

19th Commonwealth Games, 2010 Open

The nineteenth Commonwealth Games got off to an inspiring and magnificent start on 3rd of October, 2010 at the Indian Capital with the opening ceremony, which unfolded without any glitch. The Commonwealth Games, 2010, opening ceremony which started on 7 P.M., put up a brilliant show of more than two hours at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi. The ceremony beautifully portrayed and upheld the great journey of India with all its unique features. The opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2010, which kick started the twelve days sport extravaganza will continue till 14th of October in New Delhi. Both the Indians as well as the foreigners were simply moved by the richness and prosperity of the Indian culture that was all put together to perfection on 3rd October, 2010. Almost 65,000 people gathered to watch out the mesmerizing show put up by India at the CWG 2010 opening ceremony. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi roared with the rapturous applauses of the numerous visitors.

The Prince of Wales i.e. Prince Charles and his wife and Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla were present at the opening ceremony of CWG, 2010, who were acquainted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi. They were accom-



panied by the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the President of India, Prathiba Patil.

The Commonwealth Games 2010 opening ceremony commenced with the national anthem of India. The Nagada drummers along with the Shankha trumpeters beat the countdown of the opening ceremony as the "Aerostat" moved high up into glory.

Traditional classical dancers from India showcased the guru-shishya tradition which was popular in ancient India. Many traditional and prestigious dance forms like Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Mohiniattam, Manipuri and Kuchipudi were performed by talented and popular artists along with the great musicians playing the sitars. Young athletes put up their stunning performances in the form of 'Surya Namaskar'

and yoga asanas. The participants from all the countries at the Commonwealth Games 2010 were welcomed. Many popular and important personalities graced the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2010 with their presence. The Commonwealth Games Theme Song performed by A.R Rahman and the dazzling fireworks were also there to add to the excitement and joy of the 19th Commonwealth Games being held in Delhi.

With the successful happening of the Commonwealth Games 2010 opening ceremony, Delhi along with the entire country is smiling and proud to have been able to put up such a show of grandeur and worth. The opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2010 has truly surpassed all our expectations.

India Medals at the 19th Commonwealth Games

Till Friday, October 08, 2010

Country	Men				Women				Mixed				Total			
	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T
AUS - Australia	19	9	11	39	20	12	7	39					39	21	18	78
IND - India	12	8	8	28	5	4	3	12					17	12	11	40
CAN - Canada	4	1	5	10	9	1	10	20					13	2	15	30
ENG - England	7	19	2	28	5	9	11	25					12	28	13	53
RSA - South Africa	4	3	6	13	2	2		4					6	5	6	17
NGR - Nigeria	1	1	2	4	3	3	4	10					4	4	6	14
MAS - Malaysia	3	5	3	11		2	2						3	5	5	13
SIN - Singapore	1	1	3	5	1	1	1	3					2	2	4	8
NZL - New Zealand		5	3	8	1	4	1	6					1	9	4	14
SCO - Scotland	1	1	2	4		1	2	3					1	2	4	7
KEN - Kenya	1	1	1	3									1	1	1	3
JAM - Jamaica	1	1		2									1	1		2
UGA - Uganda	1			1									1			1
NRU - Nauru	1			1									1			1
WAL - Wales					5	2	7						5	2	7	
SRI - Sri Lanka		1	1	2									1	1	2	
CMR - Cameroon						1	1	2					1	1	2	
NIR - Northern Ireland			1	1		1	1						1	1	2	
PAK - Pakistan		1		1									1		1	
SVG - St. Vincent & The Grenadines						1	1						1		1	
SEY - Seychelles						1	1						1		1	
PNG - Papua New Guinea		1		1									1		1	
TRI - Trinidad and Tobago		2	2											2	2	
IOM - Isle of Man		2	2											2	2	
CYP - Cyprus			1	1										1	1	
BAN - Bangladesh			1	1										1	1	
GHA - Ghana						1	1							1	1	
NAM - Namibia						1	1							1	1	
Total:	56	58	54	168	46	46	46	138					102	104	100	306
Expected:																272

Allahabad HC pronounces verdict on Ayodhya



In a much-awaited verdict, the Special Bench of Allahabad High Court on September 30, 2010 ruled that the disputed land in Ayodhya be divided into three parts among Hindus and Muslims. The disputed land will be divided among the Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and the party for 'Ram Lalla'.

The Lucknow Bench

of Allahabad High Court has ruled by a majority verdict that the disputed land in Ayodhya be divided into three parts and given to Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and the party representing Ram Lala Virajman.

In their separate judgements on the sensitive 60-year old title dispute on Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid structure, Justices S U Khan and Sudhir Agarwal said that the area under the central dome of the three-domed structure where Lord Ram's idol exists belongs to Hindus.

The majority in the

three-judge Lucknow bench also ruled that status quo should be maintained at the disputed place for three months, unless the order is modified or vacated earlier.

Justices Khan and Agarwal decreed that the 2.7 acre land comprising the disputed site should be divided into three parts. However, the third judge Justice D V Sharma ruled that that the disputed site is the birth place of Lord Ram. He also observed that the disputed building constructed by Mughal emperor Babur was built against the tenets of Islam and did not have the character of the mosque.

Justice Khan said all the three sets of parties - Muslims, Hindus and Nirmohi Akhara - are declared joint title holders of the property and premises in dispute. A preliminary decree to this effect is passed.

However, the judge observed that the portion below the central dome where at present the idol is kept in makeshift temple will be allotted to Hindus in final decree. He also said that Nirmohi Akhara will be allotted share including that part which is shown by the words 'Ram Chabutra' and 'Sita Rasoi' in the map.

Justice Khan said,

even though all the three parties are declared to have a share each, while allotting exact portions, some minor adjustments in the share is to be made.

Justice Agarwal made clear that the share of Muslim parties shall not be less than one-third of the total area of the premises and if necessary, it may be given some area of outer courtyard.

He also made it clear if some minor adjustments are to be made on sharing by different parties, the affected party may be compensated by allotting the requisite land from the area which is under acquisition of the Government

of India. He said, the open area within the outer courtyard shall be shared by Nirmohi Akhara and the party for Lord Ram since it has generally been used by the Hindu people for worship at both places.

In his findings on issues, Justice agarwal said the parties of the Muslim side have failed to prove that the property in dispute was constructed by Babar in 1528 AD.

Sunni Waqf Board on Thursday said it will move the Supreme Court against the Allahabad High Court order dividing the disputed land in Ayodhya among three parties and said they were not going to surrender it.

Soyuz back to earth

The Russian Soyuz capsule with three crew members on board has landed safely on the Kazakh steppe. The Mission Control center outside Moscow said the landing was smooth.

The return flight of the Soyuz TMA-18 brought down to earth Russian astronauts Alexander



Skvortsov and Mikhail Korniyenko, and NASA astronaut Tracy Caldwell-Dyson. The undocking of the spacecraft from the International Space Station was delayed on Friday for 24 hours due to a false alarm signal sent by an airlock sensor.

