, winning the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for 2011-12.

Martin Guptill was also named [ODI and Twenty20 player of the year](#), based on performances between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012. Also, Young fast bowler of New Zealand cricket team Doug Bracewell picked up the other big award of Test Player of the Year. Bracewell finished the 2011-12 seasons with taking up of 37 wickets at an average of 24.05 Martin Guptill played terrifically in all forms of the game during the 2011-12 seasons. With 490 Test runs he is only second behind skipper Ross Taylor, while he was the top-scorer for the New Zealand team in one-day with 579 and in T20 with 378.

OLYMPIC SHOOTER VIJAY KUMAR NAMED SERVICES BEST SPORTSMAN

London Olympic Shooter and silver medalist Vijay Kumar on 19 October 2012 was honoured with the Services Best Sportsman award for 2012 at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi.

The award which include trophy and cash award of one lakh rupees is generally given to the best sportsman from the three defence forces of Army, Air Force and Navy. Vijay Kumar is the current world number and had earlier won three gold medals and one silver medal at the Delhi

2010 Commonwealth Games. Vijay Kumar won a silver medal at the July-August 2012 London Games in the individual 25 metre rapid fire pistol.

Vijay Kumar is from Barsar village of Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh and is presently a serving Subedar Major in the Dogra Regiment (16th Battalion) of the Indian Army. He was also awarded with Arjuna Award in 2007 and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 2011-12 by the Government of India.

SAINA NEHWAL WON DENMARK OPEN BADMINTON TITLE

The World No. 4 badminton player Saina Nehwal on 21 October 2012 won the Denmark Open Super Series Premier tournament by defeating the German badminton player Juliane Schenk by 21-17 21-8.

She was competing in the women's single final category badminton match in Odense, Denmark and was playing without the chief national coach and her mentor Pullela Gopi Chand. This title is counted to be her sixth Super Series title and the first title outside Asia. Her previous titles came in Indonesia (2009, 2010, 2012), Singapore (2010) and Hong Kong (2010). Saina Nehwal, was competing in her first tournament after the London Games, which fetched her \$30000 prize money.

The victory is another milestone in career history of the Indian shuttle Saina Nehwal who had successfully defended her Swiss Open title by defeating world number two Wang Shixian of China in March 2012. In June 2012, Saina had won the Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold title thereafter she had also won the Indonesia Open Super Series Premier by defeating world number three Li Xuerui of China.

SUN TV NETWORK ACQUIRED HYDERABAD IPL FRANCHISE

Chennai based SUN TV Network acquired the Indian Premier League (IPL) Hyderabad franchise on 25 October 2012 for an enormous amount of 85.05 crore Rupees per year.

The Hyderabad franchise of the Indian Premier League was fell vacant after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) dropped Deccan Chargers in October 2012 for its failure to give a bank guarantee and other issues. The deal was made by owner of Sun TV Network, Kalanithi Maran who bought the (IPL) Hyderabad franchise for 425 crore Rupees (approx \$80m) which is payable in the next five years at 85.5 crore Rupees per year. [To Read More](#)

SEBASTIAN VETTEL WON F1 SECOND INDIAN GRAND PRIX

Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel won the Indian Grand Prix 2012 on 28 October 2012 at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) for the second time in a row extending his Formula One championship lead.

The rival Fernando Alonso of Ferrari kept the pressure on with finishing up for a second-place. The win put Vettel (240 points) 13 points clear of his rolling Ferrari rival Fernando Alonso. It was Sebastian Vettel's fourth straight win for the first time in his career completing a clean sweep of the Asian swing -- and now leads the drivers' championship by 13 points with three races to go, chasing a third successive F1 title.

Sebastian Vettel's Red Bull teammate Mark Webber finished third, the Australian fending off a strong late challenge from Lewis Hamilton of McLaren who finished fourth ahead of his teammate and fellow Briton Jenson Button. Earlier on 26 October 2012 Vettel clocked the fastest time with 1 minute 25.283 seconds to grab pole, his teammate Webber finished second with a timing of 1:25.327.

PANKAJ ADVANI WON WORLD BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Indian Billiards Player Pankaj Advani on 29 October 2012 won seventh World Billiards Championship title after comprehensively beating defending champion and seasoned Englishman Mike Russell in the finals of World Billiards Championship 2012.

The event was scheduled at the Northern Snooker Centre in Leeds, England where Pankaj scored 1895 points and Russell managed to score only 1216 points losing to Pankaj Advani. Pankaj was on steady rhythm since the beginning of the match and got on track with first break of 147 points followed by 298 points to obtain a lead of 450 points. Russell, on the other hand fearlessly replied with a break of 397 narrowing the deficit to just 60 points.

In session 2, Pankaj maintained the same rhythm and kept his attack scoring breaks of 100+ in almost every visit he played where as Russell could manage only breaks of 243 and 120 during the second session play. The win came after Pankaj had chosen to play the World Championships in Leeds with avoiding playing International Championship on the Professional Snooker tour.

Prior to this title Pankaj had also won World Professional Billiards title in the year 2009 and it was a case of history repeating itself because Pankaj had beaten Mike Russell with 2030-1253 in the finals of the World Professional Billiards Championship in 2009 at the same venue. The win also marks the eighth overall world title for Pankaj and it is his seventh title in billiards.

JOSHNA CHINNAPA WON IJM LAND PENANG OPEN SQUASH TITLE 2012

Joshna Chinappa, one of the top squash players of India claimed the IJM Land Penang Open after defeating top most squash player Siti Munirah Jusoh of Malaysia in straight games on 30 October 2012.

Joshna Chinappa defeated her Malaysian opponent Siti Munirah Jusoh with 11-9 11-7 11-1 in a 34-minute match between them at the Nicol David International Squash Centre. Both had dropped just one game to finish for the route to the final. Joshna Chinappa is the first Indian girl who had won the British Squash Championship title in 2003 in the under 19 category, at

Sheffield in U.K and she is also counted among the youngest Indian women's national champion.

LIONEL MESSI WON GOLDEN BOOT AWARD AS EUROPE'S TOP SCORER

Lionel Messi, the Barcelonean forward footballer on 29 October 2012 won Golden Boot Award. Messi won the award in recognition to his record 50 goals scored in the Europe's domestic football league in the last session. To win the award he scored 4 more goals than Cristiano Ronaldo, the Spanish league star.

This is the second Golden Boot award for Messi, as he won his first Golden Boot Award in the year 2010 after scoring 34 goals during Argentina International to help Barcelona win the league title. He is also in the list of the favorites to win the 2012 Ballon d'Or for the World's best player.

ABOUT LIONEL MESSI

The Flea is the nickname given the Messi for his uncanny abilities of dribbling the ball through defenders. The 25 year old is an Argentine Footballer and a captain to the national team of Argentina and fourth footballer to win three Ballons d'or. He is also the second player to win three Ballon's d'Or consecutively. [To Read More](#)

PETER GADE RETIRED FROM INTERNATIONAL CAREER OF BADMINTON

Danish legend Badminton Player, Peter Gade on 30 October 2012 retired from international badminton after his three-game defeat against compatriot Jan Ø. Jørgensen of Denmark. Peter Gade is five-time European Champion in Year (1998, 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2010).

Peter Gade had 22 Super series and Grand Prix titles under his name and took 5 medals at World Championships: Silver in 2001, Bronze in 1999, 2005, 2010 and 2011. He had also won the 1999 All-England Championships. He is counted among most successful European singles player in Asia of all times by taking 13 tournaments titles in the "Far East".

Peter Gade remained professional ambassador for European badminton, through major part of his career. He had inspired thousands of young players all around the world with his unique style of playing Badminton that was fast attacks, smooth footwork and constant pressure.

UNION GOVERNMENT OF INDIA APPROVED INDO-PAK CRICKET SERIES

The Union Home Ministry on 30 October 2012 mentioned that it had cleared the Pakistan cricket team's India visit later this year after detailed discussions with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials on issues related to security and visas for fans who will be visiting for the limited-overs series.

BCCI senior official and Union Minister Rajiv Shukla after meeting with Union Home Secretary RK Singh asserted that BCCI team had discussed all security aspects and assured full proof security to the Visitors. The coming series is going to be of limited-overs and is likely to begin on December 2012 and continue till January 2013. Both the teams are going to play three one-day internationals and two Twenty-20 international matches. The ODI matches are planned to be played in Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi. The liberal visa regime was already signed by both the countries and is supposed to be on operational mode before beginning of cricket series on 25 December 2012.

INDIAN WOMEN CRICKET TEAM WON ACC T20 ASIA CUP 2012

The Indian women's cricket team on 31 October 2012 won inaugural Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Twenty20 Asia Cup, beating Pakistan by 18 runs in a low-scoring final in Guangzhou city of People's Republic of China.

The team elected to bat first but did not have a good beginning as they lost both their openers within the first couple of overs. They somehow managed to make a low score of 81 runs but the bowlers did a splendid job to dismiss Pakistan to 63 in 19.1 overs. The women bowlers showed an impressive disciplined performance with giving away just a couple of wides from 19.1 overs.

Harmanpreet Kaur, was stand-in captain in place of Mithali Raj. The captain of Indian women cricket team Mithali Raj and senior player Jhulan Goswami were not playing the final match due to ankle injury. Earlier Indian women cricket team defeated Thailand in their opening match of the tournament by 77 runs, while Hong Kong was defeated in the second match with 142 runs.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Name the German footballer who called a halt to his professional football career on 3 October 2012?
 - a) Michael Ballack
 - b) Rüdiger Abramczik
 - c) Jerome Boateng
 - d) İlkay Gündoğan

Answer. (a) Michael Ballack

2. Name the Union Minister of Human Resource Development who launched hockey and cricket league under the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) on 5 October 2012.
 - a) Jairam Ramesh
 - b) Kapil Sibal

- c) Sachin Pilot
- d) Ajay Maken

Answer. (b) Kapil Sibal

3. Name the player who turned up to be the player of the tournament in the ICC World Twenty 20 Tournament?
- a) Sachin Tendulkar
 - b) Lasith Malinga
 - c) Dwayne Bravo
 - d) Shane Watson

Answer. (d) Shane Watson

4. Name the Red Bull-formulae one driver who won the Japanese Grand Prix 2012?
- a) Sebastin Vettel
 - b) Michael Schumacher
 - c) Lewis Hamilton
 - d) Fernando Alonso – Ferrari

Answer. (a) Sebastin Vettle

5. Name the nation that won Women T-20 World Cup Title-2012?
- a) India
 - b) Pakistan
 - c) Australia
 - d) South Africa

Answer. (c) Australia

6. Name the new coach of Maharashtra Ranji Team?
- a) Dermot Reeve
 - b) Shaun Williams
 - c) Darren Holder
 - d) Anil Kumble

Answer. (a) Anil Kumble

7. Name the TV News channel that conducted sting operations on the six umpires who were alleged of their willingness to fix the match?

- a) Swarnavahini- Srilanka
- b) India TV- India
- c) Geo TV- Pakistan
- d) Bagladesh News- Bagladesh

Answer. (b) India TV- India

8. Name the person who has been appointed as the Chairman of ICC Cricket Committee?

- a) Sarad Powar
- b) Adam Gilchrist
- c) Anil Kumble
- d) Ian Bishop

Answer. (c) Anil Kumble

9. Who is the first woman to become Team Principal in Formula one?

- a) Monisha Kaltenborn
- b) Karnam Malleshwari
- c) Betty Robinson
- d) Marjorie Jackson

Answer. (a) Monisha Kaltenborn

10. Macau open is related to which sports?

- a) Men's professional Snooker Tournament on the Asian Tour
- b) Men's professional Billiards Tournament on the Asian Tour
- c) Men's professional Golf Tournament on the Asian Tour
- d) Men's professional Chess Tournament on its tour to Macau

Answer. (c) Men's professional Golf Tournament on the Asian Tour

11. Who defeated whom, in the Shanghai Rolex Masters final?

- a) Novak Djokovic defeated Andy Murray
- b) Andy Murray defeated Novak Djokovic
- c) Rafael Nadal defeated Cristiano Ronaldo
- d) Leander Paes defeated Mahesh Bhupati

Answer. (a) Novak Djokovic defeated Andy Murray

12. Name the Indian, to be honoured with the rare Order of Australia award, before it was announced for Sachin Tendulkar during the visit of Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard to India?

- a) Soli Sorabjee
- b) Brijesh Mishra
- c) Dhyan Chand
- d) Amitabh Bachchan

Answer. (a) Soli Sorabjee

13. Name the person appointed as the new Chief Coach of Junior Pistol by NRAI

- a) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- b) Jaspal Rana
- c) Abhinav Bindra
- d) None of these

Answer. (b) Jaspal Rana

14. Name the cricketer, who won the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for 2011-12 at the New Zealand Cricket Awards in Auckland

- a) Ross Taylor
- b) Douglas Andrew John Bracewell
- c) Martin Gupthill
- d) Daniel Vettori

Answer. (c) Martin Gupthill

15. Name the sportsperson, who was awarded with Services Best Sportsman award for 2012 at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi

- a) Virat Kohli
- b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- c) Vijay Kumar
- d) Bharat Chettri

Answer. (c) Vijay Kumar

16. Saina Nehwal recently won a badminton title, name the tournament?

- a) Thomas Cup
- b) Denmark Open Badminton Title
- c) Uber Cup
- d) Sudirman Cup

Answer. (b) Denmark Open Badminton Title

17. The USADA (U.S. Anti-Doping Agency) stripped off some sportsperson in October 2012 of international rapport from all his titles and banned him from the sports for lifetime, name the player and sports?

