

Barack Obama to announce \$50bn infrastructure plan

President Barack Obama is expected to call for a new infrastructure plan on Monday as he bids to find ways to jump-start the spluttering US economy.



The plan will invest about \$50bn (£32.5bn) in roads, railways and airports as well as high-speed rail and the creation of an infrastructure bank.

US infrastructure has long been considered underfunded and receives poor grades from government agencies. The move comes amid signs that the US economy is faltering.

The US Labor Department announced that the US economy had lost a further 54,000 jobs, while the unemployment rate rose to 9.6%, from 9.5% in July.

The infrastructure announcement marks the start of a week in which Mr Obama will focus on the economy, seen as the most important issue for voters in November congressional elections.

On Wednesday the president travels to Cleveland, Ohio, where he is expected to unveil new tax proposals. A CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll of 1,024 US adults released on Monday suggests 52% of people would vote Republican, against 45% for the Democrats, up by 4% on last month.

Repairing runways

Mr Obama will outline the infrastructure plans at an event in Milwaukee marking the Labor Day holiday in the US. The proposals call for investments over six years, but would be backed by an initial \$50bn.

The goals of the infrastructure plan include: rebuilding 150,000 miles (241,000km) of roads; building and maintaining 4,000 miles of railways; repairing 150 miles of airport runways, and installing a new air navigation system. Mr Obama will also call for the creation of a permanent infrastructure bank that would focus on funding national and regional infrastructure projects the Associated Press reported.

Miss Universe 2010 Miss Mexico Crowned

The Miss Universe 2010 Pageant has been decided with a 22-year-old Mexican woman taking home the crown. Miss Mexico **Jimena Navarrete**, of

Guadalajara, beat out 88 other women from six continents at the 59th annual pageant held in Las Vegas. **Miss Jamaica Yendi Philipps** took second place, **Miss Australia Jenista Campbell** took third, Miss Ukraine Anna Poslavska got fourth, and Miss Philippines Venus Raj – the projected favorite coming into the competition – took fifth place.

Navarrete was the top scoring competitor in the evening gown component of the competition, and was the second-highest scorer in the swimsuit portion. Judges asked Navarrete about the effect that the Internet has on young people and she said it is an indispensable tool. Miss USA Rima Faikh, the first Muslim-American person to win the Miss USA competition, did not

make it to the final round. Miss Venezuela Stefania Fernandez won the Miss Universe 2009 contest.

Miss Universe 2010, the 59th edition of the pageant, was held at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. on August 23, 2010. It was hosted by Bret Michaels and Natalie Morales. Jimena Navarrete, Miss Mexico, was crowned Miss Universe 2010 by outgoing titleholder Stefania Fernández from Venezuela.

Ushoshi Sengupta, Miss India Universe 2010, was among the 83 contestants of Miss Universe 2010 beauty pageant held in Las Vegas. There were times when Indian beauties queens were widely regarded and every year when the beauty pageants i.e. Miss Universe, Miss World, Miss Asia Pacific or any were held, their mention used to be done and they used to be the hottest among all and ofcourse they would many



a time even consecutively take the crown home. After Sushmita Sen, Aishwarya Rai, Lara Dutta, Diana Hayden, Priyanka Chopra, Diya Mirza and Yukta Mukhey – no one dared to bring the title back home. What has happened to India? Has the country lost the talent?

No, not at all there is something else that is lacking somewhere. Thus as usual, as it has been happening with Indian beauty queens that they return home empty handed, Ushoshi Sengupta too will now make the journey back home empty handedly.

6 phase Assembly elections in Bihar from 21st October

Bihar will have a six-phase poll from 21st October to 20th November, the first major poll exercise that would test the mood of the people after the 2009 Lok Sabha polls. An estimated 5.50 crore electorate would exercise their franchise to elect a 243-member House in the month-long exercise with polling for the sixth and final phase ending on 20th November.

The counting of votes

would take place on 24th November.

The second, third, fourth and fifth phases would be held on October 24, 28, November one and November nine.

Polling would be held through Electronic Voting Machines in 56,943 polling stations spread across the state. The announcement was made by Chief Election Commissioner S Y Quraishi along with other two Election Commission-

ers V S Sampath and H S Brahma at a press conference here today.

Quraishi said that the code of conduct has come into force with immediate effect and the Exit and Opinion Polls would be banned during the poll exercise.

On the naxal threat in the elections, the CEC said "we have taken into consideration the ground reality and we have adequate forces to ensure free

and fair polls".

Asked about Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's plea for availability of Central forces in all polling booths, he said that the poll panel would keep the Chief Minister's request in mind while deciding the deployment plan.

Bypolls for Banka Lok Sabha seat, which became vacant following the death of sitting MP Digvijay Singh, will be held on November one.



China has become the centre of a big industry

China's wealthy elite have for many years developed a taste for Western food, wine and culture.

The demand for recreations of classical European works of art has also been steadily rising.

The village of Dafen in southern China has become the centre of a big industry, with about 8,000 artists responsible for creating 60 per cent of the world's oil paintings.

But for the workers painting the fakes, it is all about bringing industrial efficiency to their art.

Southern China is the world's leading center for mass-produced works of art. One village of artists exports about five million paintings every year — most of them copies of famous masterpieces. The fastest workers can paint up to 30 paintings a day.

A giant hand raises an impressive paintbrush into the sky at the entrance to the art village. The bronze sculpture outside the gates of Dafen in southern China leaves no visitor in doubt as to what the people do here. The "village" is in fact a modern suburb of Shenzhen, a city with 10 million inhabitants north-east of Hong Kong, and it has achieved unexpected fame and relative prosperity. But the city's ostentatiously advertized success has little to do with creativity: It's based on the reproduction of famous artworks on an industrial scale.

In just a few years, Dafen has become the leading production center for cheap oil paintings. An estimated 60 percent of the world's cheap oil paintings are produced within Dafen's four square kilometers (1.5 square miles). Last year, the local art factories exported paintings worth •28 million (\$36 million). Foreign art dealers travel to the factory in the south of the communist country from as far away as Europe and the United States, ordering copies of famous paintings by the container.

According to experts, at present, China Painting and Calligraphy Works of Art return on investment, keeping above 20%. Moreover, compared with the stock market, investment art market, the risk is much lower. Prevent the infiltration of a large number of fake

However, more and more popular with the art market, copying who rushed from counterfeiters.

Former bureaucrat Harishankar Brahma was today appointed as Election Commissioner.

A 1975 IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, Brahma (60), who hails from Assam, is a former Union Power Secretary. "The President is pleased to appoint Shri Harishankar Brahma as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India with effect from the date he assumes the Office," said a notification issued by the Law Ministry.

Brahma was appointed Election Commissioner following the elevation of S Y Quraishi as the Commission's head. It is understood that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was keen to appoint an officer from the North East to the key post.

Brahma is the second person from the North East after J M Lyngdoh, who retired as Chief Election Commissioner in 2004, to become Election Commissioner.

Woman Grandmaster Padmini Rout wins bronze medal in World Junior Girls' Chess Championship

Woman Grandmaster Padmini Rout has won a bronze medal in the World Junior Girls' Chess Championship at Chotowa-Czarna in Poland. Her 13th and final round game with Deysi Cori of Peru ended in a draw. In the penultimate round, Padmini had beaten Alisa Melekhina of United States.

The gold medal was won by top seed Anna Muzychuk of Slovenia, who scored a victory over Ekaterini Pavlidou of Greece.

In the open championship being played simultaneously, Dmitry Andreikin of Russia won the gold medal ahead of compatriot Sanan Sjugirov. The bronze medal went to Darius Sweircz of Poland. Indian hope Parimarjan Negi finished 11th in the tournament with a draw against Maxim Matlakov of Russia.