Soyuz spacecraft is a series of spacecraft designed for the Soviet space program by the Korolyov Design Bureau. The Soyuz succeeded the Voskhod spacecraft and was originally built as part of the Soviet Manned Lunar program.

The Soyuz spacecraft is launched by the Soyuz rocket, the most frequently used and most reliable launch vehicle to date. The Soyuz rocket design is based on the Vostok launcher, which in turn was based on the 8K74 or R-7a intercontinental ballistic missile.

The first unmanned Soyuz mission was launched November 28, 1966; the first Soyuz mission with a crew (Soyuz 1) was launched April 23, 1967, but the cosmonaut on board, Vladimir Komarov, died during the flight's crash-landing. Soyuz 2 was an unmanned mission, and Soyuz 3, launched on October 26, 1968, was the first successful Soyuz manned mission. The only other fatal mission was Soyuz 11, killed the crew of three also during re-entry due to premature cabin depressurization. Despite these early fatalities Soyuz is presently widely considered the world's safest, most cost-effective human spaceflight system due to unparalleled length of operational history.

Currently, the Soyuz spacecraft family is still in service.Soyuz spacecraft were used to carry cosmonauts to and from Salyut and later Mir Soviet space stations, and are now used for transport to and from the International Space Station. The International Space Station maintains docked Soyuz spacecraft at all times to be used as escape craft in the event of an emergency.

'Peepli Live' India's official entry for Oscars 2011

Aamir Khan's "Peepli Live", a satire on media's trivialisation of farmers' suicide, has been selected as



Nobel Prize 2010

Nobel Peace Prize 2010 awarded to China dissident Liu Xiaobo

Jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo has been named the winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. The award, announced in Norway's capital Oslo, is certain to anger Beijing, which had earlier warned against the move.

Norwegian Nobel Committee president Thorbjørn Jagland said Mr Liu was "the foremost symbol of this wide-ranging struggle for human rights in China".

10 Years of Peace Prize Winners

2010: Liu Xiaobo
2009: Barack Obama
2008: Martti Ahtisaari
2007: Al Gore and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

2006: Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank

2005: IAEA and Mohamed ElBaradei

2004: Wangari Maathai

2003: Shirin Ebadi

2002: Jimmy Carter

2001: Kofi Annan and the United Nations

In his time Liu Xiaobo has been a political activist, author, university professor and an annoyance to the Chinese Communist Party. He has now been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, despite fierce opposition from the Chinese government.

Outside the country of his birth, he is known as one of China's leading dissidents, winning awards and the attention of the world's media. But few people inside China have heard his name, and he has repeatedly faced imprisonment and surveillance from the Chinese government.

He is currently serving an 11-year prison sentence for "subverting state power". That charge came after he helped write a manifesto, called Charter 08, calling for political change in China. Subverting state power? The 54-year-old first came to public prominence in 1989, during the bloody suppression of protesters in

India's official entry at the next year's Oscars in the Best Foreign Film category.

"Peepli Live has been selected as India's official entry for the Oscars out of 27 films," Supran Sen, secretary general of the Film Federation of India said.

Written and directed by debutant Anusha Rizvi, the small budget film stars theatre actors and was shot in a small village in Madhya Pradesh.

Producer Aamir said he will ensure that the film is seen by the Academy members and will ensure that it gets a good publicity during the awards next year.

"This is good news. I feel honoured and happy to be selected to represent my country. The film stands a very good chance. My congratulations to Anusha Rizvi and the entire team of Peepli Live," he said.

Co-director and Rizvi's husband Mehmood Farooqi said, "We are very happy for our first effort...But it is a very small step, we have to go a long way."

Through the story of a landless farmer Natha (played by Omkar Nath Manikpuri), who decides to commit suicide to help his family qualify for government compensation scheme, the 102 minute film highlights the apathy of Indian politicians and media towards the grave issue.

This is third time lucky for Aamir Khan Production as the actor's previous films "Lagaan" (2001) and "Taare Zameen Par" (2007) were also selected to represent India at the Academy awards.

Tagore Commemoration Grant Scheme-2010

To celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Government of India has constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister and a National Implementation Committee under the Finance Minister, to plan and take up commemorative programmes and projects at the national and international level. The National Committee has also advised the Ministry of Culture to support initiatives by different organizations to conduct appropriate commemorative programmes. The National Implementation Committee, thereafter, decided that the Ministry of Culture may launch a scheme and accordingly, the Ministry of Culture now launches the 'Scheme of Financial Assistance for Cultural Programmes by Not-for-Profit Organizations to Commemorate 150 Years of Rabindranath Tagore', known in short as the 'Tagore Commemoration Grant Scheme' (TCGS). The Scheme will assist and support the programmes related to appropriate and befitting commemoration of the multifaceted genius of Rabindranath Tagore and his enduring contributions. These may be through lectures, seminars, workshops, symposia, cultural shows, literary festivals, exhibitions, small documentary films and audio-video presentations, etc.

All eligible Not-for-Profit Organizations working for the promotion of art and culture and Universities (including University's Centres and Institutions, but not University Departments, schools or colleges) are eligible to apply for this Grant. Central Government assistance is limited to 75% of the estimated cost of a proposal/programme, with a ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs. The Scheme shall remain open till May 2012.

Applications can be sent to the Conveners of the 8 Zonal Tagore Commemoration Committees, with offices at Kolkata, Guwahati, Allahabad, Delhi, Chandigarh, Udaipur, Mumbai and Chennai. Experts will evaluate the proposals and their decision will be final. All the details related to the Scheme as well as the Application Forms are available on the Website of the Ministry of Culture www.indiaculture.nic.in

Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

He returned home from the United States to take part in the demonstrations, but was sent to prison for nearly two years for the role he played.

"The massacre in 1989 made a very deep impression on me," he said in an interview he gave to the BBC just a few months before he was arrested in 2008. The activist once worked as a professor at Beijing Normal University, although he was eventually banned from teaching.

In 1996 he was again put away for speaking out about China's one-party political system, but this time he was sent to a re-education-through-labour camp for three years.

It was while there that he got married to Liu Xia.

Since then he has continued to discuss a range of taboo subjects, including criticising China's treatment of Tibetans.

One day, even if he's not regarded as a hero, he'll be thought of as a very good citizen"

Liu XiaLiu Xiaobo's wife

This has brought him to the attention of those outside China who are trying to improve human rights in the communist party-ruled country, and he has received several prizes over the years. At his trial in December last year the United States government felt compelled to speak out.

The document that got him into trouble, Charter 08, was released in December two years ago. It calls for a new constitution in China, an independent judiciary and freedom of expression.

It was backed by about 300 academics, artists, lawyers and activists, who want a fuller debate about China's future political development.