- a) Mohammad Asif- Cricket
- b) Choppy Warburton- Cycling
- c) Neil Armstrong- Cycling
- d) Lance Armstrong- Cycling

Answer. (d) Lance Armstrong- Cycling

18. Name the company that has acquired the Hyderabad Franchise of Indian Premier League?

- a) Sun TV Network
- b) Aircel
- c) Sahara India Parivaar
- d) Bharti Group

Answer. (a) Sun TV Network

19. Name the women team that lost the finals of inaugural Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Twenty20 Asia Cup against India?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Nepal
- c) China
- d) Australia

Answer. (a) Pakistan

20. Which of the following statement is right?

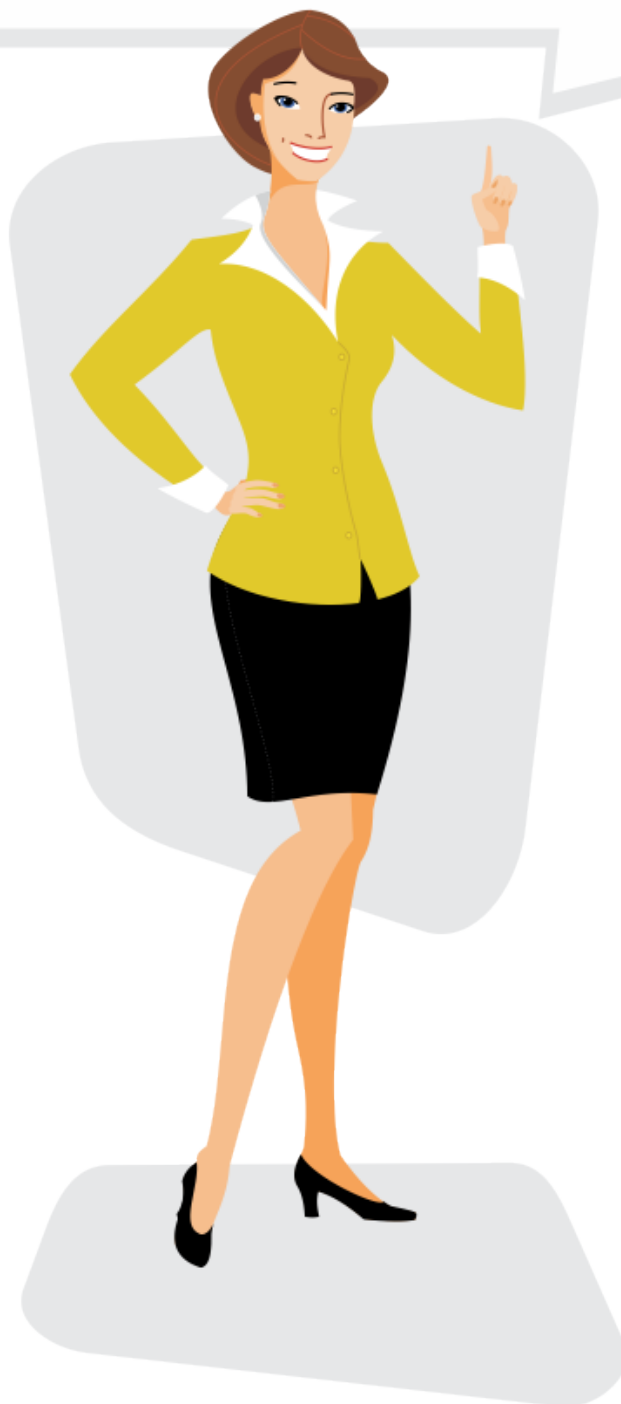
- a) Dave Kisoorn joined West Indies Players' Association Board
- b) The finals of the inaugural Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Twenty20 Asia Cup, women's cricket was played in Guangzhou city of People's Republic of China.
- c) Pankaj Advani won the grand slam of Chess held at Japan by defeating Vishwanathan Anand
- d) Messi is a footballer and captain of national football team of Brazil

Answer. (b) The finals of the inaugural Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Twenty20 Asia Cup, women's cricket was played in Guangzhou city of People's Republic of China.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GOLD PRODUCING BACTERIA DISCOVERED BY SCIENTIST

Scientist and Researchers from the Michigan State University had discovered bacteria that can tolerate immense amount of toxicity and can also create 24 carat gold.

The researchers found that the bacteria named *Cupriavidus Metallidurans* is metal tolerant bacteria which can grow on huge concentration of gold chloride which itself is a very toxic chemical compound found in nature.

It is now being called as Microbial alchemy - transforming gold from something that has no value into a solid, precious metal that's valuable.

The researchers fed the bacteria with mismatched amounts of gold chloride, imitating the process they believe happens in nature. In about a week, bacteria transformed the toxins and produced a gold nugget. The researchers used a combination of biotechnology, art and alchemy to turn liquid gold into 24-carat gold.

It is now being called as Microbial alchemy - transforming gold from something that has no value into a solid, precious metal that's valuable.

AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS UNVEILED THE COLOSSAL RADIO TELESCOPE

Australian Scientists on 5 October 2012 unveiled a [Colossal Radio Telescope](#) with abilities of exploring the depths of universe with unparalleled precision. The telescope will increase the abilities of astronomers in mapping black holes, survey the universe, and cracking the new light across the galaxies to an exponential level.

At present the Australian SKA Pathfinder telescope having 36 antennas with diameter of 12 meters each is placed at the remote Murchison Radio-Astronomy observatory in the deserts of West Australia. Designed and developed by making investments of Australian \$ 140 million has facilities of surveying the sky at a much faster speed than any other telescope available in the world. The sensitive antennas of the telescope are quite sensitive to the faint radiations of Milky Way hence is able to detect the galaxies far away. The radio waves generated from this telescope can provide details of the cosmos far away and the gases that resulted in the formation of any particular star. [To Read More](#)

SCIENTIST DISCOVERED SOURCE OF WATER ON MOON

Scientists in third week of October have discovered that the most likely source of water on Moon is the constant stream of charged particles from the Sun known as the solar wind.

The findings came by researchers from the University of Michigan, who imply that ice inside permanently shadowed polar craters on the Moon, sometimes called cold traps, could contain hydrogen atoms ultimately derived from the solar wind.

Also, The Theoretical models of lunar water stability dating to the late 1970s suggest that hydrogen ions (protons) from the solar wind can combine with oxygen on the Moon's surface to form water and related compounds called hydroxyls, which consist of one atom of hydrogen and one of oxygen and are known as OH.

The researchers have found that the 'water' component, the hydroxyl, in the lunar regolith is mostly from solar wind implantation of protons, which locally combined with oxygen to form hydroxyls that moved into the interior of glasses by impact melting. With this research it is also clear that water likely exists on Mercury and on asteroids such as Vesta or Eros further within our solar system.

SCIENTIST DEVELOPED SUPERHERO MICE TO SNIFF OUT EXPLOSIVES

Scientists of the City University of New York in month of October had genetically engineered mice that have up to 500 times more of nose cells to detect explosives and TNT-like chemicals, using the Genetically Modified technology.

The mice are named as 'super-hero' sniffer mice and have the ability to smell out land-mines and explosives. The mice can be used by armed forces and can be deployed in future, to countries affected by war for rapidly sniffing out of landmines.

The project was funded by the US government's health research arm. Using of rats and mice is not common phenomenon as it is evident from the fact that a Belgian charity already uses giant African rats to sniff out TNT and has deployed them in Mozambique and Tanzania and on the Thai-Burmese border. While in this research project the mice was used because these are cheaper to manage and house and easier to breed.

NEW EARTH SIZED PLANET DISCOVERED IN SOLAR SYSTEM

Astronomers have discovered a new earth sized planet in October 2012 which is closest to but outside our solar system. The planet is said to be astronomical stone's throw away at four light years.

The discovery of planet was announced in Science Journal, Nature by Stephane Udry and Xavier Dumusque at Geneva Observatory. The planet is very close to its sun that it is difficult to support life there. The planet is of very low mass and have a surface temperature of about

1200 degree Celsius (2192 Fahrenheit). The Planet orbits one of the suns in Alpha Centauri, roughly 25 trillion miles away.

Also according to the previous study by different scientist if one planet is discovered orbiting a sun there is usually other planet in the same solar system. Almost 800 exoplanets are discovered in the recent past that is outside our solar system since early 1990's. But this Planet is very close to earth. It was also asserted that getting to the planet is nearly impossible because it would take about 40000 years to travel to new planet even with current Propulsion Technology.

A HUMANOID ROBOT CALLED BAXTER DESIGNED IN USA

A humanoid robot with common sense, designed to work safely alongside its human co-workers on factory production lines, was unveiled in the US.

Baxter could apply common sense, adapt to its environment and be trained in less than 30 minutes to complete specific tasks. It is capable of superhuman speed and precision. To teach Baxter a new job, a human guides its arms to simulate the desired task, and presses a button to program in the pattern, the report said. The robot responds with a confused expression, if it does not understand.

SCIENCE CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. In the Month of October scientists and researchers discovered a Gold Producing Bacteria. Name the University from where these scientists and researchers belong?
 - a) Michigan State University
 - b) University of Whales
 - c) Steering University, Scotland
 - d) Oxford University

Answer. (a) Michigan State University

2. What is the name given to the Gold Producing Bacteria discovered recently?
 - a) Dorippoidea
 - b) Achaeearanea tepidariorum
 - c) Cupriavidus Metallidurans
 - d) Pleocyemata

Answer. (c) Cupriavidus Metallidurans

3. The researchers used a combination of three different processes to turn liquid gold produced in form of gold nugget by the Gold Producing Bacteria into 24-carat gold. Name the three processes used for this conversion?
- a) Alchemy, Art and Micro-Chemistry
 - b) Biotechnology, Art and Alchemy
 - c) Biotechnology, Alchemy and Zoology
 - d) Biotechnology, Art and Micro-Biology

Answer. (b) Biotechnology, Art and Alchemy

4. Australian Scientists recently unveiled a Colossal Radio telescope, which one of the following statements about the telescope is wrong?
- a) Pulsars and quasars can also be identified by the telescope
 - b) Will increase the abilities of astronomers in mapping black holes, survey the universe, and cracking the new light across the galaxies to an exponential level
 - c) Designed and developed at a budget of \$ 1000 million
 - d) The 36 antennas with diameter of 12 meters each is placed at the remote Murchison Radio-Astronomy observatory in the deserts of West Australia

Answer. (c) Designed and developed at a budget of \$ 1000 million

5. Which of the following statements are false?
- a) Murchison Radio-Astronomy observatory in the deserts of West Australia is the place where the place, where the Colossal Radio Telescope has been placed
 - b) Cupriavidus Metallidurans is the name given to the gold producing bacteria
 - c) The theoretical models of lunar water stability dating to the late 1970s suggest that hydrogen ions (protons) from the solar wind can combine with oxygen on the Moon's surface to form water and related compounds called hydroxyls
 - d) New Earth sized planet discovered in neighboring solar system was announced in the Hope magazine

Answer. (d) New Earth sized planet discovered in neighboring solar system was announced in the Hope magazine

6. Scientists of which country recently unveiled Colossal Radio telescope, with abilities to identify Pulsars and quasars, with 36 antennas of diameter 12 meters each?
- a) Australia

- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) Russia

Answer. (a) Australia

7. What is the name of the humanoid robot with common sense, designed to work safely alongside its human co-workers on factory production line in USA
- a) Baxter
 - b) Stephane Urdy
 - c) Xavier Dumusque
 - d) Sniffer

Answer. (a) Baxter

8. Which among the following options of the statements mentioned below are right?
- a) Scientists of the City University of New York developed genetically engineered mice that have up to 500 times more of nose cells to detect explosives and TNT-like chemicals
 - b) The Belgian charity uses giant African rats to sniff out TNT and has deployed them in Mozambique and Tanzania and on the Thai-Burmese border
 - c) Astronomers have discovered a new earth sized planet in our Solar System
 - d) A Humanoid Robot called Baxter designed in USA
- I. Statement a, b and d are right
 - II. All the four statements is right
 - III. Statement a and d are right
 - IV. None of these

Answer. (I) Statement a, b and d are right

9. Out of the four statements mentioned below which one of the following is true?
- a) The discovery of earth sized planet in the neighboring solar system was announced in Science Journal, Nature by Stephane Urdy and Xavier Dumusque at Geneva Observatory

- b) Mozambique and Tanzania and the Thai-Burmese border are the places, where the research project of the mice was implemented by the US Authorities
- c) Indian Scientists unveiled world's largest crater with diamond content at its core in the Himalayan belt of North-East India
- d) Japan, Burma and India signed a treaty to enhance the quality of science and technology between the three countries

Answer. (a) The discovery of earth sized planet in the neighboring solar system was announced in Science Journal, Nature by Stephane Urdy and Xavier Dumusque at Geneva Observatory

10. Scientist and Researchers from the Michigan State University had discovered bacteria that can tolerate immense amount of toxicity and can also create 24 carat gold. Is this statement true or false?

Answer. The statement is true

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ENVIRONMENT ECOLOGY

100 ELITE FORCES ASSIGNED THE TASK OF SAVING RHINOS

The Assam Government has deployed a 100-member team of Elite Forest Protection Force at the Kaziranga National Park on 2 October 2012. The decision came in concern to the recent killings of the one horned Rhinos in the flood-affected areas of Karbi Anglong Hills, the area outside the protected region of the Park. The park is also a UNESCO Heritage Site. The forest department of the state dispatched a team of armed forces to the park for offering protection to the one-horned animal against the Poachers.