Cabinet approves divestment in SAIL

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved divestment in SAIL to mobilise a total of Rs 16,000 crore through both Further Public Offer and sale of government equity.

Post the divestment the government equity in the public sector undertaking would come down to 69 per cent from 85.82 per cent.

Home Minister P Chidambaram said the disinvestment will help raise Rs 8,000 crore each for government and SAIL.

The sale will happen in two tranches, with each tranche having a 5 percent government stake and a 5 percent fresh equity issuance.

The first tranche is expected to fetch the government \$1.8 billion at the current market price of around 244 rupees (\$5.45) per share.

"After (the sale of) both tranches are completed, government stake would be

V S Sampath is the other Election Commissioner.

Google to acquire Indian co-founded Like.com

Bangalore: Search giant Google is on the verge of acquiring Like.com, a visual search and e-commerce company that allows users to search for products using images, reports Michael Arrington from the TechCrunch.

According to the deal is estimated for \$100 million. The technology being eyed up by Google is visual search. In 2005 Google made an attempt to acquire Like.com's predecessor, Riya.com. Like.com uses core technology that was developed by Riya, which was focused on facial recognition.

Like.com was co-founded by Munjal Shah together with Burak Gokturk in August 2004. Like.com has been named as one of the best startup companies by many. The image-matching technology company was formerly known as Riya. Since the company has some very important patents, Google is expected to gain both economically and legally by acquiring it.

The U.S. based Like.com has shown interest in developing visual search technology. Google provides a similar feature on its own search engine and in December launched a visual search application for mobile phones.

In April, Google has acquired U.K. based startup Plink, which develops mobile visual search applications, for an undisclosed sum.

Second International Conference on Climate Change begins

The second International Conference on Climate, Sustainability and Development in Semi-Arid Regions began on Monday in Fortaleza, capital of the Brazilian state of Ceara. The meeting brings together policy makers, scientists and members of civil society to promote safe and sustainable development in semi-arid regions of the world.

To support the possible Rio+20 in 2012 and other global public policy forums, ICID 2010 aims at maximizing the development effects of the existing conventions of the United Nations on climate change, biodiversity protection and the fight against desertification. The opening ceremony was attended by Coordinator of ICID 2010 Antonio Rocha Magalhaes, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Luc Gnacadja, World Bank Director Makhtar Diop, Executive Secretary of Brazil's Ministry of Environment Jose Machado, and Governor of Ceara Cid Gomes. During the Conference, the Decade on Deserts and Combating Desertification will be launched. The initiative aims at promoting global discussion up to 2021 in search of alternatives to reduce environmental impacts in semi-arid ecosystems and desertification on the planet.

Seychelles becomes latest country to join International Criminal Court

11 August 2010 – The Indian Ocean archipelago of Seychelles has become the latest country to ratify the pact establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is tasked with trying people accused of

69 percent," Home Minister P. Chidambaram said.

The federal government hopes to raise around \$9 billion through stake sales in state-run firms in the 2010/11 fiscal year that began on 1st April.

First oxygen-free animals found

Scientists have found the first animals that can survive and reproduce entirely

without oxygen, deep on the floor of the Mediterranean Sea. The team, led by

Roberto Danovaro from Marche Polytechnic University in Ancona, Italy, found three new species from the Loricifera group.

He told BBC World Service they were about a millimetre in size and looked like jellyfish in a protective shell.

"We plan to go back and see if there are new surprises for us," he added.

It is a real mystery how these creatures are able to live without oxygen because until now we thought only bacteria could do this

Professor Roberto Danovaro one of the three new Loriciferans (so-called because of their protective layer, or lorica) has already been officially named Spinoloricus Cinzia, after the professor's wife.

The other two, currently designated Rugiloricus and Pliciloricus, have still to be formally described.

They were discovered in the course of three oceanographic expeditions conducted over a decade in order to search for living fauna in the sediment of the Mediterranean's L'Atalante basin.

The basin, 200km (124m) off the western coast of Crete, is about 3.5km (2.2m) deep and is almost entirely depleted of oxygen, or anoxic.

Eggs included

Bodies of multicellular animals have been found previously in sediment taken from an anoxic area - or "dead zone" - of the Black Sea, Professor Danovaro told BBC News. But these were believed at the time to be remains of organisms which had sunk there from adjacent oxygenated areas.

The new species are less than a millimetre in size

genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Seychelles ratified the 1998 Rome Statute yesterday, which means it will enter into force for that country on 1 November, according to a press release issued by the court in The Hague, the Dutch city where it is headquartered.

The ICC said the ratification means Seychelles has joined “the growing group of States determined to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, for the sake of present and future generations.”

The ICC was set up in 2002 after the number of ratifications passed 60 that year. Seychelles’ move means there are now 112 States Parties to the statute.

An independent, permanent court, the ICC is currently investigating events in five countries or regions: Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan’s Darfur region, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Kenya. An individual State or the Security Council can refer cases to the court for investigation.

Colombia and Venezuela restore ties

Venezuela and Colombia re-establish diplomatic relations after a meeting between recently inaugurated President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos and Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez in Santa Marta, Colombia, mediated by UNASUR Secretary General Néstor Kirchner.

The presidents of Colombia and Venezuela have agreed to restore diplomatic ties after a dispute over allegations that Caracas shelters Colombian leftist rebels.

Presidents Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia and Hugo Chaves of Venezuela agreed to “relaunch bilateral relations and re-establish diplomatic ties between the two countries based on transparent and direct dialogue,” a joint statement issued after Tuesday’s meeting said.

The two leaders expressed optimism that their first meeting would produce positive results.

Santos said he also received assurances from Chavez that the Venezuelan leader would not allow guerrilla groups to set up camp inside his borders.

Chavez severed diplomatic relations with Colombia on July 22 after the government of Alvaro Uribe, Santos’ predecessor, publicly presented photos, videos and maps of what it said were camps inside Venezuela that belonged to the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (Farc) rebel group.

Chavez accused Uribe of lying and trying to stir up a conflict in his final days in office.

Al Jazeera’s Teresa Bo, reporting from Santa Marta said that the topic Venezuelan support for the Farc was not discussed.

“It is a very sensitive topic at this point in time, and this meeting was mainly a common pledge to restore diplomatic relation between the countries.”

Trade between the neighbouring countries had already fallen dramatically in the past year as relations deteriorated.

Tense relations

Relations between Colombia and Venezuela already suffered in July 2009, when Chavez froze ties after Bogota agreed to give the United States access to seven military bases to fight cocaine production and trafficking.

Colombian foreign minister Maria Angela Holguin said the leaders were likely to discuss the bases, but that the sensitive issue of the alleged pres-

What the team found in the L’Atalante dead zone was three species of living animals, two of which contained eggs.

Although it was not possible to extract the animals alive in order to show that they could live without oxygen, the team was able to incubate the eggs in anoxic conditions aboard on the ship.

The eggs hatched successfully in a completely oxygen-free environment.

"It is a real mystery how these creatures are able to live without oxygen because until now we thought only bacteria could do this," said Professor Danovaro, who heads Italy's Association of Limnology (the study of inland waters).

The team made three oceanographic expeditions over a decade

The discovery of the new Loriciferans represents, he said, a "tremendous adaptation for animals which evolved in oxygenated conditions".

Dead zones in the world's oceans, he added, were expanding all the time.

Commenting in the journal BMC Biology, Lisa Levin of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography said that before this discovery, "no one had found [animals] capable of living and reproducing entirely in the absence of oxygen".

"Loriciferans are rarely reported," she noted.