Two days before it was due to be published the police made a late-night raid on Mr Liu's home and took him away.

His wife said she could not initially find out what had happened to him because the authorities would not admit to taking him.

Monthly visits

It was not until nearly one month later that the authorities finally confirmed they had arrested him.

He had a one-day trial in

Forbes Annual list 2010

The Forbes list of the world's most powerful women includes Oprah Winfrey, Lady Gaga, Beyonce Knowles and Ellen DeGeneres, all of whom apparently wield more power than the woman who is second in line for U.S. president.

The annual list, released on October 6, 2010, places Winfrey third. The talk-show queen is worth \$2.7 billion and earned \$315 million in the past year, but beyond wealth Forbes takes into account executive position, creative influence and entrepreneurship.

No. 1 on the list is First Lady Michelle Obama. Forbes didn't calculate her and her husband's personal wealth or money earned in the last year, choosing instead to list in that category the country's national budget, which is \$3.5 trillion.

Five women features on Forbes India Rich List

As many as five women have made it to Forbes India magazine's list of the 100 richest Indians this year, including O P Jindal Group chairperson Savitri Jindal, who surpassed billionaire Anil Ambani to attain fifth position in the list.

Jindal was the richest lady in India for the fourth consecutive year, with a net worth of USD 14.4 billion, says the annual India Rich List compiled by business magazine Forbes.

While ADAG Chairman Ambani slipped from third position last year to sixth in the list this year, with a wealth of USD 13.3 billion, Jindal has moved up from the seventh slot to the fifth this time.

Apart from Jindal, Bennett, Coleman & Co Chairperson Indu Jain, Anu Aga of Thermax group, Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw and Shobhana Bhartia of Hindustan Times are the other women that found a place in the list.

Jindal, who has been the chairperson of the O P Jindal Group since her husband Om Prakash's demise in 2005, saw her wealth growing by USD 2.4 billion since November, 2009, when Forbes had last published its annual India rich list.

Among the women billionaires, Jindal is followed by Bennett, Coleman & Co Chairperson Indu Jain, who is ranked 21st, with a net worth of USD 3 billion. Jain continues to see her fortune grow, with her kitty rising by USD 600 million this year in comparison to the previous year.

Anu Aga of Thermax group bagged 51st position in the list with a net worth of USD 1.24 billion. She worked for the company from 1985, taking charge when her husband died in 1996.

Shaw and Bhartia have been ranked 75th and 76th in the list, with a net worth of USD 900 million and USD 895 million, respectively.

Notably, Vidya Murkumbi of Shree Renuka Sugars, who had featured at the 93rd spot in the list last year with a net worth of USD 490 million, did not find a place this year.

The following is the Forbes list of the 25 richest people in India:

Rank	Name	Net Worth (in \$ bln)
1	Mukesh Ambani	27
2	Lakshmi Mittal	26.1
3	Azim Premji	17.6
4	Shashi & Ravi Ruia	15
5	Savitri Jindal	14.4
6	Anil Ambani	13.3
7	Gautam Adani	10.7
8	Kushal Pal Singh	9.2
9	Sunil Mittal	8.6
10	Kumar Birla	8.5
11	Adi Godrej	7.5

December last year and was sentenced to 11 years a few days later - on Christmas Day. Some suspected the Chinese authorities had chosen that day because most people in the West would be on holiday, and not notice. Liu Xia now visits her husband once a month at the prison where he is serving his sentence, in Liaoning Province in north-east China.

They have hour-long meetings watched over by two guards and a security camera.

As a wife, Liu Xia's greatest wish is for her husband to be released so he can come home to her.

She believes his contribution to human rights will one day be recognised.

"Now his name is unknown. But one day, even if he's not regarded as a hero, he'll be thought of as a very good citizen - a model example."

2010 Nobel Prize in Literature

Thursday October 7, 2010

Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa was today awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individuals resistance, revolt, and defeat," according to the Swedish Academy.

Mario Vargas Llosa has awarded "for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt, and defeat".

Vargas Llosa, author of novels such as The Green House (1965), has long been one of Latin America's most significant writers and is the first Latino to win the prize since Gabriel Garcia Marquez claimed it in 1982.

Chemistry Nobel Prize 2010

American Richard Heck and Japanese researchers Ei-ichi Negishi and Akira Suzuki won the 2010 Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for developing a chemical method that has allowed scientists to test cancer drugs and make

- 12 Pallonji Mistry 6.9
- 13 Anil Agarwal 5.5
- 14 Dilip Shanghvi 5.2
- 15 Shiv Nadar 4.7
- 16 Malvinder & Shivinder Singh 4.2
- 17 Kalanithi Maran 4
- 18 G M Rao 3.5
- 19 Uday Kotak 3.4
- 20 Anand Burman 3.2
- 21 Indu Jain 3.1
- 22 Rahul Bajaj 3
- 23 Subhash Chandra 2.9
- 24 Micky Jagtiani 2.8
- 25 Venugopal Dhoot 2.65

Centre 8-point formula for J&K

The Centre on Saturday announced an eight-point initiative to restore peace in the Kashmir Valley after the unrest that began in June this year. This, among others, will include an attempt to de-scale the presence of security forces, the constitution of a group of interlocutors to hold a "sustained dialogue" with all shades of Valley life and the release of about 245 persons detained for stone-pelting.

These decisions were taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday. The Centre has asked the state government to soon convene a meeting of the Unified Command, which is chaired by the chief minister, to review the existing notification of areas as "disturbed". "After the review certain areas may be excluded from the list of disturbed areas. If such a decision is taken, then this will pave the way for non-application of the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in de-notified areas," sources said.

Sharing the decisions taken at the CCS, Union home minister P. Chidambaram said the Centre has also decided to make ex-gratia payments of `5 lakh to the families of each of those killed in the civil disturbance that began on June 11. The total number of people killed since then is over 100. He also said the Centre has advised the state government to immediately review the cases of all those detained under the Public Safety Act and issue release orders in appropriate cases.

The Congress, BJP, National Conference and PDP, welcomed the move. But the moderate separatists maintained a studied silence.

India protests against US trade barriers at WTO

India at World Trade Organisation (WTO) protested against escalating tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by the US on Indian goods and services including enhanced visa fee on Indian short-term services providers and the ban in Ohio on state outsourcing projects.

New Delhi cautioned the USA on its recent trade initiatives, particularly the Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA), saying "they contribute collectively to undermining not only the TRIPS (Trade related Intellectual Property Rights) agreement but the multilateral trading system as well in some measure."

"The US, which is the undisputed leader of the global trade arena, needs to set the bar high for the other nations to emulate" instead of delaying compliance with trade rulings pronounced by the WTOs dis-

thinner computer screens. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the award honours their development of palladium-catalysed cross couplings in organic systems.

The academy called that one of the most sophisticated tools available to chemists today, and one that is used by researchers worldwide and in commercial production of pharmaceuticals and molecules used to make electronics.