As per the available data the park has lost 39 Rhinos within 10 months bringing down the population to a total of 2,251. Out of these 28 died after being drowned in the floods of the state and the remaining 11 felt a pray to the poachers. In a hunt to stop the poachers from being successful, the forest guards till date have been successful in arresting 14 poachers and killed 3 of them.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA BANNED MINING ACTIVITIES IN GOA

The Supreme Court on 5 October 2012 issued a ban on all mining operations until further orders are made, in all 90 mines which also include transportation of mined iron ore and manganese in leases, in Goa.

The Forest Bench comprising Justices Aftab Alam, K.S. Radhakrishnan and Swatanter Kumar granted the stay on a writ petition filed by the Goa Foundation, an environmental action group, and asked the Central Empowered Committee to give its response in four weeks. The court made it clear that no mineral, whether lying at a mine head or stockyard, would be transported until further orders.

The failure of the State government of Goa to control illegal mining has led to large-scale destruction of both forest land and non-forest land and had adversely affected the livelihood of local people, especially the rural poor.

The Goa Foundation pointed out that the Justice M.B. Shah commission, appointed in November 2010, said illegal activities in mining had been going on in the State since 2000. All 90 mines were functioning without the mandatory permission from the National Board for Wildlife and 33 of them were located within 1.5 km of wildlife sanctuaries.

NAVY'S PROPOSAL TO SET UP MISSILE TESTING SITE REJECTED

The Union Ministry of Environment and Ecology on 4 October 2012 rejected the Navy's proposal to set up a missile-testing site in Andaman and Nicobar islands, on the basis that the firing range would destroy the habitat of endangered birds in Nicobar Megapode, unique to the isles.

The megapode actually does not exist anywhere and it is a very unique species. It is too sensitive to withstand any such installation over there.

A RARE GLIMPSE OF FAUNA FOUND AT SIACHEN GLACIER

16 Rajput Battalion organized a trip to Siachen Glacier including 16 civilian adventurers and environmentalists to have a check on the life conditions of the army person on this highest battle ground.

During the trip, a rare glimpse of fauna at nearly 22,000 feet high and 76.4 kilometer long Siachen Glacier was witnessed by a group of environmentalists and adventurers. During this trip, the group also saw some of the birds and other animals including white wagtail, great rosyfinch, raven, red-billed and yellow-billed crow, hill pigeon, accentor and white winged river chat, who survive in the severe cold weather conditions on this highest battle field of the world.



The expedition with this team of 16 civilians that included a 62 year old member started on 7 September 2012 from Leh to reach the Siachen base camp. To reach there the team managed to pass from Khardungla at 18,380 feet, the highest motorable pass of the world. The team in its journey to Siachen was successful to have a look on the bio-diversity of the area that included more than 20 different species of alpine flora.

SAVE GANGA, SAVE DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN INITIATED IN UTTAR PRADESH

Save Ganga, Save Dolphin, the three day campaign was initiated on 5 October 2012 by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department in association with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The team also included local volunteers and 14 NGOs. The campaign was a state-initiative to create awareness to conserve the Gangetic Dolphins one of the critically endangered species of the Gangetic River System. These dolphins are scientifically named as Platanista Gangetica.

To cover a distance of about 2,800 kilometers in the Gangetic River System that flows within the state, 18 boats were flagged off by Raja Mahendra Aridaman Singh, the Transport Minister of the state. The campaign that also aims at identifying the population of the dolphins in the river system and it ended with the declaration by Akhilesh Yadav, the Chief Minister of the state on 7 October 2012.

The Ganga Dolphins are also called as the Tigers of Ganga as it enjoys the position in Ganga that is equivalent to that of the tiger in the forest. In the last two surveys conducted in the year 2005 and 1982, the population of this species recorded was 1,600 and 4000 to 5000 respectively.

The survey was conducted in the river Ganga and its tributaries across the state. In Ganga, this campaign started from Bijnor and ended at Varanasi. In the Chambal River it started from

Rajghat of Morena District in Madhya Pradesh to Pachneda of Etawah at the confluence of the river with Yamuna and further it will be carried out from this place to Yamuna's confluence with Ganga at the Sangam in Allahabad. The campaign also included a survey in the Saryu River in Ayodhya and Rapti in Garakhpur, Ghagra and Geruwa from Katarniaghat Wild Life Sanctuary to Dohrigaht in Mau District of Uttar Pradesh. In Ken River the survey was done from the Banda to Chilla and from Rampur to Deoara in the Sone River. In Betwa River the campaign started from Orchha and ended at Hamirpur.

DOLPHIN DAY OBSERVED IN BIHAR

Dolphin Day was observed on 5 October 2012 in Bihar. The state government declared to observe 5 October as the Dolphin Day in the state every year. This came as a part of world wild life week that was being observed by the state from second to eight October.

This was an act to increase awareness about conservation of one of the rarest and critically endangered Gangetic Species. The Gangetic Dolphin that is scientifically known as *Platanista Gangetica* is also the National Aquatic animal of India. To conserve the aquatic species the Deputy Chief Minister of the State Sushil Kumar Modi declared that a Dolphin watch center would be developed at places where these Dolphins are still visible. To raise the awareness this center will also be used as a site for tourists' attraction. During the day long observation of Dolphin Day, films and documentaries related to dolphins were screened in the state.

Dolphins of Ganga are into regular attack by the Poachers for its oil that acts as an ointment and aphrodisiac as well as for the flesh. The species has been declared to be an endangered species by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Gangetic Dolphins is covered by the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act under its 1st Schedule. The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary located in the Bhagalpur district of Bihar is the one and only sanctuary for preservation of this endangered species.

DELHI GOVERNMENT TIED UP WITH INTACH

The Delhi Cabinet on 9 October 2012 agreed for an agreement with INTACH for conservation and refurbishment work of 16 monuments in New Delhi.

Infact, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the INTACH in October 2008 for survey, documentation, protection, conservation and refurbishment of Ancient Monuments of Local Importance and the work was to be done in two phases.

In the first phase, INTACH has completed the field surveys, photo documentation, brief descriptions, and site plans of 95 documents showing all topographic features. Based on this the department is processing the notification for protection of various monuments.

And, During the second phase of the INTACH Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) , 17 monuments were selected for carrying out chemical cleaning and preservation, scientific

conservation, land scrapping the surrounding, developing cultural notice board and signage and illuminating the monuments. These works have been executed by INTACH.

With the impressive outcome of the earlier MoU and extensive resources and expertise of INTACH, the Government has now decided to further utilise its services for survey, protection and conservation of 16 other monuments.

ABOUT INTACH

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is an autonomous non-governmental Indian NGO which was founded in 1984 by Rajiv Gandhi that seeks to preserve Indian Art and Cultural heritage. In 2007, the United Nations awarded INTACH a special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council

Its headquarters are in New Delhi and today it has chapters in 117 Indian cities, as well as chapters in Belgium, the UK and the United States. INTACH is the only non-governmental Indian non-profit society working for the awareness and conservation of Indian culture and heritage.

SC: DEMANDED FRESH GUIDELINES ON TIGER CONSERVATION

The Supreme Court of India on 9 October 2012 asked the Union government to notify within a week its fresh guidelines on tiger conservation. A division bench of the apex court indicated it may modify its July order issued on 24 July 2012 which stayed all tourism activities in the reserved areas across the country. The bench, however, made it clear that the states, if aggrieved by the guidelines, are free to challenge it before the court.

The apex court on 24 July 2012 had banned all tourist activities in the core areas of tiger reserves and had extended the ban till 27 September 2012.

SC WORRIED ABOUT THE STATUS OF GROWING POLLUTION IN YAMUNA

Supreme Court on 10 October 2012 expressed its serious concerns over Yamuna and the growing rate of pollution in its water although a huge sum of about 1800 crore rupees had been spent on containing pollution in the river.

The Supreme Court of India on issues of pollution in River Yamuna criticized to the Centre and Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. The Bench of Justices Swatanter Kumar and Madan B. Lokur in its statement said it an unfortunate event that without showing any improvement in the quality of water such a huge public fund has been invested. Investments made by the Center, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana for cleaning the water of Yamuna till date was 1062 crore, 219 crore and 200 crore rupees, respectively.

The bench considering the report issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which points out the growing concentration of pollutants along the stretch of river, directed the Secretary of Union Urban Development Minister and chief secretaries of the three state along with civic bodies and concerned ministries to file a report in detail, about the works undertaken

by them from Hathnikund to Agra, so far. The report measured coli content to be 17 billion per 100 ml in Delhi, since March 2012.

This Bench of Supreme Court ordering, the concerned authorities to be present in the court on the next hearing on 30 October 2012 made it clear that the report should contain the number of sewage treatment plants installed and functional on the sewers that join the river, may it be domestic, industrial or other waste that joins the river. It also directed the states and the center to present the names of their representatives for being included in the expert committee that would be constituted to suggest the future action plan to control pollution in Yamuna.

E-SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM TO PROTECT TIGERS AND RHINOS

The Minister for Environment and Forests, Jayanthi Natarajan during his visit to the Kaziranga National Park on 10 October 2012 announced that for round-the-clock surveillance of the animals, the park will get remote controlled aircraft along with a satellite based electronic eye. The announced solutions for surveillance would help in protecting the tigers, rhinos and other animals from the attack of the poachers. The minister in her visit also announced a package of 1 crore rupees for repairing works of the park damaged due to flood.

The initiative in form of remote controlled aircraft surveillance of the National Park is the first step in the country. The electronic eye surveillance was in practice at Corbett National Park as a pilot project and Kaziranga would be the second park in the county to have the facility. The two things, surveillance through an electronic eye and the unmanned aircraft, were the two proposed procurement materials in the Annual Plan of Operations of Kaziranga for 2012-13.

The complete 856 square kilometer area of the National Park will be covered by the electronic eye and the infrared and the night vision cameras would be mounted on the towers. The images taken by the cameras would be transferred to the control room via satellite-based application. Alerts will be generated at times of suspicious movements within the park.

All these actions have been taken in form of an action plan to protect the animals of the National park from poachers and other problems that risks their life. Since January 2012, 11 rhinos were killed by the dehorned by the poachers. 29 of them, died after being drowned in the high waves of flood within the park.

INDIA TO GET WARMER BY 2 DEGREE CELSIUS BY 2030

Scientist of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai together made a Projection that India may warm up by 1.7 ° to 2 ° C by 2030s and up to 4.8 degree Celsius by 2080s.

The Scientist had pointed out more warming over the northern areas, especially the Himalayas and Kashmir. The projections were made for the period of 1860 to 2099 which is based on new climate data, models and new emission scenarios termed as Representative concentration pathways.

Also as per the scientist Rainfall is predicted to increase from four per cent to five per cent by 2030s and from six per cent to 14 per cent towards the end of the century in 2080s compared to the 1961- 1990 baseline. All these new projections should be used in future assessment of impact of climate change and adaptation planning.

However, also contradicting analysis was presented which has indicated that limiting warming to roughly 2 ° C by the end of this century is unlikely since it requires an immediate ramp down of emissions.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFIED FRESH GUIDELINES ON TIGER CONSERVATION

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on 15 October 2012 notified fresh guidelines on tiger conservation allowing regulated low impact tourism in the core and critical tiger habitat. Since, tourism has been happening in core and critical tiger habitats, regulated low impact tourism visitation would be allowed in such areas subject to site-specific carrying capacity.

The guidelines, however, say no new tourism infrastructure should be permitted in such core and critical tiger habitats. Recently, the Supreme Court of India had allowed the government to notify within a week its fresh guidelines on tiger conservation and indicated that it may modify its 24 July 2012 order staying all tourism activities in the reserved areas across the country.

TWENTY-FIVE SPECIES OF PRIMATES ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

As per the report released by the International Union for Conservation of Nature on 15 October 2012, twenty-five species of monkeys, langurs, lemurs and gorillas are on the brink of extinction and need global action to protect them from increasing deforestation and illegal trafficking. Six of the severely threatened species live in the island nation of Madagascar, off southeast Africa. Five more from mainland Africa, five from South America and nine species in Asia are among those listed as most threatened. Primates, mankind's closest living relatives, contribute to the ecosystem by dispersing seeds and maintaining forest diversity.

The report was released at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity being held in Hyderabad.

SC LIFTED BAN ON TOURISM IN CORE TIGER RESERVE AREAS

The Supreme Court on 16 October 2012 had lifted its interim ban on tourism in core areas of tiger reserves across the country.

The ban came into consideration, a day after the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) notified fresh guidelines. As per the new Guidelines, a maximum of 20 per cent of the core area is going to be outlined for regulated tourism. Also, the state governments will put in place site-specific frameworks for each tiger reserve.

It was in 24 July 2012 that the Supreme Court had imposed an absolute ban on tourism in core areas of 41 tiger reserves across the country.

The Supreme Court Citing the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) guideline directed that the state governments are required to prepare their own tiger conservation plans under the Wildlife Protection Act. It directed them to prepare the plans within six months and submit it to the NTCA for approval.

CSE AND HSBC BANK TOGETHER WILL IMPART ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Centre of Science and Environment (CSE) on 17 October 2012 announced Partnership with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC) to set up modern Environment Training Institute in Alwar district of Rajasthan.

The Institute that will set up will be offering short and long term courses on Environmental governance for regulators and decision makers. Both the organization will be improving environmental governance in India by building capacity of environment regulators, non-government organizations and industry.

The institute will cover the multiple research disciplines such as air pollution, water and waste water management, climate change, sustainable industrialisation and urbanisation, renewable energy, public transport and mobility and environment impact assessment. The Institute is going to be developed as an incubation, development and demonstration centre for green technologies.

