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**Simplifying Test Prep**

# **IBPS Bank PO Exam 2013**

## **General Awareness(Current)**

### **Supplement**

Comprehensive Coverage on  
all Exam oriented Current Topics  
from 01 September 2013 to  
05 October 2013.



**As Per IBPS PO/MT 2013 Exam Pattern**

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# PREFACE

PREFACE

Jagranjosh's IBPS Bank PO Exam 2013: General Awareness (Current) e-Book Supplement is a right platform for aspirants preparing to score high in IBPS Bank PO Written Examination 2013. This eBook is a perfect blend of current questions and concepts of banking and economics.

IBPS Bank PO Exam 2013: General Awareness (Current) e-Book Supplement is prepared by a team of experts at Jagranjosh. These banking experts have put their bests to come up with this complete preparation package for General Awareness (Current) section of IBPS Bank PO Exam. This eBook Supplement is a perfect amalgamation of all the current topics and questions taken from last six months in a chapter-wise format.

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The IBPS Bank PO Exam 2013: General Awareness (Current) e-Book Supplement includes:

- Comprehensive Coverage on all Exam oriented Current Topics from 01 September to 05 October 2013.
- Special Focus on Economy & Banking News

Jagranjosh's IBPS Bank PO Exam 2013: General Awareness (Current) e-Book Supplement is a remarkable edition that helps students preparing for the IBPS Bank PO Exam 2013. All the chapters of this e-book are reader-friendly and easy to comprehend. With this book, aspirants will feel more convinced on their preparation skills as it will enhance their overall performance in General Awareness Section at the time of the examination.

Our team at Jagranjosh.com wishes all the very best to the aspirants of IBPS Bank PO Exam 2013.

All the Best!

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## Chapter: Economy, Banking & Finance

### Bayer CropScience India Launched a New Multi-Crop Breeding Station in Chandippa

Bayer CropScience India on 3 October 2013 announced that it launched a new multi-crop breeding station in Chandippa, situated around 46 km from Hyderabad. The new breeding station will focus on the breeding and development of germplasm for high performing hybrids in rice, millet and cotton.

Stephan Gerlich, Country Group Head, Bayer in India explained that this was one of the most significant investments made by Bayer CropScience India over the last three years. Chandippa will serve as a strategic site for product development activities in India and Asia-Pacific markets.

Since 2010, Bayer CropScience India has invested around 100 crore Rupees in different projects. Some of these projects include capacity expansion at its existing Seed Processing plant in Toopran near Hyderabad and a new mustard breeding station in Palwal, Haryana.

#### Primary Highlights of the new multi-crop breeding station in Chandippa

- The new multi-crop breeding station in Chandippa is spread over 36 acres of land.
- The breeding station will have all the aspects of R&D infrastructure.
- The station will be equipped with screen houses, fully automated greenhouses, open fields for trials as well as various laboratories. All these facilities will be used for speeding up the breeding cycles.
- The labs of the station will support activities in resistance breeding, qualitative testing as well as tissue culture.
- The new facility will also have a cultivable area of 25 acres for field experimentation.
- The Chandippa breeding station will employ approximately 80 people.
- The main highlight of the station will be its rain water harvesting pond, which is the first of its kind facility in India. This rain water harvesting pond has been imported from the Netherlands. It is a fully automated system which will harvest the rain water, which in turn will be filtered and utilised for cooling in the greenhouses.

## ICSI Launched the ICSI Primer on Companies Act 2013 on its Foundation Day

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, on 4 October 2013 launched the ICSI Primer on Companies Act 2013 on its Foundation Day. The ICSI Primer on Companies Act 2013 was launched by the President, Council of the ICSI- SN Ananthasubramanian.

### Primary Features of the ICSI Primer on Companies Act 2013

- The ICSI Primer on Companies Act 2013 is a set of 16 videos of around 35 minutes each.
- They highlight various aspects of the new Companies Act 2013.
- These videos have been uploaded on the website of the ICSI and also on YouTube so that the professionals and the common people, all, can access them freely and learn about some important aspects of the new Companies Act 2013.
- The videos explain the fundamental provisions of law in as simple a language as possible through interactive discussions.
- Distinguished experts from government, regulators, industry, academia and professionals have participated as panelists and a leading advocate is the anchor in all episodes.

SN Ananthasubramanian explained that ICSI was undertaking a large number of initiatives to build up the human resource capacity in the country to implement the Companies Act, 2013. These include about 500 seminars, workshops and study circles during this quarter. These also include a number of publications and guidance notes on the new law.

On the occasion, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India also launched a novel facility called the Corporate Compliance Executive Certificate.

## Star Private Ltd and ESPN won Cricket Sponsorship Rights in India for 2013-14

Star Private Ltd and ESPN on 3 October 2013 were awarded the cricket sponsorship rights for all international series and the domestic tournaments in India for the year 2013-14 by BCCI at the base price of two crore rupees per fixture, considerably low compared to their previous deal with Airtel. The sponsorship rights were awarded by the Marketing Committee of the BCCI.

There are two international series currently scheduled during the period: the seven-match ODI series and a T20 game between India and Australia, followed by two Tests and three ODIs against the West Indies. Sponsorship rights will extend to domestic events such as Irani Cup, Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Vijay Hazare, Deodhar Trophy and Raj Singh Dungarpur Trophy.

The new deal comes after Airtel's partnership with the BCCI ended in 2013. The telecom giant had won the sponsorship rights in 2010 for all international and domestic matches scheduled in India. The three-year contract, running from September 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013, was worth Rs 3.33 crore for each international fixture.

Airtel was also allowed branding on stumps and fixed slots for in-stadium advertising as part of the deal. There was a three-month window for Airtel to negotiate an extension of the contract, but with no further discussion on the matter, the BCCI's marketing committee floated fresh tender document in September 2013.

## CCEA Approved Jet Airways' Proposed Sale of 24 Percent Equity to Etihad Airways

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 3 October 2013 cleared Jet Airways proposed sale of 24 per cent equity to Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways, paving the way for the biggest ever foreign investment in the Indian aviation sector.

The proposal was of Etihad to subscribe 27263372 Jet Airways shares of 10 Rupees each, amounting to 24 percent of post-issue paid-up equity share capital for 2057.66 crore Rupees.

The decision was taken at a CCEA meeting chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. The approval will result in foreign investment amounting to over 2057 crore Rupees in the country. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has recommended the proposal.

Jet-Etihad deal was already approved by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India) on 1 October 2013.

## Indian Railways Signed Pact with RINL to Set up India's Biggest Forged Wheel Plant in UP

The Indian Railways on 3 October 2013 signed a pact with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) to set up the country's biggest Forged Wheel plant at Lalganj, Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh.

### About the Forged Wheel Plant

- The Plant to be set with an investment of about 1100 crore Rupees will produce one lakh numbers of Forged Wheels per annum in the First phase for Locos and High speed trains. The capacity of the plant can be doubled in the Second phase for a production of over two lakh wheels per annum.



- The steel requirement for the plant located in 40 acres is to be supplied by the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL).
- The Factory expected to be operational in over three years, could provide employment to about 600 people.
- The Forged wheel plant will reduce India's dependence on imports of high speed forged wheels for trains.
- The quality of wheel manufactured in the plant will be tested and certified by International certifying agency TTCI, USA.
- Forged wheels are essentially required in the rolling stock for running longer trains at higher speed.

## RBI fixed the Reference Rate of Rupee against US \$

The Reserve Bank of India on 4 October 2013 fixed the reference rate of rupee against US dollar at 61.4050 and the euro at 83.6790 as against 61.9348 and 84.2360 on 3 October 2013. The exchange rates for the pound and yen against the rupee were quoted at 99.2857 a pound and 63.25 per 100 yen, based on reference rates for the dollar and cross-currency quotes at noon.

The reference rate is based on the noon rates of select banks and the SDR-Rupee rate would be based on this rate.

## National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 3 October 2013 approved the implementation of the National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) during the 12th Plan Period with financial allocation of 3507 crore rupees. This would help in enhancing production of oilseeds by 6.58 million tonnes. This would also bring additional area of 1.25 lakh hectares under Oil Palm cultivation with increase in productivity of fresh fruit bunches from 4927 kg/ha to 15000 kg/ha and increase in collection of tree borne oilseeds to 14 lakh tonne.

Implementation of the proposed Mission would enhance production of vegetable oil sources by 2.48 million tonnes from oilseeds (1.70 million tonnes), oil palm (0.60 million tonnes) and tree borne oilseeds (0.18 million tonnes) by the end of the 12th Plan Period.

The implementation strategy in the Mission would place emphasis on increasing the Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) with focus on varietal replacement; increasing irrigation coverage under oilseeds from 26 percent to 38 percent; diversification of area from low yielding cereals crops to oilseeds crops; inter-cropping of oilseeds and use of fallow land; area expansion under oil palm and TBOs; increasing availability of quality planting materials of oil palm and TBOs; enhancing procurement of oilseeds and collection and processing of TBOs. Recommended varieties and proven technologies would be demonstrated in a cluster approach through mini kits and frontline/

cluster demonstration. The cluster approach would ensure participation of all categories of farmers, irrespective of the size of their holdings, social status and would demonstrate visible impact of technologies in enhancing productivity and production.

NMOOP is built upon the achievements of the existing schemes of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Tree Borne Oilseeds Scheme and Oil Palm Area Expansion (OPAE) programme during the 11th Plan period. Implementation of these schemes have shown increase in production and productivity of oilseeds, area expansion with increased production of FFBs under oil palm and augmented availability of quality planting materials, pre-processing technologies and awareness about TBOs.

## Sun Pharmaceutical Entered Into Joint Venture with Intrexon Corporation

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries India's biggest drug maker by market capital and USA based Intrexon Corporation, a leading player in synthetic biology announced on 2 October 2013 to establish a joint venture to develop controllable gene-based therapies for the treatment of eye diseases.

The joint venture will help for Sun Pharma's to increase their global capabilities and experience in developing and manufacturing complex dosage forms. It will also enhance their specialty pharmaceuticals for niche therapy areas.

The partners will initially work on age related macular degeneration (AMD) (a medical condition that causes partial or full loss of vision among older adults), glaucoma (a kind of eye disease) and retinitis pigmentosa (an eye disease that causes severe vision loss and at times even blindness).

## Jet-Etihad deal Approved by SEBI

Jet-Etihad deal was approved by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India) on 1 October 2013. Jet Airways had proposed to sale 24 percent stake to Abu Dhabi-based Etihad. The Jet-Etihad deal was announced in April 2013 and because of objections from regulators the deal was stuck half-way. The proposal will now be considered by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had also asked for changes in the original deal. The two parties had informed the fair trade regulator about the changes in the deal and approval from the CCI is expected soon.

SEBI informed the Finance Ministry about its decision on 25 September 2013.

With this deal in place, Jet eventually has a 51 per cent stake in the company, Etihad 24 per cent and the public the remaining 25 per cent.

## India's Forex Reserves dropped to 276.26 Billion US \$

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves fell by 1.11 billion US dollars to 276.26 billion US dollars for the week ended on 27 September 2013 as compared to 277.38 billion US dollars in the previous week due to a sharp drop in the value of foreign currency assets, official data showed.

The forex reserves has declined sharply after a significant gains in the previous two weeks. The reserves had increased by 277.38 billion US dollars and 544.7 million US dollars respectively in the previous two weeks.

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Weekly Statistical Supplement, India's foreign currency assets, the biggest component of the forex reserves, dropped by 1.29 billion US dollars to 247.92 billion US dollars for the week ended 27 Sep 2013.

The foreign currency assets, expressed in the US dollar term, include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies held in reserve, such as the pound sterling, euro and yen. However, India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) jumped by 177.7 million US dollars to 2.19 billion US dollars and the value of the special drawing rights (SDRs) increased by 1.1 million US dollars to 4.42 billion US dollars. The value of India's gold reserves remained unchanged at 21.72 billion US dollars during the week under review.

## RBI Banned 0% Interest Rate Scheme

Reserve Bank of India on 25 September 2013 banned zero per cent interest rate schemes for purchase of consumer goods. The decision has taken in order to protect consumer interest.

In this regard Reserve Bank of India issued a notification to all the Schedule Commercial Banks and local area banks.

### Reserve Bank of India Directives

1. The very concept of zero per cent interest is non-existent and such schemes only serve the purpose of alluring and exploiting vulnerable customers. Banks should neither resort to any practice that would distort the interest rate structure of a product nor hide any processing fees.
2. With regard to subvention, the loan amount sanctioned for any purchase should be only after all the benefits and discounts are passed on to the customer fully and indiscriminately, without tampering with the applicable rate of interest.
3. The consumers should not be levied any additional charge for payments made through debit cards.
4. All banks must stop these practices as they violate the very principle of fair and transparent pricing of products which beholds customer rights and protection, especially, in the more vulnerable retail segment.

In the zero percent EMI schemes offered on credit card outstandings, the interest element is often camouflaged and passed on to customer in the form of processing fee.

## RBI relaxed Trade Credit Norms to raise Funds

The Reserve Bank of India on 24 September 2013 relaxed trade credit norms to raise funds from abroad. In a notification, the RBI stated that all types of companies can avail trade credit facility now from overseas for import of capital goods.

The RBI further added that on a review, it has been decided to allow companies in all sectors to avail trade credit not exceeding 20 million US Dollars up to a maximum period of five years for import of capital goods as classified by the Director General of Foreign Trade.

Earlier, only companies in the infrastructure sector were allowed to raise such trade credits.

Banks are, however, not permitted to issue Letters of Credit/guarantees/Letter of Undertaking (LoU) /Letter of Comfort (LoC) in favour of overseas supplier, bank and financial institution for the extended period beyond three years.

## RBI Announced Committee for Financial Inclusion

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 23 September 2013 announced the appointment of a Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low-Income Households under the Chairmanship of Nachiket Mor, who is a Member on the Central Board of Directors of RBI.

### Objectives of the Committee

The 15-member committee has been asked to frame a clear and detailed vision for financial inclusion and financial deepening in India. Committee is to lay down a set of design principles that will guide the development of institutional frameworks and regulation for achieving financial inclusion and financial deepening in India.

Committee will review existing strategies and develop new ones that address specific barriers to progress, and that encourage participants to work swiftly towards achieving full inclusion and financial deepening, consistent with the design principles.

Further, Committee is to develop a comprehensive monitoring framework to track the progress of the financial inclusion and deepening efforts on a nationwide basis.

The committee has been asked to submit its final report by 31 December 2013.

The committee members are: Bindu Ananth (President, IFMR Trust); Prakash Bakshi (Chairman, Nabard); Bharat Doshi (Chairman, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services); A. P. Hota (Managing Director and CEO, National Payments Corporation of India); Sunil Kaushal (CEO, Standard Chartered

Bank India); Roopa Kudva (MD and CEO, Crisil); Zia Mody (Managing Partner, AZB & Partners); S. S. Mundra (CMD, Bank of Baroda); Vikram Pandit (former CEO, Citigroup); Ramesh Ramanathan (Chairman, Janalakshmi Financial Services) and Shikha Sharma (MD & CEO, Axis Bank). A. Udgata, Principal Chief General Manager, RBI is the Member Secretary. Karuppasamy and Deepali Pant Joshi, both Executive Directors, RBI will be the expert observers.

## CCEA Took Steps For Operationalisation of IDFs

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 23 September 2013 took some steps to promote the operationalisation of Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs).

### Steps taken by The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

- Capping of the annual Guarantee Fee payable to the Concession Authority at 0.05 percent per annum, of outstanding debt financed by the IDF NBFC (Non Banking Financial Companies) for the first three years of operation of the IDF NBFC.
- Now Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDF) will get the status of Public Financial Institutions (PFI). Infrastructure Debt Funds are permitted to file Shelf Prospectus under Section 60 A of the Companies Act, 1956 and access to provisions of the SARFAESI Act, including to the adjudicatory process through Debt Recovery Tribunals.
- Post-successful COD PPP (commercial Operation Declaration) projects shall now be eligible for investment by Insurance Companies, Provident Funds (PFs), EPFO, Mutual Funds (MFs), etc.

### About Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDF)

- IDFs are investment vehicles which can be sponsored by commercial banks and NBFCs in India in which domestic/offshore institutional investors, specially insurance and pension funds can invest through units and bonds issued by the IDFs.
- IDFs would essentially act as vehicles for refinancing existing debt of infrastructure companies, thereby creating fresh headroom for banks to lend to fresh infrastructure projects.
- IDF-NBFCs would take over loans extended to infrastructure projects which are created through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) route and have successfully completed one year of commercial production. Such take-over of loans from banks would be covered by a Tripartite Agreement between the IDF, Concessionaire and the Project Authority for ensuring a compulsory buyout with termination payment in the event of default in repayment by the Concessionaire.

## Foundation of MEMU Coach Factory was laid at Bhilwara

The foundation stone of Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit (MEMU) Coach Factory was laid on 22 September 2013 at near Rupaheli Station, Bhilwara District, Rajasthan. MEMU Coach Factory had been approved in the Rail Budget 2013-14 at an estimated cost of 800 crore rupees. This factory is a joint effort of Indian Railways, Government of Rajasthan and BHEL. MOU between Ministry of Railways and BHEL was signed for setting up for this factory on 25 February 2013. MOU between Ministry of Railways and Government of Rajasthan for providing 518 acres of land free of cost for setting up for this factory was signed on 21 September 2013.

Once operational, this factory will meet the demand of MEMU Coaches on Indian Railways to a large extent. Besides, it will generate direct and indirect employment & give thrust to area development. With establishment of the factory Bhilwara will now have a new identity that of MEMU Coach Factory, besides being a textile city.

Entire cost of this factory will be incurred by BHEL. Presently the only source manufacturing of the MEMU coaches is Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala of Indian Railways, which has been manufacturing about 112 coaches per year. The new factory in Bhilwara will further facilitate the supply of additional MEMU coaches required by Indian Railways.

### MEMU Trains

MEMU trains are very popular in non suburban sections. These trains are usually used by local commuters to commute from nearby rural areas and small towns to bigger cities for work. They have higher carrying capacity. MEMU trains ensure a better and economical mode of transport for people to commute daily for the livelihood. These trains are more powerful and have faster acceleration and deceleration as compared to conventional trains. This results in less running time resulting in saving of 30 percent in energy consumption. These trains are equipped with toilet and are vestibuled for greater passenger comfort.

## RBI Increased the Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 20 September 2013 increased the repo rate or the short term lending rate by 25 basis points to 7.5 per cent from 7.25 per cent with immediate effect. This means that the Repo rate has been increased by 0.25 percent.

The Governor of RBI, Raghuram Rajan while reviewing the monetary policy for the first time as a Governor, however, brought down the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate by 0.75 per cent to 9.5 per cent. The MSF rate is the one at which the other banks can borrow from the Central Bank.

The cash reserve ratio (CRR) remained unchanged at 4 percent. The cash reserve ratio (CRR) is the portion of the deposits which the banks need to maintain in cash with the RBI. The RBI, in the



meanwhile, also brought down the minimum daily maintenance of CRR from 99 percent of the requirement to 95 percent with effect from 21 September 2013.

All these changes were a part of the monetary policy review for September 2013. The next monetary policy review of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is scheduled for 29 October 2013.

## **RBI liberalised norms for opening of banks in Tier I cities**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 19 September 2013 announced that banks can open their branches in tier 1 centers without taking its permission in each case. But RBI imposed some conditions to open branches. According to 2011 census Tier I center are those with population above 1 lakh.

### **Conditions Imposed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

*RBI passed the guidelines under following conditions:*

- Banks should open 25 percent of their branches in a financial year in Un-banked tier-V and tier-VI centers as earlier.
- Total number of branches in tier –I center's can't exceed the number of branches opened in tier-2 to tier-6 centers during a year.
- If the banks are unable to open all tier – 1 branches during that year, they can carry it over for next two years
- If the banks unable to open requisite branches in tier- II to tier- VI centers for some reason, it should necessary rectify the shortfall in the next financial year.

## **Bhartiya Mahila Bank Started Recruitment Process**

Bhartiya Mahila Bank, the first nationalised bank for women expected to be operational from November 2013. Bhrtiya Mahila Bank In its first advertisement on 18 September 2013 announced that the Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) will recruit 115 vacancies from female candidates only.

### **Main Objective of Bhartiya Mahila Bank**

The main objective of Bhartiya Mahila Bank is to focus on the banking needs of the women and promote economic empowerment. It will also addresses the gender related issues and helpful in financial inclusion.

### **Headquarter of Bharitiya Mahila Bank and branches**

- The proposed bank will be headquartered in New Delhi.
- It will start with 6 branches in North, South, West, Central and North Eastern part of the country. Bharatiya Mahila Bank proposes to complete the first six branches at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Indore and Guwahati by October 15.

## About Bharatiya Mahila Bank

- The bank aims to service women and women-run businesses, support women's self-help groups and their livelihoods and promote further financial inclusion in a country where only 35 percent of Indian adults have access to a bank account.
- An only-for-women bank first time in India.
- The announcement to set up all Women's bank was made by Finance Minister of India P Chidambaram in the Budget speech 2013-14.
- The Cabinet cleared the proposal for setting up of all-women bank on August 2013.
- The government has approved 1000 crore Rupees seed capital for Bhartiya Mahila Bank.
- Reserve Bank of India gave its in-principal approval for the Bharatiya Mahila Bank in June 2013 and the banking company is being set up.

## India and Latvia signed agreement on DTAA

The Government of India on 18 September 2013 signed an agreement with Latvia on Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income. The Agreement and the Agreed Note were signed by Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of India and Mr. Edgars Rinkevics, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.

Latvia is the third Baltic country with which DTAA has been signed by India. Earlier DTAA's were signed with Lithuania and Estonia.

The DTAA provides that business profits will be taxable in the source if the activities of an enterprise constitute a permanent establishment (PE) in the source state. The Agreement provides for fixed place of permanent establishment (PE), building site, construction or assembly PE, service PE, Off-shore exploration/exploitation PE and agency PE.

## Double Tax Avoidance Agreement contains following provisions

- Dividends, interest and royalties and fees for technical services income will be taxed both in the country of residence and in the country of source. The low level of withholding rates of taxation for dividend, interest and royalties and fees for technical services (10 percent) will promote greater investments, flow of technology and technical services between India and Latvia.

- The Agreement incorporates 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 without recourse to domestic interest.
- The Agreement included an article on assistance in collection of taxes. This article also included provision for taking measures of conservancy. The Agreement incorporates anti-abuse (limitation of benefits) provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreements are availed of by the genuine residents of India and Latvia.
- The Agreement will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Latvia. It will also facilitate mutual economic cooperation between India and Latvia.

## About Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) is a bilateral agreement between two countries. The main objective of DTAA is to avoid taxation of income in both countries (means double taxation of same income).

### Net direct tax collections increased by 12.5 percent

Net direct tax collections for the current financial year (2013-14), up to 17th September 2013 increased 238325 crore Rupees from 211641 crore Rupees compared to 2012-13, up to 17th September 2012, showing a growth of 12.5 percent. This data was released on 18 September 2013 by Department of Revenue of Finance Ministry of Government of India.

**Corporation tax:** Corporate tax collections were increased to 146610 crore Rupees from 135791 crore Rupees compared to 2012-13, which is a growth of 7.97 percent.

**Income Tax:** Income tax collections were increased to 89006 crore Rupees from 65752 crore Rupees compared to 2012-13, which is a growth of 21.08 percent.

## Securities transaction tax (STT) and wealth tax

The collection of securities transaction tax (STT) and wealth tax stood at 2210 crore Rupees and 309 crore Rupees.

Out of the above net collections, contribution by way of advance tax up to the September quarter was 114324 crore Rupees which is an overall growth of 9.14 percent. Advance tax collections from corporate were 103374 crore Rupees, which is a growth of 7.97 percent.

Advance tax collections under personal income tax head is 10946 crore Rupees, showing a rise of 24 percent.

According to released data the top five advance tax payers were Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), State Bank of India (SBI), Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and HDFC Bank.

## About Taxation system in India

India has a well-developed tax structure with clearly demarcated authority between Central and State Governments and local bodies.

Central Government levies taxes on income (except tax on agricultural income, which the State Governments can levy), customs duties, central excise and service tax.

Value Added Tax (VAT), stamp duty, state excise, land revenue and profession tax are levied by the State Governments.

Local bodies are empowered to levy tax on properties, octroi and for utilities like water supply, drainage etc.

***In general Taxes are divided into two types. They are***

- Direct Tax
- Indirect Tax

**Direct Tax:** Direct Tax means the burden directly falls on the taxpayer. Direct tax includes following taxes

- Income Tax
- Corporation tax
- Securities Transaction tax (STT)
- Wealth Tax
- Capital Gains Tax
  
- **Income tax:** Income tax is an annual tax imposed separately for each assessment year (also called the tax year). Assessment year commences from 1st April and ends on the next 31st March in India.
  
- **Corporate sector tax:** Corporate Tax relates to the taxation of companies in India
  
- **Securities Transaction Tax (STT):** Securities Transaction Tax or turnover tax, as is generally known, is a tax that is leviable on taxable securities transaction.
  
- **Wealth Tax:** Wealth tax is a tax on the benefits derived from property ownership.

- **Capital Gains:** Tax: A capital gain is income derived from the sale of an investment. A capital investment can be a home, a farm, a ranch, a family business, work of art etc

**Indirect Tax:** Indirect tax means the burden is shifted from one tax payer to other. Indirect tax includes

- Central sales tax,
  - Value Added Tax
  - Excise duty
  - Customs duty
  - Service tax
- 
- **Central Sales Tax (CST):** Central Sales tax is generally payable on the sale of all goods by a dealer in the course of inter-state trade or commerce or, outside a state or, in the course of import into or, export from India.
  - **Value Added Tax (VAT):** VAT is a multi-stage tax on goods that is levied across various stages of production and supply with credit given for tax paid at each stage of Value addition. The state level VAT has replaced the existing State Sales Tax.
  - **Excise Duty:** Excise duty is levied on goods manufactured in India.
  - **Customs Duty:** Custom duties are levied by the Central Government of India on imported or exported goods.
  - **Service Tax:** Service tax is levied for providing services like telephone, insurance, banking etc.

## Economy to Grow at 5.3 Percent in 2013-14

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (of India) on 13 September 2013 released the document Economic Outlook 2013-14 in New Delhi. The economic growth forecast of India for the current fiscal 2013-14 was lowered to 5.3 percent from 6.4 percent projected earlier. The PMEAC had in April 2013 projected 6.4 percent growth for Indian economy for current financial year. RBI too had earlier lowered its growth projection for this fiscal to 5.5 percent from 5.7 percent. The Economic Outlook condition listed out host of measures including further liberalisation of FDI norms to improve economy.

## The other major highlights of Economic Outlook India are as following:

- The PMEAC expects the agriculture sector to grow by 4.8 percent in the current fiscal up from 1.9 percent, while the industrial growth has been pegged at 2.7 percent as against 2.1 percent in 2012-13.
- The growth of services sector, however, is projected to decelerate to 6.6 percent in current fiscal from 7.1 percent a year ago.
- In order to promote growth, the advisory council suggested that the government should liberalise FDI investment norms, resolve tax concerns of the industry, fast track public sector investment and initiate measures to contain fiscal deficit.
- Referring to the external sector, the advisory council expressed hope that the Current Account Deficit (CAD) in 2013-14 will come down to 70 billion US dollars or 3.8 percent of GDP, from 88.2 billion US dollars or 4.8 percent a year ago.
- As regards rupee, it was hoped at the current level it is well corrected. Stability is returning to the foreign exchange market. As capital flows return and as CAD begins to fall, this tendency will strengthen.
- Admitting that rupee depreciation will put some pressure on inflation, the advisory council stated that On balance, WPI inflation by end March 2014 will be around 5.5 percent as against the average of 7.4percent in 2012-13 and 5.7 percent for March end 2013. The wholesale and retail inflation widened in recent months primarily on account of higher weightage of food items in CPI. The retail inflation in August 2013 stood at 9.52 percent, while the WPI numbers in July was at 5.79 percent.
- The trade deficit, PMEAC said, would come down to around 185 billion US dollars in 2013-14, against an estimated 195.7 billion US dollars in 2012-13.
- Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, the combined impact of higher net oil and net gold imports on the CAD (Current Account Deficit) was almost 57 billion US dollars or 3 percent of GDP.
- The CAD may go even below 70 billion US dollars in 2013-14 if the recent trends in exports and imports are maintained through the year.
- Net Capital flows are projected to fall to 61.4 billion US dollars in 2013-14 against an estimated 89.4 billion US dollars in 2012-13 putting pressure on the country's forex reserves.

## SEBI relaxed KYC norms for foreign investors

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 12 September 2013 issued the new Guideline to make Know Your Client requirements (KYC) easy for foreign investors. These guidelines related to registration and disclosure norms for low risk foreign investors.

SEBI classified foreign investors into three categories depending on their risk profile like category I, category II and category III.



## Category I

### **Category I includes**

Government and Government related foreign investors such as Foreign Central Banks, Governmental Agencies, Sovereign Wealth Funds, International, Multilateral Organizations and Agencies.

## Category II

### **Category II includes**

- Regulated broad based funds such as Mutual Funds, Investment Trusts, Insurance / Reinsurance Companies.
- Appropriately regulated entities such as Banks, Asset Management Companies, Investment Managers/ Advisors, Portfolio Managers.
- Broad based funds whose investment manager is appropriately regulated.
- University Funds and Pension Funds
- University related Endowments already registered with SEBI as FII/Sub Account .

## Category III

### **Category III includes**

All other eligible foreign investors investing in India under PIS route not eligible under Category I and II such as Endowments, Charitable Societies/Trust, Foundations, Corporate Bodies, Trusts, Individuals, Family Offices.

Category I investors have been exempted from submission of documents like financial statements and board resolution papers. Their top management, partners, directors, trustees and authorised signatories would not be required to submit proof of identity, proof of address and photographs, submission of the list, identity proof, address proof and photographs for their ultimate beneficial owners.

SEBI decision to reclassify foreign investors as per their risk profiles was recommended by a committee headed by former Cabinet secretary K M Chandrasekhar.

## Comment

***These measures come at a time when concerns are being raised about outflows of foreign capital and weakening of the rupee against the dollar and other foreign currencies. The new norms are expected to make it much easier for the foreign investors to enter the country and make investment decisions.***

## Invest of 4.3 Billion \$ in the World Bank Bonds Approved

The Union Cabinet of India on 12 September 2013 approved a proposal to invest 4.3 billion US dollar in the bonds of the World Bank Group. The investment has been planned to receive additional cheaper funding from the multilateral agency for infrastructure related projects.

- The RBI will make investments in the bonds that will be floated by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). IBRD is the lending arm of World Bank.
- RBI will get returns on the investments made on the bonds. The tenure of the bonds would vary from time to time.

The decision was taken in the backdrop of the borrowing headroom of India, which was reaching its upper limit. The planned investments would bring in larger sums for infrastructure financing in the country.

During the same meet, an in-principle approval to the proposal of setting-up of two semiconductor manufacturing facilities was also given by the Union Cabinet.

These manufacturing facilities would play a major role in controlling the import of electronic products like chipsets.

The Government would make an investment of about 25000 crore rupees and the government support level for development of these units will be decided following the negotiations with the chip makers.

## RBI constituted Committee on Monetary Policy Framework

Reserve Bank of India on 12 September 2013 constituted an expert committee for examining its Current Monetary Policy Framework. The committee would be responsible to recommend the measures to revise and strengthen the Monetary Policy Framework, by making it transparent and predictable.

Dr. Urjit Patel, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee.

### The terms of reference of the Committee are

- To review the objectives and conduct of monetary policy in a globalised and highly inter-connected environment.
- To recommend an appropriate nominal anchor for the conduct of monetary policy.
- To review the organisational structure, operating framework and instruments of monetary policy, particularly the multiple indicator approach and the liquidity management framework, with a view to ensuring compatibility with macroeconomic and financial stability, as well as market

development.

- To identify regulatory, fiscal and other impediments to monetary policy transmission, and recommend measures and institutional pre-conditions to improve transmission across financial market segments and to the broader economy.
- To carefully consider the recommendations of previous Committees/Groups in respect of all of the above.

The Committee is expected to submit its report within three months.

## The Government Notified Changes in the FDI Policy

The Union Government of India on 10 September 2013 notified changes in the FDI policy under FEMA regulations, paving the way for larger overseas investments in sectors, such as multi-brand retail and telecom. It is effective from 22 August 2013. As per the revised guidelines, the government relaxed norms for multi-brand retail trading and eased the mandatory 30 per cent local sourcing norms for companies. It has also widened the definition of the term control for mergers and acquisitions, involving overseas companies, a move that will provide more clarity to foreign investors. The government notification follows the Cabinet decision of 2 August 2013 to relax overseas investment norms.

As per the notification, control will include the right to appoint a majority of directors or to control the management or policy decisions including by virtue of their shareholding or management rights or shareholders agreement or voting agreements.

The expanded reach of the term control will help calculate the total foreign investment; direct and indirect in Indian companies. Prior to this, control was considered the entity with the power to appoint the majority of directors in a company.

## Russia lifted Ban on the Import of Two Indian Commodities

Russia lifted the ban on import of non-basmati rice from India on 10 September 2013, which will eventually lead to an increase in the export of non-basmati rice from India. Russia also lifted the ban on the oilseeds apart from non-basmati rice.

It is important to note that the Russian Federation had imposed ban on these commodities in December 2012 because of the presence of khapra beetles pest in rice and aflatoxin contamination of peanuts. Thereafter, from 23 June 2013 to 30 June 2013, Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (FSVPS) delegation from Russia inspected the processing units in India, which eventually led to a lift on the ban and resumption of the trade on these commodities between India and Russia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation submitted its report on the inspection.

India, at present, is the second largest producer of rice in the world with the output of 104.40 million

tonnes in the 2012-13 crop year (July-June). India exports a considerable quantity of basmati as well as non-basmati rice in foreign markets. The International Grain Council (IGC) in the recent past however estimated that the rice export of India in 2013-14 would be 8.5 million tonnes, which is around 10 percent lower than the 9.4 million tonnes exported in 2012-13. The overall export of basmati rice to Russia was 789.19 tonnes during 2012-13 fiscal year before the imports were suspended.

It is important to note that khapra beetle, also known as *Trogoderma granarium* was discovered in certain consignments in early 2012. Khapra beetle is one of the most destructive pests of the world found in the stored products as well as seeds.

## Finance Ministry to control Forward Markets Commission's

The administrative control of Forward Markets Commission (FMC), the chief regulator of Forwards and Futures Commodity Markets in India on 9 September 2013 was transferred to Ministry of Finance following the orders of Government of India. Earlier, the FMC was under the control of the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Food.

With this decision, the regulators of financial sector like SEBI, RBI, IRDA and PFRDA, all have been brought under one roof and that is Ministry of Finance.