Heck, 79, is a professor emeritus at the University of Delaware.

Negishi, 75, is a chemistry professor at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and 80-year-old Suzuki is a professor at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan. Negishi told reporters in Stockholm by telephone that he was asleep when the call came. "I went to bed last night well past midnight so I was sleeping but I am extremely happy to receive the telephone call," he said.

Officials at Hokkaido University were delighted by the news, said university spokesman Hidetoshi Nakatsuka.

"Professor Suzuki has been mentioned as a candidate in the past few years and we've been waiting for this to happen for all these years," Nakatsuka said. "We were standing by and we are extremely delighted."

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said he spoke to Suzuki on the phone and congratulated him.

"He told me that Japan's science and technology is at the world's top level and encouraged me to make good use of the resources," Kan said.

The method developed by the Nobel winners has been used to artificially produce cancer-killing substances first found in marine sponges, the academy said in its citation.

While clinical testing has started, it's not yet clear whether they will turn out to be useful drugs.

The electronics industry has used palladium-catalysed cross coupling to make light-emitting diodes used in the production of extremely thin monitors, the academy said.

What is Aadhaar ?

1. Introduction to Aadhaar

The inability to prove identity is one of the biggest barriers preventing the poor from accessing benefits and subsidies. No nationally accepted, verified identity number exists in the country that both the residents and agencies can use with ease and confidence. Different service providers also often have different requirements in the documents they demand from the residents, the forms that require filling out and the information they collect on the individual.

Such duplication of effort and identity silos increase the overall cost of identification and cause inconvenience to the resident. Any process that uniquely identifies a resident and ensures instant identity verification would help to reduce transaction costs, transform delivery of a host of social welfare programs and help to eliminate duplicate identities and fraud. The savings on this account can be immense and today when States are fiscally stressed, freeing up of resources would provide the desired flexibility in either extending the welfare net or increasing the benefits under the existing programs or simply improving the fiscal situation.

Keeping the above in mind, the Unique Identification number (Aadhaar) has been conceived by the Government of India as a means for residents to clearly and uniquely verify their identity anywhere in the country. This handbook is meant to give an overview of Aadhaar, the process to generate Aadhaar numbers, use its authentication services and update it on an ongoing basis. Detailed process manuals, which will be available on the UIDAI website, may be referred for implementation.

Previous attempts at building 'unique' databases have been beset by quality issues and chal-

lenges in the lack of consistent implementation. This project therefore has defined detailed guidelines and templates for the same; especially keeping in mind that Aadhaar will be built through a network of Registrars and enrolment agencies dispersed across the country. The success of the project will be strongly determined by the quality of data collected; as such all partners may therefore keep in mind the need to adhere to these guidelines.

As our partners, Registrars are requested to share feedback extensively and engage with the UIDAI in making this a robust and successful exercise. The handbook and the manuals will be updated on the basis of feedback and will be posted on our website on a continuous basis.

2. Aadhaar Overview

Aadhaar, which means 'foundation' in many Indian languages, has the following Features and Benefits:

1. One Aadhaar = 1 beneficiary: Aadhaar is a unique number, and no resident can have a duplicate number since it is linked to their individual biometrics; thereby identifying fake and ghost identities which result in leakages today. Savings from eliminating duplicates and fakes through Aadhaar-based identification will further enable governments to expand benefits to other eligible residents.

2. Portability: Aadhaar is a universal number, and agencies and services can contact the central Unique Identification database from anywhere in the country to confirm a beneficiary's identity.

3. Inclusion of those without any existing identity documents: A problem in reaching benefits to poor and marginalized residents is that they often lack the identification documents they need to

receive State benefits; the 'Introducer' system which has been approved for data verification for the UIDAI will enable such residents to establish an identity.

4. Electronic benefit transfers: the UID-enabled-Bank-Account network will offer a secure and low cost platform to directly remit benefits to residents without the heavy costs associated today with benefit distribution; the leakages in the current system will also be stemmed as a result.

5. Aadhaar-based authentication to confirm entitlement delivered to the beneficiary: the UIDAI will offer online authentication services for agencies who wish to validate a resident's identity; this service will enable confirmation of the entitlement actually reaching the intended beneficiary.

6. Improved services through increased transparency: Clear accountability and transparent monitoring would significantly improve access and quality of entitlements to beneficiaries and the agency alike

7. Self-service puts residents in control: Using Aadhaar as an authentication mechanism, residents should be able to access up-to-date information about their entitlements, demand services and redress their grievances directly from their mobile phone, kiosks or other means. In the case of self-service on the resident's mobile, security is assured using two-factor authentication (i.e. by proving possession of the resident's registered Mobile Number and knowledge of the resident's Aadhaar PIN). These standards are compliant with the Reserve Bank of India's approved standards for Mobile Banking and Payments. (Please see Annexure for how mobile phone can be used for Aadhaar enabled applications)

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US launch Cyber Storm III

The United States and a dozen other countries are staging a huge cyber exercise to test the preparedness of their computer networks against a simulated attack, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has announced.

The exercise, dubbed "Cyber Storm III", simulates a "large-scale cyberattack on critical infrastructure" and involves thousands of participants from seven US government departments, 11 US states, 60 private sector companies and 12 international partners. The biennial exercise is being organised by the Department of Homeland Security and is the first test of the new National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center based outside Washington in Arlington.

The NCCIC booted up in October 2009 to serve as the coordinating center for US cybersecurity operations and houses US government computer experts and their private sector counterparts under one roof. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Cyber Security Division (NCS) successfully executed Cyber Storm, the first national cyber exercise Feb. 6 thru Feb. 10, 2006. The exercise was the first government-led, full-scale cyber security exercise of its kind. NCS, a division within the department's Preparedness Directorate, provides the federal government with a centralized cyber security coordination and preparedness function called for in the National Strategy for Homeland Security, the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7. NCS is the focal point for the federal government's interaction with state and local government, the private sector and the international community concerning cyberspace vulnerability reduction efforts.

Goals and Objectives

Cyber Storm was designed to test communications, policies and procedures in response to various cyber attacks and to

identify where further planning and process improvements are needed. Activities included:

- " Exercising inter-agency coordination through the activation of the National Cyber Response Coordination Group (NCRCG) and the Interagency Incident Management Group (IIMG)

- " Exercising inter-governmental and intra-governmental coordination and incident response

- " Identifying policies and issues that either hinder or support cyber security requirements

- " Identifying public and private information sharing mechanisms to address communications challenges

- " Identifying the interdependence of cyber and physical infrastructures

- " Raising awareness of the economic and national security impacts associated with a significant cyber incident

- " Highlighting available tools and technologies for cyber incident response and recovery

Participants

Participants included federal and state agencies and private sector partners from the IT, telecommunications, energy, and transportation industries, as well as foreign governments

- " Participants provided support staff to help plan and control the exercise, and to ensure that their organizations' objectives were met

The Scenario

Cyber Storm scenarios had three major adversarial objectives:

- " To disrupt specifically targeted critical infrastructure through cyber attacks

- " To hinder the governments' ability to respond to the cyber attacks

- " To undermine public confidence in the governments' ability to provide and protect services.