ABOUT CENTRE OF SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT (CSE)

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi. It was founded in 1980. CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable. Centre of Science and Environment uses knowledge-based activism to create awareness about environment related problems and helps in proposing sustainable solution.

TEC RECOMMENDED 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON USE OF GM CROPS

TEC (Technical Expert Committee), in its interim report recommended a 10-year moratorium on all field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) food crops, including Bt Cotton. In its interim report, it suggested that the present regulatory system and protocol for conducting the field trials were unsatisfactory and inadequate, requiring major changes, restructuring and strengthening.

TEC Committee's recommendation is based on the current overall status of food safety evaluation of Bt transgenic including the data on Bt Cotton and Bt Brinjal examined by the TEC and in accordance with the precautionary principle.

TEC's suggestion for a moratorium on field trial was welcomed by environmentalists. In fact, the moratorium is necessitated by the potential harm of GM crops to human health, that of livestock and biodiversity and the possibility of field trials to contaminate regular crops and food supply. Five-member TEC was appointed by the Supreme Court of India.

SONBHADRA DISTRICT IS CRITICALLY-POLLUTED: CSE

Director-General of Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) Sunita Narain on 19 October 2012 released the report of the study that was conducted in Sonbhadra District in the year 2011-12 and revealed the fact that the Sonbhadra that is a part of resource-rich Singrauli Area that acts as a industrial powerhouse for the country presents a tale of sorrow in relation to pollution, non-compliance of environmental norms, poverty, disease and official indifference.

The report released by a Delhi-based Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) declared Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh as the critically-polluted area that is also an environmental disaster, due to the presence of high levels of Mercury in the bodies of the local residents and the environment of the region. Mercury acts as a neurotoxin in the body and affects the central nervous system leading to damages in the renal system. Sonbhadra that is the largest district of Uttar Pradesh after Lakhimpur Kheri, is critically connected to the states like Chhatishgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, and acts as a co-terminus to these states.

To conduct the study, CSE as an agency collected nineteen samples of blood, nail and hair of people suffering from different ailments and twenty-three different samples of water that includes groundwater, three samples of fish from Govind Vallabh Pant Sagar Reservoir, five samples of cereals, and seven samples of soil. [To Read More](#)

FORTY WHALES DIED IN MASS STRANDING ON ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Approximately 40 whales died in a mass stranding on 25 October 2012 on the west coast of remote North Andaman Island in the Bay of Bengal. The short-finned pilot stranded whales were found by fishermen in Port Blair capital of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

No earlier mass stranding was reported in the Andaman, but it is a natural phenomenon that occurs when whales get disoriented and are unable to swim back into deep water. The whales are found to be so heavy that it is impossible to move them back to the waters. Also after conducting post-mortem on one of adult's whales it weighed two tonnes.

ABOUT WHALE STRANDING

A Stranded whale is a whale that has stranded itself on land, usually on a beach. The reason of their death is dehydration, collapsing of body under their own weight or drowning when high tide covers the blowhole. The stranded whale is also referred as beached whale.

There are also many other reasons for whale stranding the major of which are natural and environmental factors, such as rough weather, weakness due to old age or infection, difficulty giving birth, hunting too close to shore and navigation errors.

Some stranding is also caused by larger cetaceans following dolphins and porpoises into shallow coastal waters. The other reason for stranding is SONAR (Sound, Navigation and Resonance)

There is evidence that active sonar leads to beaching. On some occasions whales have stranded shortly after military sonar was active in the area.

UTTARAKHAND TOPPED THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

The state of Uttarakhand on 29 October 2012 tops the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) list of being best-performing States and Union territories in terms of environmental well-being released by Planning Commission.

Uttarakhand is followed by Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Sikkim, and Andhra Pradesh on the Planning Commission's Environmental Performance Index (EPI) list. Environmental well-being is one of the considerations for decentralization of funds to the States under the Gadgil formula.

The State of Uttarakhand was given a cumulative score point of 0.8123 which is followed by Himachal Pradesh with score point of 0.7316, Chandigarh with 0.7270, Sikkim (0.7149), and Andhra Pradesh with 0.7147 of Score point.

Mizoram, Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Tripura, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar, with an average score of 1, were ranked as the best States in terms of air quality. Amazingly, except for Uttarakhand, all the States met the prescribed national ambient air quality standard in respect of the sulphur dioxide which is of 20 micrograms per cubic metre. [To Read More](#)

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

Environment and Ecology

1. The Assam Government has deployed a 100-member team of Elite Forest Protection Force to protect the Rhinos from the attack of poachers. Which area of Assam the Elite Force would be deployed for protection of these Rhinos.
 - a) The Orang National Park
 - b) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
 - c) Manas National Park
 - d) Kaziranga National Park

Answer. (d) Kaziranga National Park

2. The Supreme Court of India recently issued a ban on all the mining operations in the state of Goa, which includes transportation of mined iron ore and manganese in leases. What is the number of mines on which the ban notice was issued?
 - a) 55

- b) 90
- c) 93
- d) 100

Answer. (b) 90

3. The Union Ministry of Environment and Ecology rejected Indian Navy's proposal for setting up the missile-testing-station in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Ministry also notified the cause of rejection of the proposal, what was the cause of this rejection.
- a) Destruction of the habitat of Nicobar Megapode
 - b) The growth of infrastructure on the Islands would have impact on the Deep Sea Diving facilities of the Island
 - c) It was a call after witnessing the Mass Stranding of Whales on the beach of the Islands
 - d) Because it would impact the life of fisherman

Answer. (a) Destruction of the habitat of Nicobar Megapode

4. An army battalion organised a trip to Siachen Glacier that includes 16 civilian environmentalists and adventurers. The trip was conducted to have a check on the life conditions of army person on the highest battle ground of India.
- a) Sikh Battalion
 - b) Gorkha Battalion
 - c) 16 Rajput Battalion
 - d) 10 Armoured Regiment

Answer. (c) 16 Rajput Battalion

5. Name the highest motorable pass of the world?
- a) Borasu Pass
 - b) Khardungla Pass
 - c) Haldighati Pass
 - d) Nathu La Pass

Answer. (b) Khardungla

6. To save the Dolphins of River Ganga, Uttar Pradesh Government launched a campaign in association with the World Wildlife Fund targeted to identify the number of Gangetic Dolphins the endangered species. Name the Campaign?
- a) Dolphins Saved Ganga Saved
 - b) Save Ganga Save Dolphin
 - c) Save Dolphin and Ganga
 - d) Save Gangetic Dolphin

Answer. (b) Save Ganga Save Dolphin

7. Platanista Gangetica is the scientific name of?
- a) Gangetic Dolphins
 - b) Gangatic Crabs
 - c) Gangetic Snakes
 - d) Gangetic Flora and Fauna

Answer. (a) Gangetic Dolphins

8. To create awareness on Gangetic Dolphins, on which date Bihar Government observed Dolphin Day?
- a) 5 October
 - b) 6 October
 - c) 4 October
 - d) 3 October

Answer. (a) 5 October

9. Under, which Schedule of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act the Gangetic Dolphins are covered
- a) 2nd Schedule
 - b) 4th Schedule

- c) 3rd Schedule
- d) 1st Schedule

Answer. (d) 1st Schedule

10. What is the name of India's one and only Dolphin Sanctuary and at which place is it situated?

- a) Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Bhagalpur in Bihar
- b) Nalanda Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Nalanda in Bihar
- c) Haridwar Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Haridwar in Uttarakhand
- d) Gangotri Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Rishikesh in Uttarakhand

Answer. (a) Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Bhagalpur in Bihar

11. Delhi Government in October 2012 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a NGO for conducting survey, documentation, protection, conservation and refurbishment of Ancient Monuments of Local Importance. Name the Non-Profit Organisation?

- a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- b) Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)
- c) UNESCO
- d) Plan India

Answer. (b) Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

12. For e-surveillance of the Rhinos and Tigers for a National Park, the Minister for Environment and Forests, Jayanthi Natarajan in the month of October announced a round the clock surveillance facility for protection of the animals in the park. Name the first park to avail the facility of electronic eye surveillance in India?

- a) Kaziranga National Park
- b) Jim Corbett National Park
- c) Manas National Park
- d) Ranthambore National Park

Answer. (a) Kaziranga National Park

13. A report was released at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity that was held in Hyderabad describing twenty-five species of monkeys, langurs, lemurs and gorillas, who are on the brink of extinction and need global action to protect them. Name the body that prepared and released the report?

- a) Nature Magazine
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- c) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- d) People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

Answer. (b) International Union for Conservation of Nature

14. Name the Authority that issued the fresh guidelines to allow not more than 20 percent of protected area of parks meant for tiger conservation for the purposes of tourism and Supreme Court of India issued a ban on the tourism activity in the protected areas accordingly?

- a) Tiger Protection Foundation of India
- b) National Authority on Tiger Protection and Conservation
- c) Authority of Tiger Protection And Conservation
- d) National Tiger Conservation Authority

Answer. (d) National Tiger Conservation Authority

15. Centre of Science and Environment (CSE) announced its partnership with an International bank, for setting up of modern Environment Training Institute in Alwar district of Rajasthan. Name the bank?

- a) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)
- b) Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC)
- c) Housing Development and Finance Corporation (HDFC)
- d) City Bank

Answer. (b) Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC)

16. Name the committee that recommended suspension of field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) food crops that includes Bt Cotton for 10 years?

- a) Food and Agricultural committee of India
- b) Technical Expert Committee
- c) Committee on Genetically Modified food crops
- d) National Committee of India

Answer. (b) Technical Expert Committee

17. Name the commission established to point out the illegal activities practiced in the mining activities going on in the state of Goa, since 2000?

- a) Shome Commission
- b) Meena Gupta commission
- c) Justice M.B. Shah commission
- d) Kirit Parikh Commission

Answer. (c) Justice M.B. Shah Commission

18. Name the Island, where Indian Navy recently forwarded a proposal for setting-up of the missile testing site but the proposal was rejected by the Union Ministry of Environment and Ecology?

- a) Paradeep Islands
- b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- c) Kingshill Virgin Islands
- d) None of these

Answer. (b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

19. In which city of India, the XIth Conference of the Parties (COP 11) - Convention on Biological Diversity was organised by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India?

- a) Bangalore
- b) Chennai

- c) Hyderabad
- d) Delhi

Answer. (c) Hyderabad

20. In the month of October 2012, about 40 whales died due to Mass Stranding on a beach of the Island; name the Island, where the whales were found dead?

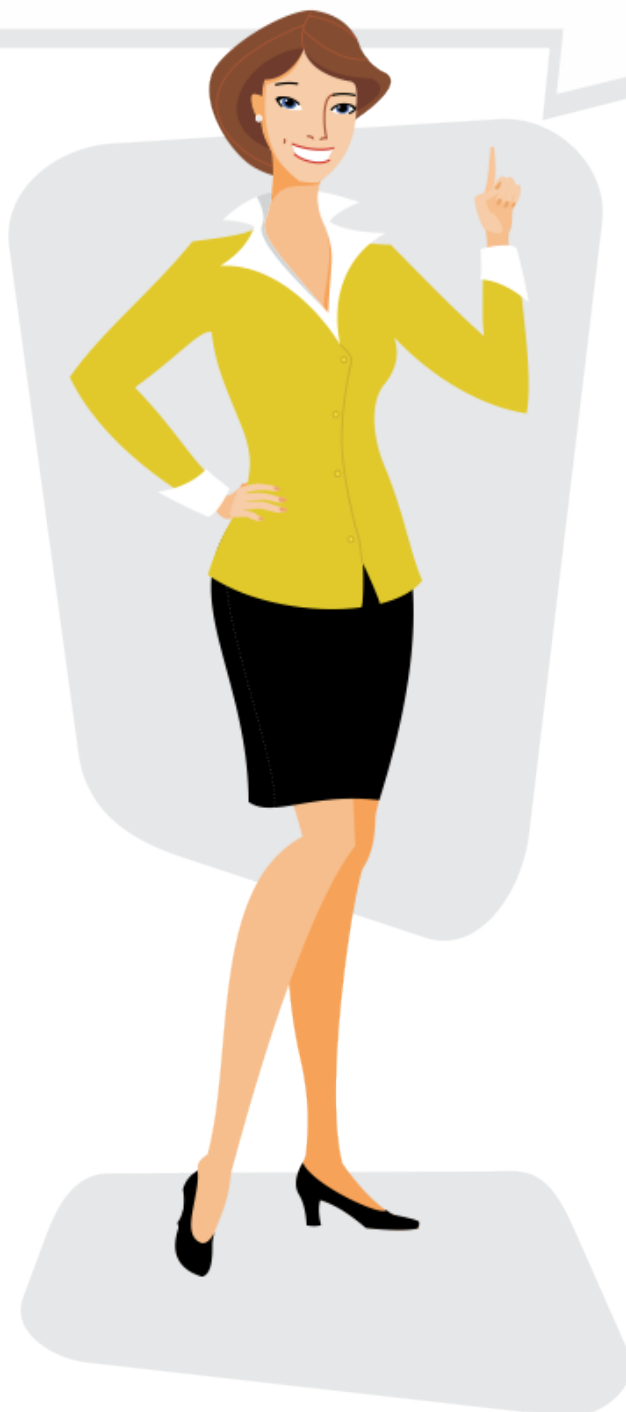
- a) Madagascar
- b) Baffin Island
- c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- d) Ellesmere Island

Answer. (c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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EVENTS IN ONE LINE