The Government notified its decision to bring the commodity markets regulator Forward Markets Commission (FMC) under the ambit of the Finance Ministry on 6 September 2013. The proposal to this effect was moved in August 2013 in the wake of the alleged scam in the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) of 5600 crore rupees. NSEL stopped its functioning in the month of August 2013 following the Governments orders which were issued in the wake of violation of certain rules.

### About Forward Markets Commission (FMC)

Forward Markets Commission (FMC) headquartered at Mumbai, is a statutory body set up in 1953 under the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952. It is a regulatory authority which was overseen by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India. Recently, with the decision of Government of India the administrative control of FMC was shifted to Union Finance Ministry.

FMC under its ambit regulated futures trading on 21 commodity bourses that includes MCX and NCDEX.

### Comment

***The Government's decision on FMC would help in increasing the coordination between the market regulators. It will also be helpful for the government in resolving the NSEL payment crisis of 5600 crore rupees.***

## RBI issued norms for Currency Swap Window

Reserve Bank of India on 8 August 2013 issued norms for currency swap window from Mumbai. The Reserve Bank also cleared that the facility of currency swap would be made available to scheduled commercial banks (excluding regional rural banks) for fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank (FCNRB) deposits, which would be mobilized for a minimum tenure of three years.

The Reserve Bank also mentioned that the deposits can be made in any permitted currency, but the swaps would be made available only in dollars. The Swap Window would remain functional and under operations on all working days at Mumbai on daily basis but a particular bank can access the facility of currency swap only once in a week. The Swap Window would remain operation from 10 September to 30 November 2013.

### Currency Swap

*A foreign exchange agreement between the two institutions for exchange aspects of a loan in one current for equivalent aspects of an equal in net present value loan in another currency is Currency Swap.*

## NR Investors allowed to buy Shares under FDI Scheme

The Reserve Bank of India on 6 September 2013 allowed the Non-Resident Investors including NRIs to purchase shares of Indian entities Under FDI Scheme. The investment can be made as per the mentioned conditions. RBI has allowed the NRIs to make investment under the FDI scheme only on the listed entities, on recognized stock exchanges.

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to include the non-residents, including the NRIs to acquire the shares of domestic companies listed under FDI scheme, on the stock exchanges through a registered broker, if the investor has already acquired and continues to hold control in accordance with SEBI, Substantial Takeover Code.

RBI has also cleared that the inward remittance using the normal banking channels can be used for payment of the transfer of shares to non-residents consequent to purchase. The debit to the NRE or FCNR account of a person with authorized dealer or bank can also be considered for making the payment of the transferred shares. Escrow Accounts (non-interest bearing) maintained in India can also be used to debit the payment. The prices of the transfer of the shares for the non-resident shareholders would be made in accordance to the pricing guidelines mentioned under, FEMA.

Till now, the FIIs (Foreign Institutional Investor), QFIs (Qualified Foreign Investors) and NRIs were eligible to invest and acquire the shares on the recognized stock exchanges of India in compliance with the FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) regulations. But the NRIs were not allowed to acquire shares on exchange (bourses) under the FDI Scheme.

## Now Fifty Billion \$ Currency Swap Arrangement with Japan

Government of India and Government of Japan on 6 September 2013 decided to expand their bilateral currency swap arrangement from 15 billion US dollars to 50 billion US dollar till December 2015. It is expected that this will contribute to the stability of financial markets. The Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India would discuss and finalise the terms of this enhancement with their Japanese counterparts. Following the provisions of the agreement Japan will also get the facility of exchanging Yen for dollars.

Earlier, on 4 December 2012 a bilateral swap agreement was signed between the Bank of Japan and the Reserve Bank of India for 15 billion US dollar. This arrangement aimed at addressing possible short-term liquidity mismatches and supplementing existing international financial arrangements, as part of the effort to strengthening the mutual cooperation between Japan and India.

The currency swap deal would help the Governments of both the nations to work during emergency situation to tackle the Balance of Payments (BoP) problems. On Indian perspective, the arrangement would help in reversing the fears of Indian side in relation to the worsening situations in context of its Current Accounts Deficit (CAD).

## Inflation Increased to 6.1 percent in August 2013

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities (Base year 2004-2005), in the month of August 2013 stood at 6.1 percent as compared to 5.79 percent in July 2013. This is the highest inflation in six months. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) indicates the inflation in the Country. It is also called as Head Line Inflation .It shows all India inflation data.

WPI basically consists of Primary Articles, Fuel and Power items and Manufactured Products covering all important items transacted in the economy.

### Primary Articles

The weightage of primary articles in WPI is 20.12percent. The index for Primary Articles rose by 3.8 percent to 247.8 (provisional) from 238.8 (provisional) for the July 2013. The Index contains Food articles, non food articles and Minerals.

### The index for Food Article

The index for Food Article group rose by 5.3 percent to 250.3 (provisional) from 237.7 (provisional) for July 2013.

The main reason for the increase in this index was higher price of fish-inland (22 percent), fruits and vegetables (13 percent), ragi and beef and buffalo meat (3 percent each), milk (2 percent) and rice,

mutton, poultry chicken and pork (1 percent each).

However, the price of bajra and gram (4 percent each), tea (3 percent), jowar (2 percent) and moong, egg and masur (1 percent each) declined.

## **The index for Non-Food Articles**

The index for Non-Food Articles group declined by 0.5 percent to 209.6 (provisional) from 210.7 (provisional) for the July 2013.

The main reason for the decrease in this index was lower price of soyabean (12 percent), guar seed (10 percent), groundnut seed (5 percent), raw jute (4 percent), safflower, logs and timber and linseed (3 percent each), niger seed and rape and mustard seed (2 percent each) and mesta (1 percent).

However, the price of flowers (15percent), copra (coconut) (5percent), raw cotton, coir fibre, raw silk (3percent each), sunflower and cotton seed (2percent each) and fodder and castor seed (1percent each) increased.

## **The index for Minerals**

The index for Mineral's group rose by 0.7 percent to 330.9 (provisional) from 328.5 (provisional) for the July 2013.

The main reason for the increase in this index was higher price of dolomite (10percent), sillimanite (6 percent), crude petroleum and limestone (1 percent each).

However, the price of barytes (13 percent), zinc concentrate (5percent) and chromite and copper ore (1 percent each) declined.

## **Fuel and Power**

The weightage of fuel and power in WPI is 14.91 percent. The index for this major group rose by 1.3 percent to 202.3 (provisional) from 199.8 (provisional) for the July 2013.

The main reason for the increase in this index was higher price of aviation turbine fuel (7percent), light diesel oil (4 percent), kerosene, LPG and petrol (3 percent each) and naphtha, bitumen and high speed diesel (2 percent each).

However, the price of furnace oil (2 percent) declined.

## **Manufactured Products**

The weightage of manufactured products in WPI is 64.97 percent. The index for this major group declined by 0.1 percent to 150.0 (provisional) from 150.2 (provisional) for the July 2013.

## **The index for Food Products**



The index for Food Products group declined by 0.7 percent to 167.7 (provisional) from 168.9 (provisional) for the July 2013 .

The main reason for the decrease in this index was lower price of tea leaf (blended) (15percent), tea leaf (unblended) (6 percent), oil cakes (4 percent), groundnut oil (2 percent) and bakery products, mixed spices, cotton seed oil, palm oil and gola (cattle feed) (1 percent each).

However, the price of copra oil (9 percent), gur, coffee powder, processed prawn and sooji (rawa) (2 percent each) and maida, gingelly oil, rice bran oil and sugar (1 percent each) moved up.

## **The index for Beverages, Tobacco and Tobacco Products**

The index for Beverages, Tobacco and Tobacco Products group declined by 0.1 percent to 181.6 (provisional) from 181.8 (provisional) for the July 2013 .

The main reasons to decrease this index lower price of chewing tobacco (scented or not) and dried tobacco (2 percent each) and beer (1 percent).

However, the price of rectified spirit (1percent) moved up.

## **The index for Textiles**

The index for Textiles group rose by 0.7 percent to 137.3 (provisional) from 136.4 (provisional) for the July 2013 .

The main reason for the increase in this index was higher price of cotton yarn and manmade fibre (2percent each) and woollen textiles and tyre cord fabric (1 percent each).

However, the price of gunny and hessian cloth, jute sacking cloth and jute sacking bag (1 percent each) declined.

## **The index for Wood and Wood Products**

The index for Wood and Wood Products group rose by 0.8 percent to 177.2 (provisional) from 175.8 (provisional) for the July 2013.

The main reason for the increase in this index was price of timber/ wooden planks, plywood and fibre board and processed wood (1 percent each).

## **The index for Paper and Paper Products**

The index for Paper and Paper Products group declined by 0.1 percent to 140.3 (provisional) from 140.5 (provisional) for the July 2013 .

The main reasons to decrease this index are lower price of maplitho paper and paper for printing / poster (1percent each).

However, the price of laminated paper (4percent) and paper cartons / boxes (2 percent) moved up.

## **The index for Leather and Leather Products**

The index for Leather and Leather Products group declined by 0.1 percent to 142.3 (provisional) from 142.5 (provisional) for the July 2013 due to lower price of leather footwear (1 percent).

## **The index for Non-Metallic Mineral Products**

The index for Non-Metallic Mineral Products group declined by 1.3 percent to 164.3 (provisional) from 166.4 (provisional) for the July 2013. The main reason for the decrease in this index was lower price of white cement (3 percent), grey cement (2 percent) and slag cement (1 percent). However, the price of marbles (3 percent) moved up.

## **The index for Basic Metals, Alloys and Metal Products**

The index for Basic Metals, Alloys and Metal Products group rose by 0.2 percent to 162.7 (provisional) from 162.3 (provisional) for the July 2013.

The main reason for the increase in this index was higher price of silver and gold and gold ornaments (5 percent each), metal containers (3 percent), steel structures, aluminium and ferro manganese (2 percent each) and copper / copper ingots (1percent).

However, the price of furniture (10percent), sponge iron (3 percent), melting scrap (2percent) and ferro silicon, pencil ingots, wire rods, gp/gc sheets, angles and billets (1 percent) declined.

## **The index for Machinery & Machine Tools**

The index for Machinery and Machine Tools group declined by 0.5 percent to 130.8 (provisional) from 131.5 (provisional) for the July 2013 .

The main reason for the decrease in this index was lower price of electric generators (12 percent), fibre optic cable (7 percent) electronic pcb /micro circuit (4 percent), battery dry cells, T.V. accessories and boiler and accessories (2 percent each) and batteries and hydraulic equipment (1 percent each).

However, the price of ball/roller bearing (7percent) and pvc insulated cable, pump & assembly, heat exchanger, material handling equipments, capacitors, harvester and electrical pumps (1 percent each) moved up.

The index for Transport, Equipment and Parts:The index for Transport, Equipment and Parts group rose by 0.4 percent to 133.7 (provisional) from 133.2 (provisional) for the July 2013.

The main reason for the increase in this index was higher price of auto parts and motor vehicles

(1percent each).

However, the price of railway axle & wheel (2 percent) and parts of ships/boats etc. (1 percent) declined.

## **About Wholesale price index**

WPI index is the most widely used inflation indicator in India. This is published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Government of India. The base year for calculating WPI is 2004-05. WPI captures price movements in a most comprehensive way. It is widely used by Government, banks, industry and business circles.

## Chapter: National

### Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine -JENVAC launched

The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad on 4 October 2013 launched the indigenously produced Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine JENVAC in New Delhi.

The vaccine has been jointly developed by scientists of National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune, Indian Council of Medical Research and Bharat Biotech Limited- Hyderabad.

JENVAC is India's first indigenously developed vaccine for treating Japanese Encephalitis, a mosquito-borne viral disease that affects the brain. The newly developed JENVAC is the highly purified inactivated vaccine can be administered during epidemics without the fear of adverse effects. It is available in both single dose and five dose presentations. The vaccine has been developed under the Public Private Partnership mode.

Japanese Encephalitis, which is prevalent in 171 districts of 19 States, affects mostly children below 15 years. About 25 per cent of the affected children die and among survivors, 30 to 40 per cent suffer from physical and mental impairment. The indigenous production will now improve the efficacy, availability and affordability of the vaccine which is presently being imported from China.

### CAPFI of Medical Sciences approved

The Union Cabinet on 3 October 2013 approved the proposal to establish a Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFILMS), along with a 500-bed General Hospital, a 300-bed Super Specialty Hospital, a Nursing College and a School of Paramedics. CAPFILMS will be registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and shall have a Governing Body and a Governing Council, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The objective of creation of the Institute is to facilitate attraction of talented professionals in the Central Armed Police Forces and their retention, besides providing in-house training, specialization, Post Graduate and Super Specialty Post Graduate courses to in-service health care professionals. This in turn will help in boosting the morale of the force personnel as well as provide required trained technical hands in the medical set up of CAPFs for the benefit of their personnel and families.

The overall cost of the project is 1366.53 crore Rupees and it will be completed by 2018-2019. For this purpose, the land measuring 48.80 acres has already been purchased at Maiden Garhi, New Delhi through the Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

## Union Cabinet Approved the New State of Telangana

The Union Cabinet on 3 October 2013 approved the creation of a new State of Telangana by bifurcating the existing State of Andhra Pradesh.

### Union Cabinet Decisions

1. The city of Hyderabad will function as the common capital for both the States (Telangana and Seemandhra) for a period of ten years.
2. The Union Cabinet has also approved the setting up of a Group of Ministers (GoM) to work out the various legal and administrative measures to ensure the safety and security of the residents of all the regions of the State including the guarantee of the Fundamental Rights.
3. The Union Cabinet further approved that the Group of Ministers will go into the various issues which concern both the States and suggest appropriate measures to address them.
4. The Group of Ministers will also work out the modalities for the provision of special financial disbursements required for the setting up of a new capital for the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh and to meet the special needs of the backward regions and districts of the two States.
5. The new state will have a geographical area of 10 of the 23 districts of undivided Andhra Pradesh.
6. The districts that will be a part of the new State are Hyderabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahaboobnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Rangareddy and Warangal.

## Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for reforming the state higher education system, on 3 October 2013.

### Steps to be taken up as per the Plan

- As per this, during the 12th Plan period, 80 new universities would be created by converting autonomous colleges or colleges in a cluster to State universities.
- 100 new colleges, including professional and technical colleges would be set up and 54 existing colleges would be converted into model degree colleges.
- Infrastructure grants would be given to 150 universities and 3500 colleges to upgrade and fill critical gaps in infrastructure especially libraries and laboratories.
- Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan would also support 5000 faculty positions.

## **Primary features of the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**

- In the 12th Plan period, RUSA would have a financial outlay of 22855 crore Rupees, out of which 16227 crore Rupees will be borne by the Centre.
- Apart from this, allocation of 1800 crore Rupees in the 12th Plan for the existing scheme Sub-Mission polytechnics would also be subsumed in RUSA.
- Therefore, the total central share, including the existing scheme of polytechnics will be 18027 crore Rupees during the 12th plan.
- Centre-State funding would be in the ratio of 90:10 for North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and 65:35 for other States and Union Territories.
- RUSA will be a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme spread over two plan periods, for improving access, equity and quality in the state higher education system.
- RUSA also aims to incentivise States to step up plan investments in higher education.

## **Primary Objectives of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**

- Improving the overall quality of existing state higher educational institutions by ensuring conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework
- Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education through high quality institutions in rural and semi urban areas as well as creating opportunities for students from rural areas to get access to better quality institutions
- Setting up of higher education institutions in unserved and underserved areas
- Improve equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities to socially deprived communities; promote inclusion of women, minorities, SC/ST and OBCs as well as differently-abled persons
- Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels
- Create an enabling atmosphere in higher educational institutions to devote themselves to research and innovation
- Integrate skill developments efforts of the government with the conventional higher education system through optimum interventions
- All funding under RUSA would be norm based and future grants would be performance based and outcome dependent. Commitment by States and institutions to certain academic, administrative and governance reforms will be a precondition for receiving funding.

## Background

The National Development Council (NDC) approved RUSA as part of the 12th Plan. It was subsequently included in the list of 66 schemes approved by the Cabinet on 20 June 2013, as part of the restructured CSSs for implementation in the 12th Plan.

## Legislative Assemblies Elections in 5 States

The Election Commission on 4 October 2013 announced the dates of holding the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States whose terms expire around the same time together. The election dates were announced in five states of India- Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Delhi. As per the norm, the Election Commission holds the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

## Existing Provisions

By virtue of its powers, duties and functions under Article 324 read with Article 172(1) of the Constitution of India and Section 15 of Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Commission is required to hold elections to constitute the new Legislative Assemblies in the said States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Delhi before expiry of their present terms.

## Poll Schedule as Announced by the Election Commission

- Chhattisgarh- 11 Nov 2013 (Phase I), 19 Nov 2013 (Phase II)
- Madhya Pradesh- 25 Nov 2013
- Rajasthan- 1 Dec 2013
- Delhi- 4 Dec 2013
- Mizoram- 4 Dec 2013

It is important to note that the identification of the voters at the polling booth at the time of poll shall be mandatory. Electors who have been provided with EPIC shall be identified through EPIC.

## Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)

The poll in these States will be conducted at all polling stations using EVMs. The Commission has issued a new set of instructions with regard to the First Level Check of EVMs that will be used in the poll in these States. The First Level Check of EVMs has been done in the presence of



representatives of political parties.

## Land Acquisition Act, 2013

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill 2013, received assent of the President of India on 27 September 2013. The bill has now become law.

The Bill was passed in the 2013 Monsoon Session of Parliament. (The Lok Sabha passed the bill on 29 August 2013 and Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 4 September 2013)

Under the new Land Acquisition law, farmers and landowners are entitled to get compensation of up to four times of the market value for land acquired in rural areas, and two times the market value in urban areas.

The consent of 80 per cent of land owners is mandatory for acquiring land for private projects and of 70 per cent landowners for public-private projects. The law also brings transparency in the process of land acquisition and lays down measures for rehabilitation of those displaced.

**Aim of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2013**

The aim of the bill is providing fair compensation to people whose land has been taken away for setting up the buildings or factories. The aim of the bill is to bring in more transparency to the process of land acquisition, thereby bringing assurance of rehabilitation to the affected people.

**Primary Features of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2013.**

## World's Largest Solar Power Project in Rajasthan

The Union Government of India on 20 September 2013 finalised setting up of the Ultra- Mega Green Solar Power Project in Rajasthan in the SSL (Sambhar Salts Limited; which is a subsidiary of Hindustan Salts Limited - a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises) area close to Sambhar Lake, about 75 kms from Jaipur. The overall capacity of this project would be 4000 MW, thereby making it the largest solar power project of the world.

### About the Sambhar Ultra -Mega Green Solar Power Project

- Praful Patel, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, had earlier asked the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) to initiate the process of setting up the Sambhar Ultra -Mega Green Solar Power Project in the 23000 acre area of SSL.
- The first phase of the project, which will be of 1000 MW capacity, is likely to be commissioned

in three years i.e. by the end of 2016.

- The first phase of the project will be implemented through a joint venture (JV) company to be formed with equity from BHEL, Solar Energy Corporation of India, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., SJVN, SSL and REIL.
- The rest of the capacity of this project will be implemented through a variety of models.
- After complete commissioning of the 4000 MW of project, there will be a generation of 6000 million units of power per annum.
- The project will supply power to the distribution companies of various States through the National Grid.
- Being the first project of this scale anywhere in the world this project is expected to set a trend for large scale solar power development in the world.

## National Food Security Act, 2013

The National Food Security Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 10 September 2013. With this assent, the National Food Security Bill 2013 became the Act.

It is important to note that the Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, on 19 March 2013 approved the National Food Security Bill. Lok Sabha on 26 August 2013 passed the National Food Security Bill 2013. The Upper House of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha on 2 September 2013 passed this Bill.

The primary objective of the National Food Security Bill 2013 is to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach. This will be done by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people so that they can live a life with dignity and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

## Gandhi Heritage Portal was launched by PM of India

Prime Minister of India Dr. Mamohan Singh on 2 September 2013 launched the Gandhi Heritage Portal in New Delhi. The Gandhi heritage Portal is set up to preserve, protect and disseminate original writings of Gandhiji. The Gandhi Heritage Portal is an initiative of Union Ministry of Culture.

## About The Gandhi Heritage Portal

- The Gandhi Heritage Portal is a technology-driven initiative aimed at making Gandhiji accessible all over the world on an electronic platform. It would be one of the most authentic open source archives on the life and work and thought of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The portal has 5 lakh pages of authentic and verified information and is expected to have over 15 lakh pages of information in multiple languages.
- The fundamental works of Mahatma Gandhi would be available on the portal includes Hind Swaraj, The Story of My Experiments with Truth (autobiography), From Yervada Mandir, Ashram Observances in Action, Constructive Programmes: Their Meanings and Plan, Key to Health and Gandhiji's translation of the Gita. It will also provide an opportunity to enthusiasts, Gandhians and research scholars to read original journals like Hind Swaraj, Harijan. Harijan Bandhu, Indian Opinion and Young India.

The Gandhi Heritage Portal has been developed at the Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat with the help of Union Ministry of Culture. The project was initially recommended by the Government of India-appointed panel headed by Gopal Krishna Gandhi. The Ministry of Culture had sanctioned 8 crore rupees as a corpus fund to the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT), Ahmedabad to create the portal. The Sabarmati Ashram is the largest repository of Gandhiji's original writings.

## GSAT-7, India's First Defence Satellite Launched

India's advanced multi-band communication satellite GSAT-7, launched from Kourou, French Guiana on 30 August 2013, was successfully placed in the Geosynchronous Orbit with an altitude of about 36000 km above Earth's surface on 3 September 2013. French Guiana is an overseas region of France on the North Atlantic coast of South America.

GSAT-7 was placed in the Geosynchronous Orbit after successfully completing the last of the three orbit-raising manoeuvres commanded from ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan. Later, on the same day, the communication antennae of GSAT-7, including the UHF Helix antenna, were deployed successfully. Thereafter, the GSAT-7 was put in its final orbital configuration, stabilised on its three-axis by the momentum wheels.

The GSAT-7 Satellite would reach its assigned orbital slot of 74 degree East longitude in the Geostationary Orbit within the next 10 days. It is planned that on 14 September 2013, the communication transponders in UHF, S, C and Ku bands will be switched on.

The GSLV Vehicle assembly and checkout would be completed at the Vehicle Assembly Building by the first week of December 2013 and the launch would take place by December 2013.

## What is Geosynchronous Orbit?

Geosynchronous Orbit is also abbreviated as GSO. It is the orbit around Earth which has the orbital period of one sidereal day or around 23 hours 56 minutes and 4 seconds. This sidereal day matches the Earth's sidereal rotation period.

## The Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad Officially Inaugurated

The Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad, which is the new non-profit school on 100 acre campus, was inaugurated officially on 20 September 2013 by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N Kiran Kumar Reddy and Union HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju. Also present during the inauguration was Aga Khan, the founder and chairman of Aga Khan Development Network.

Aga Khan is on the official visit in India from 17 September 2013 to 29 September 2013. It is important to note that His Highness the Aga Khan, a Swiss-born philanthropist and Muslim spiritual leader, unveiled the restored Humayun's Tomb of New Delhi on 18 September 2013. Aga Khan is the name used by the Imam of the Nizari Ismailis since 1818.

## About the Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad

- The Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad is situated near the Rajiv Gandhi airport.
- It is the second academy in the global network of 18 schools which are established across the Central Asia and South Asia, Middle East as well as Africa.
- The first Aga Khan Academy is situated in Mombasa, Kenya, and the third one is situated in Maputo, Mozambique. The Aga Khan Development Network has plans of opening the academy in Tanzania and Bangladesh as well.
- The primary objective of the Aga Khan Academy is to offer all-round education to the talented girls and boys from all kinds of backgrounds. The education being offered at the academy is of highest international standards and the students being admitted to the school are selected on the merit basis. It is worth noticing that the selection of the students take place irrespective of their financial abilities and capabilities.

## Citizens Have Right to Cast Negative Vote: SC

The Supreme Court of India on 27 September 2013 held that citizens have the right to reject all candidates contesting an election.

The Supreme Court also directed the Election Commission of India to provide none of the above

options at the end of the list of candidates contesting an election in a constituency.

A bench headed by Chief Justice P Sathasivam while pronouncing the judgment viewed that negative voting would foster purity and vibrancy of elections. It also ensure wide participation as people who are not satisfied with the candidates in the fray would also turn up to express their opinion rejecting contestants.

While pronouncing the judgment he also talked about democracy. Democracy is all about choices. So, voters will be empowered by this right of negative voting. Negative voting will send a clear signal to political parties and candidates as to what the voters think about them.

The bench noted that the concept of negative voting is prevalent in 13 countries. Even in India parliamentarians are given an option to press the button for abstaining while voting takes place in the Parliament.

The bench also observed that right to reject candidates in elections is part of fundamental right given by the Constitution in article 19 (freedom of speech and expression).

The court passed this order on a Public Interest Litigation(PIL) filed by an NGO, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), which had submitted that voters be given the right to negative voting.

## **Existing Provisions in Representation of People Act**

Under the existing provisions of Section 49(O) of the Representation of People Act, a voter who after coming to a polling booth does not want to cast his vote, has to inform the presiding officer of his intention of not voting, who in turn would make an entry in the relevant rule book after taking the signature of the said elector. It violates the concept of f secret ballot.

## **Incredible Indian Himalayas-Campaign**

Union Ministry of Tourism on 27 September 2013 launched -777 Days of Incredible Indian Himalayas-campaign to promote virgin peaks of Himalayas and make India a favoured tourist destination.

The campaign is aimed at attracting more foreign tourists for round the year and reminding the world that a major part of the Himalayan range is in India.

Minister of State for Tourism K.Chiranjeevi launched the 777 days of Incredible Indian Himalayas campaign in New Delhi to mark the World Tourism Day- 27 September.

The Ministry of Tourism also decided to meet 50 percent of Peak fee chargeable by Indian Mountaineering Foundation from the climbing expeditions during the period of 777 days of the campaign.

Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) is collaborating with the Ministry in the

campaign and has designed special adventure programmes for 777 days.

ATOAI would organise trekking, river rafting, Himalayan run, mountain and bike events as part of this campaign.

The campaign also invoked six Himalayan states including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh for promoting Himalayas.

The 777 Days of Incredible Indian Himalayas campaign also aimed to spread awareness about the fact that 73 per cent of the Himalayan range lies in India.

On this occasion, Union Tourism Minister K. Chiranjeevi launched two new promotional films -Greatest Show on Earth and Life Altering Journey on Himalayas - along with a map of the Himalayas.

## Seventh Central Pay Commission Constituted

The Finance Minister P.Chidambaram announced on 25 September 2013 that the Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh approved the constitution of the Seventh Central Pay Commission. The average time taken by a Pay Commission to submit its recommendations is around 2 years. In context with this, it is expected that the recommendations of 7th CPC will be implemented with effect from 1 January 2016.

The names of the Chairperson as well as the members along with their terms of reference (ToR) will be finalised and announced after consultation with the major stakeholders. Since the year 1947, six pay commissions have been set up from time to time in order to review as well as make recommendations on the work and pay structure of civil and military divisions of the Government of India.

### About the Central Pay Commission

- The first Central Pay Commission was constituted in May 1946 and its report was submitted by 1947 under the Chairmanship of Srinivasa Varadachariar. The first Central Pay Commission was based on the basic idea of living wages to employees.
- The approval of last or the sixth Central Pay Commission was given in July 2006. The commission was established under the Chairmanship of B.N.Srikrishna with the time duration of 18 months.
- The constitution of the Seventh Pay Commission will include salaries, allowances and pensions of around 80 lakh employees as well as pensioners.
- Recommendations of the Commission will provide benefit to around 50 lakh employees of the Central Government, who also include defence and railways. Apart from this, it will also provide benefit to 30 lakh pensioners.
- The Union Government of India constitutes the Pay Commission after almost 10 years time frame in order to revise the pay scales of employees. The recommendations of Pay Commission

are always adopted by all the states in India after a few modifications.

## Rajaswa Bhawan to be the National Tax Headquarters

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 24 September 2013 approved the construction of the Rajaswa Bhawan as the National Tax Headquarters at Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi at an estimated cost of 485.16 crore Rupees, which will be incurred over a period of next three and a half years. Apart from this, 15 crore Rupees will be incurred as the annual recurring expenditure after completion of the project.

### About the Project

- The construction of the Rajaswa Bhawan, the National Tax Headquarters, in a plot of land measuring 5.65 acre has been undertaken with the objective of decongesting North Block and consolidating the establishment of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) at a common platform.
- CBDT and CBEC, apart from advising the Government on tax policies, are responsible for the overall administration of field offices under them. Both these boards are the largest revenue collectors for the Government of India.
- Because of the growth in revenue collection, there became a need of a larger platform. Therefore, a composite building bringing together both the Boards and associated offices was proposed. This will help in efficiency because of appropriate physical infrastructure and work environment for the purpose of tax administration.
- Background
- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) was appointed as the agency for construction of the building in 2008 after obtaining approval of the Ministry of Defence and a No Objection Certificate (NOC) of the Ministry of Urban Development.
- A nation-wide architectural design competition, was conducted in 2010-2011 and out of 58 final entries, the first prize award winner M/s Vistaar Architects and Planners, Mumbai was selected by a Board of Assessors and appointed as the main architect for the project for providing comprehensive architectural services.
- The design of the building is a modern, State-of-the-Art centrally located green building incorporating features of energy efficiency in conformity with the Energy Conservation Building Code [ECBC] recommendation.
- The building also received Green Building concept leading to favorable Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment [GRIHA]; fire protection and detection in conformity with all regulations; provision for seismic safety in conformity with all applicable Bureau of Indian Standards [BIS]



codes; comprehensive waste management system; sewage treatment and recycling of water including independent system for grey and white water; minimal hard landscape and maximum soft landscape.

## Resolution Adopted By the National Integration Council

The resolution was adopted by the National Integration Council in its 16th Meeting held in New Delhi on 23 September 2013. The Resolution included some of the crucial points and measures.

### **The National Integration Council unanimously resolved the following points:**

- To condemn violence in any form committed to disturb communal harmony and to deal with all those indulging in such violence in a prompt and resolute manner under the law.
- It further resolved to ensure that all women enjoy the fruits of freedom, to pursue their social and economic development with equal opportunities, and to safeguard their right of movement in the public space at any time of the day or night.
- To take all measures to preserve, sustain and strengthen the harmonious relationship between all communities and enable all citizens to lead their lives in freedom as equal citizens with dignity and honour.
- It also resolved that the Union Government of India and all stakeholders shall take all measures for resolving differences and disputes among the people within the framework of law and institutions set up thereunder in order to strengthen our secular and pluralistic society.
- It further resolved to work indefatigably for their complete integration with the rest of the society on equal terms.
- The Council resolved to eradicate the dehumanising practice of manual scavenging and other forms of undignified labour and ensure for the people engaged in this practice alternate forms of employment that assures a life of dignity and honour for them.
- To condemn the sexual abuse, molestation and violent attacks on women and to ensure prompt and firm action against the culprits by the law enforcement agencies as well as speedy prosecution of such cases under the criminal justice system.
- To condemn the repeated atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and take stringent action on the perpetrators of such crimes under the various laws and special acts enacted.

## Aadhar Card Not Mandatory for Government Benefits-SC

The Supreme Court of India on 23 September 2013 held that Aadhaar cards or Unique Identification number (UID) will not be mandatory for availing services or benefits under Government schemes

like LPG subsidy, transfer benefits, food security, vehicle registration, scholarships, marriage registration, salaries and provident fund etc.

The court's order came on a petition protesting the issuance of Aadhaar cards to illegal migrants.

## **Direction given by SC to the Union Government regarding Aadhaar card**

- While issuing Aadhaar card Government should verify whether the person is an Indian citizen or not.
- These cards cannot be issued to illegal migrants.
- Aadhaar not compulsory for Government benefits.

## **Arguments**

Bench of justice B S Chauhan and justice S A Bobde said that even in Aadhaar issuing guidelines prepared by UIDIA mentioned that Aadhaar card is voluntary. Bench also asked the Union Government, on what basis Aadhaar card made mandate for Government services.

The petitioner, Puttaswamy Karnataka High Court judge told the bench that Aadhaar scheme is unconstitutional, there is no legal base for this scheme. For giving Aadhaar card they will collect biometric information and individual details. It violates right to privacy of individuals. Supreme Court interpreted in different situations that right to privacy is a fundamental right (article 21) under the Constitution of India.

But the law officers of government solicitor general Mohan Parasaran and additional solicitor general L Nageswar Rao argued that centre never gave any direction regarding Aadhaar card mandate for government benefits. They also argued that Aadhaar card was voluntary and not mandatory.

Recently Delhi and Maharashtra made Aadhaar must for all the government facilities like bank account, cash transfer and new gas connection etc. The direction may impact the Governments who are planning to implement the schemes like cash transfer and subsidies directly by linking Aadhaar card with their bank account number.

## **Main Objective of UIDIA Scheme**

- Unique identification project was initially started by the Planning Commission as an initiative that would provide identification for each resident across the country.
- It would be used primarily as the basis for efficient delivery of welfare services. It would also act as a tool for effective monitoring of various programs and schemes of the Government.
- The government also created and approved the position of the Chairperson of the UIDAI.
- Mr. Nandan Nilekani appointed first Chairperson of UIDIA and he holds the rank and status of Cabinet Minister.

## Comment

*Some eminent persons argued that data collection should be done through Ministry insisted identity number i.e. National Population Register (NPR). The National Population Register is a comprehensive identity database to be maintained by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India , Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India .*

## About Aadhaar Card

- Aadhaar is a unique Identification number issued by UIDAI to individuals for the purpose of establishing unique identification of every single person. It serves as the proof of identity and address any where in India.
- Aadhaar is a 12-digit number.
- Aadhaar is not a compulsory, it is voluntary based.
- The Aadhaar number can be used while opening a bank account, applying for passport, booking, e-tickets and many other places where there is a need to give your identity.

## The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 23 September 2013.

## Highlights of The Waqf (Amendment) Bill

- The Bill amended the Waqf Act, 1995. It strengthened the Waqf Council powers, currently an advisory body at the central level. It can to issue directions to waqf boards, who administer waqfs in each state.
- The Bill also changed the composition of Waqf boards. It also established the procedure for removal of a chairperson of a waqf board.
- Those states which have not yet established a waqf board must do so within one year. Further, state-funded surveys of waqf properties must be carried out.
- The Bill restricted the kinds of powers that can be delegated by a waqf board to the chairperson or any other individual, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.
- Under the Bill, the sale, gift, or total transfer of a waqf property will be treated as invalid. The Bill extends the maximum period of lease or mortgage of such properties, while establishing a more restrictive procedure by which leases or mortgages are approved by waqf boards.
- The Bill provided for imprisonment for those who occupy waqf property without authorisation.
- The Bill restricted the circumstances under which state governments can issue directions to

waqf boards. Boards cannot be superseded unless there is prima facie evidence of financial irregularity.