"Whether they were overlooked or are exceedingly rare and thus not sampled is unclear. Perhaps scientists have been looking for them in all the wrong places."

Considering the implications of creatures which can exist without oxygen, she said that greater study of animal-microbe interactions in the extreme environment of Earth's oceans could help answer questions about the possibility of life existing on other planets with different atmospheres.

British Airways and Iberia sign merger agreement

British Airways and Spanish airline Iberia have signed a deal to merge and

ence of the Farc leadership on Venezuelan soil was unlikely to arise yet.

More immediate concerns of the return of ambassadors and the reopening pf borders to bilateral trade were expected to be the main focus.

Trade between the South American neighbours - \$6bn in 2008 - fell precipitously during the dispute, hurting economies on both sides of their 2,000km border.

Rwanda President Kagame wins election with 93% of vote

Rwandan President Paul Kagame won Monday’s presidential election with 93% of the vote, the country’s electoral commission has announced.

The full provisional result secures a second seven-year term for Mr Kagame and his party, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

Supporters began celebrating on Monday after early results had shown the president winning 92.9% of the ballot.

Turnout for the election, the second since the 1994 genocide, was 97.5%.

H1N1 in post-pandemic period

The World Health Organization announces that the H1N1 flu pandemic which killed 18,000 people worldwide is over.

The world is no longer in phase 6 of influenza pandemic alert. We are now moving into the post-pandemic period. The new H1N1 virus has largely run its course.

These are the views of members of the Emergency Committee, which was convened earlier today by tele-conference.

The Committee based its assessment on the global situation, as well as reports from several countries that are now experiencing influenza. I fully agree with the Committee’s advice.

As we enter the post-pandemic period, this does not mean that the H1N1 virus has gone away. Based on experience with past pandemics, we expect the H1N1 virus to take on the behaviour of a seasonal influenza virus and continue to circulate for some years to come.

In the post-pandemic period, localized outbreaks of different magnitude may show significant levels of H1N1 transmission. This is the situation we are observing right now in New Zealand, and may see elsewhere.

In fact, the actions of health authorities in New Zealand, and also in India, in terms of vigilance, quick detection and treatment, and recommended vaccination, provide a model of how other countries may need to respond in the immediate post-pandemic period.

Globally, the levels and patterns of H1N1 transmission now being seen differ significantly from what was observed during the pandemic. Out-of-season outbreaks are no longer being reported in either the northern or southern hemisphere. Influenza outbreaks, including those primarily caused by the H1N1 virus, show an intensity similar to that seen during seasonal epidemics.

During the pandemic, the H1N1 virus crowded out other influenza viruses to become the dominant virus. This is no longer the case. Many countries are reporting a mix of influenza viruses, again as is typically seen during seasonal epidemics.

create one of the world's biggest airline groups.

The merger, which was provisionally agreed in November last year, is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

In a statement, the two companies said the merger would benefit shareholders, employees and customers.

It is expected to save the airlines 400m euros (\$533m; £350m) a year.

The new company will be called International Airlines Group, but the BA and Iberia brands will continue to operate as normal.

The company will have its headquarters in London, with BA shareholders retaining 55% ownership of the company.

Further consolidation

In total, the group will operate 419 aircraft, flying to more than 200 destinations, and carry a total of 62 million passengers a year, BA said.

TIMELINE: BA-IBERIA MERGER

1998: BA takes stake in Iberia as part of co-operation deal

2003: BA and Iberia begin working together on routes between the UK and Spain

2007: BA heads a consortium of investors in a takeover bid for Iberia

2007: BA withdraws its bid, arguing that the "friendly terms" essential to the bid were no longer there

2008: BA calls off merger talks with Australia's Qantas, boosting the chances of an Iberia merger instead

2009: BA and Iberia announce preliminary agreement on merger

2010: Merger deal is signed. The deal will go ahead subject to regulator and shareholder approval

BA chief executive Willie Walsh said the merger would be good for customers.

"The merged company will provide customers with a larger combined network," he said.

Iberia's chairman and chief executive Antonio Vazquez said the merger was a key move.

"This is an important step in the process towards creating one of the world's leading global airlines that will be better equipped to

Opportunities and Challenges for World Nuclear Industry in 21st Century

My presentation today is about opportunities and challenges for the nuclear industry in the 21st century. Challenges and opportunities are polarities, and as opposite poles of the magnet they do not exist separately. And moreover an opportunity for some can be a challenge for others, or a challenge today can become an opportunity tomorrow. All these complexities are fully applicable to the nuclear industry and its future.

Current world challenges such as energy demand, climate change, and energy security are opportunities for the nuclear industry. The IEA projects that the energy consumption will grow about 50% by 2030 with electricity use doubling globally and tripling in developing countries. The growth will be mainly based on the growing use of fossil fuels leading the world to a future which the Secretary General of the IEA described as dirty, expensive and unstable. Another concern is energy security which is already a primary challenge for many countries. Competition for natural resources leads to rising prices for fossil fuel. As the IAEA DG Dr. ElBaradei said at the G-8 Summit, "if we ignore insecurities of others, they eventually become our own".

Increase in fossil fuel use is a leading concern regarding the impact of human activities on climate change. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Yvo de Boer, said he has never seen a credible scenario for reducing emissions that did not include nuclear energy.

All these world challenges have tended to increase the opportunities for the nuclear power and strengthen the achievements in NP development, including its safe operation.

The way in which Nuclear Power has developed in Korea is a clear demonstration of how the challenges can become opportunities. After 30 years of operation in Korea, 20 units of operating NPPs are maintained at a high level of performance and safety, with an average capacity factor of more than 90% compared to the global average of 77.8 percent.

But before speaking

about the challenges and their solutions we have to agree about the principles under which nuclear power has to be developed and used. Clearly demonstrating compliance with such principles is of special concern to the countries introducing nuclear power programs.

Many projections forecast significant growth in nuclear power both in countries currently using it and in countries considering its use for the first time. The 2007 IAEA projections indicate that nuclear electricity generation may grow by 15 to 45% by 2020 and by 25 to 95% by 2030. The number of nuclear power reactors is predicted to increase by up to 60% and associated fuel cycle facilities by up to 45% by 2030.

For the global nuclear power to be sustainable and to contribute to the world's energy supply mix in the long term, it must respond to the challenges of further development. Among these challenges are the availability of uranium resources, management of waste, safety, public acceptance, aging of the facilities and workforce, complex infrastructure, and non-proliferation.

In my presentation I will focus on those challenges that are marked with the red colour.

Uranium Resources

My conclusion (and the Red Book confirms it) is that there are enough resources, 16-22 Mt. Increased exploration is needed. I would say even more, we have too much uranium. I cannot imagine that we will continue to use uranium as we do now until we have accumulated 16 Mt of SF. Closing the fuel cycle will resolve the issue of availability of resources and in addition can help decrease the radiotoxicity of the nuclear waste. Technical solutions for LL and ILW exist. And just last week a remarkable announcement was made, an application for the licensing of Yucca Mountain was sent to the NRC.

Public perception of nuclear power is changing. This is partly due to the successful operation of nuclear energy over the last 20 years and partly to the perception that nuclear energy can make a valuable contribution to reducing global warming. In some countries public perception may be heavily influenced by the lack of

practical and affordable alternatives as well as observations that nuclear power has made valuable contributions to raising living standards in countries like the Republic of Korea and India.

I would stress that even though I have a positive tone in my coverage of this issue, it remains a challenge, and our joint efforts are needed to make this positive tone a reality.

Rising expectations for nuclear power have focused attention on the human resource and industrial capabilities needed to meet these expectations.