The exercise was a simulated event with no real-world effects on, tampering with, or damage to any critical infrastructure. While the scenarios were based on hypothetical situations, they were not intended as a forecast of

future terrorist-related events.

Cyber Storm II: March 2008

- " Involves 5 countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States); 18 federal cabinet-level agencies (Department of Defense, State Department, Department of Justice, etc.); 9 states (Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, Delaware, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, and Virginia); and over 40 private sector companies (Juniper Networks, Microsoft, McAfee, Cisco, NeuStar, The Dow Chemical Company, Inc., PPG Industries, ABB Group, Air Products & Chemical Inc., Nova Chemical, Wachovia, etc.);

- " Affected 4 infrastructure sectors including chemical, information technology, communications and transportation (rail/pipe) and used 10 Information Sharing and Analysis Centers;

- " Exercised the processes, procedures, tools, and organizational response to a multi-sector coordinated attack through, and on, the global cyber infrastructure;

- " Allowed players to exercise and evaluate their cyber response capabilities to a multi-day coordinated attack and to gauge the cascading effects of cyber disasters on other critical infrastructures, shaping response priorities; and

- " Exercised government and private sector concepts and processes developed since Cyber Storm I, requiring great interaction and coordination at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

Cyber Storm I: February 2006

- " First government-led full-scale cyber exercise;

- " Included over 115 organizations, including federal, state and local governments, and the private sector;

- " Featured four sectors: information technology, communications, energy and transportation (air); and

- " Allowed participants to respond to a variety of cyber and communications degradations and simulated attacks against critical infrastructures and to collaborate at the operational, policy and public affairs levels. ■■■

Roma emigrant problem in Europe

Chitra Singh Rajput

European tempers over the treatment of Roma immigrants flared again as President Nicolas Sarkozy of France said the Germans were preparing to follow France's lead and expel migrant Roma, while German officials denied they had said any such thing. The altercation marked a significant widening of the diplomatic repercussions spreading across Europe after France in July began deporting Roma to their homes in Romania and Bulgaria. The spat began that time, when Ms. Reding accused France of violating European law in its expulsions of thousands of Roma. Ms. Reding said that assurances from French ministers about their policies on the Roma had been contradicted by the leak of an official circular showing that the ethnic group had been specifically singled out for deportation. Angry that she had been misled, Ms. Reding was blunt in her public response. She used strong language to condemn French policies, referring to "a situation that I had thought that Europe would not have to witness again after the Second World War." That prompted a display of pyrotechnics from Mr. Sarkozy, who accused the European Commission, the European Union's executive body, of distorting French policies and exceeding its authority. The issue dominated a summit meeting of European Union leaders, where leaders argued about the rights of members of the European Union to expel unwanted immigrants from other member states. No one seemed to come out ahead. Other European leaders also criticized Ms. Reding's comments, including David Cameron, Britain's prime minister, who argued that "members of the commission have to choose their language carefully as well." But few

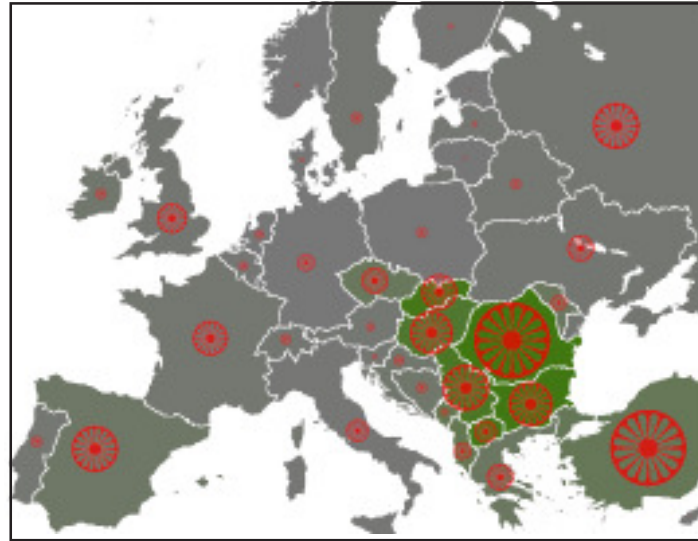
gave direct support to Mr. Sarkozy's policy on the Roma. Mr. Sarkozy claimed that Mrs. Merkel had done so, only to be met with a strong German denial.

Aides to the French president have been instructed not to comment on any aspect of the conversation he said he had with Mrs. Merkel about the Roma, according to one of them, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The French foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, said he was not present for any such

exchange between Mr. Sarkozy and Mrs. Merkel. Asked on Europe 1 radio if the French had invented Mrs. Merkel's words, Mr. Kouchner said, "History will decide," adding that he was not present for that conversation, though he was "there the whole time." Guido Westerwelle, the German foreign minister who also attended the Brussels meeting, waded into the Roma dispute, telling German radio that Mrs. Merkel had made no pronouncements of any kind related to the Roma community in Germany. "The chancellor both told publicly, and me personally, how the conversation went" with Mr. Sarkozy. Mrs. Merkel has also said it was unacceptable to compare France's expulsions of the Roma, also known as Gypsies, to the actions of the Nazis. On July 28, 2010 French President Nicolas Sarkozy ordered authorities to expel Gypsy illegal immigrants and dismantle their camps, amid accusations that his government is acting racist in its treatment of the group known as Roma. Sarkozy called a government meeting after Gypsies clashed with police this month following the shooting death of a youth fleeing officers in the Loire Valley.

Earlier Italy declares state of emergency over Roma immigrants. Italy's cabinet issued a



Roma (Romani) people in Europe, in 2007 Council of Europe average estimates of Roma population totalling 9.8 million

state of emergency over illegal immigration as it emerged that hundreds of Roma were fleeing the country because of fears over fingerprinting. Before it Italian parliament approved tough new laws which make illegal immigration punishable by up to four years in jail. Immigrants found guilty of certain crimes face deportation. Italy has also started a controversial census of Roma which involved the fingerprinting and photographing of all adults and children over 14 years old.

Roma people may refer as: Romani people.

Romani people, an ethnic group with origins in South Asia or Eastern Europe who are widely dispersed with their largest concentrated populations in Europe, especially Central and Eastern Europe, with more recent diaspora populations in the Americas and, to a lesser extent, in North Africa and the Middle East. Roma are a subgroup of the Romani people, also known as Gypsies who live primarily in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in the Balkans and Western Anatolia, and as recent immigrants in Western Europe and the Americas.