## Lawmaking Procedure in India

The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

### The RP(Amendment and Validation) Act, 2013

The Representation of the People(Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 23 September 2013. The Rajya Sabha on 27 August 2013 unanimously passed the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2013 to amend the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951.

The bill will turn over the order of Supreme Court to ban the people in custody or jail from contesting the elections.

## Lawmaking Procedure in India

The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

Rajya Sabha Passed the Representation of the People (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2013

### Bharat Nirman- Public Information Campaign launched

Bharat Nirman- a Public Information Campaign launched at Viramgam block of Ahmedabad District in Gujarat on 23 September 2013 to spread the information of Government flagship programmes like MGNREGA, NRHM etc.

This Bharat Nirman -Public Information Campaign has been organised by the various media units of Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting- including Press Information Bureau, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity, All India Radio, Doordarshan etc.

## About Bharat Nirman Campaign

It is a three day campaign organised at a rural venue particularly in a Minority Dominated Area and Naxalite affected Area, Border Area, SC-ST Dominated Area or other backward areas.

The Press Information Bureau, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has developed the concept of Bharat Nirman Public Information Campaign, a media outreach strategy to disseminate information to the targeted beneficiaries focusing on the flagship programmes of the Government of India.

This strategy combines information dissemination and demonstration of the benefits at the doorstep of the beneficiaries, particularly in the rural areas.

Bharat Nirman Public Information Campaign is designed as a more inclusive tool of information dissemination and envisages direct contact with the Aam Aadmi.

The campaign seeks to empower ordinary citizen particularly from the rural areas with knowledge of the flagship programmes so that they can avail the advantages of these programmes to improve the quality of their life.

## Foundation Laid for HPCL Refinery in Rajasthan

The UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi laid the foundation stone for HPCL Rajasthan Refinery and Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra in Barmer district on 22 September 2013.

The refinery-cum-petrochemical complex to be set up with an estimated cost of 37230 crore rupees, the refinery is likely to start production by 2017-18.

The total capacity of refinery is 90 lakh metric tonnes per year. After completion, this refinery will generate an income of 8 lakh 78 thousand crore rupees and provide employment to one lakh forty thousand people.

Setting up of the refinery facilitates direct and indirect economic benefit to the economy of Rajasthan, which shall, besides industrialization, result in substantial increase in income, output, employment and tax earnings of the State.

The refinery which is considered to change the entire scenario of Rajasthan will also prove instrumental in development of drastic, automotive, pipe, tyre and other industries in the State.

## About HPCL Refinery

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) would setup the refinery as a Joint Venture (JV) with Government of Rajasthan under the name HPCL-Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL).

The proposed refinery will be a subsidiary of HPCL with its equity of 74 percent to be held by HPCL and 26 percent to be held by the Government of Rajasthan. The cost of the project is estimated at 37230 crore Rupees. The project cost is proposed to be sourced with a debt or equity ratio of 1.5:1.

In this regard HPCL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 14 May, 2013 with Government of Rajasthan. HPCL has subsequently also signed a Joint Venture agreement with Government of Rajasthan on 11 July, 2013 on these terms for setting up the refinery as a joint venture. The proposed refinery will process 4.5 MMT of Mangala Crude and 4.5 MMT of Arab or other crude oil. The Union Cabinet on 20 September 2013 approved setting up of refinery-cum-petrochemical complex by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in Barmer, Rajasthan.

## Foundation Laid for New Airport at Kishangarh, Rajasthan

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 21 September 2013 laid the foundation stone for a new airport at Kishangarh town in Ajmer District, Rajasthan.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhon also announced that small destinations in the country will have air connectivity with a network of more than 100 airports, planned to meet the expected passenger load capacity of 30 crore, by 2020.

The first such airport will come up in Kishangarh town in Rajasthan's Ajmer district, the airport which is scheduled to get operational by 2016.

The Kishangarh airport, to be set up at an estimated cost of 161 crore in first phase, will accelerate economic activities and growth in the area.

Ajmer is a noted tourist destination having famous dargah of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti and Brahma temple in Pushkar town. Besides, the region is known for industries including that of marble and the new project of airport will push economic growth.

## CCEA Approved Setting Up of ITIR in Hyderabad

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 20 September 2013 approved the setting up of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) near Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

The ITIR, spread over 50000 acres, with an investment potential of about 2.19 lakh crore Rupees in Information Technology and Electronic Hardware manufacturing over 25 years.

The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Union Ministry of Urban Development and Union Ministry of Railways would initiate the detailed feasibility of the project.

The total investment for the ITIR will be about 2.19 lakh crore Rupees of which the IT or ITES (Information Technology or Information Technology Enabled Services) Sector is to attract investments. The major investment will be from Public-Private Partnerships.

Government of India has also proposed upgradation of three radial roads and extension of the Metro Rail from Falaknuma to Shamshabad International airport at total cost of 3275 crore Rupees.

The ITIR is expected to generate direct employment of 14.8 lakh and indirect employment of 55.9

lakh. The ITIR will be implemented in two phases. The Phase I will from 2013 to 2018 and Phase II will be from 2018 to 2038.

The ITIR is expected to develop into a key industrial region IT, ITES and Electronic Hardware manufacturing sectors. Special consideration will be given to accommodate Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the proposed ITIR.

The CCEA had approved a Policy Resolution to set up Information Technology investment Regions (ITIRs) in different States and UTs in the country, to promote investment in IT or ITES and Electronic Manufacturing sector.

The ITIR policy visualizes that the State Government would play the lead role in setting up of the ITIRs. The infrastructure would be created or upgraded through Public-Private Partnerships to the extent possible.

As per the policy, Central Government will provide the necessary viability gap funding for external physical infrastructure through existing schemes. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) is the nodal Department of the Government of India to process proposals relating to setting up of ITIRs.

## Act to Ban Manual Scavenging

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Bill, 2013 received assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. With this, the Bill became an Act on 19 September 2013.

Lok Sabha, the Lower House of the Parliament, on 6 September 2013, passed the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012. The Bill was moved by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Kumari Selja. The Bill seeks to prohibit employment of individuals as the manual scavengers, while at the same time providing for the rehabilitation of people involved in this kind of work.

### What is Manual Scavenging?

Manual Scavenging refers to the process of removal of human waste or excreta from the unsanitary dry toilets that do not have a connection to the sewer system. This practice is primarily archetypical to South Asia.

In the year 1933, legislation was passed in India for banning manual scavenging. However, the legislation was not implemented widely. In February 2013, Delhi became the first state in India to ban manual scavenging.



## Lawmaking Procedure in India

The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

### The SEBI (Amendment) Act, 2013

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 13 September 2013. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2013 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 5 September 2013.

The Bill will widen the area for eligible candidates for the post of presiding officer at the Securities Appellate Tribunal. The Bill was already approved by the Lok Sabha on 27 August 2013.

## Lawmaking Procedure in India

The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2013 Passed by Rajya Sabha

### NHAI(Amendment) Act, 2013

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee gave assent to the National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2013. With this, the Bill became an Act on 10 September 2013. The National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, C.P. Joshi on 19 December 2011.

The Bill was then referred to the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on 13 January 2012. The National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988 established the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the development, maintenance and management of national highways. The NHAI consists of a chairman, up to 5 full-time members and up to 4 part-time members.

The Bill facilitated expansion of the National Highways Authority of India. The National Highways Authority of India will now consist of a chairman, up to 6 full-time members and 6 part-time members. Out of the 6 part-time members, at least two should be the non-government professionals having knowledge or experience in financial management, transportation planning or any other relevant discipline.

The National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2012 was passed in the Rajya Sabha on 13 August 2013. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on 2 September 2013.

## Lawmaking Procedure in India

The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

### Act on Prevention of Disqualification for MPs

The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 23 September 2013.

The Lok Sabha on 6 September 2013 passed the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2013 for keeping the chairpersons of National Commissions for the SC and ST out of purview of office of profit. The Bill has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill seeks to include National Commissions for the SC and ST in list of those offices which have no affect by the office of profit clause.

### Lok Sabha Passed the RGNAU Bill, 2013

Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Bill, 2013 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 6 September 2013. The purpose of the bill is to establish the first-ever national aviation university in India, called Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University, which is named after Rajiv Gandhi. The University would train the cabin crew, pilots as well as aircraft engineers.

#### Primary features of the proposed university

- The University, which is proposed under the Bill, will come up at Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh, which is the constituency of Sonia Gandhi.
- Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Bill, 2013 which provides for the formation of this central university on the area of 26 acre plot at the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udaan Academy at Fursatganj in Rae Bareli.
- Under this Bill, it was proposed that although the airports in India will be owned by the Airports Authority of India, but the construction or development of the airports which are existing, shall be undertaken on the basis of Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

- The proposed university will be an autonomous body under administrative control of the Civil Aviation Ministry.
- The university would have the estimated funding of 202 crore Rupees during the 12th Plan period. Out of this, 80 crore Rupees was already sanctioned by the Union Government of India.
- The purpose of the university would be promotion of aviation studies, training and research and the focus would remain on the emerging areas such as aviation medicine, aviation safety and security, aviation law, aviation science and engineering, aviation history, aviation regulation and policy and aviation management.
- The University will also be a knowledge partner to safety and security regulators by providing required academic inputs to help them execute their enforcement responsibility better.

## Background

*In 2006, the Kaw Committee had recommended setting up of a National Aviation University in India. The 12th Five Year Plan Document has also made a similar recommendation to augment qualified and trained manpower for aviation sector in India. Based on a Detailed Project Report submitted by Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Planning Commission granted in-principle approval for setting up of National Aviation University in India.*

## Govt. of India Approved Proposal for Setting up BRLF

The Union Government of India on 3 September 2013 approved the proposal for setting up of the Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) as an independent charitable society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

## About Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF)

- The role of BRLF is to facilitate and upscale civil society action in partnership with Government for transforming livelihoods and lives of rural households, with an emphasis on women, particularly in the Central Indian Tribal Region.
- BRLF will provide financial grants to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in order to meet their human resource and institutional costs for up-scaling of proven interventions
- It will also facilitate to invest in institutional strengthening of smaller CSOs and capacity building of professional resources working at the grassroots.
- Projects supported by BRLF would be able to reach 10 lakh poor families by the end of the fifth year.
- BRLF will also additionally support the capacity building of 1000 CSO professionals and institutional strengthening of a significant number of smaller CSOs within the above time frame.

- BRLF will have the country-wide mandate, but for the start-up the the initial focus of the organisation will be on the Central Indian Tribal Region, centered on blocks having significant tribal population across 170 districts in the States of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

## Formation of Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF)

- The Union Government of India will release 500 crore Rupees for creation of the corpus fund of the new Society, in two tranches.
- BRLF will be constituted as a partnership between Government on the one hand and private sector philanthropies, private and public sector undertakings (under Corporate Social Responsibility) on the other hand.
- The proposal was, at first considered by the Union Cabinet on 18 April 2013. It was then referred to the Group of Ministers under chairmanship of the Finance Minister. The GoM eventually held its meeting on 21 August 2013 and recommended the proposal.

## Union Cabinet approved the NISE for R&D

The Union Cabinet of India on 3 September 2013 approved the proposal for setting up of an autonomous National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE). The NISE will act as an apex national center for research and development and related activities in the area of solar energy technologies in India. It will also assist the Government to look forward towards the development aspects of the sector.

The National Institute of Solar Energy will be established by converting Solar Energy Centre (SEC), Gurgaon with a long term vision to develop it as a world class institute.

The Government would set-up a national team in the form of a Review-cum-Strategy Formulation Committee representation from industry, the scientific community, financial institutions to prepare a blue print. The committee will be responsible for various models available in the country and outside and prepare a roadmap for the Institute.

## Background

***Setting up of an Apex National Centre For Solar Energy is a part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM), which was considered by the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change in August 2009. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission and other related proposals were approved by the Government of India in November 2009. While approving the JNNSM, the Government also approved specific targets and budget for the first phase of the Mission till March, 2013. This includes R&D in solar energy, setting up of a Centre of Excellence as an apex centre on different aspects of solar energy technologies.***

## Comment

*The technologies related to the field of solar energy are constantly evolving and to accelerate the process of development in the sector, National Institute of Solar Energy is a good idea of the Government.*

## C-17 Globemaster III Aircraft inducted in Indian Air Force

Union Defence Minister AK Antony on 2 September 2013 formally inducted IAF's biggest 70-tonne heavy-lift transport aircraft C-17 Globemaster III into service at the Hindon Air Base near Delhi.

The C-17, with a capability to carry around 80 tonnes of load and around 150 fully geared troops, will replace the Russian IL-76 as the biggest aircraft in the IAF inventory till now. The IL-76 had the capability to carry loads up to around 40 tonnes.

The aircraft is expected to enhance the operational potential of the IAF with its payload carriage and performance capability and would augment the strategic reach during disaster relief or any similar missions. This will also help in bolstering the IAF's capability to swiftly transport combat troops and equipment such as tanks to the front. The aircraft will be inducted into the newly-formed 81 Sky Lord Squadron.

The C-17 Globemaster III aircraft has been procured from the US under a deal expected to be over 20000 crore rupees. The C-17 plane will be operated from the advanced landing grounds in the north-eastern states as well as from high altitude bases in north and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The IAF has placed orders with the US for ten C-17 aircraft under the deal signed in 2011 and three of them have already been delivered. The US Air Force is scheduled to complete the delivery of all the 10 planes by the end of 2014.

This aircraft will enhance the operational potential of the IAF with its payload carriage and performance and would augment the strategic reach of the nation during Operations, Disaster Relief or any similar mission. The induction of the C-17 is a major milestone in the modernization drive of the IAF.

Presently three aircrafts have been delivered and are operational. The newly inducted C-17 Squadron (81 Squadron) will be based in Hindon.

## Chapter: International

### Rival Groups arrived at an Agreement to end the Political Crisis in Tunisia

In Tunisia, rival political groups on 5 October 2013 arrived at an agreement to end the political crisis in the country. The ruling Islamist Ennahda led Government will step down to allow the formation of a Government of independents in three weeks. It will be followed by the adoption of a new constitution and of holding elections in the country.

Under the deal, an independent Prime Minister will be in place in Tunisia by the end of next week. He will have two weeks to form a new cabinet. The National Dialogue which began on 4 October 2013 will cover groups and parties across the political spectrum over the next four weeks. The new constitution will be adopted in this time and time table for elections will be decided.

The political roadmap was prepared by four mediators led by Tunisia's powerful trade unions confederation, UGTT. The deal is expected to put an end to the simmering tension among the rival groups in the country which was sparked off by the assassination of a secular opposition leader Mohamed Brahimi in July 2013.

### India Signed Agreement with IFAD for the Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment Livelihood Project

India signed the agreement for credit of 51 million US Dollar with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment Livelihood Project (JTLEP) on 4 October 2013. The agreement was signed by Nilaya Mitash, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Nigel Brett, Country Programme Director, IFAD, India on behalf of IFAD.

The Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment Livelihood Project (JTLEP) would continue till September 2021. Likewise, a project agreement was signed by L. Khiangte, Principal Secretary, Jharkhand on behalf of the Government of Jharkhand with IFAD.

## Objective of the Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment Livelihood Project (JTLEP)

- The Objective of the project is to enable rural households to take-up sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The project shall benefit small rural producers, women, scheduled caste households and youth in the hill districts of the State of the Jharkhand.
- The goal of the project is to reduce poverty in the hill districts of the State of Jharkhand.
- The new project has four main components: (i) Community Empowerment (ii) Integrated Natural Resource Management (iii) Livelihood Project (iv) Project Management.

## India Re-elected in the New Council of ICAO

India was re-elected in the new Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as one of the states making the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation. The 38th session of the Assembly of ICAO completed the election of the Council in Montreal on 1 October 2013. The 36-member Council is the governing body of the Organization and is elected for a three-year term.

The election process was divided into three parts, with the following states elected:

**PART I – (States of chief importance in air transport) -** Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States. All of them have been re-elected.

**PART II – (States which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation) –** Argentina, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and Venezuela. Except Norway, Portugal and Venezuela, all others have been re-elected.

**PART III– (States ensuring geographic representation)-** Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Poland, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania. Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Libya, Nicaragua, Poland and United Republic of Tanzania have been elected for the first time.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.



## Net Oil Imports of Southeast Asia to Be More Than Double By 2035: IEA

The International Energy Agency (IEA) announced on 2 October 2013 that the net oil imports of Southeast Asia will be more than double by the year 2035, costing 240 billion US dollar. The oil imports of Southeast Asia will increase in order to fulfill the high energy demand growth. The role of IEA is co-ordination of the energy policy for the developed economies.

IEA announced that the net oil imports of Southeast Asia will increase to more than 5 million barrels per day (bpd), an increase from the current 1.9 million bpd. This is just behind European Union, India and China. It is important to note that the ten countries of ASEAN will also join India and China in making Asia the global energy demand growth centre of the world because the per-capita energy use of Southeast Asia is very low even now. This is just half of the global average.

IEA explained that Southeast Asia faces an increased dependence on the oil imports and therefore, it will impose increased costs, thus leaving it more open to the potential disruptions. In this region, Thailand and Indonesia will be leading and their net oil import bills will be tripled to around 70 billion US Dollar each by the year 2035. The fuel subsidies will remain the primary factor in distortion of the energy markets.

The overall energy demand of Southeast Asia will increase by more than 80 percent by the year 2035 in order to support the tripling of the economy as well as population of Southeast Asian region. This also includes an increase in the oil consumption to 6.8 million bpd over 2011-2035 from the 4.4 million bpd at present.

With an increase in the energy demand, Southeast Asia will export less coal and natural gas. The major gas producers in Southeast Asian region include Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar and Indonesia. All these gas producers will bring down the net exports from 63 bcm at present to 14 bcm in 2035. The top exporter of thermal coal will be Indonesia, according to the forecast of IEA.

## Gambia Decided to Withdraw from the Commonwealth

The Gambian Government on 2 October 2013 announced that it is pulling out of the Commonwealth with immediate effect. Gambian, a West African country joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1965

The Gambian also stated that it will never be a member of any neo-colonial institution and will never be a party to any institution that represents an extension of colonialism.

The decision came after the Government rejected a proposal by the Commonwealth in 2012 to create commissions in Banjul (capital of Gambia) to protect human rights, media rights and fight against corruption.

The last country to be withdrawn from the Commonwealth group was Zimbabwe in 2003.

## About the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of 54 countries, many of them former territories of the British Empire. It was established in 1949.

### Member countries

Fifty-four countries are members of the Commonwealth. These Countries are from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific and are diverse – they are amongst the world’s largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries. Thirty-two of our members are classified as small states – countries with a population size of 1.5million people or less and larger member states that share similar characteristics with them.

Leaders of member countries shape Commonwealth policies and priorities. Every two years, they meet to discuss issues affecting the Commonwealth and the wider world at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

All members have an equal say regardless of size or economic stature. This ensures even the smallest member countries have a voice in shaping the Commonwealth.

The last two countries to join The Commonwealth - Rwanda and Mozambique - have no historical ties to the British Empire.

### About Gambia

The Republic of the Gambia, also commonly known as Gambia is a country in West Africa. It is surrounded by Senegal, apart from a short strip of Atlantic coastline at its western end. It is the smallest country on mainland Africa. Banjul is the Gambia’s capital. Gambia is a republic and its current President is Yahya Jammeh.

## Elections results for Bundstag, The Germany’s Parliament

The elections results came for the Bundstag, The Germany’s Parliament in the last week of the September. Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservative Union bloc - the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) won 41.5 percent of vote, but finished just short of an absolute majority. The apponents SPD got only 23 percent.

Angela Merkel won the third term as the chancelor of Germany. She is only third post war chancellor to win three successive elections. Angela Dorothea Kasner, better known as Angela Merkel, was born in Hamburg, West Germany, on 17 July 1954. Trained as a physicist, Merkel entered politics after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

Final results gave the CDU/CSU 311 seats, the Social Democrats 192, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) 64 seats and the ecologist Greens 63 seats.

## About Bundstag

- The Bundstag (Federal Diet) is a constitutional and legislative body in Germany.
- In Practice, The country is governed by a Bicameral legislature, but not by Bicameral Elections.

## Megan Young of Philippines was crowned Miss World

Megan Young of Philippines on 28 September 2013 was crowned Miss World 2013 at the Bali Nasa Dua Convention Center in Bali, Indonesia. Miss France, Marine Lorphelin finished as the first runner-up, Miss Ghana Carranzar Naa Okailey Shooter was the second runner up. Megan Young won the competition after beating 130 contestants across the globe. She is 23 years old. She is a student of filmmaking.

Megan was born in US and she moved to the Philippines, when she was 10. Megan wants to become a director after gaining experience and finishing her qualifications.

## Tony Abbott Sworn in as Australia Prime Minister

Tony Abbott was sworn in as Australia's new Prime Minister on 18 September 2013. Tony Abbott is the 28th Prime Minister of Australia.

Tony Abbott, 55, took the oath at Government House in Canberra in front of Governor-General Quentin Bryce. His Conservative Party defeated former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's centre-left Labor Party in 7 September 2013 elections. Tony Abbott has immediately ordered the scrapping of Australia's carbon tax and the halting of asylum-seeker boats after being sworn in as Prime Minister.

## G20 Summit 2013 took Place in St. Petersburg, Russia

The G20 Leaders' Summit took place in St.Petersburg on 5-6 September 2013 presided by Russia. The G20 nations discussed ways to ensure economic growth and financial stability, create jobs and combat unemployment, stimulate investment and promote multilateral trade, international development and anti-corruption. The members of the Group of Twenty (G-20) are: Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, European Union, India, Indonesia, Italy, Canada, China, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, USA, Turkey, France, South Africa, Republic of Korea, and Japan. The presidency of the G20 rotates annually among its members.

The G20 Leaders took notice of the final recommendations that the Business 20, Civil 20, Labour 20, Think 20 and Youth 20. To continue and expand dialogue, the G20 Leaders met with the

representatives of business community and trade unions on the sidelines of the Summit.

A number of round table discussions were held in the Summit's International Media Centre (IMC), including: Experts' vision of the significance of the G20, G8 and BRICS for Russia; Issues of Development of the Global and Russian Economy on the G20 Agenda; G20 Initiatives to Reform the International Monetary System and Financial Regulation: Problems and Solutions; Fighting unemployment and creating jobs - a universal goal for the G20 countries; and The G20 Efforts on Fighting Protectionism and Trade Barriers. The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international cooperation on the most important issues of the global economic and financial agenda.

The G20 brings together finance ministers and central bank governors from 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America plus the European Union, which is represented by the President of the European Council and by Head of the European Central Bank.

The G20 was formally established in September 1999 when finance ministers and central bank governors of seven major industrial countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) met in Washington, D.C. in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 1997-1998, which revealed the vulnerability of the international financial system in context of economic globalization and showed that key developing countries were insufficiently involved in discussions and decisions concerning global economic issues.

Finance ministers and central bank governors started to hold annual meetings after the inaugural meeting on December 15-16, 1999, in Berlin.

The first meeting of the G20 Leaders took place in Washington, D.C., on November 14-15, 2008, where the Leaders agreed to an action plan to stabilize the global economy and prevent future crises.

At the Leaders' level, Mexico was the second episode, following the Republic of Korea, that an emerging country held the Presidency of the Group.

At their first meeting in Washington, the G20 Leaders achieved general agreement amongst the G20 on how to cooperate in key areas so as to strengthen economic growth, deal with the financial crisis and agreed upon three key objectives:

- *restoring global economic growth;*
- *strengthening the international financial system;*
- *reforming international financial institutions. (international)*

## **The objectives of the G20 refer to:**

1. Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
2. Promoting financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises;

3. Modernizing international financial architecture.

## **G20 members represent almost:**

1. 90% of global GDP.
2. 80% of international global-trade.
3. 2/3 of the world's population lives in G20 member countries.
4. 84% of all fossil fuel emissions are produced by G20 countries.

## **India and USA Signed a Joint Declaration in Defence**

India and United States of America (USA) signed a joint declaration on 27 September 2013 in defence cooperation in research in defence, defence technology transfer, co-development and co-production of defence articles and services and protecting each other's sensitive technology and information.

### **Highlights of the Joint declaration in defence cooperation**

- The United States and India share common security interests and place each other at the same level as their closest partners. This principle will apply with respect to defence technology transfer, trade, research, co-development and co-production for defence articles and services, including the most advanced and sophisticated technology.
- Both countries will work to improve licensing processes, and, where applicable, follow expedited license approval processes to facilitate this cooperation.
- The U.S and India are also committed to protecting each other's sensitive technology and information.
- The two sides will continue their efforts to strengthen mutual understanding of their respective procurement systems and approval processes, and to address process-related difficulties in defence trade, technology transfer and collaboration.
- The two sides look forward to the identification of specific opportunities for cooperative and collaborative projects in advanced defence technologies and systems, within one year. Such opportunities will be pursued by both sides in accordance with their national policies and procedures, in a manner that would reflect the full potential of the relationship.
- The U.S. continues to fully support India's full membership in the four international export control regimes, which would further facilitate technology sharing.

## UNSC Voted to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weapons

The United Nations Security Council on 27 September 2013 approved unanimously a resolution with binding obligations on the Syrian government to eliminate its chemical weapons.

The resolution was passed by a voice vote by all 15 members of UN Security Council that paved the way for dismantling the weapons of mass destruction in Syria.

The UNSC resolution enshrines the plan approved by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, making it legally binding.

The agreement allows the start of a mission to rid Syria's regime of its estimated 1000-tonne chemical arsenal by mid-2014, significantly accelerating a destruction timetable that often takes years to complete.

The resolution makes it legally binding for Syria to comply with the US-Russia plan on elimination of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal.

The resolution also asks the organisation for Prevention of Chemical weapons Director General and the U.N. secretary-general to report non-compliance to the Security Council. If there is non-compliance, the Security Council by another resolution impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter which allows for sanctions and or use of military force.

According to estimates Syria has more than 1000 tonnes of Sarin, Mustard and VX gases which have to be destroyed by Mid 2014.

## India and China held Sixth Financial Dialogue

India and China held sixth Financial Dialogue in Beijing. The annual dialogue was held on 25 and 26 September 2013 ahead of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's proposed visit to Beijing in October 2013. During this Dialogue, the two sides held in-depth discussions on new challenges facing the global economy, macro-economic situations and policies in China and India, progress on structural reforms in both countries, cooperation under multilateral frameworks as well as bilateral financial cooperation. Both nations agreed to strengthen regular communication and coordination at various levels on macro-economic policies and major international economic and financial issues. Both sides agreed to strengthen regular communication and coordination at various levels on macro-economic policies and major international economic and financial issues.

At the end of the dialogue they issued a joint statement which called for early conclusion of IMF quota reforms. The statement stated that the two nations agreed to intensify cooperation with other BRICS nations to push for reforms in international institutions. They will also work for implementation of the commitment to implement IMF Quota and Governance Reforms. Both nations agreed to work together to promote the implementation of the important consensus reached in the G-20

St. Petersburg summit, strengthen the momentum of global recovery, push for faster economic growth, generate better jobs, and build on the foundation for long-term growth.

Both nations agreed to hold the 7th India-China Financial Dialogue in 2014 in New Delhi.

## Ukraine Signed Natural Gas Production-Sharing Agree.

Ukraine on 26 September 2013 announced that it entered into the natural gas production-sharing agreement with a consortium which was led by Exxon and Shell. This will help Ukraine towards energy diversification as well as reduced dependence on Russia. The consortium also included Petrom, the Romanian energy group as well as Ukraine's state-owned Nadra Ukrainy. Nadra Ukrainy will be responsible for extraction of natural gas on the Skifski site near the Ukraine's Black Sea coast.

The initial accord was signed by the Ukrainian Energy Minister Eduard Stavvytsky and representatives of Exxon, Shell, and Petrom on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. The formal production-sharing agreement will be signed by October 2013 in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine.

Skifski is situated in the north-west part of the Black Sea, near Romania. It is expected that Skifski will provide 8-10 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually. The agreement will help Ukraine in diversification of its energy sources.

The Shell and Exxon deal was a result of the recent moves by Ukraine to attract European Union as well as retract from Russia. It is important to note that Russia threatened trade sanctions as well. Ukraine, in the meanwhile, may also sign the association agreement with the EU in November 2013.

## UN Signed a Declaration Against Sexual Violence

The 68th session of General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2013 signed a declaration pledging new action to end sexual violence in conflict zones. The declaration was titled 'Time To Act'. Ministers from 113 countries signed the declaration in General Assembly of the United Nations held in New York.

It also declared that it will adopt a new International Protocol in 2014 to help and ensure that evidence collected can stand up in the court.

The declaration adopted in the background of recent increase in the number of rape cases and sexual violence against women.

## New Five Year Term for Cambodian Prime Minister

The Cambodia's Parliament on 24 September 2013 approved a new five-year term for long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen, despite a boycott by the opposition over disputed elections. Hun Sen,



in power since 1985. Hun Sen's reappointment comes despite weeks of protests over alleged widespread cheating in the July 2013 polls.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), headed by Sam Rainsy, has accused Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of widespread election fraud.

Official election results show the CPP won 68 seats - a greatly reduced majority - while the opposition garnered 55 seats. The government has so far rejected the opposition's demand for an independent inquiry.

## **About Hun Sen And His Political Career**

Born into a peasant family in 1952, Hun Sen was educated by Buddhist monks in Phnom Penh.

In the late 1960s, he joined the Communist Party, and for a while he was even a member of the Khmer Rouge.

During Pol Pot's tyrannical regime in the late 1970s, under which as many as two million people died, Hun Sen fled to Vietnam to join troops opposed to the Khmer Rouge.

When Vietnam installed a new government in Cambodia in 1979, he returned as minister of foreign affairs, becoming prime minister in 1985 at the age of 33.

Hun Sen lost the 1993 elections, but he refused to accept the results and forced a negotiation to become second prime minister alongside the Funcinpec Party's Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Hun Sen was re-elected prime minister by parliament in July 2004.

## **About General Assembly of the United Nations**

- It the deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.
- It has all 193 Members of the United Nations.
- It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.

## **Egypt Court Banned Muslim Brotherhood**

The Egypt Court on 23 September 2013 banned the Muslim Brotherhood from carrying out any activities in the country.

The court also ordered the interim government to seize the Brotherhood's funds and form a panel to administer its frozen assets until any appeal has been heard.

The administrative court gave the ruling after a lawsuit was filed by the leftist Tagammu Party to review the Islamist group's status as a non-governmental organisation.

The 85-year-old Islamist movement was banned by Egypt's military rulers in 1954, but registered itself as an NGO in March 2013.

The Brotherhood also has a legally registered political wing, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), which was set up in 2011 as a “non-theocratic” group after the uprising that forced President Hosni Mubarak from power.

On 2 September 2013, Egypt’s State Commissioners Authority, a body that advises the government on legal issues, recommended the Brotherhood’s dissolution after claims circulated of its links to armed militias. The authority’s recommendations, which are non-binding, were made in accordance with an Egyptian law that prohibits non-government organisations and institutions from forming paramilitary groups.

Egyptian authorities launched a crackdown against the group following the ouster of president Morsi, who hails from the group, by the military on July 3 after mass protests against him and the group.

## About Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood movement is the country’s oldest and largest Islamist organisation, meaning its ideology is based on the teachings of the Koran.

Founded by Hassan al-Banna in 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood - or al-Ikhwan al-Muslimun in Arabic - has influenced Islamist movements around the world with its model of political activism combined with Islamic charity work.

The movement initially aimed simply to spread Islamic morals and good works, but soon became involved in politics, particularly the fight to rid Egypt of British colonial control and cleanse it of all Western influence.

## Peace Mission: Russia and China Joint Military Exercise

Russia and China held a joint anti-terrorism military exercise called Peace Mission 2013 from 27 July 2013 to 15 August 2013. The military exercise was held in both the Shenyang military area command of the PLA (Peoples Liberation Army) and the Chebarkulsky range. It was divided into three phases-troop deployment, battle planning and simulated combat.

The Chinese troops deployed to Russia will be equipped with various models of armed vehicles, self-propelled guns, as well as fixed-wing and rotating-wing aircraft.

A total number of 1500 military personnel from both Russia and China will participate during the anti-terrorism exercise. The exercise aims to boost cooperation between China and Russia to maintain regional stability.

Through this joint military exercise Russia and China are trying to expand their sphere of influence in Northeast Asia. It also shows signs of a deepening partnership between Russia and China.

## Tamil National Alliance Emerged Winner in Srilankan Polls

Sri Lanka's main Tamil party, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) on 22 September 2013 recorded landslide victory in Northern Province elections securing 30 of the 38 seats and 78 percent of the votes polled. It has also won all the five districts of Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mannar, Mullaittivu and Jaffna.

President Mahinda Rajapakse's United People's Freedom Alliance is a distant second, securing just 7 seats. Sri Lanka Muslim Congress has been the only other party to open its account, winning 1 seat. TNA has also secured the two reserved seats for being the single largest party.

### Significance of the Elections

Elections in the province were held for the first time since the provincial system were introduced as a result of the India-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987, that sought to address the political aspirations of the Tamil community of Sri Lanka. However elections could not be held here because of the 30 year long civil war in the country that ended in 2009 with the final defeat of the LTTE.

Now with more than two-thirds majority, TNA is expected to press for effective devolution of power to the provincial council on lines of its demands in its election manifesto.

Earlier, Election Commission declared that 68 percent of the 7 lakh strong electorate in the Northern Province had turned out to vote. The elections were held in this province on 21 September 2013.

## Grameen Bank to come under Bangladesh's Central Bank

Bangladesh Government on 22 September 2013 decided to bring Nobel Prize winning Grameen Bank under the central bank's jurisdiction to give the authorities more powers over the microcredit organisation.

The decision is in line with the proposals of the government-sponsored Grameen Bank Commission, which recommended bringing the bank under the regulatory control of either the Bangladesh Bank or the Microcredit Regulatory Authority to better monitor its activities. The three-member commission was constituted in 2012 to review Grameen Bank's governing structure.

The Grameen bank is being run by Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983 since its inception in 1983 and it does not directly fall under the jurisdiction of the Banking Companies Act.

The central bank of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Bank, on 28 February 2011 removed Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus as the Managing Director of Grameen Bank.

## About Grameen Bank

Grameen Bank is an institution that provides microcredit (small loans to poor people possessing no collateral) to help its clients establish creditworthiness and financial self-sufficiency. In 2006 Dr. Muhammad Yunus and Grameen received the Nobel Prize for Peace.

## China Communist Party Leader Bo Xilai Sentenced to Life

Top China Communist Party leader Bo Xilai was on 22 September 2013 sentenced to life imprisonment by a Chinese court which upheld the charges of bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power against him.