- Name the Indian Ambassador to Bhutan who resigned in the Month of October - **Pavan K. Varma**
- The Famous Indian Teacher and mathematician who was named 'People's Hero' by People magazine of American Time Magazine Group – **Anand Kumar**
- Name the State with which Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) on 31 October 2012 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for obtaining required clearances of its proposed investment of 1856 crore Rupees in the state – **Madhya Pradesh**
- Name the corporate Conglomerate which on 31 October 2012 felicitated six Indian athletes who won medals at the London Olympics in July-August 2012 – **Sahara India**
- The Indian Cricketer chosen for the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Polly Umrigar award for being India's top international cricketer in 2011-12 – **Virat Kohli**
- Famous Lyricist and well known poet who on 31 October 2012 awarded with Indira Gandhi National Integration Award by congress President Sonia Gandhi – **Gulzar**
- The team which on 31 October 2012 won inaugural Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Twenty20 Asia Cup, beating Pakistan - **Indian women's cricket team**
- The West Indies batsman who on 23 October 2012 resigned from the board of the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) - **Ramnaresh Sarwan**
- Name the Danish Badminton Player who on 30 October 2012 retired from international badminton - **Peter Gade**
- The Barcelonan forward footballer who on 29 October 2012 won **GOLDEN BOOT AWARD**- **Lionel Messi**
- The Metro Corporation which on 29 September 2012 awarded the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Award for 2012- **The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)**
- The state which on 29 October 2012 tops the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) list of being best-performing States and Union territories in terms of environmental well-being – **Uttarakhand**
- Squash player of India who claimed the IJM Land Penang Open after defeating top most squash player Siti Munirah Jusoh of Malaysia in straight games on 30 October 2012 - **Joshna Chinappa**
- Name the fiercest storms to hit the East Coast of Massachusetts on 29 October 2012 - **Hurricane Sandy**
- The Indian Billiards Player on 29 October 2012 won seventh World Billiards Championship title - **Pankaj Advani**
- The former Prime Minister of Italy who was sentenced a term for four years of imprisonment for tax fraud - **Silvio Berlusconi**
- The Indian External affairs Minister who on 26 October 2012 resigned from his post of External Affairs Minister- **SM Krishna**
- Red Bull driver who had won the Indian Grand Prix 2012 on 28 October 2012 at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) for the second time in a row - **Sebastian Vettel**

- India's leading strategic thinker and analyst who on 25 October 2012 won the 2012 Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award for his recently published book "Water: Asia's New Battleground"- **Brahma Chellaney**
- The former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. (GS) director and McKinsey & Co. Managing director who on 25 October 2012 was sentenced to two years in prison for passing inside tips to his business partner- **Rajat Gupta**
- Name the Chennai based corporate giant who acquired the Indian Premier League (IPL) Hyderabad franchise on 25 October 2012 for an enormous amount of 85.05 crore Rupees per year- **SUN TV Network**
- The Actor and Satirist who died in a road accident on 25 October 2012 near Punjab's Nakodar town 40 km from Jalandhar- **Jaspal Bhatti**
- Name the newly-appointed Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court, who took the oath of office in Chattisgarh on 22 October 2012- **Justice Yatindra Singh**

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NEWS CAPSULE

SHADMAN CHOWK RENAMED AS BHAGAT SINGH CHOWK IN LAHORE

Bhagat Singh Chowk: Is the new name of Shadman Chowk located in the Eastern City of Lahore (Pakistan)

The **Shadman Chowk** in the eastern city of Lahore (Pakistan) on 29 September 2012 was renamed as **Bhagat Singh Chowk** on the 105th birth anniversary of the revolutionary freedom fighter and martyr, Bhagat Singh. This came up in result of the demand from the peace activists for renaming the Chowk by the name of Bhagat Singh. Noorul Amin Mengal, the District Coordination Officer directed the City District Government to rename Shadman Chowk as Bhagat Singh Chowk.

It was Shadman Chowk roundabout, where *Bhagat Singh along with his two companions Sukhdev Singh and Rajguru were hanged on 23 March 1931* in the then Lahore Jail for their alleged involvement in the Lahore Conspiracy Case. Till 1947, the Chowk was named after the name of Bhagat Singh, later it was renamed to be Shadman Chowk.

BHAGAT SINGH

Bhagat Singh born of 28 September 1907 and hanged on 23 March 1931, was one of the greatest martyrs of the Indian Freedom Struggle against the British Empire. He has been termed as the most influential revolutionists of his time in the Indian History. Referred to be a Saheed, Bhagat Singh as a teenager studied the revolutionary movements of European Countries and was attracted towards the Marxists and Anarchist thoughts.

SOME OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ACTS OF BHAGAT SINGH

1. Killed the then Assistant Superintendent of Police John P. Saunders in a plot to kill the Superintendent of Police James A. Scott
2. In 1915, when the British Government planned to implement the Defence India Act, 1915 Bhagat Singh along with Batukeshwar Dutt threw 2 bombs in the visitor's gallery of the Central Legislative Hall shouting Inquilab Zindabad and showered leaflets to with slogans against the Public Safety and Trades Dispute Bills. Both surrendered themselves in the hands of British police claiming the incident was intentional (this act was done in the influence of the news about the French anarchist who threw a bomb in the French Chamber of Deputies)

HUNGER STRIKE AND LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE

1. He along with few more revolutionaries went on a hunger strike of 116 days to protest against the inequalities, which were being done against the Indian Prisoners to that of the British Prisoners in the jail premises.
2. On 7 October 1930, a three hundred page judgment by the tribunal that he faced along with the duo Rajguru and Sukhdev declared their sentence of being hanged till death in the Lahore Conspiracy Case
3. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, the trio were hanged on 24 March 1931 few hours before the original time decided on the Shadman Chowk again renamed as Bhagat Singh Chowk in Lahore.

BHAGAT SINGH'S DAIRY AND PAMPHLET

During his term in jail and by the time he was hanged, the martyr who had the habit of maintaining a dairy wrote 404 pages. Views from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels were the prominent ones available in the dairy.

In the prison he also wrote a small pamphlet with title *Why I am an Atheist?*

A.RAJA, KANIMOZHI AND SURESH KALMADI NAMED MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

The congress on 3 October 2012 nominated the former Union Minister, A. Raja, Kanimozhi and Suresh Kalmadi as the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committees on Energy, Home Affairs and External Affairs respectively. Raja was arrested in the 2G scam case on February 2 last year and is on bail since 15 May 2012.

Suresh Kalmadi, who was accused in the Commonwealth Games scam case, spent about nine months in jail and was released on bail on 19 January 2012. DMK MP Kanimozhi, also an accused in some cases related to the 2G spectrum allocation, was nominated to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Also, Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi was made a member of the Standing Committee. The role of the Parliamentary Standing Committees is to inspect the bill and give their opinion to the planned legislation associated about the regarding ministries.

NUCLEAR CAPABLE PRITHVI II MISSILE SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED

India on 4 October 2012 successfully test fired its indigenously developed, nuclear-capable ballistic missile Prithvi-II from a test range in Odisha.

The missile was test fired by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. All the radars and electro-optical systems along the coast have monitored the missile throughout its flight path. The Defence Research and Development

Organisation (DRDO) have developed Prithvi-II for the Indian Air Force for deep interdiction and the missile can be armed with a nuclear warhead weighing 500 kg.

In this flight, it carried conventional explosives. Prithvi-II is a user-friendly missile which has a completely guided trajectory. The SFC had earlier launched it on August 25, 2012 and the flight was successful. The Indian Army is already armed with the single-stage Prithvi-II, which uses liquid propellants. From July 2012 onwards the Strategic Forces Command had launched a series of strategic missiles including Agni-I, Agni-II and Agni-III. It is one of the five missiles that were developed under the country's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED NUCLEAR CAPABLE DHANUSH MISSILE

India on 5 October 2012 successfully test fired nuclear capable Dhanush Missile, the naval version of short-range ballistic missile, Prithvi from a warship off Odisha Coast.

Dhanush, The indigenously developed naval version of the Prithvi short-range ballistic missile has a strike range of up to 350 km and can carry 500 kg of conventional or nuclear warhead. The test was conducted by the strategic force command (SFC) of the Indian Navy. The trial was a complete success. Dhanush missile is a single stage missile and was developed by the DRDO and is about 8.53 metre in length and 0.9 metre in diameter which uses liquid propellant. The Dhanush missile is going to be used as an anti-ship weapon as well as for destroying land targets depending on the range.

TESSY THOMAS CONFERRED WITH LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI AWARD

President Pranab Mukherjee on 1 October 2012 conferred the prestigious Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award 2012 to ISRO scientist Tessy Thomas at an award function in Rashtrapati Bhawan. The award was given on the eve of Birth anniversary of Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Tessy Thomas 48 years old is the Key Scientist for Agni-V in Defence Research and Development Organisation Hyderabad. She is the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India. Tessy Thomas was an associate Project director (mission) for Agni-I, II and III systems. She was associated with the Agni Programme since their developmental stages.

She has designed the guidance scheme for long-range missile systems, which is used in all Agni missiles. Presently, she is the Project Director of Agni -IV, which is a major project with state of the art technologies. The Agni-IV was successfully flight tested on 15th November, 2011.

WHAT IS LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL AWARD?

The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award, instituted by the Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management (LBSIM) is given each year each year to an Indian, residing either in India or abroad, who is an exceptionally outstanding and distinguished business leader, management practitioner, public administrator, educator or institution builder for his/her sustained

individual contributions and achievements of high professional order and excellence. [To Read More](#)

NIRYAT SHREE AWARD PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT OF INDIA

President of India Pranab Mukherjee with Union Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles Anand Sharma on 5 October 2012 presented awards to exporters on the occasion of the presentation of Federation of Indian Export Organisation's (FIEO) Niryat Shree and Niryat Bandhu awards at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

The President gave away 52 awards — 46 Niryat Shree Awards was given to exporters for their performance in 12 different categories, which includes agriculture, plantation products; chemicals, drugs, pharmacy and allied products; engineering; gems and jewellery, handicrafts, carpets; textiles, leather, service providers; and 6 Niryat Bandhu Awards were given to Export Promotion Councils and Banks for their support to the exporting community.

Among the Niryat Shree awardees that were presented a gold trophy was MIOT Hospitals Limited for being the highest foreign exchange earner in the country among all service providers. The award was received by company chairperson Mallika Mohandas. Reliance Industries was also awarded a gold trophy for earning the highest foreign exchange.

PC Jewellers was awarded a silver trophy in the Gems and Jewellery category. In the Niryat Bandhu category for banks, the winners were Canara Bank which got gold trophy followed by Bank of India and Punjab National Bank getting silver and bronze trophy respectively.

DU AND DRDO COLLABORATED FOR TAKING UP SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

In an altogether different initiative Delhi University (DU) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) agreed for collaboration on 6 October 2012 of undertaking scientific projects in which both will be benefitted.

Although, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the DRDO was signed a few months back but it is now being operationalised. The collaboration will comprise exchange of Knowledge and technical Knowhow between DRDO Scientist and the faculty of Delhi University.

The DRDO is going to set up a centre of excellence in the Delhi University through which research projects of faculty will be directed. The faculty will also have the option of collaborating with the DRDO scientists for their project. The DRDO laboratories across the country are going to be made accessible to the university's students and the Students will also have an opportunity to do internships in Defence laboratories across the country.

GLOBAL JAMES BOND DAY WAS CELEBRATED ON 5 OCTOBER 2012

Global James Bond Day was celebrated on 5 October 2012 to mark 50 years since the world premiere of Dr. No which introduced author Ian Fleming's sophisticated secret agent to the people.

The franchise went on to produce best selling Agent 007 films. It is making legends out of actors over the last 50 years and the James Bond movie franchise has made heart-stopping thrillers.

SUFI SINGER ABIDA PARVEEN GOT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Pakistani Sufi legend Abida Parveen was honoured with a lifetime achievement award on 7 October 2012 by Kaladharmi Begum Akhtar Academy of Ghazal in New Delhi.

58 years old Abida Parveen is the famous Pakistani singer of Sindhi descent and one of the foremost exponents of Sufi music. She was born in a musical family and had received initial training from her father Ustaad Ghulam Haider.

She sings mainly ghazals, Urdu love tracks and her forte, Kafis, a classical form of Sufi poetry. Some of her hits are 'Duma Dum Mast Qalandar', 'Teray Ishaq Nachaya', 'Latthe Di Chadar', 'Kuch Is Ada Se Aaj' and 'Kafian Bulleh Shah'. She began her career with Radio Pakistan in 1973 and gained new fans following her appearance in Coke Studio, a TV music programme that showcases collaborations between classical and rock artists. She was also awarded with the 'Pride of Performance' and the 'Sitara-e-Imtiaz' by the Government of Pakistan.

INDIAN NAVY SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED BRAHMOS MISSILE

The Indian Navy on 7 October 2012 successfully test-fired the 290-km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile which is capable of carrying a conventional warhead of 300 kg, from a warship off the Goa coast.

The cruise missile was test-fired from guided missile frigate INS Teg--the Indian Navy's latest induction from Russia off the coast of Goa. The INS Teg, which has been built at the Yantar shipyard in Russia, had fired the missile successfully during pre-induction trials in Russia in 2011.

ABOUT BRAHMOS MISSILE

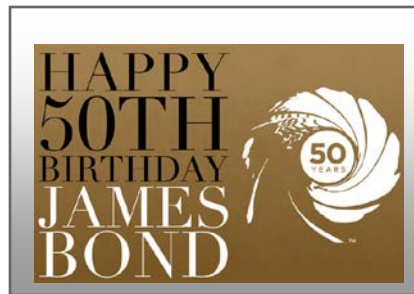
BrahMos is a stealth supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land. It is a joint venture between Republic of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya who have together formed BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited.