Roma is also used as a synonym for the whole Romani people. Roma live often in depressed squatter communities with very high unemployment, while only some are fully

integrated in the society. However, in some cases—notably the Kalderash group in Romania, who works as traditional coppersmiths—they have prospered. Many former Eastern bloc countries have substantial populations of Roma. The level of integration of Roma into society remains limited. In these countries, they usually remain on the margins of society, living in isolated ghetto-like. Only a small fraction of Romani children graduate from secondary schools, although during the Communist regime, at least some of these countries forced all children to attend school, and provided them, like other citizens, with all required basics such as textbooks and the compulsory uniform. Many Roma have faced discrimination and prejudice from both private groups and national Governments. In 2004, Ildi Járóka and Viktória Mohácsi of Hungary became the two current Roma Members of the European Parliament. The first Romani MEP was Juan de Dios Ramírez Heredia of Spain. Seven former Communist Central European and Southeastern European states launched the Decade of Roma Inclusion initiative in 2005, a ten year program whose aim is to improve the socio-economic conditions and status of the Romani minority.

Editorial

DEVELOP INDIA

Year 2, Vol. 1, Issue 112, 26 September to October 3, 2010

Anti Outsourcing bill

Over the past few weeks, India's Incorporations are concern over U.S. President Barack Obama's and White House's intentions comments on curbing outsourcing.

AOB blocked in US Senate

Seen as a blow to US President Barack Obama, the 53-45 defeat vote blocked the bill on September 29, 2010, as it fell six votes short of passage. 'India Inc cheers defeat of anti-outsourcing bill in US Upper house Senate', while another led with 'Anti-outsourcing Bill dies a quiet death in the US'. Death is wide of the mark. The Senate voted 53-45 for the bill, far short the 60 votes needed to break a filibuster, with four Democrats crossing the aisle. Democrats portrayed the Republicans as "job-killers" afterwards, but no political analyst would deny that Republicans play the patriot card far more often than their opponents. The recent anti-outsourcing bill proposed by Senator Charles Schume.

Main aims of AOB

With the crucial November mid-term elections looming, the biggest issue for U.S. voters is the economy, with many angry that the lauded economic stimulus Bill passed last year has not prevented the unemployment rate rising above 10 percent. The ball is in Obama's hand, if he can't rectify the situation, the Democrats will likely suffer at the hands of the electorate in less than two months time. Thus for the Republicans, who if in power would surely be contemplating similar anti-outsourcing legislation to appease angry voters seeing jobs flourish in Bangalore instead of Baltimore - the goal is to show Obama and the Democrats as an incapable party, unable to govern and unable to fix the problems. And that means blocking legislation.

After November, when the dust settles and - most likely - Obama faces a Clinton-like situation of governing over a split legislature for the remainder of his term, the public will demand political compromise to improve the economy. Then, with far less gains to be had in playing politics, and the rise of the far-right Tea Party to counter, both sides may well favour a bill that protects American jobs at the expense of that elsewhere.

What the AOB

The bill would provide tax breaks to companies that bring jobs home from abroad, and end certain tax credits, deductions and deferrals for U.S. companies expanding or moving overseas. In essence, the bill puts a 25-cent tax on each call made to a call center based outside the U.S. By placing a tax on call centers positioned overseas by U.S. firms, the bill is taking away the incentive to offshore customer care calls.

Effects of the AOB

The companies that would be most affected would be those outsourcing to Philippines and India. Call centers require a fairly high level of expertise in English and the Philippines boasts a population of residents who speak near native English. In addition to the fine, the caller will be informed about the transfer of call and the country to which it is transferred.

India's Outsourcing Industry

India, which already holds at least 50 per cent of the global outsourcing market, has become the world's back office as Western firms set up call centres, number-crunching and software development outlets to cut costs. ■■■

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pute settlement body, it said. During the tenth trade policy review of the US, India's trade envoy Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta listed a range of trade-related concerns and barriers encountered by Indian exporters of goods and services in the US market.

The trade policy review offers a platform for WTO members to state their immediate trade policy concerns in the country under examination.

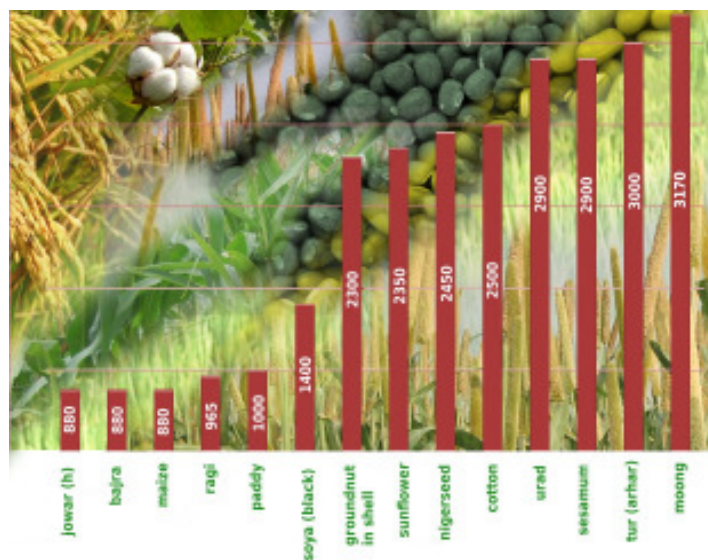
Ahead of the review, the WTO Secretariat prepares a detailed report setting out the macro-economic and trade-related developments in the US, including numerous its trade and non-tariff measures.

The US trade envoy Ambassador Michael Punke said his administration was focused on generating largest opportunities for increasing American exports and jobs, and on opening markets and boosting innovation. The US, he said, is committed to an ambitious Doha Development Agenda agreement in which the leading emerging countries must provide substantial market access.

In response, Ambassador Dasgupta acknowledged the expanding "multifaceted bilateral relationship" in which trade had emerged as a key component. India's merchandise exports to the US increased by 41.8 percent to USD 16. 96 billion during Jan-July 2010 from USD 11.95 billion in the same period last year. Ambassador Dasgupta said the US exports to India, which are largely capital equipments, jumped to USD 11.0 billion this year, maintaining that the average tariff on the US capital goods was around 5 percent. In sharp contrast, the US imposes "high tariffs on textiles, food products, footwear, leather goods and automotive components" and complex US domestic standards on products, including on Indian mangoes, the Indian trade envoy said.

Kharif Acreage crosses 1,000 hectare mark ; 65.33 lakh hectare more than last year

Kharif crops have been sown in 1006.24 lakh ha area so far. It is 65.33 lakh ha more than the acreage on this date last year (940.91 lakh ha). It is also 2.09 lakh ha more than 2008, which was record production year. The sowing of all major crops this year is more than that in the last kharif.As per data received from States, paddy has been sown in 347.59 lakh hectare as compared to 324.27 lakh ha on this date last year, showing an increase of 23.32 lakh ha over the same period. Pulses have been sown in 110.44 lakh ha so far which is 19.71 lakh ha more than this time last season. Coarse cereals have been sown in 210.89 lakh ha, 4.73 lakh ha more as compared to last year.