The Jinan Intermediate Court in east China's Shandong province, which conducted an unprecedented open trial in August 2013, convicted the former Politburo member and Chongqing city Communist Party chief on all the three charges.

In its judgement, court sentenced Bo Xilai to life in prison on the bribery charges, 15 years for embezzlement and seven years for abuse of power. The court also stripped Bo of all political rights and ordered the confiscation of his property.

Bo Xilai, 64, was sacked as the head of the Chongqing city in 2013 and removed from the ruling party following allegations of bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power against him.

He was accused of receiving 20 million Yuan (3.5 Million US Dollars) as bribes and owning a luxury villa in France.

The hearing was regarded as the Communist China's most sensitive political trial after the 1981 'Gang of Four' trial involving Mao Zedong's widow Jing Qing.

## About Bo Xilai

Bo Xilai is a former Chinese politician. He came to prominence through his tenures as the mayor of Dalian and then governor of Liaoning. From 2004 to November 2007, he served as Minister of Commerce. Between 2007 and 2012 he served as a member of the Central Politburo and secretary of the Communist Party's Chongqing branch.

## 7th India-Russia Trade Investment Forum

7th India Russia meeting on trade and investment was held at St. Petersburg , Russia on 20 September 2013. A high level delegation of 120 Indian business leaders led by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry participated in the meeting. It discussed various business opportunities with their Russian counterparts. The special focus was on Pharmaceutical and Medical Industry,

Tourism and Medical Tourism and Trade in goods, services and innovative products.

At the forum Pharmaceutical sector received major attention as India is looking at the opportunities that the 2020 Pharma programme offers. India sought regulatory simplifications for Indian companies who not only want to have market access but also look for establishing manufacturing base in Russia. In recently concluded 19th India Russia Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IRWGTEC) meeting in Moscow Indian side had conveyed the details of barriers in the trade of pharmaceutical products to Russia. These barriers included substantial delay in all approvals and dossier evaluation due to insufficient number of competent specialists, huge number of backlog of dossiers accumulated by the Russian health authorities, lack of information about stage of approval etc. All this leads to avoidable delay in supplies, commencement of production, and launch of new product in the market.

Fertilizer sector has also attracted Indian interest for setting up manufacturing in Russia. Production of Phosphate and Potash in Russia by way of JV with Indian Fertilizer entities was discussed. There exist complementarity between availability of fertilizer resources in Russia and growing fertilizer demand in India which should result in strategic partnership in this field. AKRON and ORGSINTEZ, the two Russian companies are in discussion with IFFCO as they have Potassic and Phosphatic resources. Both side discussed the need to support the proposal of M/s AKRON of Russia for setting up of facilities for production of Phosphate and Potash in Russia by way of JV with Indian Fertilizer entities. Furthermore, In January 2013, Secretary (Fertilizer) met the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade and Russian fertilizer companies to explain new investment policy changes in urea production in India and invite them to invest in India under the new policy. A non-paper was also shared with the Russian side. During this visit Shri Sharma was informed of Russian companies expressing interest in the proposition and companies on both sides are expected to identify opportunities for investment in urea production in India.

The Forum in its 7th edition with specific purpose of 'encouraging discussion among the businesses of the two sides to increase economic engagement for common benefits' concluded that fresh initiatives need to be taken to further exploit complementarities in other sectors such as fertilizers, industrial machinery, diamonds etc. Other new areas such as automobiles, electrical equipment, chemicals, mining and processed foods need to be explored as they have immense potential in both countries. Another area identified for focused approach between India and Russia is IT Services. This conclusion is an endorsement of the sector that have been identified in Joint Understanding & Intention on Possible Plans and Priority Investment Projects for Enhancing Indo-Russian Economic & Investment Cooperation Under which a total of 15 high value, high tech projects have been selected for special attention for ministerial supervision.

### **Some of the projects are as following:**

- The establishment of India-Russian Joint venture with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) as joint centre of development the helicopters.

- Production of Nitrogen Tetra Oxide for Space programme
- Possible future cooperation between MMTC and ALROSA for long term supply of rough diamonds
- ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL)'s prospects for further hydrocarbon collaboration with Russian energy companies
- Joint project of Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited (RLL) and Government of Yaroslavl region
- Participation of Russian companies in urea production in India under new investment policy.
- Plant construction for manufacturing butyl rubber with capacity of 100000 tons per year at the production site of Reliance Industries in Jamnagar (India).

## Bank of Beijing Opened China's First Direct Bank

The Bank of Beijing on 18 September 2013 launched China's first direct bank in Beijing, Xi'an and Jinan. It started direct bank services with the cooperation of Netherlands-based ING Group.

The Bank of Beijing will provide its services remotely via online banking and telephone banking. Meaning, it does not rely on entity outlets. It will also provide access via Automated teller Machines (ATMs) (often through interbank network alliances) mail and mobile.

The new direct banks will basically provide services to retail clients, small and micro enterprises by providing financial products and services.

Direct banking system was already successful in European markets and U.S. markets.

### Primary features of Direct Banking

- Direct banking does not rely on entity outlets.
- It provides financial products and services through Internet, Telephones and Automated teller Machines (ATMs).
- Direct bank performs almost all kinds of services provided by traditional bank outlets.
- Direct banking also requires lower operation cost. So, it can offer higher rates of return for customers and enjoy greater competitiveness.

## The French Senate Banned Child Beauty Pageants

The French Senate (Upper House of the Parliament in France) on 18 September 2013 voted 197-146 overnight in order to approve the ban on beauty pageants for children below the age of 16 years.

Also, the Legislation included imposing the fine as well as punishment in form of imprisonment. This amendment was taken up on the basis of a report entitled Against Hyper-Sexualisation: A New Fight For Equality.

The Senate suggested that anyone entering the child into the contest of this kind will have to face a fine of 30000 Euros as well as two years of imprisonment. The amendment is a part of the proposed broader bill on women's rights. The Bill will now go to the National Assembly, French Parliament's lower house, for another round of vote as well as debate.

The senators argued that the amendment in the Bill is aimed at protecting the children from being sexualised before their apt age, because of the use of provocative attire as well as loud make up. The report- Against Hyper-Sexualisation: A New Fight for Equality, on the whole, called for a complete end on the pageants of these kinds and also encouraged a ban on the adult-styled clothing for the children. The author of this report is former sports minister and current senator Chantal Jouanno.

In case the Bill becomes a law, the pageants such as Mini-Miss in Paris will be banned completely. Michel Le Parmentier, the creator of Mini-Miss, which is held annually, protested that certain regulations instead of the complete ban would be more appropriate. Mini-Miss pageant is organised in France since the year 1989.

Federal Reserve would continue its fiscal stimulus programme: Chairman, Federal Reserve System Ben S. Bernanke, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve System of United States of America (USA) on 18 September 2013 announced that Federal Reserve would continue its fiscal stimulus programme. It sent a positive signal to the developing countries around the world and hence the stock markets in emerging world markets made an upsurge on 19 September 2013.

The emerging world market was earlier of the view that US Federal Reserve withdrew its fiscal stimulus programme. In such a case, the Dollar will shift from the emerging economies of the world to the US. However, with this announcement, the outflow of the Dollar will be reduced considerably.

## About Fedreal Reserve System

- The Federal Reserve System is the central bank of the United States.
- It was founded by Congress in 1913 to provide the nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system.
- The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is a federal government agency.
- The Board is composed of seven members, who are appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The full term of a Board member is fourteen years.
- The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Board are also appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The nominees to these posts must already be members of the Board or must be simultaneously appointed to the Board.
- The term of The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Board positions are four years.



## About Ben S. Bernanke

- Ben S. Bernanke appointed second term as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on February 1, 2010. His second term as Chairman ends 31 January 2014 and his term as a Board member ends 31 January 2020.
- He originally took office as Chairman on 1 February 2006, when he also began a 14-year term as a member of the Board.
- Before his appointment as Chairman, Dr. Bernanke was Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, from June 2005 to January 2006.
- Dr. Bernanke has already served the Federal Reserve System in several roles. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 2002 to 2005, a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia (1987-89), Boston (1989-90), and New York (1990-91, 1994-96) and a member of the Academic Advisory Panel at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (1990-2002).
- Dr. Bernanke has published many articles on a wide variety of economic issues, including monetary policy and macroeconomics, and he is the author of several scholarly books and two textbooks.
- He has held a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Sloan Fellowship, and he is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Dr. Bernanke served as the Director of the Monetary Economics Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and as a member of the NBER's Business Cycle Dating Committee.

## Chinese Companies Signed Agreements to import Soybean

The Chinese companies which included COFCO, Sinograin, and Chinatex signed 13 new letters of intent on 16 September 2013 with the U.S. agricultural exporters in order to buy 4.83 million tonnes of U.S. soybeans worth 2.8 billion US Dollars.

The letters of intent were signed at a ceremony which was hosted by U.S. Soybean Export Council. At the ceremony, letters of intent were signed with the representatives from Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Columbia Grain and others. It was decided that the shipping of the soybeans will take place in the current marketing year only which started on 1 September 2013. It will take place before the next South American crop starts marketing in the markets in March 2014.

It is important to note that these letters of intent are not the binding sales contracts. These are honoured by the trading partners like US and China. The volume of purchase agreements which were signed on 16 September 2013 is merely a part of the annual demand of China for the U.S. soybean.

China is the top most soybean importer of the world and it bought over 21.5 million tonnes of oilseed from US in 2012 season. From all the origins of the oilseeds, China bought 59.5 million tonnes. It is estimated that in the present season, China will import 69 million tonnes of oilseed from all the origins.

## Germany Extended Assistance for Green Energy Corridors

Germany, in the month of September 2013 extended financial and technical assistance to India for the Green Energy Corridors. This assistance includes Financial Assistance of Euro 250 Million as Reduced Interest Loan.

### Technical Assistance

*The technical assistance extended by Germany includes:*

- Euro 2 million for Indo-German Energy Programme – New component on Green Energy Corridors
- Euro 2 million for Integration of Renewable Energies into the Indian Electricity System (I-RE)

The information about financial and technical assistance was disclosed during the Indo-German Annual Negotiation meeting held in New Delhi in July 2013.

Germany, in the meanwhile, also indicated towards concessional loans from KfW of up to one billion euro for financing the Green Energy Corridors project under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme over the next six years.

The Green Energy Corridors project will help in integrating renewable energy into the National grid. It comprises of both inter-state and intra-state schemes for evacuation of power from wind and solar projects.

## UN Report: Sarin Gas Used in Syria Attack

U.N. chemical investigators on 16 September 2013 confirmed the use of Sarin nerve agent in 21 August 2013 poison gas attack outside the Syrian capital Damascus. The investigation team headed by Ake Sellstrom of Sweden submitted its report to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The U.N. team was investigating only whether chemical weapons were used in a deadly assault on the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Ghouta. It was not charged with concluding who launched the attack.

On the basis of the evidence obtained during the investigation of the Ghouta incident, the conclusion is that chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, also against civilians, including children, on a relatively large scale.

In particular, the environmental, chemical and medical samples provided clear and convincing evidence that surface-to-surface rockets containing the nerve agent Sarin were used.

The report also stated the weather conditions on 21 August 2013 ensured that as many people as possible were injured or killed. Temperatures were falling between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m, which meant that air was moving downwards toward the ground.

Chemical weapons use in such meteorological conditions maximizes their potential impact as the heavy gas can stay close to the ground and penetrate into lower levels of buildings and constructions where many people were seeking shelter.

Earlier, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also announced that sarin had been used in the chemical attack on the Ghouta region. The United States stated 1400 people were killed, including more than 400 children.

The United Nations Mission has now confirmed, unequivocally and objectively, that chemical weapons have been used in Syria.

## About Sarin Gas

- Sarin is a man-made chemical warfare agent classified as a nerve agent. (chemical formula: C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>P)
- Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents. They are similar to certain kinds of insecticides called organophosphate insecticides in terms of how they work and what kind of harmful effects they cause; however, nerve agents are much more potent than insecticides.
- Sarin originally was developed in 1938 in Germany as an insecticide.
- Sarin is a clear, colorless, and tasteless liquid that has no odor in its pure form. However, sarin can evaporate into a vapor (gas) and spread into the environment.
- Sarin is also known as GB.

## Train Service to the Northern Province of Srilanka Starte

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on 14 September 2013 inaugurated the train service, built by the Indian Railways, to the Northern Province. The crucial rail line to the war-torn Northern Sri Lanka was destroyed 23 years ago. It has been rebuilt by IRCON, a subsidiary of Indian Railways, with full grant assistance from the Indian government. The rail line is crucial for rebuilding the economy of the war devastated Jaffna peninsula, as it will provide a fast link to the economic hub of Colombo. A state-of-the-art signaling and telecommunication system has been installed at all level crossings for maximum safety.

The re-construction of the northern railway line and the return of the popular Yal Devi Express train from Colombo to Killinochchi signals the end of dark days for war-torn Jaffna peninsula, when it was totally cut-off from rest of the country.

With this inauguration, President Mahinda Rajapaksa became the first commuter since 1990 to travel on this inter-city express train when he boarded it at the northern city of Killinochchi. Speaking on the occasion, Indian High Commissioner Y K Sinha congratulated the engineers of Indian Railways for completing the work on schedule by overcoming a number of formidable challenges. The line will be extended to Jaffna by April next year.

## India and Japan to Expand Co-Operation in Animation Films

India and Japan on 12 September 2013 agreed to expand co-operation in the films sector particularly in co-production of animation films. The agreement between India and Japan was signed by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Manish Tewari and visiting Japanese Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Toshimitsu Motegi in New Delhi.

The two countries agreed to form a Joint Working Group in order to tap the huge business potential in the co-production of films and animation, skill development, exchange programs between training institutes and such other areas which are mutually beneficial to both sides.

- During the meeting, Manish Tewari extended the invitation for Japanese partnership in setting up of the proposed National Centre for Excellence in Animation, Gaming and Special Effects (NCOE) in Mohali, Punjab.
- At the same time, the Japanese expertise was welcomed for developing special training courses at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune and the Satyajit Ray Film and TV Institute (SRFTII), Kolkata. It was decided during the meeting that Japan would be the Focus Country in the International Film Festival of India to be held in Goa this year. For this purpose, personal invitation to the Japanese Minister to attend IFFI, 2013 was extended.
- As a part of the beginning, co-production of films, particularly animation films has already been started.
- Joint Working Group in context with this agreement would be established in the near future.

## India and Japan to consider development of JEMT

India and Japan on 10 September 2013 agreed to look forward for the development of a Japanese Electronics Manufacturing Township (JEMT) in New Delhi. The township will play a role in reducing the imports of electronic goods to India, which would help in containing the Indian trade deficit. Japan will make an investment of 4.5 billion US dollars in the Project. The Union Cabinet had approved an expenditure of 18500 crore Rupees on development of infrastructure for the project.

The decision for setting up of JEMT was taken in a meet between the Commerce and Industry Minister of India, Anand Sharma and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi. Last year, India imported electronic goods worth 32 billion U.S. dollars.

## **Other important projects of Japan in India**

- Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) project initiated in 2011
- Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project is under implementation. The project will cover seven states and cover a total distance of 1483 kilometers. Japan is providing a financial and technical support to the project.

During the same meet, both sides agreed on deepening the engagements between the two nations and enhance investments for creation of a netter business environment in partnership with state governments.

## **Economic Engagement of Japan in India in recent Past**

- The bilateral trade between India and Japan in 2012-13 was 18.51 US dollars
- India has received 14.75 Billion US dollar in form of FDI between April 2000 and June 2013
- Japan has made 7 percent investment in India of India's total FDI

Bilateral trade between the two was USD 18.51 billion in 2012-13. Besides, India has received USD 14.75 billion FDI from Japan between April 2000 and June 2013. The Japanese investment accounts for 7 per cent of India's total FDI.

## **11 SEARO Countries adopted Delhi Declaration**

The Health Ministers of 11 SEARO countries adopted the New Delhi Declaration on High Blood Pressure on 10 September 2013 at the 31st Meeting of Health Ministers. The Health Ministers of Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region participating in the Thirty-first Health Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, India, appreciated the efforts made by Member States and partners in the South-East Asia Region for prevention and control of high blood pressure.

It is important to note that hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is the leading risk factor for mortality worldwide, causing 9 million deaths each year. As per the World Health Organization, hypertension affects one out of three adults in the South-East Asia Region and that it increases the risk of heart disease, stroke and kidney failure, contributing to premature death and disability.

As a result, there is a need of emphasising the importance and need for technology transfer as a means to empower developing countries and the important role of generic medicines in the realisation of the right to health. The factors which contribute primarily to hypertension include poverty, uneven distribution of wealth, lack of education, rapid urbanisation and other social and environment determinants of health.

### **The major highlights of the declaration adopted include:**

- To accord high priority to the prevention and control of high blood pressure and strive towards achieving the global voluntary targets and indicators for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, included in the global monitoring framework and endorsed by the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly, including 25 percent relative reduction in the prevalence of hypertension by 2025.
- To provide leadership and promote active collaborations among key multisectoral stakeholders in society such as education, agriculture, finance, communications, trade, transport, urban planning, environment, sports and youth affairs, in order to create health promoting environments that empower individuals, families and communities to make healthy choices and lead healthy lives.
- To develop, strengthen and implement national multisectoral policies and action plans to promote physical activity and healthy diet, and reduce exposure to tobacco and harmful use of alcohol.
- To continue to implement the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, of September 2011, as well as the WHO 2013–2020 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases.
- To implement national salt reduction strategies such as creating public awareness and health education through mass media, food labelling, and regulation of the food industry in order to reduce salt levels in processed food.
- To create healthy environments by adopting effective national legislation for 100 percent tobacco smoke-free environments in all indoor workplaces, public transport, indoor public places and other public places consistent with Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke) of the WHO FCTC.
- To promote universal access to cost-effective prevention and treatment through generic medicines and care for integrated management of non-communicable diseases including hypertension through a primary health care approach.
- To strengthen health systems that support primary health care, to ensure an adequate and well-trained workforce, and the availability of affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and technologies for prevention and control of major non-communicable diseases including hypertension.

- To promote access to cost-effective, affordable and quality medicines for all.
- To foster the development and transfer of technology to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms aligned with national priorities.
- To build and strengthen experience-sharing mechanisms among Member States for capacity building.
- To strengthen national health information systems, for effective surveillance and monitoring of non-communicable diseases and their risk factors including hypertension, and to build national capacity for quality research and development.
- To provide adequate and sustained resources through domestic and external channels, and explore innovative financing mechanisms for achieving universal health coverage for integrated prevention and control of non-communicable diseases including hypertension.

## 7th India-Laos Joint Commission Meeting on Cooperation

The 7th India-Lao Joint Commission Meeting on bilateral cooperation was held in Vientiane on 9 September 2013. The JMC was held during External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid's ongoing visit to Lao PDR (Laos) to participate in the 7th India-Lao Joint Commission Meeting (JMC) on Bilateral Cooperation.

An Agreement under Line of Credit for four Irrigation Projects in three provinces in the Lao PDR for 30.94 million US dollars was signed and conversion of another Line of Credit to substitute the Nam Boun-2 hydro power plant by the extension of transmission lines to Thasala-Laksao amounting to 35.25 million US dollars was approved. The projects will contribute to socio-economic development in Lao PDR.

During the JCM, (Joint Commission Meeting) both Ministers expressed satisfaction with the development in bilateral relations and noted that close cooperation and partnership between the two countries have expanded rapidly for mutual benefit, in recent years. India reiterated its preparedness to continue to provide assistance to the areas of water management and irrigation, energy generation and transmission and capacity building. It was recognized that our soft credit and grant projects have improved the visibility of India and Indian products in Lao.

The two nations identified agriculture, defence, ICT, culture, education, health, trade and investment promotion, mining as priority areas of cooperation between the two countries that would give further impetus to bilateral relations. A number of new initiatives were taken to promote people-to-people contacts, training and scholarship opportunities and expansion of private sector participation in trade and investment, as well as in health and education.

India and Lao PDR also exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. They agreed to strengthen coordination on ASEAN and multilateral issues. Lao has extended financial support to the Nalanda University, which is being developed as a centre of international excellence. Lao reiterated its support to India on UN and other multilateral issues.



The 2nd Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks was inaugurated on 10 September 2013 during the meeting.

## Hun Sen reelected as the Prime Minister of Cambodia

The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen on 8 September 2013 was reelected to power after winning the Parliamentary Elections held on 28 July 2013. The National Election Committee (NEC) announced the results and declared Cambodian People's Party as the winners with 68 seats. The NEC also declared that the opposition party, Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) was successful in securing 55 seats.

The Prime Minister Hun Sen (61) has ruled the country for 28 years. With this win his rule has extended for a period of another five years in the country.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party got 48.79 percent of the votes and CNRP won 44.45 percent of votes. Other parties namely, Funcinpec Party and League of Democratic Party won 6.3 percent of votes (combined) with zero seats.

### About Hun Sen

- His full honorary title is Samdech Akeak Moha Sena Padey Decho Hun Sen
- He was the leader of the Cambodian People's Party and Prime Minister of Cambodia, since 1979, the time Khmer Rouge was overthrown by the Vietnamese-backing
- With no single Party majority, the CPP Party has been in coalition with the Royalist Funcinpec Party

## Liberal Party won the Parliamentary elections in Australia

Australian Liberal Party on 8 September 2013 won the 44th Parliamentary elections. Liberal Party defeated the in-power Labor Party in the general elections held on 7 September 2013 to return back in power as the Liberal-National coalition for the first time in six years.

With this win, Tony Abbott the leader of the Liberal-National Coalition will become the Prime Minister of the Country and successor of Kevin Rudd of the Labor Party.

The coalition won 88 seats in the 150 seat Parliament. The ruling Labor Party was successful in winning 57 seats. Three seats were distributed between three small parties, and there were two seats still to return results. WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange failed to get elected to the Senate after running in Victoria, with his Wikileaks Party garnering just 0.62% of the popular vote. Election officials declared 80 percent of the vote as counted. Abbott's Liberal-National Party coalition had won around 52.6 percent of the national vote.

The ruling party PM Kevin Rudd accepted the defeat. He also declared that he won't contest again for the Labor leadership.

In the election campaign, the main issues were how to tackle economic slowdown, whether to keep tax on carbon emissions and how to reduce the number of asylum seekers by boat (refugees).

## **Swearing -In**

The Constitution provides that every Member of the House of Representatives, before taking his or her seat, must make and subscribe an oath or affirmation of allegiance before the Governor-General or some person authorised by the Governor-General.

## **Role of Queen**

The Monarch of Australia is a form of Government in which a hereditary monarch is the sovereign of Australia. The monarch is nominal head in Westminster style of Parliamentary Government.

The present monarch is Elizabeth II, who has reigned, since 6 February 1952. According to the Australian constitution, the monarch is represented by a Governor General, appointed directly by the Queen on the advice of the respective government.

The Australian monarch, besides reigning in Australia, separately serves as monarch for each of fifteen other Commonwealth countries known as Commonwealth Realms. This was developed from the former colonial relationship of these countries to Britain, but they are now independent of each other and are legally distinct.

## **Westminster style of Parliamentary**

In general there are two forms of government. They are Presidential and Parliamentary form.

The Westminster model of Parliament consists of both real and nominal heads. The Real head is head of the Government and he/she is the Prime Minister, who is vested with real powers. On the advice of Prime Minister, the nominal head will act. In Australian context nominal head is Queen Elizabeth II.

## **About Tony Abbott**

- Leader of Liberal Party and main opposition Liberal-National coalition
- Born 1957 in UK to Australian parents
- Rhodes scholar, former student boxer and Catholic priest trainee
- Held employment and health and ageing portfolios in Howard government

## India-Japan Joint Press release on the Sidelines of G20

India and Japan on 6 September 2013 issued a joint press statement on the sidelines of G-20 summit in St. Petersburg. India and Japan decided to expand the current bilateral currency swap arrangement from 15 to 50 billion US dollars. The two nations expect that this will contribute to the stability of global financial markets including emerging economies.

The two Governments also reiterated the importance of continued reforms in financial and investment sectors for promoting stable and long term capital inflows into India.

The two Governments believe that these policy measures will strengthen the bilateral financial cooperation between Japan and India.

The 2013 G-20 Russia summit was the eighth meeting of the G-20 heads of government. The hosting venue was the Constantine Palace in Saint Petersburg, Russia, 5–6 September 2013.

## UAE Central Bank's Advisory Regarding Indian Currency

The UAE Central Bank on 6 September 2013 issued an advisory to the banks and money exchanges in the country to stick to the limits prescribed by the Indian laws regarding the Indian currency to be carried by those travelling to India. It has also warned that in case of non-compliance, penalties including prosecution, confiscation of the money and imprisonment will be enforced.

As per the notification issued under the Customs and Excise act only those people who are residents of India can bring back Indian currency, up to the ceiling of 7500 rupees when returning to India.

In case of foreigners, and even those Indian nationals who are not residents of India/ Non-Resident Indians NRIs, it is prohibited under Indian law to either take any amount of Indian currency from India or to bring it into India. The move comes close on the heels of counterfeit rupee being seized in UAE and also in Oman.

Seat for Sikh and Hindu Nationals in Lower House of Afghan Parliament approved President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai on 4 September 2013 approved, through a legislative decree, a special seat allocated for Sikh and Hindu Afghan Nationals in the Lower House of the Afghan Parliament.

As per the provisions mentioned in Article 79 of the Constitution of Afghanistan, President Karzai approved the Cabinet amendments of 26 August 2013 to the Election Law, designating a particular seat in the Lower House of the Parliament for Sikh and Hindu nationals of Afghanistan.

In the Presidential decree, the President assigned the Ministers of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to submit the decree within 30 days after the National Assembly of Afghanistan resumes its first session.

The Afghan President has the power to issue legislative decrees when the Parliament is on vacation. The decree was issued after the lawmakers declined to reserve a special seat for Hindus and Sikhs through a law.

The decree further adds that the amendments to the Election Law that came into force upon signature by the President. It would be published along with the relevant Cabinet resolution in the official gazette.

## About the National Assembly of Afghanistan

The National Assembly of Afghanistan is a bicameral body comprises of two chambers, Wolesi Jirga (House of the People or Lower House) with 249 seats and Meshrano Jirga (Upper House or House of Elders) with 102 seats. The designated seat has increased the number of seats in Afghanistan's lower house to 250.

## 3rd India-Republic of Korea Dialogue held in Seoul

The 3rd India-Republic of Korea ( Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD) was held in Seoul on 2 September 2013. Both nations discussed ways to further expand and deepen their Strategic Partnership. They undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral ties, including in the fields of economic collaboration, defense and security cooperation, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts. In this context they discussed the potential for space and nuclear cooperation, upgrading of the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and collaboration in defense production. They agreed to step up cooperation in the spheres of maritime and cyber security.

The two nations discussed the possible outcomes from the forthcoming visit to India of the President of ROK, H.E. Madame Park Geun-hye.

Discussing regional and international subjects of mutual interest, India and Korea agreed to step up coordination on East Asian regional issues. The ROK side provided a briefing on the situation in the Korean Peninsula. Views were also exchanged on the recent developments in Afghanistan. It was agreed that the 4th India-ROK Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue will be held at New Delhi at a mutually convenient time in 2014.

## BRICS announced to Set up 100 Billion US Dollars Fund

Leaders of the Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group of nations on 5 September 2013 announced to set up a 100 billion US dollar fund to steady currency markets destabilised by an expected pullback of US monetary stimulus. The announcement was made at the meeting of BRICS leaders. Brazil, India and Russia committed 18 billion dollars each while China announced 41 billion US dollars. South Africa announced 5 billion US dollars.

BRICS had earlier planned to set up 240 billion US dollars fund.

Earlier this year, Brics nations had discussed the formation of a new development bank to fund infrastructure and development projects throughout the developing nations.

## Microsoft Joined Google in the Spying Lawsuit

Microsoft on 30 August 2013 declared that the battle to solve the secret US government requests for the Internet user data would be sorted out in the court of law.

Microsoft as well as Google filed the suits in the federal court in the month of June 2013. The argument was the right to make public, the information about the user data requests which were made under the auspices of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Both Google as well as Microsoft agreed six different times for extending the deadline for the US Government in order to react to the lawsuits, but it all ended without the conclusion.

The US officials, in the meanwhile, on 29 August 2013 declared that they would start publishing the annual tallies of national security requests for the Internet user data. The argument in context with this was that apart from providing the number of requests, it was also important to disclose the context regarding which the information was being sought.

## Egypt has destroyed 10 Tunnels beneath Border with Gaza

The authorities of Egypt on 31 August 2013 destroyed 10 tunnels located in Rafah town's al-Barazeel neighborhood beneath Gaza's Southern Border with Egypt. The tunnels were destroyed as a part of an ongoing security campaign of Egypt.

The Egyptian Security Forces has been carrying out a large security campaign against the tunnels. The campaign started after the protests that surface on 30 June 2013 after Mohamed Morsi, Egyptian Islamic President was ousted from his office in a Military Coup conducted by Army Chief Abdel Fateh Al Sissi. Morsi was accused of collaborating with Hamas.

### Comment

***The tunnels has been targeted for security reasons as these were used for smuggling food, fuel and medicine into Gaza since Israel imposed a tight blockade on the enclave in 2007.***

## US has launched Investigation into Indian Trade Policies

A Federal Agency of United States in last week of August 2013 launched an investigation into the trade policies of India. The federal agency has alleged that the Indian trade policies has discriminated the American trade and investment sector.

A joint Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on ways and means requested for the investigation named Trade, Investment and Industrial Policies in India: Effects on the U.S. Economy.

An investigation report on recent policies and measures in India that affects the U.S. exports and investment would be presented by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC). The USITC will also evaluate the effects of such barriers on U.S. firms and the economy. While examining the Indian policies, the USITC will also produce details of restrictive trade and investment policies maintained or adopted by India in recent past to figure out the sectors that have been affected the most out of the policies. It will also provide the case studies of US firms that have seen the impact of Indian policies in forms of restrictions.

## **The Process of Investigation**

A sample of US firms would be surveyed by the USITC for measurement of the sensitivity if Indian policies and its impact on US firms. The results of the survey would be based on the quantitative analysis trade policy effects, investment and US economy.

## **India announced an aid of 5000 crore rupees to Bhutan**

India on 31 August 2013 announced an aid of 5000 crore rupees to Bhutan. The aid includes economic stimulus package of 500 crore rupees. The decision to provide an aid to Bhutan was taken by the Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India after his talk with his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay at New Delhi.

The Butanese Prime Minister is on six day visit to India and during this visit issues related to political security, developmental assistance and matters of mutual concern was also discussed between the two nations to strengthen bilateral relations.

During the meet, the India also ensured the Bhutanese Prime Minister about its commitment to install an additional 10000 Mega Watt of power generating capacity in Bhutan. At present three Indian projects are under process in Bhutan.

## Chapter: Ecology & Environment

### Ability of Honeybees to Find the Flowers Affected by Diesel Exhaust: Research

The researchers at the University of Southampton, in the first week of October 2013 revealed that the ability of honeybees to find the flowers can be hindered by the chemical in diesel exhaust. The tests revealed that the diesel exhaust degraded the floral scent chemicals on which the honey bees foraged.

The study revealed that the specific group of chemicals found in diesel exhaust, known as NO<sub>x</sub> was responsible for diminishing the response of insects towards the floral scents. The researchers revealed that the results of their study made it clear that the quality of air should be improved. Dr Tracey Newman, the neuroscientist of the University of Southampton explained that they started the research because they were aware of the impacts of airborne pollutants on human health, which hinted towards the fact that they may also have an impact on other things.

In order to study about the chemical effects of pollution on the pollinators, the researchers created a mixture of the volatile, or smelly, chemicals which scented like oilseed rape. Thereafter, the researchers made use of the diesel-powered generator in order to create the mixture of air and exhaust which was alike the levels of exhaust found on roads. This lab-made air pollution was mixed with the floral scent mix. The tests revealed that there was a considerable loss of two main components of the floral odour mixture. The two odour chemicals lost during this had chemically reacted with a component of the diesel exhaust, mono-nitrogen oxide, also called NO<sub>x</sub>.

In order to examine this, the researchers discovered whether the bees were affected due to the change or not. Dr Tracey Newman explained that bees needed to decipher the chemical messages that they got from the flowers. This had to be done so that they could give their best yield of nectar. The pollinators learnt recognising the scents of nectar-rich flowers, which in turn enabled them to forage better.

Dr Guy Poppy, the biologist and lead researcher explained that the airborne pollution interfered with the complex relationship which involved both plants and animals. The study primarily highlighted the need to bring down pollution and also improve the quality of the air. This will not just help in protecting the pollinating insects but will also help in improving the human health.



## Critically Endangered Sumatran Tiger Cub Born At London Zoo

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) announced on 2 October 2013 that an endangered Sumatran tiger Melati gave birth to the cub on 30 September 2013. The rare species of the tiger cub was born six months after the new Tiger Territory at London Zoo was opened. The new Tiger Territory at London Zoo is designed for encouraging the breeding of critically endangered sub-species of Tiger. The birth of the critically endangered cub species was observed through the hidden cameras. The zookeepers are yet not aware about the sex of the cub and the cub will also remain hidden from the public for a long time.

It is important to note that this is the first time in 17 years that a Sumatran tiger cub is born at the London Zoo.

### About the Sumatran tiger

- The Sumatran tiger, also known as *Panthera tigris sumatrae* is the rare sub-species of Tiger which inhabits the Indonesian island of Sumatra.
- It is the critically endangered tiger sub-species and was declared so by the IUCN in the year 2008. In the year 2008, its population was estimated at 441 to 679 only and its subpopulation was not more than 50.
- It is the only surviving member of Sunda Islands group of tigers, which also included the Bali tiger and Javan tiger, both of which are now extinct.

## NGT banned Digging of Earth across the Country

The National Green Tribunal on 28 September 2013 banned digging of earth across India for making bricks and roads without prior environment clearance. A bench headed by Justice P Jyothimani directed the Chief Secretaries of all states and union territories to ensure that its interim order is adhered to. The tribunal issued notice to Uttar Pradesh seeking its response on a plea to direct the state government to stop extraction of earth for making bricks and roads, allegedly going on in violation of a Supreme Court decision and directions of the Environment Ministry to all states.

The ban on brick earth mining comes one-and-a-half months after the National Green Tribunal banned sand mining from river beds, without environment clearance, across the country.

### What is National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18 October 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection

and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.

The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts. The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same. Initially, the NGT is proposed to be set up at five places of sittings and will follow circuit procedure for making itself more accessible. New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other 4 place of sitting of the Tribunal.