It is the world's fastest cruise missile in operation. The missile travels at speeds of Mach 2.8 to 3.0 and have the capability of attacking surface targets by flying as low as 10 metres in altitude.

POST CARD CAMPAIGN TO MAKE MAHARASHTRA LIQUOR FREE

Tribal women from Maharashtra's Chandrapur district have sent 80,000 postcards to Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan on 6 October 2012 asking to make the district liquor-free.

Hundreds of women from rural parts led by president of Shramik Elgar- Paromita Goswami and Dr Rani Bang took out protest rally in town and after the rally the participating women posted 80,000 letters to CM Prithviraj Chavan. The demand to ban liquor is being made since 2010 in Maharashtra. The different non-governmental organization and NGO'S have been asking a reassessment of the state government's policy on liquor in the district, including the sale of country liquor and Indian made foreign liquor. But the Government side is showing no results.



CHILDREN IN INDIA 2012 - A STATISTICAL APPRAISAL REPORT RELEASED

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released on 9 October 2012 a report named Children in India 2012 - A Statistical Appraisal, showcased the grim status of children in India. The report in its finding pointed out a growth of population by 181 million people, between 1991 to 2011 and at the same time also a huge reduction of 5.05 million of child in the age group of 0 to 6 years. And among this the decline in female population reportedly was 2.99 million and of male population was 2.06 million.

The report indicates a huge dip in the sex ratios of child, increased crime and troubles against the girl child and continued child labour that is constitutionally believed to be a social crime.

As per the report there was a 24 percent increase in reported crime against children in the year 2011. In this list of crime against children Uttar Pradesh took the first position with 16.6 percent share followed by states like Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. 47 percent kidnapping cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, where as 44.5 percent of child rape cases were reported in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. [To Read More](#)

HUGO CHAVEZ RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA

Hugo Chavez re-elected as President of Venezuela on 9 October 2012 Venezuela. It is his third election victory in 14 years to the office. With this he will be spending 6 more years in Office.

Huge Chavez had won with 54% of the vote defeating his challenger Henrique Capriles who managed to get only 45% of vote in presidential election held on 7 October 2012. Among the 19 million registered voters the turnout was a record of 80.4% voters.

BRIEF LOOK AT HUGO CHAVEZ CAREER

Hugo Chavez was formerly the leader of the Fifth Republic Movement political party from its foundation in 1997 until 2007; thereafter he became the leader of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV).

Following his own political ideology of Bolivarianism and Socialism for the 21st Century, he has focused on implementing socialist reforms in the Venezuela as a part of a social project known as the Bolivarian Revolution, which has seen the implementation of a new constitution, participatory democratic councils and the nationalisation of several key industries.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ANNOUNCED PHASE-II OF COASTAL SECURITY

After the high level meet of Defence Ministry on 8 October 2012, the Defence Minister, A.K. Antony announced that the phase-II of the coastal security initiatives would be launched shortly. He also said that its time to focus on fool-proof marine security. Phase-II of the security initiatives would concentrate on development of a gap-free and robust Maritime Domain Awareness. The announcement came after the Defence Minister reviewed different steps taken for enhancement of the Coastal Security Network.

In his announcement, he emphasised on completion of the pending tasks in a time-bound manner. Advising the Coastal States and different departments acting as stakeholders towards Coastal Security to monitor things closely, he promised that the Indian Coast Guard and Navy would complete their actions in a time-bound manner. He also requested the Cabinet Secretary to fix timeline for monitoring the performance of all.

He stressed towards strengthening of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in Government of India and the Department of Fisheries of States. The Defence Minister, laid emphasis on making the fishermen an integral part of their planning considering them to be the eyes and ears of the Coastal Security.

Appreciating the steps taken for monitoring the maritime traffic by installation of 46 coastal static radars, which includes 10 in the island territory and 36 in the mainland, he stated that the navy and the coastal guard has seen an unparalleled growth in its capabilities.

S.VISHWANATHAN ELECTED AS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SBI

S. Viswanathan on 8 October 2012 was appointed as a managing director of State Bank of India. His appointment came by the Central Government of India.

Viswanathan was earlier serving as a deputy managing director of State Bank of India. Prior to this, he was heading the state-run bank's investment banking arm, SBI Capital Markets Ltd. The appointment of S. Viswanathan takes effect from the date of taking over charge of the post till 30



April 2014 that is the date of his attaining the age of superannuation or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Following the appointment, SBI has now four managing directors, including Diwakar Gupta, who the chief financial officer, Hemant Contractor, who is in charge of international operations and A. Krishna Kumar, who looks after national banking.

MUKESH AMBANI NAMED RICHEST INDIAN BY A CHINESE SURVEY

China based Research firm Hurun in a Report on 10 October 2012 declared Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, the richest Indian with a Personal Fortune of \$19.3 billion. Mukesh Ambani is preceded by Arcelor-Mittal chief L.N. Mittal, whose wealth is nailed down to be \$16.9 billion.

The other businessman included in the list followed by Mukesh Ambani and Laxmi Mittal are Azim Premji of Wipro with a Personal Fortune of \$12.3 billion, Dilip Shanghvi of Sun Pharmaceuticals with \$8.5 billion, Pallonji Mistry of Shapoorji Pallonji & Co, the largest shareholder in Tata Group with \$7.9 billion, Shashi and Ravi Ruia of Essar Energy with personal fortune of \$7.2 billion and Adi Godrej of Godrej Group with \$6.9 billion.



Four others Entrepreneurs who are included in the list of top 10 billionaires are Kushal Pal Singh of DLF with a Personal fortune of \$6.3 billion, Kumara Mangalam Birla of Grasim Industries with \$5.8 billion, Shiv Nadar of HCL Technology with \$5.7 billion and Sunil Mittal of Bharti Airtel with \$5.7 billion of Personal fortune.

In terms of women Savitri Jindal, the non-executive chairperson of O.P. Jindal Group, is the richest Indian woman with personal fortune of \$5.6 billion, on the other hand Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, the chairman and managing director of Biocon is the richest self-made woman with a personal wealth of \$600 million. [To Read More](#)

FORMER ZIMBABWE CRICKET PLAYER KEVIN CURRAN PASSED AWAY

Former Zimbabwe all-rounder and Coach Kevin Curran died at age of 53 on 10 October 2012.

His death news came after he collapsed while jogging but the actual cause of death was not clear. In his career Kevin Curran played 324 first-class matches and had made 15,740 runs with taking up of 605 wickets. He was a right-handed middle-order batsman and fast-medium bowler and had played 11 one-day internationals for Zimbabwe.



Kevin Curran was a veteran of two World Cups for Zimbabwe - prior to their being given Test status in 1992 and had also five times cleared 1,000 runs in a season in the English league. [To Read More](#)

REPORT-THE STATE OF THE GIRL CHILD IN INDIA-2012 RELEASED

A report named *the state of the girl child in India-2012* released on 9 October 2012 by a NGO (non-government organisation) *Plan India*, pinpoints the identified reasons for roadblocks in girls' education.

The key determinants of the roadblocks found within the educationally backward families in the three states namely Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar, were the literacy status of the girls' mother, economic condition of the family and parents willingness to allow the girl child to continue their studies and gain secondary education.

The other pin-pointed reasons for this lack of secondary education and drop-outs of girl child from higher studies as per the report were- the societal reasons because of cultural limitations and backwardness, poor infrastructural facilities (as in lack of sanitation facilities, drinking water and space within the classroom), safety concerns due to the long distance in between the place or residence and secondary school (remoteness). [To Read More](#)

GLOBAL HUNGER REPORT 2012: INDIA RANKED AT 65TH POSITION

The report on Global Hunger Index for seventh year was released on 11 October 2012 by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe, and Concern Worldwide. The basic theme of the report for the 2012 Global Hunger Index -- The Challenge of Hunger: Ensuring Sustainable Food Security under Land, Water, and Energy Stresses.

IFPRI that calculated the global hunger Index analysed the measures based upon multidimensional angles. The published report have shown a proportional growth in hunger reduction of people worldwide but recorded the progress speed was tragically slow and alarming.

The report in its findings recorded twenty countries across the world mainly from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa to be highly alarming and have highest level of hunger, and showcased the sufferings of millions of poor. [To Read More](#)

FELIX BAUMGARTNER SKYDIVED FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND

Austrian Felix Baumgartner became the first skydiver on 14 October 2012 to go faster than the speed of sound, reaching a maximum velocity of 1,342 kilometers per hour. In jumping out of a balloon 39 kilometers above New Mexico, the 43-year-old also smashed the record for the highest ever freefall. It took just under 10 minutes for him to descend. Only the last few thousand feet were negotiated by parachute.

The previous highest, farthest, and longest freefall was made by Kittinger, who leapt from a helium envelope in 1960. His altitude was 31 kilometers.

LIBYA'S NATIONAL CONGRESS ELECTED ALI ZIDAN AS THE NEW PRIME MINISTER

Libya's 200-member General National Congress on 14 October 2012 elected Ali Zidan as the new Prime Minister. Ali Zidan, an independent, won 93 votes, a majority among those present. He beat a candidate favoured by the Justice and Construction party which is linked to the Muslim Brotherhood. Announcing his victory, President of the National Assembly asked Mr Zidan to propose a cabinet within two weeks. Ali Zidan is a human rights lawyer. The previous Prime Minister, Mustafa Abu Shagur, was dismissed a week ago after failing to form a government.

LLOYD SHAPLEY AND ALVIN ROTH WON NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapley of America were awarded the Nobel economics prize on 15 October 2012 for their work in market design and matching theory.

The research work helps in explaining the market processes at work, say, when doctors are assigned to hospitals, students to schools and human organs for transplant to recipients. The award was cited to the economist by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for the theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the 8 million crown (\$1.2 million) prize, called their work an outstanding example of economic engineering.

The two economists were working independently on the same research project. Lloyd Shapley used game theory to study matching models, and Alvin Roth built on them to make real-world changes to existing markets, including school choice and organ transplants.

Alvin Roth is a professor at Harvard and Lloyd Shapley teaches at the University of California in Los Angeles. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was the last of the 2012 Nobel awards to be announced.

The economics award is not among the original prizes created in 1895 by Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel to honor work in physics, medicine, chemistry, literature and peace. It was added as a category in 1969 by the Swedish central bank in memory of the industrialist.

WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE ON 16 OCTOBER 2012

World food day 2012 is celebrated with a theme ***Agricultural cooperatives – key to feeding the world***

World Food Day is celebrated every year across the globe on 16 October in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. The

aim of this World Food Day is to raise awareness on global food problems and to create a sense of solidarity in the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition. The theme was chosen by United Nation to highlight the role of cooperatives -- or voluntary associations of people who work together for their common benefit -- in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger. [To Read More](#)

RIL JAMNAGAR REFINERY BAGGED BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL AWARD

Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) Jamnagar Refinery on 15 October 2012 won the British Safety Council's *Globe of Honor Award* for excellence in Environmental management. The award would be presented on 23 November 2012 at Mansion House in London.

RIL's Jamnagar SEZ Refinery is the only Indian organisation which had made it to the list and it is for the first time that a Reliance Industries' manufacturing site has grabbed this very well known award.

In all, there were 13 applicants and 9 received the Globe of Honour. The eligibility of a organization for the award which is a five-star environment audit is that the applicant organisations should demonstrate a culture of best practice for health and safety throughout the business - from the boardroom to the shop floor. All applications for the Globe of honour were marked by an independent adjudicator and SEZ Refinery received 68 marks out of 72.

ABOUT BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL

The British Safety Council is a global health, safety and environmental charity which were founded in 1957. For over 50 years, the British Safety Council has been a champion of workplace health and safety. The British Safety Council over years has progressed to become one of the largest independent occupational health, safety and environmental organizations in the world.

BRITISH WRITER HILARY MANTEL WON BOOKER PRIZE AGAIN

British Writer Hilary Mantel on 16 October 2012 won the prestigious literary prize, the Booker Prize for her novel *Bring up the Bodies*, the second in a historical trilogy set during the reign of King Henry VIII.

Hilary Mantel had earlier won the Booker prize in 2009 for "Wolf Hall," the first novel in the trilogy. Hilary Mantel is the third author to win the prize twice, alongside South-African-born J.M. Coetzee and Australian Peter Carey. With this she also became the first British author, and the first woman, to achieve a double Booker Prize.

Bring Up the Bodies" is also the first sequel to win the prize. Bring up the Bodies and Wolf Hall is parts of a planned trilogy about Thomas Cromwell, the powerful and ambiguous chief minister to King Henry VIII.

Hilary Mantel beat five other shortlisted books to take the prize. She was the Bookies favourite, although Britain's Will Self was also considered a strong contender for the century-spanning stream of consciousness "Umbrella."

Indian poet Jeet Thayil was also nominated for his first novel, "Narcopolis," set among heroin addicts in 1970s and 80s Mumbai, and Britain's Alison Moore for "The Lighthouse," about a middle-aged man's life-changing ferry trip to Germany.

ABOUT MAN BOOKER PRIZE

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original full-length novel, written in the English language, by a citizen of the Commonwealth of Nations, Ireland, or Zimbabwe. The winner of the Man Booker Prize is generally assured of international renown and success.