The nuclear facilities and workforce are aging as well as a decline in research potential has taken place as shown on this slide. The total number of nuclear power plants in operation worldwide is estimated to employ more than 250 000 people. Over one million people are estimated to have been engaged in supporting the nuclear industry worldwide in 2007. For its sustainable development the nuclear industry must address shortages of experienced personnel, the loss of knowledge and research potential due to retirement in countries with established nuclear programs, as well as the building of capabilities in countries starting nuclear program.

The complexity of nuclear technology requires a highly educated and specifically trained workforce. In some countries, the government has provided incentives to develop academic programs and recruit students to nuclear fields. The Agency is also active in this area.

With the support of the Agency several networks (Asian Network on Education in NT, European Nuclear Engineering Network, WNU, etc) have been established for information sharing and attraction of young generation to nuclear activity.

Questions have been raised about whether there is available nuclear industrial capacity to meet the near term demand if high growth projections for nuclear power come true. The nuclear industry in the 1980s was able to support construction of more than two hundred nuclear power plants, which is more than the high projection now foresees, and the world's industrial capacity was a lot smaller then. Manufactur-

ing capability and capacity will need to be rebuilt to service the expected growth in new nuclear power plants. This may already be happening

Needs of Developing Countries

According to IAEA data, 47 countries have expressed an interest in the introduction of nuclear power: 16 are from the Asia/Pacific region (from the Middle East to the Pacific), 15 are from Africa, 10 from Europe and 6 from Latin America. Expansion of existing nuclear programmes is currently largely centred in Asia, where the greatest expansion in energy production is also expected. Many countries in Europe and North America also expect to expand their nuclear programmes, though new construction starts remain to be seen.

Regional cooperation for the introduction of new nuclear power plants is also being planned. The Baltic States are planning a regional project at the Ignalina site in Lithuania. The Gulf Cooperation Council states are considering the possibility of a regional approach to the introduction of a nuclear programme

International support for States introducing nuclear power is important to ensure they are making informed decisions on the role of nuclear power in their energy mixes. The IAEA helps countries prepare for the introduction or expansion of nuclear power by 1) helping them ensure that nuclear energy is used safely, securely and with minimal proliferation risk, and 2) meeting the needs of developing countries to build capacity in terms of human resources, energy analysis, regulatory capabilities and other infrastructure necessary for nuclear power.

The Agency has taken an integrated approach to all the issues that have to be taken into account for the introduction of a nuclear power programme, including in providing guiding documents, forums for sharing information, consultancies and technical meetings and sending multidisciplinary teams to countries requesting assistance with nuclear power infrastructure.

The process also includes specific assistance and review services in the areas of infrastructure

readiness, feasibility studies, draft nuclear law, regulatory frameworks and organization, siting issues, human resource development and planning, bid evaluation and technology assessment, owner/operator competence, and safety and security.

Innovations in nuclear technology are necessary to achieve an increase in nuclear energy's long term contribution to sustainable development. There are a number of international initiatives to ensure and strengthen the future sustainability of nuclear power such as the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) and the Generation IV International Forum (GIF).

The IAEA's project, INPRO, assembles expertise, facilitates information exchange and catalyzes coordinated research among technology holders and technology users including potential users to ensure that new designs meet the needs of all countries, and especially developing ones.

Improvements in sustainability are considered by INPRO in the context of developments in the areas of safety, economics, proliferation resistance, waste management, environment, resources utilization security and infrastructure. INPRO methodology provides a method for the holistic assessment of innovative nuclear systems.

The expansion of nuclear power will increase the nuclear material in use and may increase the risk of proliferation or terrorism. The need to consider the challenges associated with the expansion of nuclear power has led to a number of international initiatives based on the idea of strengthening multinational control over, and assurance of, the supply of nuclear technology and materials. The IAEA Director General Dr. ElBaradei has proposed as the first step establishment of a mechanism to assure the supply of nuclear fuel. This back-up mechanism in which the IAEA becomes "a guarantor for the supply of fissile materials to civilian nuclear users" could add further confidence by helping to protect against political disruptions.

The DG established a group of experts to review multilateral arrangements

relevant to the front-end and back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle as well as the policy, legal, security, economic and technological elements of cooperation. Two factors dominate the assessments made by this group: assurance of non-proliferation and assurance of supply. Five steps were identified, including establishment of a fuel bank, a role for the IAEA as a guarantor of service supply, and further steps toward multilateral control over the sensitive FC technologies.

Practical proposals for the introduction of mechanisms to ensure supply have been offered by Russia, USA, Germany, Japan and an NGO. Specifically, the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) offered M\$50 for the establishment of a fuel bank.

Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia have established an International Uranium Enrichment Center at Angarsk to provide access to the benefits of nuclear energy to interested countries in compliance with non-proliferation. An agreement on a fuel bank under the IAEA's control at Angarsk is also under development.

In addition, the USA launched the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) to foster the expansion of nuclear energy while enhancing security and non-proliferation, focusing on reliable fuel services and the closed fuel cycle with technology without separated plutonium. As of February 2008, GNEP has 21 partners, and 3 observing international organizations. The fully developed framework is a complex endeavour to be developed in stages.

In conclusion, nuclear power, by itself, is not a panacea for global energy security. It has the potential to be a significant, reliable, sustainable and environmentally friendly energy source that can contribute to providing access to affordable energy services in all interested countries for present and future generations. To realize this potential any use of nuclear energy should be designed to be *beneficial, responsible and sustainable*, and undertaken with due regard to safety, environmental impact, non-proliferation and social acceptance.

21st century: Best time for an Indian

Chitra Singh Rajput

Nineteenth century, it is said, was the best time to be a British and 20th century to be an American. No doubt, 21st century is the best period to be an Indian. Never before was the level of confidence in us so high, in spite of the rich heritage and past glories, as it is today. With budgets at an all time high, capital being pumped in at a dizzying pace by foreign investors, Indian companies reaching out to and buying out iconic business firms and India making a huge presence in every international political equation, there are no doubts that India is the next big superpower. Gone are the days when India was seen as a country of snake charmers, rope tricks and pompous maharajas; it is now being seen as a country producing entrepreneurs, efficient doctors and IIT-ians. IIT-ians have, by and large, been the biggest brand in recent times to reach out to the world and herald the coming-of-age of Indians. While pondering over the role of 'the titans' in nation building, we must first ask to ourselves, is the situation in India as rosy as it is painted? India ranks 126th on human development index (HDI) index prepared by UN this year, has a high incidence of starvation deaths and an ever-increasing number of educated unemployed youth. There hasn't been much improvement in civic facilities and quality of education and research in the country. IIT-ians can, and have, helped in nation building in many ways. We have set new benchmarks in the fields of technology and management and have made significant contributions to the IT revolution in the country. The Indian diaspora, led by IITians, have become a huge presence in the world over and have helped in making huge bargains in the country's interests, so much so that both democrats and republicans came out in support of the Indo-US nuclear deal. However, most of the problems India faces stay unattended to. Hats off to the likes of Shishir Bhaduri who have left lucrative jobs to start NGOs and are working for the downtrodden, to the likes of Arvind Kejriwal who are agitating for a just civil society and to the ones who are investing their money on the education of those who aren't fortunate enough to have the same opportunities as us. Indian Foreign Policy in the 21st Century If India becomes one of the leading powers of the 21st century, as is widely