## Rock Wrens, the Near Extinct Songbird Made a Comeback

Rock Wrens, one of the oldest as well as the most distinct songbird species made a comeback from extinction because of the New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC) project. The information was revealed on 23 September 2013. The relocation project of DOC relocated 41 tiny alpine Rock Wrens from around Fiordland in the far southwest of New Zealand's South Island to Secretary Island from 2008 to 2011. DOC announced that the number of Rock Wrens increased to 66 in April 2013. DOC ranger Megan Willans explained that the increased safety of the island, a place where predators pose a lesser threat, provides insurance against the birds' steady demise on the mainland. Out of the 66 birds on the island, where the population of predatory stoats was tightly controlled, 63 had hatched and fledged there, indicating that the birds have settled for the purpose of breeding.

### About the Rock Wren

- The Rock Wren is the only true alpine bird in New Zealand and one of the most ancient bird species in the world.
- They originated from a species present more than 80 million years ago and have no close structural resemblance to any other group of birds in the world.
- Of the seven wren species that lived in New Zealand when humans arrived, the Rock Wren and the Rifleman are the only two species surviving today.
- Rock Wrens are vulnerable to predation by stoats and mice. Both stoats and mice prey on Rock Wren chicks and eggs on the nest.

## Expansion Banned in 8 Industrial Clusters

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on 17 September 2013 notified that it banned industrial expansion in 8 industrial clusters. The ministry imposed moratorium on environmental clearance for eight new industrial projects- Indore and Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh), Vapi (Gujarat), Ghaziabad (UP), Ludhiana (Punjab), Patancheru-Bollaram (Andhra Pradesh), Panipat (Haryana) and Jharsuguda (Orissa).

The ban came in light of the survey which was conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 43 identified Critically Polluted Areas. The survey was conducted from February-April 2013. The survey revealed that the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) at these eight locations ranged from 70-80. The CEPI is based on the Environmental Quality Monitoring.

The CEPI mechanism was adopted by CPCB in the year 2009 and it indicates the environmental quality at any given location by considering the water, soil and air pollution. Areas which have the aggregated score of 70 and above are the critically polluted industrial clusters. In the meanwhile, the areas with the scores between 60 to 70 are severely polluted areas.

On the basis of this survey, moratorium was lifted off from 10 areas where the CEPI score was below 80 and reflected the decreasing pollution trend. These areas included Asansol (West Bengal), Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Korba (Chhattisgarh) and Manali (Tamil Nadu).

The CEPI score is an indicator of the fact that despite implementing the action plans for a time of 2.5 years, there was no significant improvement in environmental quality. Thereafter, the Ministry imposes or lifts off moratorium with the immediate effect or as notified.

## Scientists Decoded the Genome of the Tigers

The South Korean scientists from the Personal Genomics Institute in Suwon, on 17 September 2013 unveiled that they carried out first ever DNA analysis of the tiger as well as four other great felines. The DNA analysis was carried out in the project for helping the critically-endangered cats for their survival.

The team of scientists led by Yun Sung Cho at the Personal Genomics Institute, Genome Research Foundation in Suwon, South Korea, in their research, sequenced the genome of a Siberian tiger. The genome of this tiger was then compared with the genome of white Bengal tiger, the snow leopard, the African lion and white African lion. The comparison revealed that the genes highlighted shared characteristics among all these close, yet distinct species of cats. All these kinds of tigers included common genes which hinted towards extreme muscle strength as well as the ability to metabolise hypercarnivorous diet.

There were variants which accounted for certain differences such as fur colour. In case of the gene revealed about the characteristic of snow leopard's ability to adapt to high, icy habitats.

The genomes therefore indicated about the diverse and crucial data source which can be used for

conservation of these tigers. Out of the overall nine subspecies of tiger, the scientists revealed that four of them were already extinct in previous century. These four extinct species included Javan, Balinese, South China and Caspian tigers.

It is estimated that at present the number of wild tigers range from just 3050 to 3950. The conservationists believe that in the absence of conservation measures, all the tigers will become extinct from the wild soon.

## Population of Water Voles Declined by a Fifth in UK

The research carried out by the Environment Agency and Wildlife Trusts in UK revealed that the water voles dropped down by a fifth in UK since the year 2011. The reason for their declining population was predation by American mink, habitat loss as well as changing weather. Environment Agency and Wildlife Trusts carried out the research. The organisation is working for the creation of more vole-friendly waterways.

Water Voles were common sight centuries ago, but since 1970s, their number has declined by over 90 percent. This has happened because of breaking habitat and loss of habitat as well as escape of American mink into the countryside. American mink came to UK for their fur, but these, instead started feeding on the water voles. The problem of decreasing water voles is also prevalent in other parts of Europe, primarily Belgium and Netherlands.

Environment Agency and Wildlife Trusts were working towards creation of the new habitats for these voles. The Environment Agency is aiming towards creation of 10000 hectares of rivers and wetlands for prevention of these water voles.

### What are Water Voles?

- The European water vole or northern water vole, also scientifically known as *Arvicola amphibious*, is the semi-aquatic rodent.
- It is also known as water rat.
- Water voles have round nose, deep brown fur, short fuzzy ears and chubby faces. They do not completely resemble the rats because the rats have paws, tails and ears covered with hair.
- The life of water voles is merely five months. Their maximum longevity in captivity is 2 and half years.
- The population of water voles in UK declined from approximately 8 million from pre 1960's to 2.3 million in 1990. In the year 1998, the population of the water voles in UK was 354000.

## Chapter: Science & Technology

### Walking at Least 7 Hours a Week Can Bring Down the Risk of Breast Cancer: Research

The American Cancer Society, in the first week of October 2013 revealed that the post-menopausal women who walk for one hour every day can significantly bring down their chances of developing the symptoms of breast cancer. In the study, 73000 women were followed for 17 years and it was found that these women had significantly lowered their risk of breast cancer by simply walking for at least 7 hours in one week. The American Cancer Society also revealed that it was for the first time that reduced risk of breast cancer was directly linked with walking.

The study published in the Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention closely studied 73000 women out of 97785 aged 50-74. These women were recruited by the American Cancer Society between 1992 and 1993 so that the researchers could monitor the incidences of cancer in that group. The women were asked to fill in the questionnaires about their health and that how much time they spent in being active or participating in the activities like swimming, aerobics and walking. The same questionnaire was filled at two-year intervals between 1997 and 2009.

Out of all the women, 47 percent said that the only recreational activity that they did was walking. The researchers eventually found out that the women who walked for at least seven hours in a week had 14 percent lower risk of breast cancer in comparison to the ones who walked for just three or four hours in a week.

Dr Alpa Patel, a senior epidemiologist at the American Cancer Society in Atlanta Georgia explained that it is for the first time that just walking one hour for a day was linked with the lower risk of breast cancer in women. It is however important to note that the longer activities and more strenuous works brought down the risks even more.

### Geological Survey of India Acquired Research Vessel Samudra Ratnakar for Deep Sea Research

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) on 4 October 2013 acquired a ship named Samudra Ratnakar for around 600 crore Rupees for the purpose of undertaking deep-sea surveys as well as exploration of the minerals lying in the depths of oceans.

## Features of Samudra Ratnakar

- Samudra Ratnakar was delivered in the month of September 2013 by the Hyundai Heavy Industries, South Korea.
- It is furnished with latest technological instruments.
- The Geological Survey of India has the plans of keeping around 50 scientists on board Samudra Ratnakar for the collection of data from the deep sea.
- With Samudra Ratnakar's induction, the Geological Survey of India for the first time entered into an endeavour to explore deep-sea waters for survey.
- Samudra Ratnakar has the capacity of 2700 DWT.
- It can sail at a stretch for around 45 days and will be docked at the Chennai port.

The GSI also entered into an agreement with Shipping Corporation of India for the management, operations as well as maintenance of Samudra Ratnakar. At present, Samudra Ratnakar is docked at Kandla port and will be dedicated to the nation by Mines Minister Dinsha Patel in the third week of October 2013.

It is important to note that as of now, the GSI has already surveyed over 95 percent of 2012 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including around 105000 sq km of territorial waters (TW) of India. These surveys were conducted in the northern part of Indian Ocean, coastal waters of Arabian Sea, Andaman-Nicobar and Bay of Bengal through the fleet of three ships and vessels namely R V Samudra Manthan, R V Samudra Kaustubh and R V Samudra Shaudhikama.

The Geological Survey of India also included more than 700 cruises for the collection of data on the coastal waters of India. It also maintains its dedicated multidisciplinary marine wing with the offices in Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, Mangalore, Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Cochin.

## Indian Origin Scientists discovered Universal Flu Vaccine

A team led by a scientist of Indian origin made a roadmap to develop universal flu vaccine. The influenza virus that causes flu is considered to be one of the world's most rapidly changing organisms. Flu vaccines tend to be ineffective after every season and can't cure cough, cold and other complications. Therefore, scientists planned new vaccines with new strains of the virus each year.

A team led by professor Ajit Lalvani from the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College London used a 2009 pandemic virus strain to analyse why some people appear to resist severe illness, to create the world's first universal flu vaccine. The volunteers were asked to donate blood samples just as the swine flu pandemic was in progress so that their response could be analysed over the next two flu seasons.

The scientists discovered those who avoided severe illness had more CD8 T cells in their blood

at the start of the pandemic. CD8T cells are a type of virus killing immune cell. A vaccine that stimulates the body to produce more of these cells could be effective at preventing flu viruses, including new strains that infect humans from birds and pigs.

The immune system produces these CD8 T cells while responding to usual seasonal flu. Unlike antibodies, they target the core of the virus, which doesn't change, even in new pandemic strains. This provided the blueprint for developing a universal flu vaccine.

Scientists planned to stimulate the immune system to make CD8 T cells by vaccination.

The flu vaccines make the immune system produce antibodies that identify structures on the surface of the virus to stop infection with the most common circulating strains. However they have to be replaced each year as new viruses with different surface structures evolve.

## Anti Depressants lead to Increase Risk of Type 2 Diabetes

Researchers from the University of Southampton revealed in the month of September 2013 that prescribed anti-depressants were associated with the increased risk of type 2 diabetes. The researchers analysed the medical studies and concluded that the evidences revealed a connection between the anti-depressants and Type 2 diabetes.

Though the two were not directly associated, but it was found in the research that anti-depressants led to an increase in the weight, which in turn was a factor responsible for increased Type 2 diabetes risk. Or, it may also be possible that the anti-depressants interfered with the blood sugar control.

The researchers analysed 22 studies which involved various patients on the medication of anti-depressants. Prof Richard Holt and colleagues, in the meanwhile, also explained that more research was required in order to investigate the factors which remained hidden behind their findings. The researchers also warned that the doctors should keep a check on such patients for the early warning signs or symptoms.

It is important to note that in UK alone, there are 46 million prescriptions for anti-depressants in a year. This is a worrying factor, especially if seen in context with the research. Prof Richard Holt also explained that a few things may coincide but there was still a sign that people being treated with the anti-depressants do have an increased risk of developing diabetes. There is therefore, a need of screening and looking at the measures for reducing these risks.

Diabetes is very easily diagnosable with a simple blood test. It is also preventable if a person remains physically active and takes a proper diet. In UK alone, there are around three million people who are diabetic and most of these cases are Type 2 diabetes.

## Dextrose Gel Treatment Can Help Reverse Hypoglycaemia

Researchers from the University of Auckland, New Zealand revealed in the last week of September 2013 that the dose of sugar in the form of gel can help premature babies against the risk of brain



damage. This is known as Dextrose gel treatment.

The sugar gel should be rubbed in the inside of cheeks and this is proven as the effective and cheapest possible way. It is important to note that around one out of every ten premature baby faces the risk of low blood sugar level, which eventually affects them. If left untreated, it can lead to permanent harm.

For their study, the researchers tested the sugar gel therapy on 242 babies under care. Based on results of their findings, it was revealed that this should become the first-line treatment. The cost of Dextrose gel treatment is merely 1 Pound per baby and is also simple to administer in comparison with the glucose through the drip.

Prof Jane Harding and her team at the University of Auckland explained that the present treatment involved extra feeding as well as repeated blood tests in order to measure the blood sugar level. However, there are a lot of babies who need to be admitted in the intensive care as well as given the intravenous glucose. This is done because their blood sugar level remains very low. This condition is medically known as hypoglycaemia.

In the study, the researchers assessed whether the treatment involving dextrose gel was better and effective than the feeding alone, for the purpose of reversing hypoglycaemia.

Andy Cole, chief executive of premature baby charity Bliss explained that the research was interesting and that this had the potential of improving the outcomes for the babies who are sick or premature.

However, despite showing the early positive signs of benefit to the premature babies with low blood sugar level, it is important to note that further research was required for implementation of the treatment.

## Nano Medicine for Blood Cancer Developed

The Kochi-based Amrita Centre for Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine on 22 September 2013 announced it's newly developed a nano-medicine for drug-resistant blood cancer.

This invention expected to dramatically improve the treatment of drug-resistant Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML), when used in combination with Imatinib, the standard drug for the disease.

In another significant invention, the institute has devised a mechanism that can effectively prevent recurrence of glioma or brain tumour. This deadly disease affects about four out of every 100000 people in India. The life expectancy of high-grade glioma patients is about one to two years.

Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (a form of blood cancer) annually affects approximately two out of every 100000 Indians. Almost 40 per cent of these cases are resistant to Imatinib. For such patients, treatment options are extremely limited.

## US Scientists Developed Battery that Uses Microbes

A team of US scientists from Stanford University developed a new and better method of making use of the microbes for harnessing the electricity from the wastewater. The US scientists created a new battery for this purpose. The new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) on 16 September 2013 revealed that the scientists discovered a new methodology for producing clean energy by making use of the dirty water.

The US scientists explained that their new technique can be used at the wastewater treatment facilities as well as for breaking down the organic pollutants in dead zones of the lakes and oceans where the fertilizer runoff has caused depleted oxygen, leading to suffocating marine life.

Craig Criddle, one of the lead authors of the study explained that one can see the microbes making the nanowires in order to dispose off their excess electrons. Scientists since a long time have know about the microbes, which are also known as exoelectrogenic. These microbes live in the environments which are airless and are also capable of breathing the oxide materials than the oxygen, in order to generate the energy.

In the past as well, various research groups have made their efforts for trying various kinds of approaches in order to transform the microbes into bio-generators. However, it has always proven very difficult to harness the energy absolutely freely.

The US scientists therefore explained that their new battery model is very simple and yet very efficient. It can harness around 30 percent of potential energy in wastewater, which is approximately the same rate like the solar panels that are commercially available.

However, the scientists explained that there is less energy potential in the wastewater in comparison to the sun's rays. But the process still has an added advantage that it can clean the water. This implies that the method can be used for the offsetting some energy which is consumed for treating the wastewater.

### About the newly developed battery

- The team of US scientists from Stanford University started off with a prototype which is equivalent to the size of the D-cell battery.
- The battery comprises of two electrodes, one negative and one positive, and it is pushed into the bottle of wastewater which is filled with the bacteria.
- As and when the organic material is consumed by the bacteria, all the microbes accumulate around the electrode which is negative, thereby throwing off the electrons, which are captured by the positive electrode. This process is called fishing for electrons.

## Pharmacist Devised a Ring to Protect Women

Imran Khan, the Karnataka pharmacist devised a protective ring which stings the women assaulter like a honey bee. The new ring is known as Sting Bee silver ring. The device inventor created the ring in the backdrop of the Delhi gangrape which took place on 16 December 2012.

Imran Khan explained that the safety ring can be worn by the women in their right index finger in order to defend themselves from a potential rapist or killer.

### What is Capsaicin?

Capsaicin is four times hotter than Bhut Jolokia (pepper) and 300 times spicier than Guntur red chillies (from Andhra Pradesh). The Capsaicin stimulates the chemoreceptor nerve endings in skin and then leads to shooting pain which lasts for 45-60 minutes when injected into someone's body from the micro tank of the ring.

### Funding of the Ring

- Imran Khan tied up with a Mumbai-based jeweller in order to source these silver-made rings. At the same time, he tied up with the Mumbai-based pharmacy in order to fulfill the demand of drug concentrate.
- The silver-made ring will have the cost of 1999 Rupees which excludes the tax of 5 percent as well as the delivery charges.
- The ring will be created on made-to-order on payment basis and will be delivered in a week in any part of the country through the courier service. Once the sales of the ring start picking up, the price will go down.
- The re-fill of the canister (micro-tank) with the drug Capsaicin will cost 1000 Rupees per fill.
- In order to educate and promote about the device, Imran Khan also established Save My Sister Charitable Trust. He also planned to distribute the new device free of cost to the financially deprived women of the country.
- The trust also planned to facilitate free legal services to the sexual crime victims by hiring around 6000 lawyers in a few cities as well as towns of India.
- Apart from this, a call centre with the helpline number (080-6450-0112) has also been set up for offering counseling to women who are in trouble and informing them about the safety ring.

### Features of the Sting Bee silver ring

- The Sting Bee silver ring is said to be a reliable device for self defense.

- It has liquid chemical compound (Capsaicin) in the head of the ring, which is released from the micro tank and weakens the offender. It then halts the offender from attacking or assaulting any woman or girl.
- The ring also has RFID (radio frequency identification) tag on the top most side as well as dual lock mechanism. The dual lock mechanism prevents the misuse of the ring and it can be made out of any safe metal.
- Imran Khan explained that the device is easily operational as well as tamper-proof.
- The micro tank which has 0.2ml of the drug (Capsaicin) has the capability of being injected into even 5 people at the same time by unlocking it.
- It is important to note that trials have been conducted to study the safety of the device on the one who wears the ring and the one on whom it is used. Barring pain, itching, burning sensation and inflammation, the chemical used in the ring is not life-threatening.

## Impact of the Device in India

Imran Khan, the creator of the device agreed that a ring alone cannot stop the rising crime against women, but it was one of the means for preventing the mishap, primarily in the metro cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore. In order to make use of the drug in the ring, a license was secured in the fruit category. At the same time, an application for patenting of the innovative device was filed in India as well as abroad.

## Who is Imran Khan?

- Imran Khan hails from Babbur village in Hiriyur taluk of Chitradurga district, about 230km from Bangalore.
- He is a qualified pharmacist.
- He set up IOS (India Operating System) Group with various business interests that also include hospitality.

## Voyager-1 Space Probe entered into Interstellar Space

NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft on 12 September 2013 officially became the first human-made object to venture into interstellar space. The 36-year-old probe is about 12 billion miles (19 billion kilometers) from our sun.

During its journey Voyager 1 has travelled through plasma or ionized gas, present in the space between stars for about one year. At present the Voyager is in the transition region, outside of the solar bubble. This transition region still has evidences of the effects of the sun.

The Voyager NASA mission is at a distance of 19 billion kilometer from home and thus a radio signal sent from the voyager takes 17 long hours to reach its receivers on the earth. Launched in 1977,

Voyager was sent initially to study the outer planets, but then just kept on going.

For the first time, the increased pressure of the interstellar space on the heliosphere (the bubble of charged particles surrounding the sun that reaches far beyond the outer planets) was detected by the Voyager 1 in 2004.

Due to the lack of working plasma sensor on Voyager 1 scientists took the support of the coronal mass ejection (massive burst of solar wind and magnetic fields) that erupted from sun in March 2012 to measure the spacecraft's plasma environment to make a definitive determination of its location. After spacecraft's interstellar arrival the plasma around the spacecraft started vibrating like the strings of the violin and the pitch of the oscillations helped the scientists to determine the density of the plasma.

This exceptional oscillations provided clues that the spacecraft was bathed in plasma more than 40 times denser than what they had encountered in the outer layer of the heliosphere. Density of this sort is to be expected in interstellar space.

Voyager mission controllers still talk to or receive data from Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 every day, though the emitted signals are currently very dim, at about 23 watts -- the power of a refrigerator light bulb.

## History

Voyager 1 and its twin, Voyager 2, were launched 16 days apart in 1977. Both spacecraft flew by Jupiter and Saturn. Voyager 2 also flew by Uranus and Neptune. Voyager 2, launched before Voyager 1, is the longest continuously operated spacecraft. It is about 9.5 billion miles (15 billion kilometers) away from our sun.

The report on the analysis of this new data was published in journal Science.

## Important Terms to be remembered

### Interstellar Space:

The Interstellar Medium exists in the space and it is a matter that lies between the star systems in a galaxy. This is made up of gas in ionic forms, atomic form and molecular form as well as the dust and cosmic rays.

### Solar Bubble:

It is also termed as the heliosphere and it is the region that has the effect of the sun and acts in the space as a charged particle bubble across the solar system.

### Solar wind:

It is a stream of charged particles that is blown away from the sun and it travels at the Supersonic

Speeds like White Arrows

### **Termination shock:**

Termination shocks are felt in the space in the areas where sun begin to slow and clash with matter from deep space

## **Scientists identified Genes Key to Human Longevity**

A new scientific study showed that ageing works through a special set of genes that everyone has, the rDNA genes. The international team led by Dr Takehiko Kobayashi from the National Institute of Genetics in Mishima, Japan, found that if we improve the stability of the rDNA genes, which are quite unstable, the lifespan of baker's yeast could be extended. It could help in studying cell ageing. The scientists tried to understand how the Sir2 gene reduces aging in yeast. Sir2 genes gained prominence as potential human anti-ageing genes with the discovery that resveratrol, a component found in red wine, activates them.

However, subsequent research has shown that resveratrol doesn't extend lifespan in mammals. The yeast Sir2 gene controls rDNA stability, but also has many other targets in the cell. The breakthrough came when the scientists found a way to separate Sir2's effect on the rDNA from its other effects. This allowed them to show that Sir2's anti-ageing effect comes exclusively through stabilisation of the rDNA genes. Kobayashi originally proposed a role for rDNA instability in ageing five years ago, but unequivocal support for this theory has been lacking until now.

These new results suggest that finding a way to artificially improve rDNA gene stability may delay the ageing process in humans too. However, Ganley cautions that the role of the rDNA genes in human ageing still needs to be clarified.

## **Tuberculosis Originated in Humans; Not in Animals**

An international team of researchers led by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) revealed in the month of September 2013 that the origins of human tuberculosis traced back to the African hunter-gatherers who lived around 70000 years ago.

The study conducted by the international team of researchers suggested that the origin of Tuberculosis (TB) was not in the animals that lived around 10000 years ago, as it is believed commonly. It is important to note that TB is one of the deadliest infectious diseases of humans and it kills 50 percent of the individuals who are left untreated. In the developing countries, it is found that even today, TB leads to 1-2 million deaths. The major threat in fighting against the disease is multidrug-resistance.

The researchers have now identified about the origin in space and time of this disease. The

researchers made use of the whole-genome sequencing of 259 Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains, which were collected from various parts of the world. These were used for determining the genetic pedigree of the deadly bugs. The comparison of the genome indicated that TB mycobacteria originated around 70000 years ago in Africa.

During the study, the researchers compared the genetic evolutionary trees of mycobacteria and humans alongside. The phylogenetic trees of humans and the TB bacteria had a lot of similarity. The evolutionary paths of TB as well as humans had a striking similarity.

The researchers explained that TB bacteria and humans did not emerge in same region of the world but they migrated outside Africa together. Both these, thereafter, expanded across the world. It was the migratory behaviour of modern humans, along with their lifestyle changes, that led to favourable conditions for TB. The researchers also explained that because of this, the diversity of tuberculosis bacteria enhanced remarkably when the expansion of human population took place.

Human expansion is also known as Neolithic Demographic Transition (NDT) period. This NDT is combined with the new human lifestyles which lived in the larger groups as well as village-like structures, which in turn would have created the conditions for human-to-human transmission of TB.

The results also pointed out towards the fact that it is unlikely that TB would have been communicated from the domesticated animals to the humans, like in the case of other infectious diseases.

## Cardiovascular Risks increased during Winter: Research

Researchers from the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Lausanne (IUMSP) revealed that the cardiovascular risks increase in the cold weather. The new multinational study was based on the cross-sectional data of ten studies from more than seven countries. The researchers explained that the risk factors of heart attack occur more in the winter season than the summer.

Dr. Pedro Marques-Vidal of Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Lausanne (IUMSP) explained that the deaths occurring from cardiovascular disease are more in winter and much lower in summer. The study was therefore undertaken to study the seasonal patterns of the cardiovascular risks.

In order to conduct the research, the information was obtained from 107090 subjects between the ages of 35 and 80. The countries with their respective numbers of patients were 21128 in Belgium, 15664 in Denmark, 1626 in France, 18370 in Italy, 25532 in Norway, 9359 in Russia and 15411 in Switzerland.

### Risk Factors that lead to cardiovascular diseases

The researchers, during the study made a comparison of the factors such as waist circumference, BMI, glucose, lipids as well as blood pressure for every season. The entire data was adjusted on the basis of smoking, gender and age. Certain data such as glucose, lipids and BP, were adjusted



for the BMI or on whether the patient was on some medication or not.

The research team found out that various risk factors were more during January and February, i.e., during the winter season. These risk factors were comparatively lower from June to August, i.e., during the summer season. The systolic blood pressure levels were around 3.5 mmHg lower in the summer months than in the winter on an average.

Dr. Pedro Marques-Vidal explained that though the difference was irrelevant for the individual but it was crucial for the overall population because the entire blood pressure distribution shifted to the higher values, thereby increasing the cardiovascular risks. Therefore, the impact of the season on blood pressure would be much higher on the cardiovascular risks. This is so because the combined impact of genetic markers on blood pressure was modest, i.e., between 2 and 3 mmHg.

It was also found that the waist circumference, on an average was 1 cm (0.4 in) smaller in the summer months than the winter months. Likewise, in another factor, the overall cholesterol was 0.24 mmol/L lower in the months of summer in comparison to the winter.

It is for all these reasons that people have to work out higher in the winter than in the summer. Extra effort need to be done for exercising and eating healthy. In another study, it was found whether seasonal pattern in the cardiovascular risk factors reverse in southern hemisphere, where the seasons are also reversed in relation to the northern hemisphere. The complete study would collect the information on around 200000 subjects from more than 12 countries of the world.

The team of researchers was also conducting the study across 18 different countries, which involves 50 million deaths.

## **Air Pollution as a factor**

In yet another related study, it was found out about what relation air pollution had with the heart attacks. Prof. Marc Claeys of Belgium in his study explained that there were no direct links between these two. His study involved 16000 patients.

It is important to note that temperature changes as well as air pollution are most reported environmental factors which are responsible for acute myocardial infarction (AMI). Better understanding and knowledge about the impact of environment on AMI will enable the medical care providers as well as policy-makers to optimise the prevention strategies for risk population.

The study also found out about the independent environmental triggers of AMI. In the study, the researchers extracted the data from 32 Belgian percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) centres from the year 2006 to 2009. During this time, the weekly counts of AMI patients who went through the primary PCIs, was studied.

These AMI counts were related with the average weekly meteorological data which was obtained from the daily measurements in the 73 different meteorological sites in Belgium. The team of researchers investigated the measurements from the temperature, relative humidity, black smoke as well as the air pollution.

## Australian Doctors Created IVF

A team of doctors at Melbourne IVF and The Royal Melbourne Hospital, in the first week of September 2013, managed to help an infertile woman conceive with the world's first IVF technology where new eggs were grown in the ovarian tissue and transplanted in woman's abdomen. The doctors declared that the treatment will revolutionise the fertility treatment. The woman called Vali is now 26 weeks pregnant.

Vali was earlier rendered as infertile after her treatment for the ovarian cancer. The team of doctors helped the woman in growing egg follicles and producing two healthy eggs after transplanting her own frozen ovarian tissue into her abdomen.

It is important to note that earlier only one baby was born in Australia after the ovarian tissue transplant. Less than 30 babies have been grown like this across the world, but it is for the first time that the tissue was successfully transplanted at a completely different site in a body to where it was taken from. Gab Kovacs, the international medical director of Monash IVF, which did first successful Australian ovarian tissue transplant explained that this was a breakthrough treatment.

The sample of the ovarian tissue of Vali was extracted from her cancer-free ovary through keyhole surgery. It was then frozen. After seven years, the tissue was grafted on the left and right sides of the front wall of her abdomen. The tissue started functioning after a few months and also produced follicles and two single eggs with the mild dose of hormone treatment. Both these eggs were fertilised, implanted as well as became viable pregnancies.

Over 1300 women are diagnosed with the ovarian cancer every year in Australia. Of these, 39 percent are under the age of 60 years.

## Chapter: Sports

### Sania Mirza-Cara Black won China Open 2013

Sania Mirza won the China Open tennis championship trophy (women's Doubles) with Cara Black of Zimbabwe on 5 October 2013 in Beijing. They defeated Vera Dushevina of Russia and Arantxa Parra Santonja of Spain in straight sets 6-2, 6-2. The Indo-Zimbabwean pair was eighth seeded. Sania and Cara had won Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo last week.

It is fifth title of the season for Sania Mirza and 19th overall. Sania had won the New Haven event with Chinese Zheng before she teamed up with Cara.

Early in the season, Sania Mirza won titles in Dubai and Brisbane with American partner Bethanie-Mattek Sands.

### Rohan Bopanna-Edouard Roger Vasselin won Japan Open 2013

India's lawn tennis player Rohan Bopanna with French partner Edouard Roger-Vasselin won the Rakuten Japan Open tennis championship (Men's Doubles) on 6 October 2013 in Tokyo. They won the cash prize of the 1297000 US dollars. The fourth seeded Indo-French pair emerged victorious with a 7-6 (5) 6-4 scoreline against the Briton-Australian pair of Jamie Murray and John Peers in one hour and 17 minutes.

Bopanna had won his first title of the 2013 season in February 2013 when he triumphed at ATP 250 event in Marseille, France paired with Colin Fleming of Britain.

He had also reached the final of Rome Masters with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi but lost in the final. Bopanna and his French partner had a really tough battle in the final match of Japan Open.

### Pakistan won Under-19 Asian Rugby Championship 2013

Pakistan on 5 October 2013 defeated India in the final of the Under-19 Asian Rugby Championship 2013 in Lahore. Pakistan won the final match with the margin of 13-11 points. At the end of the first half, both teams' scores were on par at 8- 8. However, in the second half, Pakistani team played more confidently and aggressively and won five more points for them while Indians could get only

three more points.

Prior to this, Pakistan was qualified for the championship final after it beat Afghanistan by 44-6 while Indian team got by to qualify for the final after Uzbekistan failed to participate in the tournament due to some technical reasons.

Suraj Veer Sharma was the captain of Indian team while Daud Gull was the captain of Pakistan team. A Pakistan rugby team will also visit India next week to feature in the Asian Sevens in which teams from 16 nations would participate.

## Kalpana Devi won Bronze Medal at the Judo Tournament in Tashkent

Kalpana Devi on 5 October 2013 won bronze medal at the Judo tournament in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. It was India's first IJF Grand Prix medal. Competing in 52kg weight category, Kalpana defeated Zarifa Sultonova of Uzbekistan but lost to Gili Cohen of Israel. However, Kalpana jumped back to medal contention through repechage round, where she got the better of Brazilian Raquel Silva.

Kalpana, who is with Indo-Tibetan Border Police, had also won a bronze medal in the Women's World Cup Judo Championships held in September 2010 in Uzbekistan.

India has sent an eight-member team in the IJF Grand Prix Judo Championships, which will conclude on 7 October 2013. The judo players will remain in Tashkent for a one-month training post the tournament.

## Afghanistan Qualified for ICC Cricket World Cup 2015

Afghanistan Cricket team on 4 October 2013 qualified for its maiden ICC World Cup after defeating Kenya by seven wickets at World Cricket League Championship in Sharjah. With this win Afghanistan also became the 20th team to gain entry into the tournament overall.

Deciding to field first after winning the toss, Afghanistan dismissed Kenya for 93 runs in 43.3 overs and then achieved the target in 20.5 overs with seven wickets to spare.

The victory meant Afghanistan finished on 19 points - five behind champion Ireland, which qualified for ICC world cup. The world cup will be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand in 2015.

By virtue of finishing second in the World Cricket League Championship, Afghanistan has earned a place in Pool A that includes co-hosts Australia and New Zealand, as well as Bangladesh, England, Sri Lanka and Qualifier 3.

Afghanistan will play its opening match in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 against Bangladesh at Manuka Oval, Canberra, on 18 February 2013.

In 2010, Afghanistan qualified for the ICC World Twenty20 West Indies 2010 by winning the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier UAE 2010. It then finished second to Ireland in the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier UAE 2012, to qualify for the ICC World Twenty20 Sri Lanka 2012.

Afghanistan also played in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2010 in New Zealand and the 2012 edition in Australia.

## Marylebone Cricket Club Released the 5th Edition of the 2000 Code for Laws of Cricket

The Marylebone Cricket Club on 1 October 2013 released the 5th edition of the 2000 Code in which there are some of the important changes of cricket rule including the change in the No-Ball Rule.

The Law 24.6 of ICC's playing conditions explains that with effect from now, in case a bowler breaks the wicket in the due course of delivery stride, it would be called the No Ball. Another change in the law is in context with giving OUT to the 'Handling of the Ball.' Any player involved in the illegal handling of the ball shall be given OUT on the basis of 'Obstructing the field'.

Besides, new set of the animations were also aimed for helping the young players as well as the casual fans. These animations were released in Hindi, English and Urdu and focused on five most misunderstood and complex aspects of the Laws. These included Run-Out of the non-striker and LBW. It is important to note that this is for the first time that the Marylebone Cricket Club portrayed the Laws like this.

### Major changes to the Law

- A new No ball Law (24.6), which makes it a No Ball in case the bowler breaks the wicket during the delivery
- The batsman with a runner will not be given an OUT in case he is stumped off a No Ball. Earlier, he would have been given the Run Out.
- Now, it is not possible to score the Runs after making the second strike. Earlier, Runs could be made after the lawful second strike only in case the overthrow had occurred
- Practicing on the field has been ruled out completely. This means that a bowler is not allowed to practice the ball to the fielder as a loosener, even if it bounces on the ground

### What is the Marylebone Cricket Club?

- Marylebone Cricket Club is the cricket club in London and was founded in the year 1787.
- It is the biggest cricket brand of the world and is based at the Lord's Cricket Ground in St John's Wood, London.

- MCC was initially the governing body of cricket in Wales as well as in England and across the world.
- In the year 1993, almost all of its global functions were transferred to the International Cricket Council (ICC). Its English governance was passed to the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).
- In the year 1788, it revised its Laws of Cricket and continued to do so from time to time. It is the copyright holder of the Laws of Cricket.

## Portugal's Luis Leao Pinto won Himalaya Bicycle Rally

Portuguese sensation Luis Leao Pinto emerged overall winners at the 9th MTB Himalaya 2013, which concluded in Shimla on 3 October 2013. The World No. 9 won the winner's trophy in the Open Men's Solo category. He clocked 17:33:21 while Purna Bahadur Pradhan (21:27:17) and Surendra Singh (21:42:16) finished second and third respectively.

Luis Leao Pinto clocked 25:46:02 to win the Masters Solo category while Van Belle Michael Mclean (27:43:22) and Luis Canto Moniz (29:14:46) were runners-up and second runners-up respectively.