The selection process for the winner of the prize commences with the formation of an advisory committee which includes an author, two publishers, a literary agent, a bookseller, a librarian, and a chairperson appointed by the Booker Prize Foundation. The winner of Booker Prize is usually announced at a ceremony in London's Guildhall, usually.

RAVI NARAIN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF WORLD FEDERATION EXCHANGES

National Stock Exchange's (NSE) chief and Managing Director Ravi Narain on 17 October 2012 was elected as chairman of the working committee of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

The appointment of Ravi Narain came in the annual meeting of World Federation Exchange which also elected Deutsche Borse AG's Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Andreas Preuss as its chairman, while Thomas A Kloet, CEO of TMX Group, as the vice-chairman of the working committee.

Ravi Narain is also the chairman of the National Securities Clearing Corporation and a board member of the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange. The World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) is an international organization for securities and derivative markets such as stock exchanges. It comprises of Group of more than 50 Bourses or Stock Exchanges.

RACE FOR SURVIVAL, ORGANISED TO RAISE ISSUE OF MALNUTRITION

World Marathon Challenge–Race for Survival was organised on 16 October 2012 at Laxman Public School in Delhi to raise the issue of malnutrition. 100 children from four schools of Delhi participated in the race to raise concerns of government towards malnutrition urging it to work in the direction of malnutrition eradication.

The marathon was organised by an International Organisation, Save the Children that highlighted the major issue about the death of more than 1.65 million children dying in India

due to the cause of malnutrition that includes diarrhoea and pneumonia even before attaining the age of five. The children who ran in the race presented a letter to the Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit urging her to take children survival and nutrition at the top of government agenda. This was the largest ever organised race for the children worldwide for a social cause. Race for survival also aimed at breaking the world record of Patrick Makau, the famous Kenyan athlete who holds the world record of marathon with a time of 2:03:38 minutes.

MINIFLAME VIRUS, IS INFECTING COMPUTERS IN MIDDLE EAST

The Security Researchers from Kaspersky Lab on 15 October 2012 announced that a new cyber espionage tool miniFlame related to Flame virus was infecting the computers in countries like Lebanon, Iran and others.

The virus named as miniFlame was developed in July 2012 is a small but a malicious flexible program designed to steal data and control the infected systems during targeted spying operations. The smaller version miniFlame Virus is developed on the same platforms on which Flame Virus was developed by the company. The miniFlame is able to operate independently and can create screenshots and easily spy the programs instant message as well as software and browsers like Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Office, Mozilla and Internet Explorer.

FIRST EVER INDIA BIODIVERSITY AWARD PRESENTED IN HYDERABAD

The Government of India in collaboration with United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) announced Biodiversity award 2012 in Hyderabad on 17 October 2012.

The winners of the awards were: Pir Jahania Jungle Suraksha Samiti from Odisha in the community stewardship category, Shankarpur Village Gram Panchayat from Maharashtra in the category of decentralised management, Van Utthan Sansthan from Rajasthan in the category of co-management and Periyar Tiger Reserve in the protected areas category.

The programme was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The award recognizes the outstanding models of biodiversity governance across the country. The award was actually presented at ministerial reception of Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. [To Read More](#)

NEWSWEEK DECIDED TO STOP ITS PRINT RUN AND GO ALL-DIGITAL

Newsweek, the eighty year old print magazine on 18 October 2012 announced that it would shut down its print operations completely and go all-digital.

The Editor-in-Chief of the Magazine and founder of the online Newsweek Daily Beast Company, Tina Brown posted a statement on the website that being affected by the harsh media environment, the magazine had planned to stop its print publication and move on the online platform completely. The Digital Publication of the magazine will be a single issue worldwide

and a compilation of world events in a sophisticated context targeting on the opinion leading audience.

PROPOSALS TO PROCURE BRAHMOS AND INVAR MISSILES APPROVED

The Cabinet Committee on security on 18 October 2012 approved proposals worth over 8000 crore rupees for procuring around 10000 Invar missiles from Russia for the Army's T-90 tanks and over 200 air-launched versions of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles for the Indian Air Force. Also, the Union Cabinet approved the waiver of the outstanding loan along with interest for the 370 tsunami affected fishermen and to reimburse the same to concerned banks.

The Union Cabinet also approved setting up of a National Automotive Board, NAB a body which would act as a facilitator between the government and the industry and promote Research and Development activities in the sector.

BOOKS THAT WON ECONOMIST CROSSWORD BOOK AWARD DECLARED

The Folded Earth written by Anuradha Roy and A Free Man by Aman Sethi won the 11th Economist Crossword Book Award that was declared on 18 October 2012 at Mumbai.

The Folded Earth was successful in securing its position in the English Indian Fiction Category, whereas, A Free Man by Aman Sethi was successful in the category of Indian Non-Fiction books. A Bengali short-story collection Bengali written by Anita Agnihotri named 17 and translated in English by Arunava Sinha and a Malayalam Novel, The Araya Woman that was written by Narayan and translated in English by Catherine Thankamma were declared as the winners of the award for Indian Language Translation jointly. Ravi Subramanian's creation The Incredible Banker fetched the Popular Award by its name. [To Read More](#)

MUMBAI TO HAVE FIRST MUSEUM OF INDIAN CINEMA

Films Division Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India on 16 October 2012 announced its plan of establishing a National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC). The Museum would be located in the Films Division Complex, Dr. G. Deshmukh Marg, Mumbai and is predicted to come up by June 2013. The development of the museum was planned to mark the occasion of Indian Cinema that will complete its 100 years of journey from the day of first screening of Raja Harishchandra in 1913. [To Read More](#)

CULTURAL CARNIVAL TO CELEBRATE INDO-GERMAN TIES

The German Ambassador to India, Michael Steiner on 19 October 2012 announced the event named *Indo-German Urban Mela* scheduled to start from 27 October 2012 at Delhi. The celebrations are the part of *Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities*.

The nine-day cultural extravaganza that is scheduled to be held at *Indraprastha Millenium Park* that is meant for commemorating the sixty years of German and Indian ties.

The Carnival that is named as Indo-German Urban Mela is partnered by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and other business organizations from Germany and India and aims towards achieving a holistic exchange, of culture, science, entertainment and technology. Before this the Mela travelled through Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai and has followed its journey to the largest show in the capital.

THE KING OF ROMANCE AND FILMMAKER, YASH CHOPRA DIED

The Indian Filmmaker Yash Chopra died on 21 October 2012, nine days after being diagnosed with Dengue. He passed away at the age of 80 at Lilavati Hospital at Bandra due to dengue and multiple organ failure. Also termed as the King of Romance, Yash Chopra had by his name Six National Film Awards, Eleven Filmfare Awards out of which four was Filmfare Award for Best Director.

Yash Chopra, in his last interview with Shah Rukh Khan on television stated about his latest upcoming film named *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* and his retirement along with the plans of spending his time with family members.

The Titan of Indian Cinema, Yash Chopra was born on 27 September 1932 Yash Chopra by profession was an Indian Film Director, Screenwriter and Film Producer in Indian Cinema, Bollywood. Working as an assistant director to I.S. Johar and B.R. Chopra his elder brother, he started his career and made his debut as a director with *Dhool ka Phool* in the year 1959 proceeded by films like *Dharmputra* in 1961. He turned up to set his stage as one of the most successful director with the commercial and critically successful drama *Waqt* in 1965, the film that set the stage for multi-starrers in the industry. [To Read More](#)

DELHI POLICE LAUNCHED A DRIVE NAMED KATKTH

Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar under Yuva Scheme had initiated a programme in the month of October 2012 for sex worker of GB Road to train and engage them in handicrafts and other small-scale businesses.

The programme started is basically meant for providing alternative livelihood to sex workers so that they can become self-defendant.

The drive is named as *Katkth* of which more than two dozen sex workers is already a part. The drive was started by Delhi Police from Farash Khana area of Kamla Market in Second week of October.

The high point of scheme is that it is not limited for sex workers as Delhi police is also providing free education to the children of sex workers so that they don't get into illegal activities to earn

their livelihood. The children are educated by private teacher and volunteers first thereafter they will join government schools.

The participants of the programme are trained in making jute bags, mats, pen stands and different household items. Also, they are being provided job oriented professional course like beauty training, boutique and cloth designing.

SINGHAM BRAVERY AWARD GIVEN TO IAS AND SECURITY PERSONNEL

Narendra Kumar the IPS officer who was brutally killed by illegal mining mafia in Madhya Pradesh and many other Security Personnel who had laid down their life for fighting against Maoists and anti Social element on 20 October 2012 were awarded with Singham Bravery Awards.

The awards were handed over to the family members of the police officers by reel life 'Singham' Ajay Devgan, who is also the brand ambassador of Maharashtra police, actor Sunil Shetty and former CRPF Director General K Vijay Kumar. Besides Narendra Kumar, the award was posthumously presented to Surinder Singh, Narinder Singh Ranjeet Singh, Prakash S Meena, K C Meena, Tanveer Singh and Sanjeev Kumar. Marking the occasion, Ajay Devgn and Rohit Shetty, were also bestowed with 'Pride of Nation' awards. [To Read More](#)

EMINENT WRITER, SUNIL GANGOPADHYAY DIED

President of the Sahitya Akademi and an eminent writer, Sunil Gangopadhyay died on 23 October 2012 due to heart attack at his residence in Kolkata. Gangopadhyay who died at the age of 78 is now survived by his wife and a son.

ABOUT SUNIL GANGOPADHYAY

Born on 2 September 1934, Sunil Gangopadhyay was an acclaimed poet and novelist from India. He provided a platform for the poets of new generations with Krittibas a seminal poetry magazine that he started in 1953 as a founder editor. He was successful as a novelist, short story and travelogue writer as well as for his writings as children fiction.

He as a poet and novelist has more than 200 books by his name and won several awards and honours as credentials to his name. His pen names were Sanatan Pathak, Nil Upadhyay and Nil Lohit.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- He received Ananda Puraskar in 1972 and 1989
- He was awarded with Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985
- Gangopadhyay was honoured as Sheriff of Kolkata in 2002 as a prominent citizen of the city

- He was honoured with India's highest literary award Saraswati Samman in 2004- this award is also listed under Schedule VII of Indian Constitution
- In the year 2011 he won the Hindu Literary Prize, shortlist, The Fakir
- In the year 2012 received Sera Bangali Lifetime Achievement Award by Star Ananda

EK THHI KUSUM A BOOK BY PRAKASH PANT RELEASED

Ek Thhi Kusum a collection of short stories written by Prakash Pant, former State Assembly Speaker of Uttarakhand was released on Monday by Aziz Qureshi, Governor of Uttarakhand.

The stories of the book are a collection of socio-economic tales of the far-flung areas of hill state. Ek Thhi Kusum in itself is an exploration of the pains and sufferings of common man and his trails to fit himself in the fast changing social environment. It is a self criticism of the loosing moral and traditional values, which has been neglected in a blind pursuit of prospering and achieving the material satisfaction.

PRAKASH PANT

He is a senior BJP leader of Uttarakhand and was the first Speaker to the state Assembly of Uttarakhand.

HYDERABAD NAMED WORLD THIRD BEST CITY TO VISIT IN 2013

The City of Hyderabad was named as World Third best city to visit in 2013 by Travel guide book *Lonely Planet* published on 22 October 2012.

Hyderabad the capital city of Andhra Pradesh was described as "elegant and blossoming" by the Lonely Planet. The top 10 cities according to Lonely Planet to visit in 2013 are San Francisco, Amsterdam, Hyderabad, Derry/Londonderry, Beijing, Christchurch, Hobart, Montreal, Addis Ababa and Puerto Iguazu. Earlier in 2011, New York Times rated Hyderabad among the 41 top destinations to visit in the world.

SUPER 30 TIED UP WITH UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

Super 30, the acclaimed educational programme by Anand Kumar and known for training economically backward section for the IIT-JEE on 24 October 2012 entered into an agreement with University of Tokyo, to sponsor its student a chance to study at Japan.

The agreement was inked between Director of the University of Tokyo, Yoshino Hiroshi and Anand Kumar founder of Super 30. Following the pact of this agreement, University of Tokyo would sponsor the study of atleast one student from the Super 30 at the University. This agreement is a follow-up of the Japanese Government Program named Global 30, of engagement with Super 30 for increasing the flow of Indian Students to Japan.

The University came to know about the educational group named Super 30 by a programme run by the Japanese Government Broadcast Corporation (NHK) about Super 30 with a title Indian Shock, which highlighted the success story of the Mathematical Club. The Super 30 is an initiative of Anand Kumar at Patna, Bihar to train 30 students from economically backward section of the society, for IIT-JEE and a majority of its students have succeeded in the test so far.

FIVE INDO-AMERICAN MALYALEES TO BE HONOURED AT NEW YORK

The Veteran Indian Diplomat Vijay K. Nambiar along with five Indo-American Malayalees would be honoured at New York by Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center. The honour would be conferred for their service to the society and outstanding contributions in the respective field of specialization.

These awardees would be honoured on 3 November 2012 during the annual banquet in the Long Island and they are Vijay K. Nambiar, Geeta Menon, Joy Kuttiyani, Viju Menon, Narayanan Neithalath and Roy Thomas.