Minimum Supprot Price (MSP) for kharif crops for 2010-11: MSP for pulses has been raised substantially over the MSP for the last season. This is expected to encourage farmers to invest in pulses production.

2 UK scientists share Nobel for Physics

Two Russian-born scientists based at the University of Manchester in the UK on Tuesday shared the 2010 Nobel Prize for Physics for their "groundbreaking" work on a material with amazing properties.

Andrei Geim, 51, and Konstantin Novoselov, 36, have been announced as the winners of the 900,000 pounds (10 million Swedish Kronor) prize for their research on graphene.

Reacting to the news, Dr Geim said: "I'm fine, I slept well. I didn't expect the Nobel Prize this year".

A thin flake of ordinary carbon, just one atom thick, lies behind the prize.

The two experts have shown that carbon in such a flat form has exceptional properties that originate from the remarkable world of quantum physics, a release from the Nobel committee said. Graphene is a form of carbon. As a material it is completely new not only the thinnest ever but also the strongest.

As a conductor of electricity it performs as well as copper. As a conductor of heat it outperforms all other known materials.

It is almost completely transparent, yet so dense that not even helium, the smallest gas atom, can pass through it.

Carbon, the basis of all known life on earth, has surprised us once again. Geim and Novoselov extracted the graphene from a piece of graphite such as is found in ordinary pencils.

Using regular adhesive tape they managed to obtain a flake of carbon with a thickness of just one atom.

This at a time when many believed it was impossible for such thin crystalline materials to be stable. However, with graphene, physicists can now study a new class of two-dimensional materials with unique properties.

Graphene makes experiments possible that give new twists to the phenomena in quantum physics.

Also a vast variety of practical applications now

Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships, awards given

Veteran actor Shriram Lagoo, danseuse Yamini Krishnamurti and classical music exponent Kishori Amonkar were among a host of artistes honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships and awards for the year 2009 by President Pratibha Patil. Six eminent personalities were conferred Akademi Fellowships for 2009 and 33 artistes received the Akademi Awards. The highest honour of Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) was conferred on Lalgudi Jayaraman, Shreeram Lagoo, Yamini Krishnamurti, Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi and Kishori Amonkar. They received Rs three lakh besides a citation and a shawl. The eminent representatives from the fields of music, dance and theatre honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2009 received Rs one lakh.

UID project from Tembhli village

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will inaugurate the ambitious Unique Identification project at Tembhli village in Maharashtra's Nandurbar district on September 29, 2010. The project named 'Aadhaar' will be launched nationally by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Tembhli with a population of 1,098 will become the first 'Aadhaar' village in the country. A strong media contingent has already descended on the village.

Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, Deputy CM Chhagan Bhujbal and UID chief Nandan Nilekani will attend the launch of Aadhaar, billed as the tool that would vastly improve the service delivery mechanism of welfare schemes.

BCCI to get new president

N Srinivasan, currently the Cricket Board's secretary, is all set to be elevated as the next president-elect at the BCCI's 81st Annual General Meeting here on Sep 28, 2010. Shashank Manohar has retained unopposed their posts of Cricket Board president with the closing of nominations ahead of the 81st AGM.

As per BCCI's rotation policy, it is the turn of south zone, to which Srinivasan belongs, to take over the reins of the Board next year after the turn of central zone. The Board's general body is also expected to oust suspended Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi from his post of vice-president from the central zone with Rajiv Shukla being the front-runner to replace him. All the current office bearers of the Board, including president Shashank Manohar and secretary Srinivasan, are well-poised to be elected unopposed for another year in the two plus one system of governance adopted by the BCCI.

The list includes treasurer MP Pandove and joint secretary Sanjay Jagdale. All of them have completed two years in their posts and have to be re-elected for the third year.

While Arun Jaitley (north), N Shivlal Yadav (south) and Arindam Ganguly (east) are set to retain their seats, Chirayu Amin (west) has to give way to another person from the same zone after having completed his term.

Through an amendment to its memorandum of rules and regulations, which is to be done at the AGM, the BCCI is also set to bring the IPL Governing Council's

appear possible including the creation of new materials and the manufacture of innovative electronics.

Graphene transistors are predicted to be substantially faster than today's silicon transistors and result in more efficient computers. Since it is practically transparent and a good conductor, graphene is suitable for producing transparent touch screens, light panels, and maybe even solar cells.

When mixed into plastics, graphene can turn them into conductors of electricity while making them more heat resistant and mechanically robust.

This resilience can be utilised in new super strong materials, which are also thin, elastic and lightweight.

In the future, satellites, airplanes, and cars could be manufactured out of the new composite materials.

Test-tube baby pioneer Edwards wins medicine Nobel

Robert Edwards of Britain won the 2010 Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for developing in-vitro fertilisation, a breakthrough that has helped millions of infertile couples worldwide have children.

Edwards, an 85-year-old professor emeritus at the University of Cambridge, started working on IVF as early as the 1950's.

He developed the technique, in which egg cells are fertilized outside the body and then implanted in the womb, together with gynecologist surgeon Patrick Steptoe, who died in 1988.

On 25th July, 1978, Louise Brown in Britain became the first baby born through the groundbreaking procedure, marking a revolution in fertility treatment.

"(Edwards') achievements have made it possible to treat infertility, a medical condition afflicting a large proportion of humanity, including more than 10 percent of all couples worldwide," the medicine prize committee in Stockholm said in its citation.

"Approximately 4 million individuals have been born thanks to IVF," the citation said.

tenure to one year like all its other sub-committees. Its tenure originally is for five years.

The list of valid nominations:

President: Shashank Manohar

Vice-presidents: Niranjan Shah (West Zone), Rajiv Shukla (Central), Arindam Ganguly (East), Arun Jaitley (North) and N Shivlal Yadav (South).

Secretary: N Srinivasan

Joint secretary: Sanjay Jagdale

Treasurer: M P Pandove

President-elect (From South Zone): N Srinivasan.

Plagiarism tarnishes Bt Brinjal report

In the wake of the allegation that the Bt Brinjal report prepared by them is plagiarised, the six science academies have strongly refuted the claims and said they would give proper attributions to the various sections of the report through a separate note to all the academy members.

"This does not affect our approach and the specific recommendations remain the same," said M Vijayan, president of the Indian National Science Academy. The six academies favoured immediate commercial release of genetically modified Bt Brinjal with post-release surveillance.

A non-governmental group of anti-GM activists known as 'Coalition for GM Free India' on Saturday described the 25-page report as a "superficial overview rather than a rigorous scientific review" that includes statements "plagiarised from propaganda material by GM crop developers."