Laxmi Magar emerged winner in the Open Women's Solo category followed by Sowmya Urs (42:59:33) and Shital Vitthal Chavan (45:37:28) in the second and third respectively. Laxmi clocked 32:06:25.

## India Blue Won NKP Salve Challenger Trophy 2013-14

India Blue cricket squad won the NKP Salve Challenger Trophy by defeating Delhi by 50 runs in the final at the Holkar Cricket Stadium, Indore on 29 September 2013.

Electing to bat first, the Indian blue posted a total of 274 for nine in their 50 overs before bowling out the strong Delhi batting line-up for 224 in 44.4 overs. Bhuvneshwar Kumar selected for Man-of-the match for his four wickets.

Yuvraj singh captained the India Blue team, whereas Virat Kohli captained the Delhi team.

The teams which are participated in the tournament are India Blue, India Red and Delhi. The 2012-13 edition of the tournament was won by India B Squad.

### About N.K.P. Salve Challenger Trophy

The NKP Salve Challenger Trophy, commonly referred to as the Challenger Trophy, is an Indian List A cricket tournament organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Established in the 1994–1995 season, it is played with the purpose of showcasing the talent that the country has, as well as providing opportunities for younger players to make an impression.

## Government revised Scheme of Human Resources Development in Sports

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India on 1 October 2013 revised the existing Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training and renamed it as Scheme of Human Resources Development in Sports. The Government intends to give focus on developing human resources in sports sciences and sports medicine for the overall development of sports and games in the country. This will help the country be self-reliant in these fields over a period of time in general and meet the requirements of the proposed National Institute of Sports Sciences and Medicines in particular.

### The Scheme will cover the following areas:

1. Award of Fellowships for specialized studies at Masters' and Doctoral levels in the subjects namely, (a) Biomechanics (b) Kinesiology (c) Anthropometry (d) Exercise Physiology (e) Sports Psychology (f) General theory & method of training (GTMT) (g) Sports Medicine (h) Sports Nutrition & (i) Anti Doping
2. Award of Fellowships/Scholarships to sports specialists, coaches, support personnel and match officials for specialized studies in the respective areas
3. Financial grant for Research Projects relevant to sports and games
4. Financial grant for Publication works/journals of high standard directly linked to sports and games
5. Financial assistance for attending international Seminars, Conferences and Workshops on sports related matters
6. Holding Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Camps on sports related matters in the country

The revised scheme will be implemented on pilot mode during the 12th Plan period. The estimated expenditure for the revised scheme during the current plan period will be around 45.00 crore rupees, which will be met from the total plan outlay of the Department.

Top level Universities/Institutes, with world class facilities, have been identified for most of the subjects for the Fellowship Programme. The target is to give 10 such fellowships every year.

Details of the Scheme, the list of the selected Universities / Institutions and of admissible assistance are at the Ministry's website.



## Petra Kvitova Won Singles Title at WTA Toray Pan Pacific Open

The Czech Republican tennis player Petra Kvitova defeated Germany's Angelique Kerber in the final to win singles title at WTA Pan Pacific Open on 28 September 2013 at Tokyo.

Seventh seed Petra Kvitova, of the Czech Republic, won 6-2, 0-6, 6-3 over fifth-seeded Angelique Kerber to claim the tournament title for the first time. It was her 11th WTA title and evened her tournament finals appearances at 2-2 in 2013.

Petra Kvitova won her first Grand Slam by defeating fifth seed Maria Sherapova from Russia 6-3, 6-4 in the Wimbledon women's final on 3 July 2011

### About Pan Pacific Open

The Pan Pacific Open is a WTA Tour affiliated professional tennis tournament for women, held every year since 1984 in Tokyo, Japan. It is classified on the WTA Tour as a Tier I tournament since 1993.

## Sania Mirza and Cara Black Pair Won Women's Doubles Title at WTA Toray Pan Pacific Open

Sania Mirza of India and Cara Black of Zimbabwe won the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis championship women's doubles title by defeating Hao-Ching Chan (Chinese Taipei) and Liezel Huber (USA) 4-6, 6-0, 11-9 in final at Tokyo on 28 September 2013.

Sania Mirza her partner Cara Black playing together for the first time had earlier shocked top seeds and Wimbledon champions Su-Wei Hsieh of Chinese Taipei and Shuai Peng of China in the semifinals 6-4, 6-2.

### About Pan Pacific Open

The Pan Pacific Open is a WTA Tour affiliated professional tennis tournament for women, held every year since 1984 in Tokyo, Japan. It is classified on the WTA Tour as a Tier I tournament since 1993.

## Thomas Bach: President of Inter. Olympic Committee

Thomas Bach of Germany on 10 September 2013 was elected as the ninth President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He is the successor of Jacques Rogge of Belgium, who

headed the IOC, since 2001 to 10 September 2013. He was the eighth President of IOC.

He was elected as the President of IOC after two rounds of votes at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The President is elected by the IOC members by secret ballot for a term of eight years, with the possibility to stand for re-election for a second, four-year term. IOC is a 119 years old sport's governing body.

## **His Sports Career**

- He has been an Olympic champion in fencing (foil) team at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976 and 1977 world champion fencing foil team
- Winner of the 1978 European Cup of Champions; numerous national championship titles

## **Positions held by him in IOC**

- Member (1996-2000) of the IOC Executive Board
- Vice-President (2000-2004) and was re-elected as Vice-President (2006-2013)

## **He has been the Chairman of the following Commissions:**

- Evaluation for the XIX Olympic Winter Games (1994-1995)
- Evaluation for the Games of XXVIII Olympiad (1994-1997)

## **He has served as the member of the following Commissions:**

- Athletes' (1981-1988)
- Press (1985-1988)
- Juridical (1993-2001)
- Olympic Collectors (1994-1997)
- Olympic Movement (1996-1999)
- Sport and Law (as Athletes' representative, 1995-2001)
- TV Rights and New Media (2002)
- OC 2000 Reform Follow-up (2002)
- Remuneration Working Group (2004)

Bach was chosen as the President over fellow Presidential candidates namely; Sergey Bubka (Ukraine), Richard Carrion (Puerto Rico), Ser Miang Ng (Singapore), Denis Oswald (Switzerland) and Ching-kuo Wu (Chinese Taipei). (sports)

## **About Thomas Bach**

- Bach is the first Olympic Champion to head International Olympics Committee as its President.
- He joined IOC in 1991 and has held many influential roles in the organization

- Bach aged 59 is a former executive of Adidas

## Serena Williams Won 5th US Open Title 2013

Serena Williams on 8 September 2013 won the Women's Single Title at US Open 2013 and the pair of Leander Paes and Radek Stepanek secured the Men's Doubles Title 2013 at the same tournament. Serena Williams on 8 September 2013 emerged as the winner of the US Open Tennis Tournament 2013 by defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during the women's singles final at New York. Serena defeated the second seeded, Azarenka with 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-1 points.

With this win, top-seeded, Serena Williams secured her fifth US Open title and 17th Grand Slam title of the overall career.

On the other side, in the Men's Doubles Championship of the US Open tennis tournament 2013 at New York's Arthur Ashe stadium, the pair of Leander Paes of India and Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic emerged as winners by defeating the Alexander Peya of Austria, and Bruno Soares of Brazil in the final match with 6-1, 6-3 win.

With this win, Leander Paes secured his eighth Men's doubles Grand Slam title and 14th overall. Paes has earlier won the US open title two times and both the titles came while playing with Chez partners, namely Martin Damm in 2006 and Lukas Dlouhy in 2009.

Earlier, the fourth seeded Indo-Czech pair of Paes and Stepanek won the Winston Salem Open and this is their second major title playing together after the Australian Open in 2012.

In the 2012 US Open, the Indo-Chez pair lost to Bryan Brothers and ended their race in the tournament as a runner-up.

It was third US Open title for 40-year-old Paes and the previous two had also come with Czech partners. In 2006, the Indian won with Martin Damm and in 2009 with Lukas Dlouhy.

## India Defeated Malaysia to Lift U-21 Sultan of Johor Cup

India defeated Malaysia 3-0 to win 3rd Under-21 Sultan of Johor Cup hockey tournament in Johor Bahru on 29 September 2013. The goals from the Indian side were scored by Amon Mirash Tirkey (22nd), Affan Yousuf (52nd) and Manpreet Singh (64th). The match was played at the Taman Daya Syadium.

### Squads of India and Malaysia

***Squads from India and Malaysia were as follows:***

India: Harjot Singh (GK), Sushant Tirkey (GK), Amit Rohidas, Satbir Singh, Sukhmanjit Singh, Ramandeep Singh, Amon Mirash Tirkey, Manpreet Singh, Mohammad Amir Khan, Pardeep Mor,

Harjeet Singh, Prabhdeep Singh, Surender Kumar, Talwinder Singh, Mandeep Singh, Yousuf Affan, Harjeet Singh, Imran Khan, Jarmanpreet Singh, Kothajit Singh Khadangbam

Malaysia: Muhammad Hafizuddin Othman (GK), Mohd Hazrul Faiz (GK), Azwar Abdul Rahman, Muhammad Haziq Samsul, Muhammad Rashid Baharom, Muhd Fitri Saari, Muhammad Azri Hassan, Mohamad Syamim Mohd Yusof, Mohd Zulhairi Hashim, Muhamad Hafiz Zainol, Shazril Irwan Nazli, Faiz Helmi Jali, Kavin Kartik Govindasamy, Meor Muhamad Azuan, Mohamad Izad Jamaluddin, Muhammad Firhan Ashari, Muhammad Shahril Saabah, Nor Aqmal Abdul Gaffar.

## **Swaran Singh Virk Won Gold in 15th Asian Senior Rowing**

Olympian Swaran Singh Virk led Indian rowers to win the Gold medal at 15th Asian Senior Rowing Championship at Luan, China on 29 September 2013.

Apart from one Gold medal, India also clinched two Silver and bronze medals in the 15th Asian Senior Rowing Championship. The 15th Asian Senior Rowing Championship concluded on 29 September 2013. Swaran Singh Virk moved ahead of Iran and China in 7:31.88 minutes to clinch the Gold.

In the meanwhile, the team of Anil Kumar, Robin P Ulahannan, Olympian Bajrang Lal Thakar, Ranjit Singh, Kapil Sharma, Mohammed Azad, Maninder Singh and Davinder Singh took 6:12.47 minutes to clinch the Silver medal at Men's Eights event. Also, Kapil Sharma, Mohammed Azad, Maninder Singh and Davinder Singh won the Men's Fours silver in 6:03.50 minutes.

Bronze came in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls with Sonu Laxmi Narian and Shokindar Tomar victory in 6:57.13 minutes. Apart from this, Monalisha, Dittymol Varghese, Chaoba Devim and Amusana Devi also won the Bronze in Lightweight Women's Quadruple Sculls with 7:03.33 minutes.

In yet another category of Men's Quadruple Sculls, Rakesh Raliya, Deepak Rana, Dushyant and Olympian Manjeet Singh were at the fourth position with 6:01.03 minutes.

Swaran Singh Virk finished at the sixteenth position after completing his fourth in a minor placings race in the men's single sculls event at the London Olympics. He had secured his 2012 London Games berth by winning the major qualifying event at the FISA Olympic Continental Qualification Regatta for Asia in Chung Ju, Korea.

## **India Won Bronze in 8th Asia Cup Women's Hockey**

India won bronze medal in the 8th Women's Asia Cup 2013 as they defeated China 3-2 via penalty shootout in the 3rd/4th place play-off played at the National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 September 2013.

The two teams had ended 2-2 in the regulation time. Ritu Rani captained Indian side in the tournament, whereas Weilin Mao captained the China team.

India had to win this tournament to qualify for the 2014 World Cup at The Hague, Holland. However, it came at the third place.

Meanwhile, Japan stunned defending champions Korea 2-1 in the final to win the Asia Cup and secure a place in next year's World Cup.

The 8th Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2013 Held at Kualalumpur (Malaysia) from 21 to 27 September 2013.

## Vidit Won Bronze in World Junior Chess Championship

Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi won the bronze medal in the World Junior Chess Championship (U 20) after settling for a quick draw with Yu Yangyi of China in the 13th and final round that concluded at Kocaeli, Turkey on 26 September 2013.

With Yu Yangyi winning the gold, the silver went to Alexander Ipatov of Turkey who defeated Aleksander Indjic of Serbia in the final round.

With this win Vidit Gujrathi joined the list of elite Indians winning medals in the world junior champions starting from a gold medal won by world champion V Anand in 1987, gold by Harikrishna in 2004, gold by Abhijeet Gupta in 2008 and Bronze by Sahaj Grover in 2011.

### About Vidit Gujrathi

Vidit Gujrathi, born on 24 October 1994, belongs to Nashik of Maharashtra. He was former Under-14 world champion (2008). He was also three consecutive times age group National Champion (Year 2005, 2006 and 2007). Vidit also won many national and international tournaments in the under 14 category.

## Sudha Singh won Gold in Women's 3000m Steeplechase

Sudha Singh of Railways won gold medal in women's 3000m steeplechase on the third and penultimate day of the 53rd National Open Athletics Championship on 9 September 2013. She doubled her achievement by improving her own meet mark. Significantly, she is National record holder besides being a silver medallist at Asian Championship. Sudha, clocked 10 minutes 9.04 secs to better her own old meet record of 10:09.56 set in 2010. Her Railways teammate Lalita Babar was second 10:33.40 whereas Kiran Tiwari of Haryana was third in 10:52.75. The championship was held at Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium, Ranchi.

## BCCI imposed a Life Ban on Lalit Modi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 25 September 2013 imposed a life ban on former IPL Commissioner Lalit Modi from participating in any of its activities. The decision to this effect was taken at the special general meeting under the chairmanship of BCCI President N.Srinivasan at Chennai.

The meeting which was attended by 30 members of the Board, discussed the findings of the disciplinary committee and found Modi guilty on eight charges including financial irregularities, indiscipline and misconduct. The official statement issued by the BCCI said the Board members will again meet on the 29 September 2013 for the annual general meeting to elect its Chairman.

Earlier, Lalit Modi had appealed to the Supreme Court to issue a stay on BCCI's meeting. The case was dismissed by the Court.

## Liu Shiwen Won 2013 Women's Table Tennis World Cup

Chinese paddler Liu Shiwen on 23 September 2013 won women's table tennis World Cup after defeating teammate Wu Yang in four sets. The tournament was held in Kobe, Japan. Liu Shiwen is presently ranked world number 1. She defeated Wu Yang 11-3, 11-7, 11-7, 11-2.

Liu had won the World Cup in Guangzhou in 2009 and in Huangshi one year ago. It was her third world cup. Wu Yang and Liu are training partners.

Meanwhile, Singapore's Feng Tianwei secured the third place after overcoming Hong Kong veteran Jiang Huajun in 11-6, 13-11, 12-10, 11-2.

## Sandeep Tulsi Yadav Won Bronze at World Wrest.Champ.

Indian wrestler Sandeep Tulsi Yadav on 22 September 2013 won bronze medal in the 66kg Greco-Roman category at the Senior World Wrestling Championships in Budapest. Sandeep Tulsi Yadav defeated Serbia's Aleksandar Maksimovic, 4-0 to bag the bronze medal.

This bronze medal is India's first ever medal in the 66kg Greco-Roman category at the Senior World Wrestling Championships.

In the elimination round, Sandeep Tulsi Yadav got a bye. In the second round he defeated Spanish Wrestler Navarro Sanchez Isamel by 5-0 points. The next round was with the Moldova wrestler Cosniceanu Mihali which won by 6-2 points.

Unfortunately, in the next bout with the Korean Wrestler Ryu Han Su he lost by 0-10. Since the Korean wrestler entered in the final, the Indian got the chance to qualify for the repechage.

This is India's best-ever show at the World Championships with three medals. Freestyle wrestlers,

Amit Kumar Dahiya and Bajrang Kumar had, earlier, won a silver and a bronze in their respective weight categories (55kg and 60 kg).

The freestyle wrestlers finished a commendable sixth in the overall team rankings, which also earned the country its maiden berth in the World Cup to be held in March 2014.

## Balaji –Murugesan Pair Won ITF Men’s Doubles Title

The Indian duo of N. Sriram Balaji and Ranjeet Virali-Murugesan won the ITF Men’s Doubles Title at Sharam-Al-Sheikh, Egypt on 15 September 2013. In the title clash, the top seeded Indian duo defeated the fourth seeded Egyptian pair of Karim Hossam and Karim-Mohamed Maamoun, 6-4, 7-6. The Indian pair Balaji –Murugesan won their doubles title in 10000 dollar prize money category.

### About ITF Men’s Circuit

The ITF Men’s Circuit is a series of professional tennis tournaments held around the world that are organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for male professional Tennis players.

The ITF Men’s Circuit provides the entry level of Professional Tournaments enabling players to eventually reach the higher level tournaments on the ATP World Tour.

The ITF Men’s Circuit incorporates two prize money levels of Futures tournaments. Futures Tournaments are single week tournaments that offer either 10000 dollars or 15000 dollars each in prize money. They must be scheduled with a minimum total of 30000 dollars in prize money, so either three consecutive weeks of 10000 dollars each in prize money or two consecutive weeks of 15000 dollars each in prize money.

## S Sreesanth and Ankeet Chavan handed Life Ban

Cricketers S Sreesanth and Ankeet Chavan on 13 September 2013 were handed life ban for IPL spot-fixing by BCCI (The Board of Control for Cricket in India). Amit Singh banned for five years, while Siddharth Trivedi got banned for one year. Harmeet Singh has been excused, while a decision of Ajit Chandila will be taken later. An internal probe conducted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India found, Sreesanth and Ankeet Chavan guilty on multiple accounts, including conceding a pre-determined number of runs per over in exchange for bribes.

Amit Singh, who played in the IPL till last year, was seen as the conduit between the cricketers and bookies. S Sreesanth and Ankeet Chavan were found guilty of spot-fixing during sixth season of the Indian Premier League. They had played for Rajasthan Royals.



## Sports Ministry formed a Steering Committee

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on 11 September 2013 decided to form a Steering Committee to monitor and coordinate the work related to major international sports events till the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. The Committee will decide core probables and review their performance every three months for deciding who needs to be retained, dropped or added. It will also be responsible for taking up the cases where quick decisions are required on the part of the Ministry including arrangements of additional funds.

The ten-member panel will be headed by Secretary (Sports) and Executive Director (Teams) and Sports Authority of India will be its Convener.

## Afghanistan Won SAFF Championship 2013 Trophy

Afghanistan won the South Asian Football Federations (SAFF) Championship 2013 on 11 September 2013 by defeating India, the defending champions by 2-0 at Dashrath Rangashala stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal. This is maiden international trophy lifted by Afghanistan in Football.

In the 2011 edition of SAFF Championship India defeated Afghanistan by 4-0 in the finals. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and hosts Nepal were the other teams in the tournament, regarded as the symbol of football supremacy in South Asia.

**The next edition of the SAFF Championship will be held in India in 2015.**

## South Asian Football Federations

The SAFF Championship, also called the South Asian Football Federation Cup is the main association football competition of the men's national football teams governed by the South Asian Football Federation. Earlier it was known as the South Asian Football Federation Gold Cup. Eight teams compete in the South Asian Football Federation Tournament. The other names of the tournament included the South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation Gold Cup in 1993 and South Asian Gold Cup 95 in 1995. The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship kicked off in Kathmandu in 1997.

## Indian History in SFAA Football Championship

- India has won the championship six times (1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2011)
- This is the first time that India faced a defeat by Afghanistan
- India won the first edition of the SAFF championship in 1993 held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka was

the runner up team. In 1993, the championship was named as Asian Association of Regional Co-operation Gold Cup.

## Jacques Rogge retired

Jacques Rogge of Belgium on 10 September 2013 retired from the post of the President of International Olympic Committee (IOC). He has served IOC as its President from 6 July 2001 to 10 September 2013. He was the eighth President of IOC. He was succeeded by Thomas Bach of Germany.

### About Jacques Rogge

- By profession, he was an Orthopaedic surgeon.
- He joined IOC as its member in 1991 and Executive Board member in 1998.

### His sports career

- He competed in the yachting competitions at the Games of the Olympiad in Mexico in 1968, Munich in 1972 and Montreal in 1976.
- He was also a member of the Belgian National Rugby Team. Jacques Rogge has also served as the President of the Belgian National Olympic Committee from 1989 to 1992.
- He became President of the European Olympic Committee in 1989

## Wrestling voted back for 2020 and 2024 Olympics Games

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 8 September 2013 announced that wrestling to be the part of Olympics in the 2020 and 2024 Games. Wrestling was approved by the IOC on Sunday as an additional sport for 2020 and 2024.

Wrestling a sport as ancient as the games themselves is back in the Olympics after seven months. It was dropped by the IOC executive board in February 2013.

Wrestling got the majority of 49 votes in a secret ballot among 95 member of the International committee. Wrestling easily defeated bids from baseball/softball and squash to regain its Olympic status. The joint bid of baseball/softball was second with 24 votes and squash received 22.

The IOC approved the 25 core sports at Summer Games with a 77-16 majority. Rugby sevens (made up of seven players, instead of the usual 15) and golf will be added in 2016 Olympic Games

(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). With wrestling being back to Olympics the total number of sports in the world's biggest sports fair will have go up to 28 sports in the list.

The announcement came after six months campaign by Wrestling body International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA) to keep Olympic status.

## About IOC

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was created by Pierre, Baron de Coubertin on 23 June 1894. It was located in Lausanne, Switzerland. It consists of 100 active members, 33 honorary members and 1 honour member. The IOC organizes the modern Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, which are held in summer and winter after every four years, respectively.

## Tokyo Won Rights to Host 2020 Summer Olympic Games

Tokyo on 7 September 2013 won the right to host the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting in Buenos Aires chose the Japanese capital Tokyo, over Istanbul, after Madrid was dramatically eliminated following a first-round tie with the Turkish city. Japan won the right to host Olympic Games for the second time. It had previously hosted the Games in 1964. Olympic is considered world's biggest sporting event.

Concerns over Fukushima, seriously damaged in the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 18000 people, had dogged Japan's bid in the final days. The final result was 60 votes for Tokyo against 36 for Istanbul.

The decision means it will be the fourth time that Japan plays host to the Olympics, having also organized hosted Olympic winter Games in Nagano (1998) and Sapporo (1972). Asia will also see successive Olympics, as the South Korean resort of Pyeongchang is hosting the 2018 winter edition.

## Golfer Henrik Stenson Won the Deutsche Bank Title 2013

Henrik Stenson, the golfer from Sweden on 2 September 2013 won the Deutsche Bank title after shooting a five under 66. This is his first win at any PGA tour in three years, where he finished at 22-under 262 to tie the tournament at the Tournament Players Club (TPC), Boston.

To win the title, he surpassed American Steve Stricker with two shots, who finished second in the tournament. Sergio Garcia of Spain and Graham DeLaet of Canada finished at the thior position in the tour.

Earlier he had been the runner-up of the two PGA tour in 2013 against Phil Mickelson at a Major and Tiger Woods at a World Golf Championship.

## About Deutsche Bank Championship

Deutsche Bank Championship is a golf PGA tour that is held every year over the Labor Day weekend at the Tournament Players Club of Boston in Norton, Massachusetts. The tournament for the first time was held in 2003. The basic difference of this event from other events of the PGA tour is that it is held from Friday to Monday, whereas other events are held from Thursday to Sunday. Its final round is played on Labor Day (first Monday of September is a Labor Day in US).

***At present this event is managed by Tiger Woods Foundation.***

## About Henrik Stenson

- Stenson was born in Gothenburg and turned up to be a professional golfer in 1999.
- In 2001, he joined the major European Tour and till date has own seven major European tour events
- In European Order of Merit, he finished under the list of top ten, from 2005 to 2008
- From 2005 to 2008 he finished each year in the top 10 of the European Order of Merit

## India retained Its Top Position in the ICC ODI Rankings

India retained their top position in the ICC ODI team rankings table while Virat Kohli remained the highest-ranked Indian batsman at the fourth spot in the latest list issued on 1 September 2013.

India, who have been in the number one position since February 2013 when they beat England 3-2 at home to regain the top place, have 123 rating points to their credit, ahead of Australia (114) and England (112).

While Kohli managed to maintain his position in the ICC Player Rankings for ODI Batsmen, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni also retained his seventh spot in the top-10 list, which still has South Africa's Hashim Amla sitting at the top.

West Indies' Sunil Narine continues to lead the bowlers' table, followed by Saeed Ajmal of Pakistan in second place and England's Steven Finn in third spot. In the ODI All-rounders' list also Jadeja has remained at third position, while Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez has gained four points to reclaim the number-one ranking.

## South Korea Won the Asia Cup Hockey

South Korea defeated India 4-3 in the final of the Asia Cup Hockey at Ipoh, Malaysia on 1 September 2013. With this, South Korea confirmed its place in the World Cup at The Hague.

In the meanwhile, the Asian Hockey Federation gave the details of the participants for the next AHF

Champions Trophy to be held in Kakamigahara (Japan) from 1 November 2013 to 10 November 2013.

In the men's section, the participants will be China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Oman and Pakistan. In the women's section, the participants include China, India, Japan and Malaysia. The women's development conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur in context with the next Asia Cup for women from 21 September 2013 to 27 September 2013.

## Results of the Asia Cup Hockey Final

Korea 4 (Jang Jong, You Hyo Sik, Nam Hyun Woo, Kang Moon Kweon) bt India 3 (Rupinder Pal Singh, Nikkin Thimmaiah, Mandeep Singh). 3-4: Pakistan 3 (Abdul Haseen Khan 2, Muhammad Imran) bt Malaysia 1 (Faisal Saari).

## Player of the Tournament

*V.R. Raghunath (India); Man of the final: Kang Moon Kweon (Korea); Top scorer: Jang Jong (8 goals) Korea; Best goal-keeper: Sreejesh (India); Fair play: Japan.*

## Final Rankings

*1. Korea, 2. India, 3. Pakistan, 4. Malaysia, 5. Japan, 6. Oman, 7. Bangladesh, 8. Chinese Taipei.*

## Bhuvana Kalva Won 2013 ITF Women's Tennis Tournament

India's Bhuvana Kalva won her maiden 10000 US dollars ITF women singles title on 31 August 2013 after she registered an impressive 6-4, 7-5 victory over sixth-seeded Akari Inoue of Japan at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association complex.

Bhuvana Kalva is from Andhra Pradesh. She is 18-year-old. She also defeated top seed Ankita Raina and third seed Keren Shlomo of Israel en route final.

Her title win fetched her 12 ranking points while Akari, won 8 ranking points. Akari, had won the doubles title along with Hua-Chen Lee on 30 August 2013.

## Shooter Sonia Rai Won the Gold Medal

Sonia Rai won the gold in women's 25-metre sports pistol on the opening day of the 10th

Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad on 31 August 2013. Sonia Rai is 32 years old.

Sonia was the first Indian piston shooter to win a World Cup medal which she won in Resende, Brazil in 2006. She repeated her performance to clinch the gold medal in the All India Kumar Surendra Singh Championship in July 2013.

Anisa Sayyed won the bronze as she beat national champion Sushma Singh. She had topped the qualifiers with 579.

In men's air rifle, Ravi Kumar of Air Force won the gold medal after he beat Aribam Dicky Sharma of Army 208.2 to 205.9. He had topped the qualifiers with a score of 620.4. In men's 50-metre free pistol, Jitu Rai of Navy stayed won the gold medal while Dharmendra Singh and Amit Kumar Pilaniya won the silver and bronze respectively.

## Hyderabad Hotshots Won the inaugural season of IBL

The Hyderabad Hotshots won the inaugural edition of the Indian Badminton league (IBL) 2013 played at Sardar Patel Stadium, Mumbai by defeating Awadhe Warriors in the finals. Saina Nehwal helped Hyderabad hotshots on level terms after defeating PV Sindhu. Ajay Jayaram defeated Gurusai Dutt 10-21, 21-17, 11-7 in the third tie to secure the Men's singles title of IBL 2013.

Saina Nehwal was awarded as the player of the tournament, because of her undefeated feat in the complete tournament. She received a prize amount of 1000 US dollars for being the player of the tournament.

The winning team Hyderabad hotshots received 3 crore 25 lakh rupees, whereas, the runner up team Awadhe Warriors received 1 crore 75 lakh rupees.

Earlier, Hyderabad Hotshots defeated the Pune Pistons by 3-0 in the first semi-finals, while Mumbai Masters were defeated in the second semi-finals by the Awadhe Warriors by 3-2.

The league has emerged as one of the richest event of Badminton.

### Indian Badminton League Started

The first season of the Indian Badminton League (IBL) started on 14 August 2013 at New Delhi. The IBL is the franchise league which is proposed by Badminton Association of India (BAI). The schedule of the IBL is 14 August 2013 to 31 August 2013. The league will include Indian as well as foreign badminton players.

### Important Facts about the Indian Badminton League (IBL)

- Deepika Padukone and Aamir Khan are the brand ambassadors of the IBL.

- The franchise cities include Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Nagpur and Lucknow.
- The opening ceremony of the event took place at Delhi on 13 August 2013 and the final will be held at Mumbai on 31 August 2013. The semi-final matches will take place at Bangalore and Hyderabad.
- The six teams at the inaugural IBL are Krrish Delhi Smashers, Pune Pistons, Banga Beats (Bangalore), Awadhe Warriors (Lucknow), Hyderabad Hotshots and Mumbai Masters. Each franchise will consist of 11 players- 4 foreign, 6 Indians and 1 junior Indian.
- The overall prize money of the event is 1 million US dollar. This is the richest tournament of badminton in the world.
- Five matches will be played per tie which will include two men's singles, one each of women's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles.
- Six icon players from India include Jwala Gutta (Krrish Delhi Smashers), Ashwini Ponnappa (Pune Pistons), Lee Chong Wei (Mumbai Masters), P Kashyap (Banga Beats), Saina Nehwal (Hyderabad Hotshots) and PV Sindhu (Awadhe Warriors).



## Chapter: Awards & Honours

### First National Award for Senior Citizens- Vayoshreshtha Samman, 2013 Presented

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee presented the First National Award for Senior Citizens - Vayoshreshtha Samman, 2013 on the occasion of International Day of Older Persons at a function in New Delhi on 1 October 2013.

#### **The First National Award For Senior Citizens - Vayoshreshtha Samman, 2013 were given in the following categories:**

- National Award for Best Institution for providing services to senior citizens and Awareness Generation
- National Award for Best State in implementing the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act, 2007, & providing services and facilities to senior citizens
- National Award for Centenarian Senior Citizen
- National Award for Iconic Mother
- National Award for Lifetime Achievement
- National Award for Creative Art
- National Award for Sports & Adventure Award (Male)
- National Award for Sports and Adventure (Female)

#### **Steps taken for senior citizens by the Government of India**

- In context with the senior citizens of India, The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted.
- Apart from this, Model Rules were also brought out by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment explained that ageing posed two main challenges- the need to ensure care and protection of the elderly so that they live a healthy, dignified and productive life and secondly, the older people must be looked at as partners in

progress rather than a burden on society.

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) in 1999 to ensure active and productive ageing by evolving a framework of providing financial, medical, social and emotional support.
- Another policy called National Policy for Senior Citizens 2011 was also introduced.
- The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 essentially aims at creating an enabling mechanism to make the claim for maintenance simpler, speedier and affordable.
- The grant-in-aid scheme called the Integrated Programme for Older Persons extends grants to NGOs for supporting old age homes, day care centres and mobile medi-care units.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the Project 'NICE' (National Initiative on Care for Elderly). This is implemented through National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in 2000.
- National programme for Health care of Elderly (NPHCE) has been formulated and implemented in the country through the ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The major objectives of the NPHCE include provision of dedicated health care facilities for elderly at various levels of State healthcare delivery system.

## **D. Purandeswari Presented the EPCES Export Awards to EOUs and SEZs**

The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry D. Purandeswari on 30 September 2013 presented the Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (EPCES) Export Awards to EOUs and SEZs for Outstanding Export Performance. The objective of the awards was to recognise the meritorious efforts of EOUs and SEZ Units for their outstanding export performance for the year 2010-11.

The awards were presented in the fields of gem and jewellery, engineering, plastic products, electronic, computer hardware, services, readymade garments, handicrafts, chemical and allied products, textile products and food products.

It is important to note that the SEZ Scheme, which is operating in more than 130 countries, in one form or another, is contributing effectively in bringing investments, new technologies and best managerial practices. The EOU Scheme has also been reviewed after the withdrawal of income tax benefit.

The exports from EOU and SEZ Sector are to the extent of 556295 crore Rupees during 2012-13 with a contribution of 34 percent to national exports. PC Nambiar, Chairman, EPCES informed that there is an export growth of 16 times from EOU and SEZ Sector since inception of the Council in 2003 and the contribution of this sector to national exports during 2012-13 is 34 percent.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry presented the export awards to EOUs and SEZ Units.

Some of the prominent awardees included Reliance Industries Ltd., Aurobindo Pharma Ltd., Shree Ganesh Jewellery House and Moser Baer India Ltd. among others.

## Ravi Shankar Narsimhan was presented with Friendship Award

A senior Indian journalist, Ravi Shankar Narsimhan, on 29 September 2013 was presented with Friendship award by China-the highest honor given to foreigners. Narsimhan is the executive editor in the overseas edition of the Beijing based China Daily. Ravi Shankar hails from Andhra Pradesh. Narsimhan has worked with China Daily for 11 years. He was given the award for helping China better tell its stories to the outside world. He is one among the 50 foreign experts from 20 countries and diverse fields, who have been rewarded.

The Friendship Award is an annual award given by the Chinese government to honour outstanding foreign experts in China.

## Navneet Kaur won the Multimedia Award

Pond's Femina Miss India World 2013 Navneet Kaur Dhillon on 27 September 2013 won the Multimedia Award at the Miss World 2013 in Indonesia. India won this award for the second time in a row. The award was first introduced by the Miss World Organization in 2012 and India's Vanya Mishra was its first winner.

The Multimedia Award is given on the basis that how contestants presented their web section of the Miss World website and a Facebook page wherein they interact with fans through status updates, photos and videos. The contestants earn fast track points through maximum updates, interactions, likes and shares by fans and it ultimately helps the contestant win the Multimedia Award.

Navneet's active interaction with her fans, her regular updates about the experiences at the Miss World 2013 contest through self-clicked photos and videos on the assigned Facebook page were the main reasons to help her win Multimedia Award. Navneet also created awareness about the rare Sumatran Tiger by posting its pictures and videos.

As of today, Navneet's page boasts of 120000 active fans and the posts reaches to 1000000 people a week. Navneet's close competitors were Miss Thailand and Miss Nepal for the Multimedia Award.