KEY DETAILS OF THE PEOPLE TO BE HONOURED

- Vijay K. Nambiar is the Under Secretary General and Special Adviser of the UN Secretary General of Myanmar and would be honoured for his services to United Nations. He would be the Chief Guest to the occasion.
- The second person to be honoured is Geeta Menon who will be the keynote speaker of the occasion and is a dean for Undergraduate College and Abraham Krasnoff professor of Global Business, Stern School of Business, New York University. She would be honoured for her contributions in the field of education
- Viju Menon, the Vice president of Supply Chain Management at Verizon, would be conferred with this honour for his contributions in the field of supply chain management. Verizon is the largest wireless carrier in the US
- Joy Kuttiyani, president of Kerala Samajam of South Florida
- Narayanan Neithalath, the associate professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona
- Roy Thomas, deputy director at New York State Mental Health Department

POPE BENEDICT XVI APPOINTED MAR CLEEMIS TO BE THE CARDINAL

Pope Benedict XVI on 24 October 2012 appointed Major Archbishop-Catholicos Baselios Mar Cleemis as the Cardinal to boost Christianity in India. Cleemis is the head of the relatively-young Syro-Malankara Catholic Church and is the only Indian in the list of six senior prelates to be named as Cardinals in the latest expansion of the Church of Cardinals that is elected by the

Pope.

Cleemis who is 53 years old, with this appointment has turned up to be the youngest Cardinals in the Catholic Church and is the first cardinal from the Syro-Malankara rite of Catholic Church and is now the first Prince of the Church as Cardinals are known.

Mar Cleemis is at Vatican to attend the proceedings of the Golden Jubilee of the Vatican's Second Council at Rome. His investiture would be held in Rome on 24 November 2012 along with five other Cardinals named by Vatican.

SATIRIST JASPAL BHATTY DIED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN PUNJAB

Actor and Satirist Jaspal Bhatti died in a road accident on 25 October 2012 near Punjab's Nakodar town 40 km from Jalandhar.

The accident happened in around 3 am in morning when Jaspal Bhatti was on his way to Jalandhar from Bathinda for Promotion of his upcoming Film Power Cut.

Jaspal Bhatti's son Jasraj, was also injured in the accident along with the film's heroine Surili Gautam. Jaspal Bhatti was on a 40-day tour for the promotion of his latest film. The tour was to end on 25 October 2012 with a media conference in Jalandhar.

Bhatti was a very renowned face on Indian television and also for Bollywood films with his comedy shows and appearances. His TV shows Ulta-Pulta and Flop Show on Doordarshan had entertained TV audiences in late 1980s and 1990s.

He had also directed a Punjabi Comedy film Mahaul Theek Hai in 1999, which is a comedy satire set on the police force, administration and society. Jaspal Bhatti was 57 years old and is survived by his wife Savita Bhatti and son Jasraj Bhatti.

V NARAYAN MURTHY HONOURED WITH 2012 HOOVER MEDAL

V. Narayan Murthy was honoured with 2012 Hoover Medal at the Global Humanitarian Technology Conference in Seattle in Washington on 22 October 2012. Murthy, who is the 70th recipient since the medal's inception, was recognized for establishing a foundation that forges outstanding improvements in healthcare, social rehabilitation, rural uplift and education. Previous awardees include former US presidents Herbert Hoover, Dwight D. Eisenhower and James Earl Carter.

Narayan Murthy co-founded Infosys limited in 1981. He contributed significantly in India's success in information technology outsourcing. The Hoover Medal was established in 1930 to recognize great, unselfish, non-technical services by engineers to humanity. The Infosys Science Foundation was established in 2009 to promote science research in India.

The Hoover Medal is administered by a board representing five engineering organizations: The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the

American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

BABU JAGJIVAN RAM AWARDED FRIENDS OF LIBERATION WAR HONOUR

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of India, Babu Jagjivan Ram was posthumously awarded with the *Friends of Liberation War Honour* by the Government of Bangladesh for his contribution in the 1971 War.

The award was received by Babuji's grandson, Anshul Avijit at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka. Anshul Avijit is a journalist and academician and also the son of Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Meira Kumar.

Babu Jagjivan Ram as the Defence Minister of India in 1971, helped in liberation of Bangladesh. He assured that the war for liberation of Bangladesh ended in the remarkably short time of 13 days. He was among the remarkable figure that had helped in creation of the Joint Command of Bangladesh and the Indian forces for the final outrage which led to the victory.

AN INSIGHT INTO POLITICAL CAREER OF BABU JAGJIVAN RAM

- Babu Jagjivan Ram was born near Arrah in Bhojpur district of Bihar in 1908 and had joined the freedom struggle while student in BHU in Benares and at Calcutta University.
- He as a freedom fighter founded the All India Depressed Classes League.
- He was the youngest serving member of Jawaharlal Nehru's Interim Government of 1946 as the Minister of Labour and had also hold a number of critical portfolios including Agriculture, Railways, Communications and Defence.
- He holds the record for having an uninterrupted Parliamentary career that spanned almost half a century with holding the record for being the longest-serving cabinet minister in India for 30 years.

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY HONOURED SHARMILA TAGORE

Veteran actress Sharmila Tagore on 25 October 2012 was awarded with an *Honorary Doctorate of Arts* for her outstanding contribution to Indian cinema by the *Edinburgh Napier University*. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University Dame Joan Stringer called her as an excellent ambassador for the Indian Culture.

Sharmila Tagore whose films are appreciated and enjoyed all over the world is also a strong advocate of educational rights of Indian children. At present, she is a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF that is working for literacy, maternal health and AIDS-related issues and is also an active spokesperson for Indian Children Child Rights and YOU (CRY). [To Read More](#)

RAJAT GUPTA GOT TWO YEAR JAIL TERM FOR INSIDE TRADING

Rajat Gupta, the former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. (GS) director and McKinsey & Co. Managing director on 25 October 2012 was sentenced to two years in prison for passing inside tips to his business partner.

Rajat Gupta was convicted in June 2012 on three counts of securities fraud and one count of conspiracy. It was alleged by the US prosecutors that Rajat Gupta used his positions on the boards of Goldman and Procter & Gamble, one of the world's largest consumer goods companies, to pass information to hedge fund manager Raj Rajaratnam, who then drew millions of dollars in profit from trading on it.

Rajat Gupta is 63 years old. He was handed for a two-year prison term by US District Court Judge Jed Rakoff and he was also ordered to pay a USD 5 million fine. Rajat Gupta, the India-born businessmen in the US who was considered to be an icon is now being called "deceptive and dishonest" after his conviction on insider trading charges.

BRAHMA CHELLANEY WON BERNARD SCHWARTZ AWARD

India's leading strategic thinker and analyst, Brahma Chellaney on 25 October 2012 won the 2012 Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award for his recently published book [*Water: Asia's New Battleground*](#).

Brahma Chellaney is going to be honoured with \$20,000 prize money at a special event to be held at Asia Society's headquarters in New York City on 23 January 2012. The book *Water: Asia's New Battleground* by Brahma Chellaney was selected from nearly 90 nominations submitted by US and Asia-based publishers for books published in 2011. Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award was established in 2009 and is the only award that recognizes non-fiction books for their outstanding contributions to the understanding of contemporary Asia or US-Asia relations.

SM KRISHNA RESIGNED AS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

SM Krishna on 26 October 2012 resigned from his post of External Affairs Minister. He submitted his resignation to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who accepted it and forwarded to the President of India. SM Krishna, before being inducted as the External Affairs Minister in 2009, served Maharashtra as its nineteenth Governor from 2004 to 2008. He served as a Member of Parliament from the Mandya district of Karnataka in it's in the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th Lok Sabha starting from 1968.

ABOUT SM KRISHNA

SM Krishna (Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna), who belongs to Indian National Congress, was the oldest member of the Union Council of Ministers at the time of his resignation remained the External Affairs Minister from 2009 to October 2012. Before taking up the responsibility as

External Affairs Minister, Krishna served Karnataka as its sixteenth Chief Minister from 1999 to 2004. He also served as nineteenth Governor of Maharashtra from 2004 to 2008. [To Know More](#)

AMITABH BACHCHAN GOT BEST TV HOST AWARD FOR KBC

Amitabh Bachchan, was rewarded as the 'Best Television Host' for the popular game show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' by People's Choice Award of Colour Television channel.

Amitabh is presently hosting Season 6 of Kaun Banega Crorepati, which is being aired on Sony channel. He had earlier hosted 5 seasons of KBC except for the third one, which was hosted by Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan.

The first appearance of Amitabh Bachchan on Indian television is marked with Kaun Banega Crorepati, (KBC) which first aired in the year 2000. Amitabh Bachchan, the 70-year-old Indian Bollywood megastar had previously won the Indian Telly Awards, BIG Television Awards, The Global Indian Film and TV Honours among major award by television channel.

DMRC BAGGED PRESTIGIOUS JAPANESE AWARD

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on 29 September 2012 awarded the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Award for 2012 for its outstanding contribution to the development of human resources, society and economy of India and also for promoting mutual understanding between India and Japan.

The award was formally presented to DMRC Managing Director Mangu Singh at a function organised at Metro Bhawan in Delhi for Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (I) – (VI). Also, a commendation certificate along with a tribute to this effect duly signed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Akihiko Tanaka was presented to Mangu Singh who asserted that it will go a long way in strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries.

It is the ninth edition of the JICA awards which in the past has been given mostly to Japanese organisation such as research institutions, non-government organisations and medical organisations. JICA and DMRC have been associated since the beginning of the Delhi Metro construction in 1998 in the National Capital Region. The award came to DMRC after competing with four other projects across the globe which was chosen by JICA.

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INTERVIEW OF IAS | PCS TOPPER

To gain inspiration and boost up your confidence and belief in *I can win fact*, you can read an interview of Vivek Mishra, UPPCS exam 2010 Topper (2nd Rank). The interview will surely guide you in understanding the challenges that comes on the way of achieving success and they would also allow you to identify the way that the topper opted for to cross the challenges and win in the race of success and career.

[Detailed Interview of Vivek Mishra, 2nd topper of the UPPCS Exam 2010](#)

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QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q.1 The 2nd India-Japan 2+2 dialogue was held in Tokyo, capital of Japan. Critically discuss the main features of this dialogue.

Q.2 India and Australia on 17 October 2012 announced the launch of nuclear negotiations for a Civil Nuclear Deal. How India is going to benefit from Civil Nuclear Deal? Elaborate.

Q.3 The law commission of India recently supported passive euthanasia in its report submitted to the government. Explain the term passive euthanasia. How it is different from active euthanasia? Do you agree that it should be allowed in India?

Q.4 Land acquisition bill was cleared by a Group of Ministers on 16 October 2012. Comment on the salient features of the bill.

Q.5 Describe and discuss COP 11 held in Hyderabad, India. What was the conclusion of the summit? Do you agree that the summit was a failure?

Q.6 Express your views on FDI in retail sector? Do you think it is counterproductive to Indian economy? Support your answer with reasons.

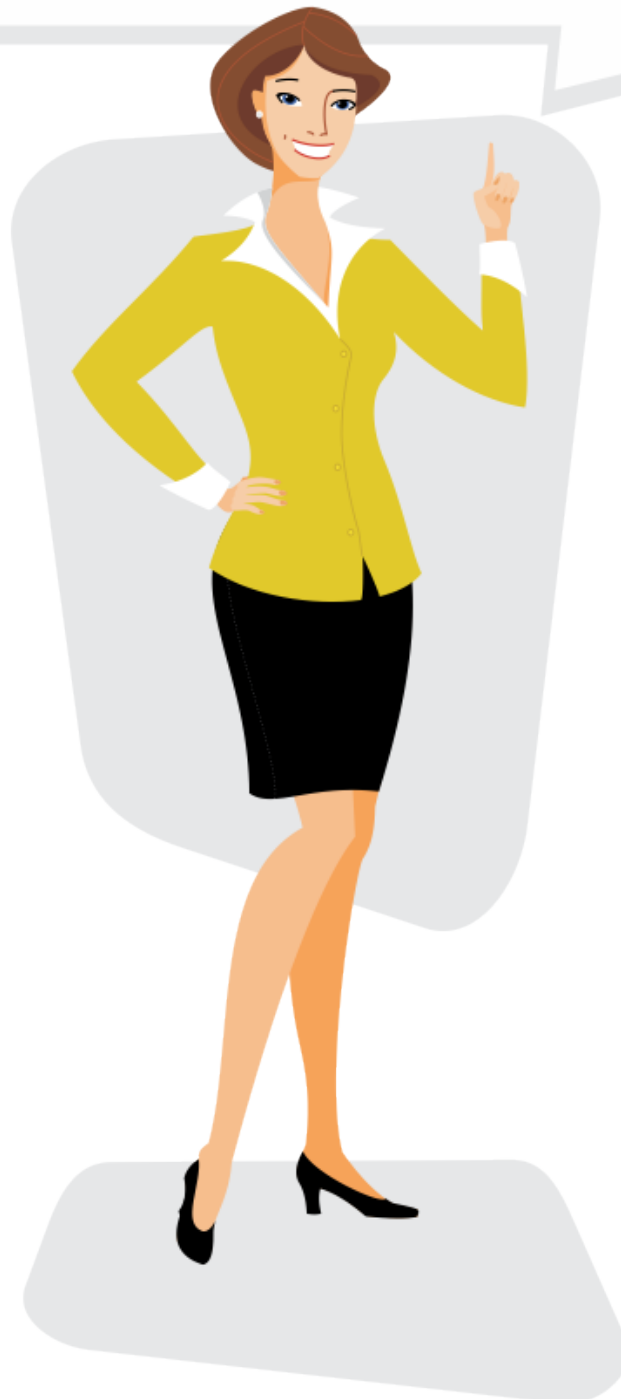
Q.7 Write short notes on the following:

- a) Humanoid Robot Baxter
- b) New Earth size planet discovered in neighbouring solar system
- c) Superhero mice developed to sniff out explosives
- d) Gold Producing bacteria

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