predicted, how will it exercise its power and influence? The answer to this question is being shaped by four competing visions of India's place in the international system. The oldest of these can be traced to India's struggle for freedom, when homage was paid to the notion that India ought to serve as a counterexample to the West's role in international affairs. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, translated this urge into policy by seeking to have India set the standard for peaceful and cooperative behavior. He recommended non-alignment as a means to avoid the conflict associated with balance of power politics, and to allow India the freedom to speak and act morally. He also eschewed the cultivation of military strength, expressing unhappiness with the notion that peace must be sought through strength. The example of the freedom movement recommended to him was instead the use of reason as a means of resolving political disputes. Should it continue to be influential, the desire to act in an exemplary or principled fashion will cause India to remain skeptical of alliances. It will also continue to take the lead in endeavoring to ensure that international regimes do not undermine the interests of the developing world. Above all else, it promises that India will continue to use civil means to challenge what it sees as discriminatory features of the international order. In other words, argumentative diplomacy will remain the leitmotif of Indian conduct. However, it is increasingly unclear whether India's future conduct will be shaped by Nehru's vision, as his policies face a growing chorus of criticism from those who wish to see India adopt stances that correspond to its cultural, military, and economic potential. A second vision - the oldest and most trenchant of these critiques - has been authored by the Hindu nationalists, who are driven by pride in what they consider the self-evident importance of Indian civilization, and shame at its past subjugation by Muslim and British invaders, and at its continuing weak response to security threats. The only way to resurrect the glory of India and to prevent the reoccurrence of humiliation, they argue, is via the cultivation of national strength, which requires a unified and muscular Hindu society. At present, this vision has decidedly limited purchase on the Indian mind. This owes, in part, to a deeply ingrained cultural preference for diffusing conflict through accommodation.

In addition, the heterogeneity of Indian society, and the fractious identity politics this generates, has thwarted the electoral prospects of the Hindu nationalists. Moreover, even if they are able to expand their share of the national vote, they face significant obstacles in executing their vision. When in power, they have tended to focus on symbolic policies instead of actually taking the steps necessary to promote national strength. Should they overcome this defect and commit themselves to the hard task of governance, they will still have to face the challenge posed by the steady weakening of the Indian state, which is increasingly characterized by corruption and inertia, and is unlikely to be able to act purposefully any time soon. A third vision for India emerges from the country's nascent strategic community, whose members take the view that military power is the best guarantor of peace and security. They argue India must develop a credible second-strike nuclear capability and a comprehensive array of conventional military forces, including the capacity to project force beyond the subcontinent. Thus far, this view has found little support amongst India's political elite, who are generally uneducated about strategic affairs. As a result, there is an undeniable sense in which the operative mentality in strategic affairs has been one of ad-hocism. This pattern of behavior is likely to remain undisturbed for the foreseeable future, as the growth of coalition politics encourages the adoption of policies directed at the exigencies of competitive electoral politics. It can perhaps only be altered by the experience of mass suffering, which alone could produce a nationwide constituency for strategic planning. A fourth vision of India's place in the world has come from liberals, who argue that economic power, rather than moral prestige or military strength, ought to be India's objective, since the interdependence fostered by globalization rewards pragmatism and makes violent conflict unprofitable. Should the liberal vision prevail, India's external policies will, correspondingly, be directed primarily toward ensuring access to resources and markets. India's formative experiences, as well as its steadily deepening social and economic links with the West in particular, will make it unwilling to use force to obtain these objectives. Instead, it will strongly favor the develop-

ment of multilateral regimes to regulate international trade and politics. Furthermore, the populist character of India's democracy and political culture, as well as its enormous developmental needs, make it likely that trade surpluses will be invested in social, rather than military, programs. A prosperous India, in this respect, will more likely resemble post-war Europe than either contemporary America or China. It is not clear, however, that the liberal vision will easily prevail. The gradual embrace of the market economy, which began in 1991, promises to transform India into one of the three largest economies in the world. But serious challenges loom on the horizon. Refracted through the prism of identity politics, pent-up needs and desires have begun to produce an impatient and increasingly rapacious democratic politics. The political class that is emerging from this churn revels in a fiscally lethal competitive populism and a constitutionally lethal politicization of public institutions. The most immediate consequence of these trends has been a steady deterioration in the rule of law, which ultimately threatens economic stability. It is unlikely that any one of the four visions outlined above will monopolize the Indian worldview in the 21st century. What matters instead therefore is their comparative influence. With the moral fervor of the past quickly fading, and neither Hindu nationalism nor strategic thinkers able to gain a foothold in the national imagination, it increasingly appears that India will prioritize its quest for prosperity. Such a development could have significant positive implications for the international system. It could satisfy India's desire for recognition and create new constituencies for peace and stability in Asia and beyond, founded on the prospect of mutually beneficial trade and investment. While the attainment of prosperity will greatly depend on India's own efforts, it would be naïve to imagine that it will not also depend on America's and China's willingness to countenance the same. Any effort on their part to thwart India's quest will likely set in motion a contrary dynamic, as calls to enhance India's military power will grow louder - and be heeded more closely. Hence, if the liberal vision is to ultimately prevail, it will require willingness on the part of the leading powers of today to rewrite the usual ending.

Editorial

DEVELOP INDIA

Year 2, Vol. 1, Issue 108, 31 August - 5 September, 2010

India and China as two "rising stars" 21st century

A HUNDRED years ago it was perhaps already possible to discern the rising powers whose interaction and competition would shape the 20th century. The sun that shone on the British empire had passed midday. Vigorous new forces were flexing their muscles on the global stage, notably America, Japan and Germany. Their emergence brought undreamed-of prosperity; but also carnage on a scale hitherto unimaginable. India, too, is unnerved. Its humiliation at Chinese hands in a brief war nearly 50 years ago still rankles. A tradition of strategic mistrust of China is deeply ingrained. India sees China as working to undermine it at every level: by preempting it in securing supplies of the energy both must import; through manoeuvres to block a permanent seat for India on the United Nations Security Council; and, above all, through friendships with its smaller South Asian neighbours, notably Pakistan. India also notes that China, after decades of setting their border quarrels to one side in the interests of the broader relationship, has in recent years hardened its position on the disputes in Tibet and Kashmir that in 1962 led to war. This unease has pushed India strategically closer to America-most notably in a controversial deal on nuclear co-operation. Autocrats in Beijing are contemptuous of India for its messy, indecisive democracy. But they must see it as a serious long-term rival-especially if it continues to tilt towards America. As recently as the early 1990s, India was as rich, in terms of national income per head. China then hurtled so far ahead that it seemed India could never catch up. But India's long-term prospects now look stronger. While China is about to see its working-age population shrink (see article), India is enjoying the sort of bulge in manpower which brought sustained booms elsewhere in Asia. It is no longer inconceivable that its growth could outpace China's for a considerable time. It has the advantage of democracy-at least as a pressure valve for discontent. And India's army is, in numbers, second only to China's and America's: it has 100,000 soldiers in disputed Arunachal Pradesh (twice as many as America will soon have in Iraq). And because India does not threaten the West, it has powerful friends both on its own merits and as a counterweight to China. The prospect of renewed war between India and China is, for now, something that disturbs the sleep only of virulent nationalists in the Chinese press and retired colonels in Indian think-tanks. Optimists prefer to hail the \$60 billion in trade the two are expected to do with each other this year (230 times the total in 1990). But the 20th century taught the world that blatantly foreseeable conflicts of interest can become increasingly foreseeable wars with unforeseeably dreadful consequences. Relying on prosperity and more democracy in China to sort things out thus seems unwise. Two things need to be done. First, the slow progress towards a border settlement needs to resume. The main onus here is on China. It has the territory it really wants and has maintained its claim to Arunachal Pradesh only as a bargaining chip. It has, after all, solved intractable boundary quarrels with Russia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Vietnam. Surely it cannot be so difficult to treat with India? That points to a second, deeper need, one that it took Europe two world wars to come close to solving: emerging Asia's lack of serious institutions to bolster such deals. A regional forum run by the Association of South-East Asian Nations is rendered toothless by China's aversion to multilateral diplomacy. Like any bully, it prefers to pick off its antagonists one by one. It would be better if China and India-and Japan-could start building regional forums to channel their inevitable rivalries into collaboration and healthy competition. Globally, the rules-based system that the West set up in the second half of the 20th century brought huge benefits to emerging powers. But it reflects an out-of-date world order, not the current global balance, let alone a future one. China and India should be playing a bigger role in shaping the rules that will govern the 21st century. That requires concessions from the West. But it also requires commitment to a rules-based international order from China and India. A serious effort to solve their own disagreements is a good place to start.