Navneet, formed partnership with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Pureit Brand to create awareness about the importance of safe drinking water in India. This also helped her winning the award.

## Malala Yousafzai Presented with Peter J. Gomes Award

Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani schoolgirl and education rights campaigner presented with the 2013 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award (Harvard Humanitarian of the year) by Harvard University on 27 September 2013.

16 years old Malala received the award by Dr Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation for her contribution in promoting the education among girls.

About Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani school pupil and education activist from the town of Mingora in the Swat District of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by a Taliban militant in October 2012 after she campaigned for girls' right to education.

## Raghuram Rajan awarded with the Deutsche Bank Prize

Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan was awarded on 27 September 2013 with the Fifth Deutsche Bank Prize for Financial Economics 2013. They gave this award in recognition of his macro economics research which influenced financial and macro-economic policies around the world.

Raghuram Rajan was chosen for the prize from more than 260 nominations from top universities, central banks and research centres in 37 countries.

While presenting the prize Jurgen Fitschen, Co-Chairman of the Management Board explained that Raghuram Rajan revealed the relationship between the financial sector and the rest of the economy is so complex and it is not good enough to simply look at the size of the financial sector in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP), as is done so often at present.

Jurgen Fitschen also explained that Raghuram Rajan also expected the financial crises of 2008 in 2005 three ahead of global financial crises.

### About Deutsche Bank Prize

- The Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economic honors outstanding achievements in researching globally relevant questions of financial economics and macroeconomics.
- The Centre for Financial Studies (CFS) awards the prize bi-annually in partnership with Goethe University Frankfurt.
- The Deutsche Bank Prize is sponsored by the Deutsche Bank Donation Fund. It carries an endowment of 50000 Euro.
- The prize is one of the most generously endowed in the areas of financial economics and macroeconomics in Europe.

## About Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Bank is a German global banking and financial services company with its headquarters in the Deutsche Bank Twin Towers in Frankfurt, Germany.

## About Raghuram Rajan

- Raghuram Govinda Rajan is the current and the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- He worked as chief economic adviser to India's Ministry of Finance .
- He acted as Chief economist at the International Monetary Fund from 2003 to 2007.
- He co-authored Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists with Luigi Zingales in 2003.
- He wrote Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy published in 2010. For this book he won the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award for 2010.

## Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards 2013 Announced

Eight eminent scientists on 26 September 2013 selected for Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for the year 2013. The awards were announced during the 71st Foundation day of CSIR on 26 September 2013 in New Delhi.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is country's top most award for excellence in Science and Technology.

The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is the most coveted national recognition for young scientists and engineers for their R&D work done in India. The Award was instituted in 1957 in the honour of late Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, an eminent scientist, founder Director and principal architect of CSIR.

### The winners are:

#### **Biological Science**

Dr Sathees Chukkurumbal Raghavan  
Department of Biochemistry  
Indian Institute of Science (IISc)  
Bangalore

#### **Mathematical Sciences**

Dr Eknath Prabhakar Ghate  
School of Mathematical Sciences  
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research  
Mumbai

<p><b>Chemical Sciences</b> Dr Yamuna Krishnan National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR) UAS-GKVK Bangalore</p>	<p><b>Medical Sciences</b> Dr Pushkar Sharma National Institute of Immunology (NII) New Delhi</p>
<p><b>Engineering Sciences</b> Dr Bikramjit Basu Materials Research Centre Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore</p>	<p><b>Physical Sciences</b> Dr Amol Dighe Department of Theoretical Physics Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Mumbai</p>
<p><b>Dr Suman Chakraborty</b> Department of Mechanical Engineering Indian Institute of Technology (IITKgp) Kharagpur</p>	<p><b>Dr Vijay Balakrishna Shenoy</b> Department of Physics Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore</p>

The award carries a cash component of five lakh rupees. It is given annually to young scientists below the age of 45 who have made outstanding contributions in any field of science and technology.

## First Allard Prize Presented to Anna Hazare

The University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law on 25 September 2013 presented Anna Hazare with the inaugural Allard Prize for International Integrity at Vancouver, Canada.

The Allard prize is one of the world's largest awards recognizing efforts to combat corruption and to promote human rights.

### About Allard Prize

The Allard Prize established in October 2012 by UBC Law alumnus Peter A. Allard, QC and the Allard Prize is awarded to an individual, movement or organization that has shown exceptional courage and leadership in combating corruption, especially through promoting transparency, accountability and the rule of law. The prize money for the award is 100000 US Dollars.

## About Anna Hazare

Kisan Bapat Baburao Hazare born on 15 January 1940, popularly recognized as Anna Hazare, is an Indian social activist who is particularly acknowledged for his contribution in order to the development of Ralegan Siddhi, a village in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra, India and his efforts for establishing it as a model village, for which he was awarded the Padma Bhushan by Government of India, in 1992. He played a large part in the 2011 Indian anti-corruption movement.



## Chapter: Persons in News

### A Special Senate Committee voted to strip Silvio Berlusconi of his Parliament Seat

A special Senate committee in Italy on 4 October 2013 voted to strip Silvio Berlusconi of his Parliament seat after he was convicted for tax fraud. The panel's decision will need to be confirmed with a full vote of the Senate in the coming weeks. But it is being interpreted as a further sign of the end of the political career of the centre-right leader and media tycoon, who has dominated Italy's politics for almost 20 years.

On 1 August 2013, Berlusconi was convicted of a tax fraud by the Italian Supreme Court and sentenced to four years of prison, automatically reduced to one year under a 2006 pardon act.

He was also banned from holding public office. After dozens of trials in almost 20 years of political career, it was the first definitive conviction and made him formally ineligible for parliament under a 2012 anti-corruption law.

Berlusconi is the former Prime minister of Italy. He served four times as Prime Minister of Italy, from 1994 to 1995, 2001 to 2006 and 2008 to 2011.

### Moe Set Wine Selected As First Miss Universe Contender to Represent Myanmar in 50 Years

Myanmar's Moe Set Wine, 25, was on 3 October 2013 selected as the first Miss Universe contestant to represent her country in more than 50 years time. The US-educated business graduate was chosen as the first Miss Universe contestant who will represent Myanmar in over 50 years.

She will be seen on the stage at the global beauty pageant in Moscow in November 2013. It is important to note that Myanmar last sent the Miss Universe contender in the year 1961. After being selected, Moe Set Wine explained that she felt like a part of Myanmar's history.

The controversy revolves around the dress code. The traditional dress of Myanmar is still mandatory in the high schools, universities as well as most of the state Workplaces. The traditional dress of Myanmar is the demure longyi, which is actually a sheet of cotton or silk cloth wrapped around the waist and stretching to the feet.

Dress designer of Moe Set Wine- Htay Htay Tin, explained that in the past people in Myanmar did not dare to wear the clothes like these, but now the things were improving and so designers got a chance to create what they like.

## Rajnath Singh Appointed the BJP Campaign Chief

Rajnath Singh, the Bharatiya Janata Party President became the campaign committee chief for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls on 29 September 2013 in New Delhi. He was appointed as the campaign committee chief after the parliamentary board meeting of BJP. He replaced the Prime Ministerial candidate of BJP- Narendra Modi. Modi was declared as the PM candidate of BJP on 13 September 2013. He proposed the name of Rajnath Singh for the Election Campaign Committee Chief post.

BJP general secretary Ananth Kumar explained that 20 sub-committees have already been formed under the Election Campaign Committee. All these committees are headed by the senior BJP leaders and therefore, it was important that Rajnath Singh took over as the campaign committee chief.

The Parliamentary Board meeting of BJP, in the meanwhile, also held discussions about the ordinance on the convicted MPs and MLAs. BJP appealed to the President of India to not sign this ordinance. Other issue discussed during the meeting was the Right to Reject by the voter.

India's Navneet Kaur Dhillon finished among the top 20 finalists but couldn't reach final ten. She won the title of Miss Multimedia.

## Charles Taylor Convicted for War Crimes

A UN-backed special court in The Hague upheld war crimes convictions of Liberian President Charles Taylor. It ruled that his convictions had been proved beyond doubt. He was sentenced in May 2012 for helping rebels who committed atrocities in Sierra Leone during its civil war.

His lawyers argued that there were legal errors during his trial. Taylor was accused of supplying weapons to the Revolutionary United Front rebels in lieu for a constant flow of so-called blood diamonds.

He was found guilty at his trial of 11 crimes which includes terrorism, rape, murder and the use of child soldiers by rebel groups in neighbouring Sierra Leone during the civil war of 1991-2002.

Charles Taylor became the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II.

## Rahul Dravid named as Brand Ambassador for NTCC

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 5 September 2013 announced former Indian cricket team captain Rahul Dravid as brand ambassador for its National Tobacco Control Campaign. The national anti-tobacco control campaign has to continue till it achieves desired results. It shows that India is committed towards tobacco control. World Health Assembly aims a target of 30 per cent relative reduction in tobacco use by 2025.

With support from the MoHFW and World Health Organisation, Public Health Foundation of India and Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Youth organised the International Conference on Public Health Priorities in the 21st Century: The Endgame for Tobacco from 10 September to 12 September 2013. Nearly 500 participants from over 50 nations participated in fighting the global tobacco epidemic.

## Chapter: Persons Appointed & Persons resign

### S.Varadarajan took over as the CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

S. Varadarajan on 1 October 2013 took over charge as chairman and managing director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). S.Varadarajan has succeeded R.K. Singh.

Prior to his appointment as the CMD, Varadarajan was serving as the Director (finance) of the company.

#### About S. Varadarajan

- Varadarajan is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and a member of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India.
- S. Varadarajan had also served as Executive Director corporate finance and was responsible for overall treasury management, risk management, corporate accounts, taxation and budgeting.
- He has also served as the chief financial officer of Bharat Shell Limited, a joint venture between BPCL and Shell International.
- As Director of finance he successfully completed BPCL's maiden issue of unsecured bonds in the international market which was over-subscribed by 15 times, the largest offering for an Indian company in 2012.
- S. Varadarajan (56) is the Chairman of Petronet India Limited and Petronet CCK Limited. He is a Director on the Board of Bharat Oman Refineries Limited, a joint venture company promoted by BPCL and Oman Oil Company. He is also Director on the Board of Bharat PetroResources Limited, Bharat Star Services Pvt. Limited, and Bharat Star Services (Delhi) Pvt Limited.

### Ranjan Mathai Appointed as India's High Commissioner to United Kingdom

Former Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on 30 September 2013 was appointed as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He will succeed noted economist and veteran diplomat Dr Jaimini Bhagwati. However, he will take up the charge of the office later.

## About Ranjan Mathai

Ranjan Mathai joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1974 and has served in Indian embassies in Vienna, Colombo, Washington, Tehran and Brussels.

As Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi from January 1995 to February 1998, he headed the division dealing with India's relations with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives.

Ranjan Mathai played a critical role in the Indo-Bangla Ganges Water Sharing accord during Sheikh Hasina's first stint as the Prime Minister.

He also served as Indian Ambassador to Israel from February 1998 to June 2001 and was the Indian Ambassador in Qatar from August 2001 to July 2005.

He held the post of Deputy High Commissioner of India to the UK in London from August 2005 to January 2007.

Ranjan Mathai served as Foreign Secretary for a period of two years and handed over the charge to his successor Sujatha Singh in July 2013.

## Ranjib Biswal Appointed as IPL Chairman

NCA Chairman Ranjib Biswal was on 29 September 2013 appointed as chairman of the IPL during the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) at Chennai.

Prior to this appointment Ranjib Biswal was manager of the Indian Cricket team during the ICC World Cup 2011 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2013. He is also the head of Orissa Cricket Association.

Ranjib Biswal was replaced Rajeev Shukla as chairman of Indian Premier League (IPL). Rajiv Shukla, who resigned at the end of his tenure.

## About Ranjib Biswal

Ranjib Biswal (born 21 September 1970 in Cuttack, Odisha) is a former Indian cricketer. He played domestic cricket for the Odisha state. Biswal represented India in under-19 cricket, captaining the side against Pakistan in 4 test matches played in India.

He retired from domestic cricket in 1997 and became an administrator and was made a member of the selection committee (representing East Zone) in 2005 under Kiran More.

In 2006, when the committee was re-formed under Dilip Vengsarkar, Ranjib Biswal was retained for an additional term in 2006.

In 2006, Ranjib Biswal was entrusted with the additional responsibility of Manager along with D Dongoankar for the India tour of West Indies in 2006. Ranjib Biswal was currently National Cricket Academy (NCA) chairman.

## AMFI Appointed Sundeep Sikka as Its Chairman

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on 26 September 2013 appointed Sundeep Sikka, Reliance MF President and Chief Executive, as its Chairman. In the meanwhile, Sandesh Kirkire, Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Asset Management Company was elected as the vice-chairman.

The decisions of appointment were taken in annual General Body Meeting of AMFI. Both Sundeep Sikka as well as Sandesh Kirkire were unanimously elected by the AMFI and will hold their positions till 2014, i.e., up to next Annual General Meeting. Sundeep Sikka succeeds Milind Barve, Managing Director of HDFC MF. Sundeep Sikka was earlier the vice-chairman of AMFI. As per the convention of AMFI, the vice-chairman takes over as the Chairman of the organisation.

### About the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)

- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is the industry association of mutual funds.
- It interacts with SEB, the market regulator, in context with the mutual fund related issues.
- AMFI is also representative of the industry of mutual funds to the Union Government of India, Reserve Bank of India as well as other organisations.
- AMFI serves as the self-regulatory body for mutual funds.

## KC Ponnappa Took Over the Office as Chairman of NPA

KC Ponnappa, Group Manager, Kotada Estate took over as the Chairman of Nilgiri Planters' Association (NPA) for 2013-14 on 26 September 2013. In the meanwhile, Mohammed Iqbal, Manager, Chamraj Estate was elected as the Vice-Chairman.

Other members of the Executive Committee included K.S. Nanjappa(Kil Kotagiri), T. Jayaram (Havukal Estate), Prem Sagar Pandiaraj (Corsley), K. Jagan Thimaiah (Thiashola), P.P. Bhansali (Kairbetta), K. Rajmohan (Katary and Sutton), R. Jebackumar (Coonoor Tea Estate), K.M. Kalappa (Glenmorghan), T. Gundan (Robroy), R. Rajkumar (Glendale), H.S. Mehta (Nonsuch), George Varghese (Mailoor), S.R. Choudhury (Dunsandle) and S.S. Sidhu (Woodlands).

It is important to note that Suresh Jacob, (Vice-President, Katary and Sutton Estates of Neelamalai Agro Industries Ltd) became the Chairman for NPA for 2012-13 term and KC Ponnappa was the Vice-Chairman for that term.

### About the Nilgiri Planters' Association (NPA)

- The Nilgiri Planters' Association (NPA) was formed in the year 1891.
- NPA represents the organised plantation sector which covers a total of 6900 hectares area

spread over four Taluks of Nilgiris, namely Ooty, Coonoor, Kotagiri and Kundah at the average altitude of 6500 feet.

- The annual production of the Member Estates is around 16 million kg of Orthodox Teas.
- Member Estates of NPS are also located in the Geographical Indication region of Nilgiri (Orthodox) Tea registered under the Geographical Indication of goods (Registration and Protection) Act.

## Ravindra Kumar Elected as President of the INS

Ravindra Kumar, Editor of The Statesman was elected as President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2013-14 at its 74th Annual General Meeting held in Bangalore on 27 September 2013. Ravindra Kumar succeeded K N Tilak Kumar of Deccan Herald and Prajavani. At the meeting, Kiran B Vadodaria (Sambhaav Metro) was elected as Deputy President and P V Chandran of Grihalakshmi as Vice President.

Sanjay Gupta (Dainik Jagran, Varanasi) was chosen as the honorary treasurer of INS for the year 2013-14. V Shankaran is the Secretary General of the Society. The executive committee of INS represents the current 990 members from newspapers, journals, periodicals and magazines.

### About Indian Newspaper Society (INS)

- Indian Newspaper Society (INS) (formerly Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society) acts as the central organisation of the Press of India, an independent body authenticating circulation figures of newspapers and periodicals in India.
- INS is an organization which plays a major role in protecting and promoting the freedom of press in India.
- INS was founded in 1939. Its headquarters are at New Delhi.
- INS membership comprises the owners, proprietors and publishers of print media who discusses and suggest various measures to the government regarding the problems related to the newspaper industry. It is a kind of pressure group which works to protect the interest of newspaper industry in particular and print media in general.

## Sri Srinivasan was sworn in as Judge of US Court

Sri Srinivasan was on 26 September 2013 sworn in as judge of the US Courts of Appeal for the District of Columbia Circuit. It is the second most powerful court of the United States. He is the first Indian-American to be on the bench of the US Courts of Appeal for the District of Columbia Circuit. He was administered oath of office by Justice Sandra Day O' Connor.



He is 46 years old. He was born in Chandigarh. His parents migrated to the United States in 1970s. He was confirmed by the US Senate by a huge 97-0 vote for this job. Srinivasan was first nominated by US President Barack Obama on 11 June 2012. On 2 January 2013 his nomination was returned to the President, due to the sine die adjournment of the Senate.

On 3 January 2013, Obama re-nominated him for the same office. Prior to this appointment, Srinivasan was the principal deputy solicitor general of the United States. Srinivasan started his legal career by serving as a law clerk for Judge J Harvie Wilkinson on the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 1995 to 1996.

## Sanjay Govind Dhande Appointed as UGC Member

Sanjay Govind Dhande, former director of IIT Kanpur, on 25 September 2013 appointed as a member of UGC for a term of three years. Sanjay Govind Dhande's tenure as UGC member would be till 24 September 2016. The Union Government on 18 September 2013 removed social scientist Yogendra Yadav from the membership of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for joining the Aam Admi Party.

### About Sanjay Govind Dhande

Sanjay Govind Dhande is an India Engineer and Educationist. He was former director of the Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur and he has act as a temporary charge of the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Gwalior.

Sanjay Govind Dhande was the founder director of PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing Jabalpur. He served as a part-time member of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

### The Union Grants Commission (Dated: 25 September 2013)

1. Prof. Ved Prakash- Chairman
2. Prof. M M Ansari- Member
3. Prof. D Narasimha Reddy- Member
4. Prof. V S Chauhan- Member
5. Dr. Indu Shahani- Member
6. Dr. Seyed E Hasnain - Member
7. Prof. Meenakshi Gopinath - Member
8. Prof. Achyutananda Samanta- Member
9. Prof. Sanjay Govind Dhande- Member

## Ruchira Kamboj appointed the Permanent Representative

Ruchira Kamboj was appointed as the Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO, Paris with the rank of Ambassador. The government made this announcement on 25 September 2013. She will succeed VS Oberoi. At present, Ruchira is joint secretary in Ministry of External Affairs. She is expected to take up her assignment shortly.

Kamboj joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1987. She last served as the Deputy Head, in the office of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, London. Prior to that, she served as the Minister & Head, High Commission of India, Cape Town, South Africa.

In addition, she served as a Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York. She also served at the High Commission of India, Mauritius and at the Indian embassy in Paris. She held the positions of Director/Deputy Secretary (Foreign Service Personnel) and Under Secretary (Europe West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

Ruchira Kamboj is married to a businessman from India and has one daughter.

## Randall Oliphant Appointed as The Chairman of The WGC

Randall Oliphant appointed on 25 September 2013 as the Chairman of the World Gold Council (WGC). He was succeeded by Ian Telfer.

### About Randall Oliphant

- Randall Oliphant is Executive Chairman of the Canadian gold producer New Gold Inc.
- He worked in the industry in many capacities for almost 30 years, and he serves on the boards of a number of public and private companies and not-for-profit organizations.

### About the World Gold Council(WGC)

- It is located in United Kingdom (UK). It is operating in India, the Far East, Europe and the US.
- The World Gold Council is the market development organisation for the gold industry.
- It is working for the investment, jewellery, technology sectors and engaging in government affairs.
- The main purpose of WGC is to provide industry leadership, whilst stimulating and sustaining demand for gold.
- We provide insights into the international gold markets, helping people to better understand the wealth preservation qualities of gold and its role in meeting the social and environmental needs of society.

- The World Gold Council has 23 members who include the world's leading and most forward thinking gold mining companies.

## Chapter: Person Died

### General Vo Nguyen Giap, the Legendary Vietnamese Military Commander Died at 102

General Vo Nguyen Giap, the commander who led Vietnam to victory over the US and France, died on 4 October 2013 at Hanoi, Vietnam. He was 102 years old. He was the main commander in two crucial wars- the First Indochina War (1946–1954) and the Vietnam War (1960–1975).

#### Life History of General Vo Nguyen Giap

- General Vo Nguyen Giap was born on 25 August 1911 in Quảng Bình Province, French Indochina.
- He participated in some of the significant battles such as Lạng Sơn (1950); Hòa Bình (1951–1952); Điện Biên Phủ (1954); the Tết Offensive (1968); the Easter Offensive (1972); and the final Hồ Chí Minh Campaign (1975).
- Apart from being the Military Commander, he was also a journalist as well as an interior minister in President Hồ Chí Minh's Việt Minh government.
- He served as the military commander of the Việt Minh, the commander of the Vietnam People's Army (PAVN), and defense minister.
- He also remained a member of the Politburo of the Vietnam Workers' Party. The Party eventually became the Communist Party of Vietnam in the year 1976.
- He is the most prominent military commander of Vietnam apart from Ho Chi Minh.
- He also authored extensively on military theory and strategy. Some of his works included Big Victory, Great Task; People's Army, People's War; Điện Biên Phủ; and We Will Win.
- He became a part of the clandestine nationalist movement at the age of 14 years.
- He founded the Viet Minh, which is dedicated to ending French colonial rule in Vietnam.

### Polly Anthony, the Former Epic Records President Died At 59

Polly Anthony, the former Epic Records President died in the last week of September 2013. She

was 59 years old. She led Epic Records from the year 1997 to 2003. She died because of pancreatic cancer in Beverly Hills, California.

## Life History of Polly Anthony

- Polly Anthony worked along with Celine Dion, Michael Jackson and Rage against the Machine.
- She became the President of the Dreamworks and then Co-President of Geffen Records.
- She worked with Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Macy Gray and Pearl Jam.
- She also oversaw soundtracks to Chicago and Titanic and took them to great success.
- Recently, she also worked in the movie projects and TV, which included HBO series Off the Record and CBS' Jimmy Smits starrer Cane.

## Tom Clancy, the US Thriller Author, Died At 66 in Baltimore

Tom Clancy, the writer known for thrillers, especially The Hunt for Red October and Patriot Games, died in Baltimore, US on 1 October 2013. He was 66 years old. He was credited with 17 New York Times bestsellers and had launched into the career of writing with the help of the then US president Ronald Reagan.

## Life History of Tom Clancy

- Tom Clancy was born on 12 April 1947 in Baltimore, US.
- He was an American author who was best known for detailed espionage as well as military sciences stories set during and after the time period of the Cold War.
- His first novel was The Hunt for Red October. The novel included his most famous character named Jack Ryan, the CIA agent who eventually became the President.
- His initial few works focused on the cold war, but his works also included terrorism.
- In the year 1994, his novel entitled Debt of Honor was harshly psychic.
- Apart from the thrillers, his works also included Command Authority, the 13th Jack Ryan novel.
- His works also included non-fiction, a few which were co-authored too. His novel 1993 Submarine: A Guided Tour Inside a Nuclear Warship was co-authored.
- His novel entitled Clear and Present Danger was the Number 1 bestselling novel of the 1980s.

## Awards and Achievements

- He was among only three authors who sold two million copies on a first printing in the 1990s. The other two included John Grisham and J. K. Rowling.
- Tom Clancy received an honorary doctorate in humane letters at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the year 1992.
- He was also honoured with the Yeoman Warder of The Tower of London and received the title Supernumerary Yeoman.
- In the year 1990, he received the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement from the Navy League of the United States.

## A.K.Kutty, Indian Athletics Coach Died at 75

He was the coach of Asiad silver medal winning long jumper Mercy Kuttan. He had also served as trainer for the Railways.

A.K. Kutty was conferred the Dronacharya Award in 2010. Kutty showed splendid skills in spotting talent and training them in a systematic manner to extract the best from his wards.

A.K. Kutty served in the Indian Air Force, where he left a mark as an athlete. On retirement from service, he joined the Kerala sports council as a trainer.

## Alvaro Mutis Jaramillo, Colombian Writer Died at 90

Alvaro Mutis Jaramillo, an award-winning Colombian poet, essayist and novelist influential throughout the Spanish-speaking world, died on 23 September 2013 in Mexico City.

Alvaro Mutis, who was 90, won the prestigious Principe de Asturias award in 1997 and the Cervantes award in 2001, two of the top Spanish language literature prizes.

Alvaro Mutis's best known works include *Diary of Lecumberri* (1959) about his time in prison; *The Araucama Mansion* (1973), *The Adventures and Misadventures of Maqroll* (1986); and *The last stop of the Tramp Steamer* (1990).

## About Alvaro Mutis Jaramillo

- Born on 25 August 1923, in Bogotá, Alvaro Mutis was the son of Colombian diplomat Santiago Mutis and Carolina Jaramillo. He spent part of his early years in Brussels, Belgium, where his father served as Colombia's ambassador.
- His literary career began in 1948 with the publication of his first volume of poetry, *The Balance*, followed in 1953 with *Elements of the Disaster*.

- In 1950s he spent 15 months in Lecumberri prison in Mexico City, accused of embezzlement by the US multinational Standard Oil Co of New Jersey, where he worked as head of public relations.
- His novels include The Manor of Araucaima and The True Story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin.
- Alvaro Mutis Jaramillo had been living in Mexico city since 1956.

## Freedom Fighter Ranjit Singh Died at 97

Freedom fighter Ranjit Singh died on 20 September 2013. He was 97 year old. He was close associate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

### About Ranjit Singh

- He was member in the Indian National Army.
- He was working president of All India Freedom Fighter Organisation.
- Post retirement, he started work for the welfare of freedom fighter's families.

### About Indian National Army (INA)

- Indian National Army was formed in 1942 for the liberation of India from the British rule in South East Asia.
- The INA was initially formed by Mohan Singh but it was collapsed in December 1942.
- INA was revived under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1943.
- INA is also known as Azad Hind Fauj.

## Mohan Singh, the Veteran Samajwadi Party Politician Died

Mohan Singh, the veteran Samajwadi Party politician died on 22 September 2013 in New Delhi. He was suffering from cancer. He was 68 years old. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

### Life History of Mohan Singh

- Mohan Singh was born on 4 March 1945 in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh.
- He was inspired into politics by Ram Manohar Lohia and entered into the field during his student life.
- In the year 1968, he was elected as the President of the Allahabad University Students' Union.



- He was also imprisoned several times and was put behind the bars for the first time in the year 1966 when he was trying to occupy Anand Bhavan, Allahabad.
- During the emergency period in 1975-77, he participated in the Jai Prakash Narain's movement.
- He remained associated with various political parties such as Janata Party, Lok Dal, Lok Dal (A) and Janta Dal.
- He was one of the founder members of Samajwadi Party.
- Mohan Singh remained the member of the UP legislative assembly from 1977 to 1985.
- He served as the minister in the UP government from 1979 to 1980.
- In the year 1991, he was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time. Thereafter, he was re-elected two times in the year 1998 and 2004.
- In the year 2010, he was also elected for the Rajya Sabha.
- In the year 2008, he won the Best Parliamentarian Award for this year.
- He also served as the General Secretary of the Samajwadi Party.
- Apart from all these positions, he also remained the member of various Parliamentary Committees such as Committee on Rural Development, House Committee, Consultative Committee, Committee of Privileges, Committee on Public Undertakings, Business Advisory Committee, Committee on Home Affairs and its Subcommittee on Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, Committee on Official Language and Committee of Privileges.

## Ken Norton, the Former Heavyweight Champion Died

Ken Norton, the former heavyweight champion died on 18 September 2013 at Nevada, US. He was 70 years old. He was struggling through the poor health from past few years. He is known most commonly for his 12-round victory over Muhammad Ali by breaking his jaw in 1973.

It is important to note that he was the only second heavyweight champion to defeat Muhammad Ali as the professional. The first one to do so was Joe Frazier in the 15-round competition in the year 1971.

### Life History of Ken Norton

- Ken Norton was born on 9 August 1943 at Jacksonville, Illinois, U.S.
- He won the heavyweight title eliminator in the year 1977 and was also declared as the champion by the World Boxing Council.
- He finished off with the record of 42-7-1 and 33 knockouts.
- He later became an actor and also the commentator at various fights.
- He began his boxing career during his presence at the United States Marine Corps from 1963

to 1967.

- He was inducted at the World Boxing Hall of Fame in the year 1989 and at the International Boxing Hall Of Fame in the year 1992. In 2004, he was inducted into the United States Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame and in 2008, into the WBC Hall of Fame.
- In the year 2001, he was inducted into the Breitbard Hall of Fame by the San Diego Hall of Champions.
- He was also inducted into the California Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

## Hiroshi Yamauchi, the Third President of Nintendo, Died

Hiroshi Yamauchi, the third president of Nintendo, died on 19 September 2013 in Japan. He was 85 years old and died because of pneumonia. He is the mastermind behind the most popular Nintendo game, Super Mario. Nintendo is a maker of Super Mario and Pokemon games along with Wii U home console. Nintendo was formed in the year 1889. He is survived by Katsuhito Yamauchi, his eldest son.

### Life History of Hiroshi Yamauchi

- Hiroshi Yamauchi was born in Kyoto on 7 November 1927.
- He ran Nintendo for over 50 years. During his link with Nintendo, he transitioned the Japanese company from traditional playing-card maker to video game giant.
- He owned the Seattle Mariners, the major league baseball club. He later sold it the US unit of Nintendo in the year 2004.
- Hiroshi Yamauchi remained the President of Nintendo from 1949 to 2002.
- He developed Game Boy portables as well as Family Computer consoles.
- Hiroshi Yamauchi is one of the richest men in Japan. As of April 2013, according to the Forbes, his net worth was 2.1 Billion US Dollar. He was the 491st richest man of the world.
- He is the man behind creating some of the most popular Nintendo characters such as Super Mario and Donkey Kong.

## Former BCCI Secretary Jaywant Lele Passed Away

Former BCCI Secretary Jaywant Lele passed away on 19 September 2013 in Vadodara after he suffered a heart attack. He was 75.

Jaywant Lele had become the BCCI secretary in 1996 and stayed in this post till 2001.

He was also in charge when the match-fixing scandal broke out in 2000. In that period, the board first set up the Justice Chandrachud Commission to probe the match-fixing charges and then asked the CBI to step in after the former South African captain Hansie Cronje admitted to fixing.

The investigation led to life bans on the former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin and batsman Ajay Sharma. Jaywant Lele lost his post as secretary to Niranjan Shah during the 2001 board elections.

## About Jaywant Lele

Jaywant Lele was born on 13 September 1936.

He held the post BCCI Secretary from 1996 to 2001.

He had a diploma in mechanical and electrical engineering and had worked at Sarabhai Chemicals. He became the honorary secretary of the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) in 1969.

In 2003, he was expelled from the BCA, along with two other administrators, for alleged financial irregularities and administrative lapses. Jaywant Lele was also a qualified umpire.

In November 2011, he penned a memoir titled I Was There - Memoirs of a Cricket Administrator.

## About the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is the national governing body for all forms of cricket in India. The board was formed in December 1928 as BCCI replaced Calcutta Cricket Club. BCCI headquarter is at Mumbai and the present president of BCCI is M.N. Srinivasan.

## Eiji Toyoda, Key Figure in Toyota's Rise, Died

Eiji Toyoda, who helped steer Toyota Motor Corporation's global rise and pioneered the automaker's vaunted production system, died on 17 September 2013. He was 100.

Eiji Toyoda, a cousin of the Japanese automaker's founder Kiichiro Toyoda, died of heart failure in Toyota City.

A graduate of the prestigious University of Tokyo with a degree in mechanical engineering, he joined Toyoda Automatic Loom Works in 1936. Eiji Toyoda served as president of the Toyota Motor Corporation between 1967 and 1982. He was chairman until 1994 and remained an honorary advisor at Toyota up until the time of his death.

Eiji Toyoda was also instrumental in developing what became the automaker's much-imitated method of producing cars with as little waste as possible and continual quality improvements, a system that became known as the "Toyota Way".

Over his career, Eiji Toyoda presided over Toyota's rise in the US market from the launch of the Corolla in the late 1960s to the decision to begin making cars in the United States in the late 1980s.

## World's Oldest Man Salustiano Sanchez-Blazquez died

The Guinness World Records stated that former musician and coal miner Salustiano Sanchez-Blazquez of Spain certified as the world's oldest man died at the age of 112 on 13 September 2013. Sanchez-Blazquez died at a nursing home in Grand Island, New York. He became the world's oldest man when Jiroemon Kimura died in June 2013 at the age of 116. He was born on 8 June 1901 in village of El Tejado de Bejar, Spain. He was known for his talent on the dulzaina( a double-reed wind instrument). He played dulzaina at weddings and village celebrations. He moved with his older brother Pedro and a group of friends to Cuba to work in the cane fields.

The world's oldest person is a woman, 115-year-old Misao Okawa of Japan. Arturo Licata of Italy is now the leading candidate to be officially recognized by Guinness as the current world's oldest man. He is 111 years old.

## Ray Dolby, the pioneer of Noise Reduction, died

Ray Dolby, the American Engineer and the pioneer of noise reduction in audio recordings died on 12 September 2013. He was the founder of Dolby Laboratories. The 80 year aged Ray Dolby in his end days suffered from Alzheimer disease.

His works in noise reduction and surround sound has been appreciated across the world and have won recognitions too.

### About Ray Dolby

- Ray Dolby was born in Portland, Oregon in 1933 and grew up in San Francisco.
- He started his career working in Ampex Corporation, when he was a student. He helped in the early development of videotape recording systems
- In 1963, Ray took up a two-year appointment as a United Nations advisor in India
- He returned to England in 1965 to establish Dolby Laboratories in London
- Ray served as chairman of Dolby's Board of Directors from 1965 until 2009, and retired from the board in 2011.
- He holds more than 50 US patents, and has written papers on videotape recording, long-wavelength X-ray analysis, and noise reduction.

### Educational History of Ray Dolby

- He received a PhD degree in physics from Cambridge in 1961 and was elected a Research Fellow of Pembroke College (Honorary Fellow, 1983). During his last year at Cambridge, he was

also a consultant to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

- He was awarded a Marshall Scholarship and a National Science Foundation graduate fellowship
- In 1957, he received a BS degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University
- During his last year at Cambridge, he was also a consultant to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

## **Fellowships and Honorary Membership**

- Audio Engineering Society (AES)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- British Kinematograph Sound and Television Society
- Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE)
- Royal Academy of Engineering

## **Awards**

- Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: Scientific and Engineering Award; Academy Award of Merit (Oscar)
- National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences: Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement; Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Engineering Development; Charles F. Jenkins Lifetime Achievement Award
- AES: Silver and Gold Medal Awards
- SMPTE: Samuel L. Warner Memorial Medal Award; Alexander M. Poniatoff Gold Medal; Progress Medal
- IEEE: Masaru Ibuka Consumer Electronics Award; Edison Medal
- American Electronics Association: David Packard Medal of Achievement
- Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame
- National Inventors Hall of Fame
- Médaille du Festival de Cannes
- Berlinale Camera

## **Honorary Degrees and National Recognition**

- US National Medal of Technology
- Doctor of Science, Cambridge University
- Doctor of the University, University of York

- Honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE)
- Ray makes his home in San Francisco with his wife, Dagmar Dolby. Ray and Dagmar have two sons, Tom and David

## Sunila Abeysekera, the Sri Lankan Activist, Died

Sunila Abeysekera, the Sri Lankan activist who spent over 20 years documenting human rights violations in Sri Lanka, passed away in Colombo on 9 September 2013 due to long illness. She was 61 years of age.

### Life History of Sunila Abeysekera

- Sunila Abeysekera was a researcher, advocate, and spokesperson within Sri Lanka.
- She was internationally recognised as one of important human rights activists of South Asia.
- She was a leading activist of women human rights in Sri Lanka as well as internationally.
- She started with her career as the drama critic but eventually took to the cause of protecting human rights during Sri Lanka's civil war.
- Sunila Abeysekera was awarded Human Rights Defender Award in 2007 by Human Rights Watch.
- She was also awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award in 1999 by the Secretary-General Kofi Annan.
- She had been working with the Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights since 1992.
- In the year 1994, she received the M.A. in Women and Development from the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands. In the same year, she won the 1994 year's award for the best research paper.
- The primary themes of her work include issues of equality and difference in understanding women's human rights as well as promotion of equal treatment for women.

### Major Works of Sunila Abeysekera

- Women's Human Rights: Questions of Equality and Difference in the year 1994
- Women and the Media in Sri Lanka: The Decade from Nairobi to Beijing in the year 1995
- Organising for Peace in the Midst of War: Experiences of Women in Sri Lanka in the year 1995
- The Abortion Debate in Sri Lanka in the year 1995
- Consolidating Our Gains at the World Conference on Women's Human Rights: A Personal Reflection in the year 1995
- Representations of Women in the Sinhala Cinema in the year 1996

## Rochus Misch, the last Bodyguard of Adolf Hitler died

Rochus Misch, the former bodyguard of the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler died at the age of 96 on 6 September 2013 in Germany. He was the person, who witnessed the final hours of Hitler and was also the last survivor of the Hitler's bunker in Berlin.

### About Rochus Misch

- Rochus Misch was the telephone operator in the bunkers of Hitler
- He was a member of the Fuehrer's inner circle, as a bodyguard, a courier and telephone operator
- He was born on 1917 in Alt Schalkowitz, Poland
- Before being inducted into Hitler's personal staff, he served Poland in 1939
- Towards, the end of the war and defeat of the Nazis, Hitler moved back for retreat in his Berlin Bunker and Misch became the final witness, when Hitler killed himself on 30 April 1945
- He was captured by the Soviet Forces in May 1945 and spent 9 years of his life in the Soviet Prisoner of War Camp and returned back to Berlin in 1953
- After his return to Berlin, he came up with a home decoration business from which he retired in mid 1980s
- He became the last witness to see Hitler's end of life in the Third Reich Bunker after the death of Otpp Gunsche in 2003
- A book named Misch's Memoir – The Last Witness was published in German

## Ronald Coase, Nobel Prize Winner and Economist died

Ronald H. Coase, the winner of Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science in 1991, died on 2 September 2013 in Chicago. He was 102 years old. The University of Chicago announced about his death.

### Life History of Ronald H. Coase

- Ronald Harry Coase was born on 29 December 1910 in London.
- He was the British-American economist and author.
- He served as the Clifton R. Musser Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Chicago Law School.
- He received his education from the University of London External Programme in 1927–29. Thereafter, he went to the London School of Economics and took courses with Arnold Plant.



- In the year 1991, he won the Nobel Prize in Economics.
- Ronald H. Coase is known for two of his most popular articles- The Nature of the Firm (1937) and The Problem of Social Cost (1960). The Nature of the Firm introduced the methodologies of transaction costs for explaining the limits as well as nature of the firms. On the other hand, The Problem of Social Cost explained how the property rights can overcome the issues of externalities. This was popularly known as the Coase Theorem.
- Ronald Coase is also referred to as the Father of Reform in policy for allocation of the electromagnetic spectrum. This was based on the article titled The Federal Communications Commission (1959).

## Renowned publications of Ronald Harry Coase

- The Nature of the Firm
- The Problem of Social Cost
- Durability and Monopoly
- The Lighthouse in Economics
- The Institutional Structure of Production
- The Conduct of Economics: The Example of Fisher Body and General Motors
- The Industrial Structure of Production: A Research Agenda for Innovation in an Entrepreneurial Economy
- How China Became Capitalist (2012) co-authored with Ning Wang

## Tommy Morrison, the former Heavy Weight Champion died

Tommy Morrison, the former heavy weight champion, who was diagnosed positive for HIV died at the age of 44, on 1 September 2013 at a hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. As a boxer, he was nicknamed as The Duke and in his entire boxing career; he played 52 professional fights and lost only 3 of them.

Morrison came in limelight in the year 1993 after he defeated George Foreman to win the World Boxing Organization (WBO) Heavyweight Title. He also gained popularity. He also became famous after being casted as a co-star against Sylvester Stallone in the 1990 boxing movie Rocky V.

### About Tommy Morrison

- In the year 1996, he was tested positive with HIV before a fight against Arthur Weathers, which effectively ended his career as a professional boxer.
- He was born in Gravette, Arkansas and was an Irish-American raised in Delaware country of

Oklahoma

- He started his professional boxing career in November 1988, in which he was knocked out by William Mohammad in New York city
- He fought against some of the legends of the boxing world namely Ray Mercer, Carl Williams, Tim Tomashek, Ross Puritty and others

## David Frost, British Broadcaster and Writer Died at 74

British broadcaster and writer David Frost died on 31 August 2013 aboard the ocean liner Queen Elizabeth where he was scheduled to give speech. He was 74 years old. He interviewed historic figures like Henry Kissinger, John Lennon and Richard M Nixon.

Globally, he will be remembered for his revealing interviews with former US President Richard Nixon. He conducted a series of interviews with Nixon, who had resigned the presidency two years earlier, in which the former president almost apologised to the public for his role in the Watergate scandal.

David Paradine Frost was born on 7 April 1939, in Tenterden, England, to Mona and WJ Paradine Frost. His father was a Methodist minister. His career spanned journalism, comedy writing and daytime television presenting, including The Frost Report.

During his academic years, Frost edited both a student newspaper and a literary publication at Cambridge University, where he excelled in satire. In 1962, Frost became the host of That Was the Week That Was for BBC. In the 1990s, David Frost presented Through the Keyhole, which he also produced, alongside Loyd Grossman. In 1993, he started presenting Breakfast with Frost - which had begun life on ITV - a Sunday show on BBC in which he interviewed noteworthy figures. He joined broadcaster Al-Jazeera in 2006 when it launched its English-speaking service.

David Frost was credited with changing the whole style of political interviewing and the whole approach towards it. Frost was awarded a knighthood in 1993 by the British government. He had recently moved to a home close to Oxford. He also had a home in London.

## Chapter: Report and Survey

### India is Largest Recipient of Foreign Remittances: World Bank Report

The World Bank report entitled Migration and Remittance Flows: Recent Trends and Outlook-2013-16 released on 2 October 2013 revealed that India emerged as the largest recipient of foreign remittances among developing economies in 2013.

In 2013 Non-Resident Indians (NRI) sent a record 71 billion Dollars home compared to 70 billion dollars in 2012. According to a World Bank report NRIs are estimated to remit up to 85 billion dollars a year by 2015.

World Bank in its report stated India and China will represent nearly a third of total remittances to the developing world in 2013.

The surge in remittances continues despite the recent decline in Rupees against the Dollar. The gulf countries account for nearly 40 per cent of remittances in India while it was 48 percent to South Asian countries.

#### Report Highlights

- The developing world is expected to receive 414 billion Dollars in migrant remittances in 2013, an increase of 6.3 percent over the previous year (2012). This is projected to rise to 540 billion Dollars by 2016.
- Globally, the world's 232 million international migrants are expected to remit earnings worth 550 billion Dollars in 2013 and over 700 billion Dollars by 2016.
- The top recipients of officially recorded remittances for 2013 are India (with an estimated 71 billion Dollars), China (60 billion Dollars), the Philippines (26 billion Dollars), Mexico (22 billion Dollars), Nigeria (21 billion Dollars), and Egypt (20 billion Dollars). Other large recipients include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Ukraine.
- As a percentage of GDP, the top recipients of remittances, in 2012, were Tajikistan (48 percent), Kyrgyz Republic (31 percent), Lesotho and Nepal (25 percent each), and Moldova (24 percent).
- Growth of remittances has been robust in all regions of the world, except for Latin America and the Caribbean, where growth decelerated due to economic weakness in the United States.

In India, remittances are larger than the earnings from IT exports. With the weakening of the Indian

rupee, a surge in remittances is expected as nonresident Indians take advantage of the cheaper goods, services and assets back home. Remittances to India are expected to reach 71 billion Dollars in 2013. Remittance is the act of transmitting money to a distant location to fulfill an obligation. International remittances are transfers of funds by foreign workers—remitters—who are living and working in other countries typically to their families who are still living in their home countries.

## 827 Million Undernourished People are Living in Developing Countries: UN Report

The United Nations food agencies (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP)) released a report on The State of Food Insecurity in the World on 1 October 2013. It highlighted that Some 842 million people or roughly one in eight suffered from chronic hunger in 2011-13 not getting enough food to lead active and healthy lives.

### Highlights of the State of Food Insecurity in the World report

- A total of 842 million people in 2011–13 or around one in eight people in the world were estimated to be suffering from chronic hunger, regularly not getting enough food to conduct an active life. This figure is lower than the 868 million reported with reference to 2010–12. The total number of undernourished has fallen by 17 percent since 1990–92.
- The vast majority of hungry people 827 million live in developing regions where the prevalence of undernourishment is now estimated at 14.3 percent whereas 15.7 million people live in developed countries.
- While the estimated number of undernourished people has continued to decrease, the rate of progress appears insufficient to reach international goals for hunger reduction in developing regions the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) target, which is to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, and the 2001 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) hunger target, which is to halve the proportion of hungry people in the total population by 2015.
- While at the global level there has been an overall reduction in the number of undernourished between 1990–92 and 2011–13, different rates of progress across regions have led to changes in the distribution of undernourished people in the world. Most of the world's undernourished people are still to be found in Southern Asia, closely followed by sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Asia. The regional share has declined most in Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia. Meanwhile, the share has increased in Southern Asia, in sub-Saharan Africa and in Western Asia and Northern Africa.
- Africa remains the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment with more than one

live in people estimated to be undernourished.

- Both the number and proportion of people undernourished have decreased significantly in most countries in Asia, particularly in South-Eastern Asia, but progress in Southern Asia has been slower, especially in terms of the number of people undernourished.
- The prevalence of undernourishment is lower in Western Asia than in other parts of the region but has risen steadily since 1990–92. With a decline in prevalence from 31.1 to 10.7 percent, the most rapid progress was recorded in South-Eastern Asia, followed by Eastern Asia.
- The Asia region as a whole is nearly on track to achieve the MDG hunger target. The target has already been reached in the Caucasus and Central Asia, East Asia and South-Eastern Asia, while it has nearly been reached in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Food security is a complex condition. Its dimensions – availability, access, utilization and stability are better understood when presented through a suite of indicators.

## Report Entitled Primary Census Abstract for Slum Released

Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India on 30 September 2013 released report on families living in slum areas. The slum report highlighted Households Population, sex ratio and growth rate, Child population and child sex ratio and Scheduled Caste population etc.

### Highlights of slum census report

1. The people who are living in slums increased from 52 million in 2001 to 65 million 2011.
2. Slum population grown slower than the average urban population over 2001-2011.
3. Women living in slums participate at a higher rate in the workforce than the urban average.
4. More Scheduled Castes (SCs) are living in slums with 1 out of every five slums residents belonging to SC, compared to just over one out of 10 for urban India as a whole. The proportion of SCs living in slums has risen over the last decade.
5. Scheduled Castes in slums have shown far better sex ratios than other urban communities.
6. According to census 2001 total number of towns having slums 1743. The number of towns increased to 2613 in 2011.
7. The child sex ratio (0-6 years) of an average slum household is 922 girls for every 1000 boys, compared to 905 for urban India.
8. Top five states in slum population are Maharashtra(12 million), Andhra Pradesh(10 million), West Bengal(6.4 million), Uttar Pradesh(6.2 million ) and Tamil Nadu(5.8 million)
9. Three types of slums have been defined in Census – notified, recognised and identified.

10. In 2011 census slums have been earmarked in all the statutory towns irrespective of their population size based on the same definition as in 2001.
11. States/Union territories not reporting Slums Census 2001 are Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep. But in 2011 only Manipur, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep not reported any slums.

## Probable reasons for upcoming slums

- Urbanization
- Industrialization
- Higher productivity in the secondary and tertiary sector against primary sector. It makes cities and towns centres of economic growth and jobs.
- Cities act as beacons for the rural population as they represent a higher standard of living and offer opportunities to people not available in rural areas. This results in large scale migration from rural to urban areas.

Census report also highlighted the negative consequences of urban pull. It results in upcoming of slums characterised by housing shortage and critical inadequacies in public utilities, overcrowding, unhygienic conditions etc.

## Definition of slums

According to the Slum Area Improvement and Clearance Act, 1956 slums have been defined as mainly those residential areas where dwellings are in any respect unfit for human habitation by reasons of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangements and designs of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light, sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors which are detrimental to safety, health and morals.

According to UN Habitat a slum is characterized by lack of durable housing, insufficient living area, and lack of access to clean water, inadequate sanitation and insecure tenure.

## UNICEF Released Report on Infant Mortality Rate

According to report released on 12 September 2013 by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) the global Infant Mortality rate (IMR) decreased from 61 deaths in 1990 to 37 deaths in 2011. Annual infant deaths declined from 8.4 million in 1990 to 5 million in 2011.

According to the report India's infant mortality rate shown a minor decline in 2012 compared to 2011. Infant Mortality rate decreased from 44 deaths for every 1000 live births in 2011 to 42 deaths for every 1000 live in 2012.

***According to latest report released by Register General of India data the following are the highlights of the report:***

- Kerala is good performing state in India with IMR of 12.
- Assam stood at worst in India with IMR 55. The performance of West Bengal is also not good. The IMR of West Bengal is stood at 32.
- States like Uttar Pradesh and Odisha improved well .IMR declined from 57 in 2011 to 53 in 2012 in both states.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu showed a one-point decline.
- Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir improved their IMR by two points.
- Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi and Karnataka improved their IMR by three points.

## **Main causes for High IMR in India**

The main causes for high infant mortality rate in India are low awareness of health and reproductive rights, maternal anemia and the burden of malnutrition.

## **About Infant Mortality rate (IMR)**

Infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of deaths of children less than one year of age per 1000 live births.



## Chapter: Books & Authors

### Mythily Sivaraman Wrote A Book Haunted by Fire Essays On Caste, Class, Exploitation And Emancipation

Haunted by Fire: Essays on Caste, Class, Exploitation and Emancipation: Mythily Sivaraman

The book titled Haunted by Fire: Essays on Caste, Class, Exploitation and Emancipation authored by Mythily Sivaraman released in International Centre in New Delhi on 1 October 2013.

The book focused on essays range from agrarian unrest, caste oppression, land, labour and wages, the centrality of class struggle, the early promise of change, the radical course of left struggles, the coercive apparatus of the state, issues of impunity and the way the Emergency worked out on the ground.

#### About Mythili Sivaraman

- Mythili Sivaraman is a Women Rights Activist.
- She is currently one of the Vice Presidents of the All India Democratic Women's Association (Women's wing of Communist Party of India (Marxist)).
- She worked as a Research Assistant in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN (July 1966 to mid-1968).

### Ramchandra Guha Wrote a Book 'Gandhi Before India'

#### Gandhi Before India: Ramachandara Guha

Historian and author Ramchandra Guha wrote a book on early years of Mahatma Gandhi. The book titled with Gandhi Before India. The Penguin's publishers told on 25 September 2013 that the book will be available in the market on 1 October 2013.

In this book Ramachandra Guha outlined the life of Mahatma Gandhi from his birth on 2 October 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat to till his return to India from South Africa in 1915.

#### About Ramchandra Guha

- He is a historian and Author.
- He was appointed the Philippe Roman Chair of International Affairs and History at the London

School of Economics for 2011–12.

- He also wrote books titled Patriots and Partisans, Makers of Modern India and India after Gandhi.
- He received Padma Bhushan in 2009.
- He received the Sahitya Akademi award for India After Gandhi in 2011.
- He is also a columnist in the newspapers The Telegraph and Hindustan Times and also pens for the magazines The Caravan and Outlook.

## Ikea on the Road to the Future Revealed The Family Fued

A newly released book entitled Ikea on the Road to the Future revealed how the founder of the company, Ingvar Kamprad was compelled to hand over billions of Dollars to the sons after the family fued. The new book, which is scheduled to go on sale from 27 September 2013, is co-authored by former Ikea executive Lennart Dahlgren, journalist Stellan Bjoerk and economist Karl von Schulzenheim.

The book is in contradiction with the official release of Ikea's history which explains that Ingvar Kamprad handed over the complete empire to overseas foundations in the year 1982. However, the authors of the book claimed that Ingvar Kamprad, who founded Ikea in the year 1943, retained a certain percentage of sales depending upon his intellectual property rights for himself, which in turn triggered battle with his three sons.

Ingvar Kamprad since 1970s has been living a self-imposed tax exile in Switzerland. However, in June 2013, he announced that he wanted to come back to Sweden. 87-year old Ingvar Kamprad hardly shares the podium in front of media with his sons.

## India and Malaysia: Intertwined Strands released

The Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari released a book entitled India and Malaysia: Intertwined Strands at New Delhi on 9 September 2013. The book is authored by former Diplomat Veena Sikri.

### About the book- India and Malaysia: Intertwined Strands

- India and Malaysia: Intertwined Strands is authored by former Diplomat Veena Sikri.
- The book is written for the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore.
- It is a comprehensive book on a very useful subject of relationship between India and Malaysia.
- The book offers a panoramic yet in-depth historical analysis of the inter-linkages between India and Malaysia. The analysis is a microcosm of the much larger relationship between South Asia

and South East Asia, as these have evolved for more than two millennia.

## About the author- Veena Sikri

- She remained High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh from December 2003 to November 2006.
- She also remained the High Commissioner of India to Malaysia from September 2000 to December 2003.
- She also held the position as the Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi from March 1989 to December 1992.
- She has authored and reviewed various other books and articles such as Contemporarising Tagore and the World, book review on Bangladesh: Politics, Economy and Civil Society, article titled It's the New Neighbourhood, book review of Understanding Bangladesh, Bangladesh 2009: The Elections and Beyond, The Geopolitics of Bangladesh, Connectivity Issues, India-Bangladesh Relations: The Way Ahead, Islam in South Asia: the Bengal Experience, Bangladesh: a Watershed Year and Democracy and the People of Bangladesh.

## Vice President Released Ahmev Radha, Ahmev Krishnah

The Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari released the book titled Ahmev Radha, Ahmev Krishnah at New Delhi on 4 September 2013. At the release function, the Vice President of India called people of India to stay in connection with the cultural roots for the purpose of overall development.

## About the book Ahmev Radha, Ahmev Krishnah

- Ahmev Radha, Ahmev Krishnah is the collection of poems in Sanskrit language.
- The book is written by Gulab Kothari, Chief Editor of Hindi newspaper Rajasthan Patrika.
- The book, according to M. Hamid Ansari, is written in a creative manner in both Sanskrit as well as Hindi languages. It is important to note that Sanskrit is one of the most ancient languages of India.
- The book Ahmev Radha, Ahmev Krishnah describes the complicated issue of personality development in very simple and interesting words.
- Bhartiya Gyanpith has also honoured this book with the prestigious Moortidevi Prize.

## Raj Kundra wrote a book entitled How Not to Make Money

### How Not to Make Money: Raj Kundra

Raj Kundra, the millionaire businessman has written a book titled, How Not to Make Money. This is the first book written by Raj Kundra and it narrates a story of three childhood friends – Jai, Mike and Aziz – who made a decision to get rich quick.

The Book is based on a research of the Missing Trader Fraud, who cheated billions of Euros in the early 2000s, depriving the UK Government and Europe.

The book is being published by Random House India and would be released in October 2013.

### About Raj Kundra

- He is a British-Indian businessman and a part-owner of the IPL team of Rajasthan Royals
- He is the husband of bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty

## Chapter: Summit & Conference

### 19th Meeting of the Governing Council of the CIRDAP Inaugurated By the President

The President of India Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Nineteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) on 30 September 2013 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

#### Highlights of the Inaugural Event

- The President stated that a rural growth strategy has become necessary to make a decisive impact on poverty and to trigger a development process that combines growth with equity.
- Land, which is increasingly becoming a scarce resource, needed to be managed efficiently.
- Principles of community empowerment needed to be adopted to increase the productivity of land, particularly rain-fed, degraded and waste lands.
- Rural areas need to be motivated to contribute towards the national progress.
- The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, which is active is promoting regional cooperation, has a big role to play.
- Other dignitaries present on the occasion included Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister of Rural Development; Pradeep Jain, Minister of State for Rural Development and Lal Chand Kataria, Minister of State for Rural Development.

### First Naval and Maritime Expo. Conference Concluded

India's first ever Naval and Maritime Exposition and Conference, NAMEXPO 2013 concluded on 27 September 2013 at Cochin, Kerala with a demonstration and visits to Naval ships, INS Satpura, INS Kabra and INS Sudarshini. All these ships are indigenously made in Indian shipyards.

The five-day NAMEXPO witnessed participation from 50 domestic and international exhibitors, 2000 business visitors, 15 official delegations besides 6500 general visitors.

Indian Naval and Coast Guard officers and personnel and Naval officers from more than 25 countries also visited the Exposition and interacted with exhibitors and participants.

## About the event

NAMEXPO 2013 was held from 23 to 27 September 2013 at Cochin, Kerala.

NAMEXPO 2013 was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Indian Navy, Kerala Government, and Union Ministries of MSME, Shipping and Earth Sciences.

The primary objective of this expo is to make the leading experts related to the sector of maritime aware of the latest trends and techniques which will help in the expansion and recent as well as future development of this sector.

The Countries which were participated in the expo are Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, Singapore, US, UK, UAE, Vietnam.

## Raghuram Rajan panel submitted its report

The committee headed by the former Chief Economic Advisor Raghuram Rajan (now RBI governor) submitted its report on 26 September 2013 to the Union Government. The committee was appointed by the Union Government of India to decide the criteria for granting special category status to states. According the criteria given by the report Odisha, Bihar least developed states and Goa and Kerala are most developed states.

## Highlights of the report

1. According to the report depending upon their Multi Dimensional Index (MDI) scores 28 states should be divided into three categories.

- Least developed
- Less developed
- Relatively developed

2. The report suggested that irrespective the allocation of funds, each state should get a basic fixed allocation and an additional allocation depending on its development needs and development performance.

3. The report also presented the allocation methodology.

Based on Multi Dimensional Index (MDI) scores top seven developed states are Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

Based on the Multi Dimensional Index (MDI) scores the 10 least developed states are Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The committee was appointed in the background of raising demand for special category status by

states like Bihar, west Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.

## **About Special Category Status criteria**

The special status is given to certain states depending on their resources and geography. Some of the features required to grant Special Category Status are Low Population density, Hilly and difficult terrain, Location of states, Economic and Infrastructural backwardness and Non viable nature of state finances

Special category states will get 90 Percent of plan assistance is given as grants and 10 percent as loan. They will also get 30 per cent of the Centre's gross budgetary support for Plan expenditure.

Special category states get significant excise duty concession. It will be helpful to states to attract industries to locate manufacturing units within their states.

Special status category states include the seven Northeastern states (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura), Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.



## Chapter: Important Dates

### World Habitat Day Observed Across the World on 7 October 2013

First Monday of October every year: World Habitat Day

World Habitat day is observed across the world on 7 October 2013. The purpose of this day is creation of the global awareness regarding the State of the towns and cities and the basic human right to adequate shelter. First Monday of October every year is designated as the World Habitat Day by the United Nation.

#### Theme of World Habitat Day 2013

The theme of the World Habitat Day 2013 is Urban Mobility to encourage people to shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation. In the year 2012, the theme was Changing Cities, Building Opportunities.

#### About the World Habitat Day

- The World Habitat Day is observed every year on the first Monday of October, as designated by the United Nation.
- The first World Habitat Day was celebrated in the year 1986.
- The primary objective of observing and celebrating this day is to reflect the state of cities as well as towns along with the basic human right to adequate shelter.
- The World Habitat Day celebrations also aim to remind the global community about its collective responsibility for protection of the habitat for future generation.
- On this day, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme gives the Habitat Scroll of Honour awards. These awards have been into existence since the year 1989. The objective of the award is to acknowledge the initiatives of those who make contributions towards the fields associated with the human habitats.

## The Ninth Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority Observed at New Delhi

4 October- Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority

The ninth Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) took place in New Delhi at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 4 October 2013. At the occasion, Army Chief General Bikram Singh and Navy Chief Admiral DK Joshi were also present. The primary focus at the ninth Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority was at the recent massive tragedy of Uttarakhand. The Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, at the occasion explained that rains and floods in Uttarakhand opened the facts about India's vulnerability to disasters and the need to take effective measures to prevent such disasters and contain their fall-out when they occur. During the occasion, the Prime Minister of India also honoured the people from the Indian Air Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, National Disaster Response Force, Civil Administration, civilian air crew and the community at large who helped during the natural calamity at Uttarakhand.

### About the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- The National Disaster Management Authority has been in existence for 8 years now.
- Apart from the National Disaster Management Authority at the national level, State Disaster Management Authorities and District Disaster Management Authorities have also been set up in a large number of States and Union Territories.
- NDMA is the India's apex body in the area of disaster management.
- It not only lays down our policies on disaster management but also lays down guidelines for the State Authorities to follow while making their own State Plans.
- It recommends funding for disaster management efforts and takes the other measures required for prevention and mitigation of disasters and capacity building for disaster management.

## The International Day of Non-Violence observed on 2 October

2 October- The International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence was observed on 2 October across the world on the occasion of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The International Day of Non-Violence is also known as Gandhi Jayanti in India.

In the year 2004, Shirin Ebadi, the Iranian Nobel laureate took the proposal of International Day of Non-Violence to the World Social Forum in Bombay. On 15 June 2007 the United Nations General

Assembly established 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence. The resolution of the UN General Assembly asked the members of UN system to commemorate 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence and disseminate the message of non-violence through public awareness and education.

## **How is International Day of Non-Violence observed or celebrated?**

- People, NGOs as well as the Governments across the world observe this day through different activities as well as events. These activities and events include:
- Broadcast announcements as well as news articles for promotion of the day
- Discussions, seminars, press conferences as well as public lectures in context with the non-violence
- Photo exhibitions which highlight the issues and adverse effects related to violence
- Awareness campaigns
- Light ceremonies
- Prayer meetings

It is important to note that the International Day of Non-Violence is strongly associated with Mahatma Gandhi, also known as the Father of the Nation of India. He is also symbolised as the peace leader.

## **The National Voluntary Blood Donation Day observed on 1 October**

The National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1 October celebrated every year in India since on 1 October 1975. It is organised by National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) and National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Government of India.

## **The main objectives of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day**

- To increase awareness among the people and the importance of voluntary blood donation.
- To achieve 100 percent Voluntary Blood Donation, so as to be able to give the safest blood to the needy patients.
- To have enough blood stock in our blood banks for any eventuality.
- To give our thanks and reinforce the self esteem of those who donate blood voluntarily, so that they continue to do so regularly.
- To inspire those who has not donated blood but are in good health, to start donating blood.
- To inspire those donors who donate blood only for their relatives or friends, to donate voluntarily.

## Legal Protection in India for blood donation

Safe blood transfusion comes under the legal protection as it is life saving and also fatal. Fundamental right under part III of Indian Constitution (Article 21) spells out that no person shall be deprived of his life. The Consumer Protection Act of 1986 also covers blood as a commodity. Indian Panel code chapter XIV, sections 269 and 270 also provide for protection against spread of infectious diseases due to negligent and malignant acts. Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940 also establishes regulations for blood banking and transfusions.

### Criteria for blood donors as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940:

- Age is between 18 to 65 years.
- Body weight is 45 kg and above.
- Pulse rate 60 to 100 per minute and regular
- Blood Pressure of Systolic 100 to 180mm of mercury; Diastolic 50 to 100mm of mercury.
- Hemoglobin minimum 12.5gm/100ml of blood.
- Oral temperature should not exceed 37.5°C.

### About National blood transfusion council

In accordance with the directive of the Supreme Court, National Blood Transfusion Council was constituted in 1996 as a Registered Society.

Main objectives of National blood transfusion council

- Promote voluntary blood donation
- Ensure safe blood transfusion
- Provide infrastructure to blood centres

## International Day of Older Persons Observed on 1 October

Every year from 1991 onwards on 1 October is observed as the International Day of Older Persons. The day celebrated every year to recognise the contributions of older persons in the society and examines the issues that affect their lives.

The theme of the 2013 International Day of Older Persons day is the future we want: what older persons are saying.

World-wide there are around 600 million persons aged 60 years and above. It will double by 2025 and will reach virtually two billion by 2050. The vast majority of them living in the developing world.

## About the International Day of Older Persons

- United Nations General Assembly (by resolution 45/106) designated 1 October the International Day of Older Persons in 1990.
- This was preceded by initiatives such as the Vienna International Plan of Action on ageing which was adopted by the 1982 World Assembly on Ageing.

## 29 September Celebrated as The World Heart Day

Every year on 29 September celebrated as the World Heart Day since 1999.

### The theme of the 2013 World Heart Day

A life course approach to the prevention and control of cardiovascular disease (CVD) with a focus on women and children because healthy children lead to healthy adults and healthy adults lead to healthy families and communities.

The World Heart Day is organised by World Heart Federation.

### About The World Heart Federation

- The World Heart Federation is dedicated to leading the global fight against cardiovascular disease (CVD) – including heart disease and stroke - with a focus on low- and middle-income countries, via a united community of more than 200 member organizations.
- It aligns its efforts around the World Health Organization's (WHO) related target of reducing premature cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality of 25 percent by 2025.

## World Tourism Day observed on 27 September

World Tourism Day observed on 27 September 2013 across the world to bring awareness about the importance of tourism.

The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide.

Theme for 2013: Tourism and Water: Protecting our Common Future

This year's theme highlights tourism's role in water access and shines a spotlight on the actions currently being taken by the sector in order to contribute to a more sustainable water future, as well as the challenges ahead.

As the most widely celebrated global day for tourism, the day represents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of tourism's role in water access and shine a spotlight on the sector's contribution to a more sustainable water future.

## Background

*World Tourism Day was first celebrated in 1980 by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) decided in September 1979 to institute World Tourism Day, which was first celebrated on 27 September 1980. 27 September was chosen as the date for World Tourism Day because that date coincided with an important milestone in world tourism: the anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on 27 September 1970.*

## World Rabies Day Observed on 28 September

World Rabies Day observed on 28 September 2013 across the world to raise awareness about the impact of rabies disease and to deliver the message that rabies is preventable.

The theme for the year 2013 is Rabies: Understand it to defeat it. World Rabies Day is an initiative of Global Alliance for Rabies Control and the day started in 2007 to create a global opportunity for people to focus on rabies prevention.

The World Rabies Day is observed each year on 28 September- on the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur who developed the first efficacious rabies vaccine with his colleagues. The day aims to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on human beings and animals, and provide information on how to prevent the disease.

## About Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that causes acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in warm-blooded animals. The disease is zoonotic, meaning it can be transmitted from one species to another, such as from dogs to humans, commonly by a bite from an infected animal. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death.

## Chapter: **Miscellaneous**

### **Vice President of India released a commemorative postage stamp of Baba Jumdev**

The Vice President of India, M. Hamid Ansari released a commemorative postage stamp in the memory of Baba Jumdev at a function in Gondia, Maharashtra on 30 September 2013. Baba Jumdev was a prominent spiritual leader and revered social activist. He was a spiritual guide and a social reformer for who worked towards the service of humanity.

M. Hamid Ansari explained that through a postage stamp, the social and spiritual message of Baba Jamudev will reach all over the country. Baba Jamudev made valuable contributions towards reforming and improving the society. He called upon his followers to be good human beings by adhering to compassion and forgiveness.

On the occasion, Union Minister of Heavy Industries Praful Patel was also present.

### **Country's First Customized Pin Code Allotted to SC**

The Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of India allotted Customized Pin Code to the Supreme Court of India for the first time on 26 September 2013. The Customized Pin Code of the Supreme Court is 110 201.

The event took place on the occasion that marked the completion of 41 years of the introduction of Pin Code in the country. The PIN was introduced on 15 August 1972 in India.

The Department of Posts also started a Locality Based Online Pin Code Search Directory of Delhi on this occasion for the first time in India.

### **About Postal Index Number (PIN)**

Postal Index Number (PIN) or PIN Code is a 6 digit code of Post Office numbering used by India Post.

The PIN was introduced on 15 August 1972.

There are 9 PIN regions in the country.

The first 8 are geographical regions.



The digit 9 is reserved for the Army Postal Service.

The first digit indicates one of the regions. The first 2 digits together indicate the sub region or one of the postal circles. The first 3 digits together indicate a sorting / revenue district. The last 3 digits refer to the delivery Post Office.

## R Sankar's Statue Unveiled in Kerala

The Congress president Sonia Gandhi on 29 September 2013 unveiled the statue of R Sankar, the first Congress Chief Minister of Kerala. The statue was installed at Palayam (near War Memorial) in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. R Sankar was the third Chief Minister of the state.

The bronze statue was installed by the R Sankar Foundation of Kerala. R Sankar Foundation president R Sarathchandra Prasad explained that the statue was taken to Thiruvananthapuram in a procession from the premises of Gokarna temple at Kudroli in Karnataka. It is important to note that 26 September 2013, marked 51 years of Sankar becoming the Chief Minister of Kerala.

Apart from unveiling of the statue, other activities such as organisation of a seminar on R Sankar and Kerala politics at the Symphony Hall and a photo exhibition was also organised at the Press Club on 28 September 2013. The exhibition showcased memorable moments of the life of R Sankar.

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