Recently published studies indicate that 20–40% of populations in some areas have been infected by the H1N1 virus and thus have some level of protective immunity. Many countries report good vaccination coverage, especially in high-risk groups, and this coverage further increases community-wide immunity.

Pandemics, like the viruses that cause them, are unpredictable. So is the immediate post-pandemic period. There will be many questions, and we will have clear answers for only some. Continued vigilance is extremely important, and WHO has issued advice on recommended surveillance, vaccination, and clinical management during the post-pandemic period.

Based on available evidence and experience from past pandemics, it is likely that the virus will continue to cause serious disease in younger age groups, at least in the immediate post-pandemic period. Groups identified during the pandemic as at higher risk of severe or fatal illness will probably remain at heightened risk, though hopefully the number of such cases will diminish.

In addition, a small proportion of people infected during the pandemic, including young and healthy people, developed a severe form of primary viral pneumonia that is not typically seen during seasonal epidemics and is especially difficult and demanding to treat. It is not known whether this pattern will change during the post-pandemic period, further emphasizing the need for vigilance.

As I said, pandemics are unpredictable and prone to deliver surprises. No two pandemics are ever alike. This pandemic has turned out to be much more fortunate than what we feared a little over a year ago.

This time around, we have been aided by pure good luck. The virus did not mutate during the pandemic to a more lethal form. Widespread resistance to oseltamivir did not develop. The vaccine proved to be a good match with circulating viruses and showed an excellent safety profile.

Thanks to extensive preparedness and support from the international community, even countries with very weak health systems were able to detect cases and report them promptly.

Had things gone wrong in any of these areas, we would be in a very different situation today

India approves caste-based census

The Indian government has approved the inclusion of information on caste in the ongoing population census. The controversial decision was taken by a group of ministers, headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Caste-based parties say the information will help the government target affirmative action benefits better. But critics say caste is the most regressive feature of Indian society; that it is repressive, reinforces hierarchy and breeds inequity.

India has been conducting the national census since 1872 and this is its 15th.

A caste census was carried out last in 1931 by the former British rulers.

Massive exercise

The census, launched in April, will include photographs and fingerprints of everyone aged over 15 to create a biometric national database.

The government will then use the information to issue identity cards.

Officials will spend a year classifying India's population of around 1.2 billion people according to gender, religion, occupation and education.

The exercise, conducted every 10 years, faces big challenges, not least India's vast area and diversity of

compete with other major airlines and participate in future industry consolidation," he said.

The merger is seen as a chance for the two airlines to cut costs following two very tough years for the airline industry.

Both BA and Iberia are expected to report heavy losses this year, with BA predicted to announce its biggest annual loss since privatisation.

The airlines are also regarded as a good match, having few overlapping routes.

The merger will also allow the company to compete more effectively with other European giants including Air France-KLM and Germany's Lufthansa. The signing of the merger deal follows reports on Wednesday that two US airlines - US Airways and United Airlines - were also in talks over a possible merger.

Analysts welcomed the move in light of the current economic environment in which global airlines are struggling for survival.

"The merger makes huge sense for passengers and airlines alike. It will allow participating airlines to spread their cost base, something they desperately need to do," said Ashley Steel, global chair for transport and infrastructure at KPMG.

Aviation analyst Laurie Price gives his reaction to the deal

Along with other observers, Mr Steel said that the merger was a stepping stone towards a transatlantic alliance with American Airlines.

The new partners may even cast their net wider, said Stephen Furlong at Davy Stockbrokers: "The tie-up with American is the next thing on BA and Iberia's agenda now and this agreement brings that closer, but they are probably looking at European and Asian carriers too."

The Unite union, which represents thousands of BA workers, said it supported the deal, but "not at any cost".

"Mergers mean synergies, and synergies usually mean job losses and the levelling down of terms

cultures.

Census officials must also contend with high levels of illiteracy and millions of homeless people - as well as insurgencies by Maoists and other rebels which have left large parts of the country unsafe.

Over the next year, some 2.5 million census officials will visit households in more than 7,000 towns and 600,000 villages.

The mammoth registration exercise will stretch over 11 months, consume more than 11 million tonnes of paper, and cost 60bn rupees (\$1.3bn; £880m).

The national census is the only source of primary and credible data in India and is used not just to formulate government policies but also by private companies to identify markets for their products. The full census results will be released in mid-2011.

Scientists identify new superbug

Scientists have warned that a new superbug identified in the United Kingdom could spread around the world after arriving from India.

Researchers said on Wednesday they had found a gene called New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase, or NDM-1, in patients in South Asia and in Britain.

NDM-1 makes bacteria highly resistant to almost all antibiotics, including the most powerful class called carbapenems, and experts say there are no new drugs on the horizon to tackle it.

In a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal on Wednesday, the researchers found that NDM-1 is becoming more common in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan.

But with increasing numbers of people embarking on so-called 'health tourism' trips to India and Pakistan for cheaper treatment the superbug could quickly spread, the scientists warned.

"At a global level, this is a real concern," Timothy Walsh, who led the study, said.

"Because of medical tourism and international travel in general, resistance to these types of bacteria has the potential to spread around the world very, very quickly. And there is nothing in the [drug development] pipeline to tackle it."

Positive samples

Multi drug-resistant bacteria are already a growing problem in hospitals across the world, marked by the rise of superbug infections like methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus [MRSA].

Walsh and his international team collected bacteria samples from hospital patients in two places in India - Chennai and Haryana - and from patients referred to Britain's national reference laboratory between 2007 and 2009.

They found 44 NDM-1-positive bacteria in Chennai, 26 in Haryana, 37 in Britain, and 73 in other sites in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan.

Several of the British NDM-1 positive patients had recently travelled to India or Pakistan for hospital treatment, including cosmetic surgery, they said.

Experts commenting on Walsh's findings said it was important to be alert to the new bug and start screening for it early.

"We are potentially at the beginning of another wave of antibiotic resistance, though we still have the power to stop it," Christopher Thomas, a professor of molecular genetics at the University of Birmingham who was not linked to the study, said.

Thomas said better surveillance and infection control procedures might halt the gene's spread.

He said while people checking into British hospitals were unlikely to encounter the superbug gene, they

and conditions," said Steve Turner, Unite national officer for civil aviation.

He said workers must be consulted on any "key decisions" about their future.

BA is currently in negotiations with Unite to prevent further strikes by cabin crew, who went on strike for seven days last month over pay and working conditions.

Pension problem

BA and Iberia are expected to complete the merger by December, subject to approval from regulators and shareholders.

One stumbling block could be BA's pension problems. Its two final-salary pension schemes have a combined deficit of £3.7bn, which it needs to cut.

Last month, the airline agreed plans with unions to increase pension contributions to close the deficit.

But those plans still need to be agreed with pension trustees and the pensions regulator. They could yet insist that BA pays in more money to fill the deficit.

If Iberia is not happy with those demands, a specific clause in the contract allows it to call off the merger deal.

Plans for a tie-up between BA and Iberia date back long before the current troubles in the airline industry.

The two airlines first began working together in 1999 following the privatisation of the Spanish flag-carrier. BA currently has a 13% stake in Iberia.

United States and Russia sign a treaty to slash their nuclear warheads by one-third

President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev today signed a treaty to shrink their nations' nuclear arsenals, the biggest such pact between the former Cold War foes in a generation.

Tenaciously negotiated by even the leaders themselves, the treaty commits their nations to slash the number of strategic nuclear warheads by one-third and more than halve

should remain vigilant about standard hygiene measures like properly washing their hands.

US to cut \$4bn in Afghan aid over corruption fears

Mr Karzai's government has faced numerous allegations of corruption US lawmakers have voted to cut almost \$4bn (£2.7bn) in aid to the government of Afghanistan, after allegations of corruption.

It comes after the Wall Street Journal reported that huge sums of cash had allegedly been flown out of Kabul international airport in recent years.

Military operations and humanitarian aid will not be affected by the cuts.

But critics fear the move could threaten crucial infrastructure projects in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Gen David Petraeus, who has replaced Gen Stanley McChrystal as the commander of US forces in Afghanistan, is on his way to brief US allies at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

No overwriting on cheques after 1st Dec: RBI

The RBI directive to banks, asking them not to honour cheques with overwriting, will come into effect from 1st December instead of the earlier scheduled date of 1st July.

The new rule is intended to prevent fraudulent withdrawal of money and expedite clearance of cheques, the apex bank said in its latest circular.

RBI has advised banks to create awareness among customers about the new norms, which were aimed at preventing fraud, besides expediting clearance of cheques where CTS (Cheque Truncation System) is used.

Under CTS, image of cheque is sent to clearing house for transfer of funds.

When contacted, an RBI spokesperson said, "The notification regarding cheque truncation system which prohibits alteration will come into effect from 1st December, 2010. There is no mention of 1st July."

The central bank in February had come out with circular on 'Standardisation and enhancement of security features in cheque forms' detailing the norms for image-based processing of cheques.

RBI had said that fresh cheques should be issued by customers in case of change in payee's name or amount (whether in figures or words).

Changes, however, could be made with regard to date.

The new norms will not apply to those cheques, which are cleared by clearing houses that use Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) or non-MICR system.

Also, it added, the norms will not be mandatory for over the counter collection of funds or for direct collection of cheques outside the Clearance House Arrangement.

Chinese Hackers Target Indian Government

Cyber security researchers and analysts have uncovered the existence of a spy network based in China that was used to steal sensitive, classified government documents from India - as well data from the Dalai Lama's office and the United Nations. The "Shadow Network", as this network is now known,

the number of missiles, submarines and bombers carrying them.

In a lavish chamber within the Czech capital's presidential castle complex, the two presidents put their names to history. The treaty must be now be ratified by Russia's parliament and by the US Senate, where the White House lobbying effort is under way.

The new treaty will shrink the limit of nuclear warheads to 1,550 per country over seven years. That still allows for mutual destruction several times over. But it is intended to send a strong signal that Russia and the US - which between them own more than 90 per cent of the world's nuclear weapons - are serious about disarmament.

Nepal and China agree on Mount Everest's height

China and Nepal have agreed a solution to a long-running disagreement over the height of Mount Everest. They agreed that the world's highest mountain - which traverses the border of the two countries - should be recognised as being 8,848m tall. The Chinese previously argued it should be measured by its rock height. Nepal said it should be measured by its snow height - this is four metres higher. During talks in Nepal's capital Kathmandu, China accepted that claim. This means the official overall height of Everest is now designated as 8,848m. Nepal also recognises China's claim that the rock height of Everest is 8,844m.

Correspondents say that while thousands of people have climbed the mountain since the first ascent in 1953 by Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary, its exact height has been disputed ever since the first measurement was made in 1856.

The broadly-accepted height of 8,848m was first recorded by an Indian survey in 1955. It measured the mountain's snow cap, rather than the rock beneath it.

But geologists say that the estimates of both

has been traced to two people living in Chengdu, China. China is largely believed to possess a Cyber Warfare Doctrine that is designed to achieve global "electronic dominance" by 2050. With a yearly budget of \$55 million allotted for it and over 10,000 hackers working in tandem, China is second only to U.S. when it comes to cyber snooping prowess. As more details emerge about the intentions of these hackers, it is clear that they had targeted the upcoming Commonwealth games in India. The idea was to make Commonwealth games an utter failure later this year. The plans included studying the network architecture of the entire Commonwealth games IT infrastructure. This includes ticket sales, online registration servers all of which would crash at the time of the inaugural ceremony. The hackers had also looked into tender documents for the Commonwealth games network infrastructure. Intelligence agencies feel this could be for studying vulnerabilities in the system for possible attacks.

This is obviously not the first time India was under from these Chinese hackers. In 2008 and 2009 too, there were many incidences of small attacks on computers of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. As many as 450 computers belonging to the India Government - including that of the then National Security Adviser (NSA) M.K. Narayanan and Deputy NSA Shekhar Dutt and the chiefs of the navy, army and air force besides officials in the defense intelligence agencies were infected. Finally, the infected computers were taken offline and replaced. As to how the latest attacks happened, the modus operandi was simple. Individuals in the ministries were sent emails from a genuine looking nic.in mail address. The email had a PDF attachment that was infected. Accounts on Twitter, Yahoo Mail, Google Groups, Blogspot and other social-networking sites were used to update compromised computers and to host malware, according to the report

Astronauts Successfully Remove Failed Pump on International Space Station

NASA astronauts successfully completed the second of at least three planned spacewalks in an effort to replace a faulty ammonia pump module on the International Space Station's truss. Wednesday's spacewalk clocked in at nearly 7.5 hours, about 40 minutes shorter than the mission's troublesome first spacewalk Saturday.

It has already taken 15.5 hours in spacewalking time and two spacewalking missions for astronauts to remove the failed cooling pump in an effort to bring the ISS back to full capacity. And the work is not over yet. Back at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, Space Station Program Manager Michael Suffredini told reporters that Wednesday's spacewalk, or EVA (extravehicular activity), was very successful.

"The hardware cooperated with us in some instances," said Michael Suffredini. "We had a struggle or two in others. But, overall, we got ahead of the timeline and got a few of our 'get-ahead tasks' done in preparation for installing the new pump during EVA Three."

During Wednesday's spacewalk, astronauts had to grapple with the failed module's ammonia-filled hoses, electrical and data cables, as well as a jammed bolt. Ultimately, NASA says the astronauts were able to remove the faulty 350-kilogram ammonia pump module and complete all the tasks they had planned

countries over the height of Mount Everest could be wrong.

They say that the mountain is becoming higher as India is gradually pushed beneath China and Nepal because of shifting continental plates.

In May 1999 an American team used GPS technology to record a height of 8,850m - a figure that is now used by the US National Geographic Society - although it has not been officially accepted by Nepal.

Ministry of Earth Sciences

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is mandated to provide the nation with best possible services in forecasting the monsoons and other weather/climate parameters, ocean state, earthquakes, tsunamis and other phenomena related to earth systems through well integrated programmes. The Ministry also deals with science and technology for exploration and exploitation of ocean resources (living and non-living), and play nodal role for Antarctic/ Arctic and Southern Ocean research. The Ministry's mandate is to look after Atmospheric Sciences, Ocean Science & Technology and Seismology in an integrated manner.

The Earth Commission, under which the Ministry of Earth Sciences works in Mission Mode based on Commission structure, is responsible for formulating policies, oversee implementation of policies and programs in mission mode, and ensure the necessary interdisciplinary integration.

Shri Prithviraj Chavan is the Hon'ble Minister of State with Independent Charge for Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Dr. Shailesh Nayak is the Secretary MoES and Chairman, Earth Commission.

The various Units under the Ministry of Earth Sciences are: India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, and Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC)

for the day’s mission.

Suffredini said a third spacewalk is now planned for Monday, and a fourth spacewalk likely will be needed to put the old pump into its storage place.

Spacewalking astronauts Doug Wheelock and Tracy Caldwell Dyson, and fellow astronaut Shannon Walker, are working to replace a pump that failed July 31. That pump is supposed to feed ammonia into cooling loops to maintain the proper temperature for the station’s electrical and flight systems. When it failed, it took down half of the space station’s cooling system. For the past week and a half, the space station has been operating at half its usual cooling capacity, forcing the astronauts to power down equipment to prevent overheating on the ISS.

NASA says space station’s six crew members are not in danger, and that the pump needs to be replaced in the unlikely event that the other working pump fails.

Before Wednesday’s spacewalk, the ground control team reduced the pressure in the failed module’s ammonia lines, making the task of removing the tubes easier for the astronauts. It was the pressurized ammonia hoses that caused some problems during the first spacewalk of the repair mission, when the astronauts had to deal with an ammonia leak. That spacewalk clocked in at more than eight hours - one of the longest spacewalks in history.

Spain dismisses Eta ceasefire as 'insufficient'

The Spanish government has dismissed as “insufficient” a ceasefire by Eta, saying the Basque separatist group must renounce violence forever. Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said the group was weaker than ever and his government would continue to pursue its members. At the weekend Eta said it would no longer carry out “armed actions”. Its campaign for a separate Basque state has led to more than 820 deaths over the past 40 years. Eta has called two ceasefires in the past but abandoned them both. It is unclear whether the latest is meant as a permanent or temporary move.

Mr Rubalcaba said Eta had broken too many ceasefires to be trusted and the days of declaring a truce and starting a dialogue had passed. “I think the word insufficient reflects quite well the position not (just) of the government but of all the democratic parties,” he told Spain’s state-run TVE television station on Monday.

‘Dead concept’

Mr Rubalcaba demanded “a definitive and unconditional abandonment” of Eta’s violent campaign.

This is a hardline response that effectively rules out peace talks. In a video handed to the BBC and broadcast on Sunday, three hooded Eta fighters are

under the Atmospheric Sciences and Seismology sector; National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Chennai, National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR) Goa, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) Hyderabad, Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management Project Directorate (ICMAM-PD) Chennai, and Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE) Kochi under the Ocean Science & Technology sector.

MoES aims to create a framework for understanding the complex interactions among key elements of the Earth System, namely ocean, atmosphere and solid earth, by encompassing national programmes in Ocean science, meteorology, climate, environment and seismology.

Pak cricketer's incomes to be investigated

The recent spot fixing scandal which has engulfed the Pakistan cricket has prompted a concerned Pakistan government to launch investigations into the assets of national cricketers.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) moved in quickly and issued a directive to its regional offices to prepare details of players' vehicles, plots, agricultural farms, bungalows, national as well as international bank accounts and all the movable and non-movable assets.

It also asked its regional income tax offices to ascertain details of income of Pakistan captains, coaches, managers, commentators, selectors and other office-holders for the last five years and provide their national tax numbers as well. Israr Rauf, a senior FBR official in Lahore, said that the regional income tax offices have been directed to submit details of the national cricket team members' income sources and check whether the players or officials are submitting their income tax returns or not.

He said that all the players and officials will also be asked to submit wealth returns by 30th September.

shown sitting behind a desk with the Eta flag pinned up behind them.

Supreme Court should not get into the realm of policy formulations: PM

The Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has said that the Supreme Court should not get into the realm of policy formulations. He was answering a question on the Apex court 's direction to the government to distribute food grains to the poor instead of allowing them to rot during an interaction with a select group of editors in New Delhi today. The Prime Minister said he had not not seen the final judgement of the court but he respected the sentiments behind the decision that a way should be found to ensure that at a time when when foodgrains are rotting the needs of the people should be met. Dr Singh wondered how free food could be given to an estimated 37 per cent of the population that lives below poverty line. Dr Singh added that making food available free would destroy incentives to farmers to produce more.

Indicating a reshuffle in the cabinet before the winter session of Parliament , the Prime Minister said that he would like to reduce the average age of his cabinet. Dr Singh said his cabinet is functioning with a much greater degree of cohesion and rejected the perceptions of disconnect between the Congress party and the government. He also made it clear that he has no plans of retiring .

On Jammu and Kashmir , the Prime Minister said that The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) will meet later this week for a threadbare discussion on the situation in Kashmir valley .He also indicated that Centre may initiate new steps to break the impasse. In a reference to the current unrest in the valley, the Prime Minister said that there had to be a different attitude to riot control. He said more humane methods rather than lethal weapons should be used to deal with crowds.

WTO Chief wants G20 push on global trade deal

Group of 20 leaders should use their November summit to make a serious push for the conclusion of stalled global trade negotiations, the head of the WTO said. World Trade Organization talks aimed at a new global commerce pact, the so—called Doha round ,named after Qatar’s capital where the negotiations were launched in 2001, have been unable to secure a final deal amid disagreement between developed and emerging economies over trade rules applying to agricultural and industrial goods.

Pascal Lamy, director general of the Geneva—based body, met on Monday with South Korean President Lee Myung—bak and Trade Minister Kim Jong—hoon. South Korea is hosting the G—20 summit in Seoul on 11th to 12th November.

Lamy praised G—20 leaders for taking up the issue of the Doha round at their summit in Toronto in June and called for them to follow through in Seoul.

He said he does not expect them to engage in line—by—line negotiations, but rather provide the political push for necessary compromises.

Rauf said details have also been sought from the Pakistan Cricket Board regarding the amounts paid to its Chairman Ijaz Butt, other office-holders, selectors, players, coaches, managers and journalists during the last five years.

Meanwhile, former opener Yasir Hameed claimed he was tricked into giving the statements which accused his teammates of fixing "almost every match". Hameed backtracked on the allegations against his teammates and claimed he was blackmailed to stand by them by the British tabloid 'News of the World'.

Hameed was summoned to the Pakistan High Commission in England for a meeting with High Commissioner Wajid Shamsul Hasan in London.

After the meeting, the Pakistan Cricket Board's legal advisor Tafazzul Rizvi released a statement on behalf of Hameed.

In the statement, Hameed said that he was offered money and even blackmailed to stand by the remarks attributed to him in the video which he claims was shot without his knowledge.

"I would like to respond to comments attributed to me by the News of the World today. I wish to stress I have never been approached by the NOTW and neither did I approach anyone connected with the News of the World to disclose any allegations concerning the Pakistan cricket team or any other players," Hameed had said in his statement.

Get
Online subscription of
DEVELOP INDIA
english weekly newspaper
contact
8800506832
Or
deposit 500/- in ICICI account no.
003701546808 or BoB Ac. no. 22750100006086
for one year

Editorial & Corporate Office
Sector 15, Nayabans, NOIDA
RNI
UPENG/2008/26617
Publisher, Editor & Owner
D.S.Rajput
Year 2, Vol. 1, Issue 108, 31
August - 5 September, 2010
Place of Publication &
Registered Office
331/240 A, Stainly road
Nayapura,
Allahabad (N.P.)
Printing Press and address
Academy press, Daraganj,
Allahabad (U.P.)
website:
developindiagroup.com
E-mails
developindiamediagroup@gmail.com
developindia2011@gmail.com
civilservicesminerva@gmail.com
Editorial No. -
8800506832