The allegations specifically refer to six paragraphs written by Indian Council of Agriculture Research scientist P Anand Kumar which is found almost verbatim in the article Kumar had written in December 2009 for a biotech magazine brought out by the Department of Biotechnology.

Two of the six academy presidents have acknowledged that the omission of attribution and references was a mistake that would be corrected. However, they insisted that the decision to endorse adoption of Bt Brinjal and GM technology will stand.

Anti-GM activists lambasted the report for side-stepping large body of evidence pointing to the adverse impact of GM crops. The coalition questioned the report's independence since one of the academy presidents, veteran plant scientist Asis Datta, is himself a GM crop developer.

Inquiry sought

"We demand that the Government of India institute an inquiry into this episode since it puts the nation's scientific establishment to shame," said the Coalition.

Datta, who is president of National Academy of Sciences, told Deccan Herald that the introduction of GM crops is inevitable. "GM technology should come today or tomorrow.

The technology has to be there. The issue is bio safety which we take care of," he said.

While favouring GM crops in general and Bt Brinjal in particular, the academies, however, recommended that bulk of the GM products should remain with public sector institutions.

Australia's new parliament sworn-in

The members of Australia's 43rd parliament have been sworn-in in Canberra by Chief Justice of the High Court Robert French on Sep 28, 2010. According to media reports, Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott attended the traditional

"Today, Robert Edwards' vision is a reality and brings joy to infertile people all over the world."

The probability of an infertile couple taking home a baby after a cycle of IVF today is 1 in 5, about the same that healthy couples have of conceiving naturally. Steptoe and Edwards founded the first IVF clinic at Bourn Hall in Cambridge.

In a statement, Bourn Hall said one of Edwards' proudest moments was discovering that 1,000 IVF babies had been born at the clinic since Brown, and relaying that information to a seriously ill Steptoe shortly before his death. "I'll never forget the look of joy in his eyes," Edwards said. The statement said Edwards was "not well enough to give interviews". Brown, 32, reportedly is a postal worker in the English coastal city of Bristol. In 2007 she gave birth to her first child - a boy named Cameron.

Aleksander Giwercman, head of reproduction research at the University of Lund in Sweden, said Edward's achievements also have been important for other areas, including cancer and stem cell research. "We received a tool that could be used for many other areas," Giwercman said.

"Many of the illnesses that develop when we are adults have their origin early on in life, during conception."

The medicine award was the first of the 2010 Nobel Prizes to be announced.

Jnanpith Awards for ONV Kurup, Akhlaq Shahryar

Eminent Malayalam litterateur O N V Kurup and noted Urdu poet Akhlaq Khan Shahryar have been chosen for the Jnanpith Award for the year 2007 and 2008 respectively for their contribution to literature. The recipients for the country's highest literary honour were announced in New Delhi on Friday after a meeting of Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by noted Oriya writer and Jnanpith award winner Sitakant Mahapatra. Born in 1931 in

smoking ceremony, which was preceded by a speech from Aboriginal elder Matilda House. "On the occasion of this opening of the 43rd Parliament I welcome you," Julia Gillard said, adding "With this welcome I express the hope of a united, reconciled nation, the oldest living culture joined with the many diverse cultures of a modern successful Australia."

Deputy Governor-General Robert French officially opened the Parliament and MPs were sworn-in. Prime Minister Gillard told parliament it was a "cause for regret" that some proposed parliamentary reforms had already failed, in a reference to the Coalition's decision to back away from pairing the Speaker. Labor's Harry Jenkins was nominated as Speaker, and was elected unopposed to the post, which he held in the last parliament.

Sofia Coppola's 'Somewhere' wins top Venice prize

Sofia Coppola's "Somewhere," the tale of an actor who sees the emptiness of his existence through the eyes of his child, won the top Golden Lion prize at the Venice film festival. Director Quentin Tarantino headed the jury, which unanimously chose Coppola's film as the best movie at the 11-day annual festival.

Indian Cultural Week opens in Doha

The Indian Cultural Week has got underway in Qatar's capital city as part of the "Doha, Capital of Arab Culture 2010" celebrations. The week, which will run until 28th September, would feature performances by Rajastani folk dancers, qawwali singers and Kathak artistes, Indian embassy official Sanjiv Kohli said. An eight-member qawwali team led by Nizami Brothers belonging to the Sikandara Gharana will perform in the event. While Kathak will be presented by a seven-member group led by renowned dancer and choreographer Rekha Mehra. Bollywood films like Khakee, Lakshya and Refugee will also be screened at the event.

Kim Jong-il and the handover of power

The youngest son of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has been appointed to two key party posts, in a move widely seen as part of a gradual transfer of power. State media said Kim Jong-un was named vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers' Party, which is holding a rare meeting. He was also appointed to the party's central committee. Earlier, the younger Mr Kim was made a four-star general. His father was re-elected as leader but is thought to be in poor health.

Kim Jong-un is Kim Jong-il's third son and had already been identified as the most likely successor to the Communist dynasty started by his grandfather, Kim Il-sung, in 1948.

It's a remarkable rise, even by the standards of one of the world's most totalitarian states, says the BBC's John Sudworth in Seoul. There can now be little doubt that he has been chosen to eventually take over from his ailing father, our correspondent says.

Little is known of Kim Jong-un other than that he was educated in Switzerland and is about 27 years of age. The Workers' Party has been holding its first meeting since 1980. The conference also made the leader's sister a member of the political bureau and her husband an alternate member, the state-run KCNA

Kerala's Kollam district, Kurup is a leading voice among the contemporary Malayalam poets who has reinvented the narrative transition of Malayalam poetry through his long poems like 'Ujjayini' and 'Swayamvaram'. According to a statement by Bharatiya Jnanpith, the trust which presents the award, Kurup began his career as a "progressive writer and matured into a humanist though he never gave up his commitment to socialist ideology". Kurup has 20 collections of poetry to his credit. He is also winner of several awards and honours including Kerala Sahitya Academy award, Sahitya Academy award, Vayalar award and Padmashri. Born in 1936 in a Muslim Rajput family in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly district, Shahryar shaped himself as an "intellectual poet", whose poetry strongly expresses an "ideological non-commitment". His roots, according to the statement, lies in the poet's desire for self-realisation and his attempt to understand modern problems. "Shahryar is not concerned in his poetry with messages or conclusions. Rather, he expresses the spiritual suffering and psychological anguish of what he regards as the wounded modern man," it said. Shahryar, who played a major role in shaping today's Urdu poetry, has received numerous awards including Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy award, Sahitya Akademy award, Delhi Urdu Academy award and Firaq Sammaan.

President conferred Sangeet Natak Akademi awards

President Pratibha Patil conferred prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi awards to six legendary artists for their contribution to the field of art and culture. The personalities to be felicitated by the president include Violinist Lalgudi Jayaraman, actor Shreeram Lagoo, Bharatnatyam exponent Yamini Krishnamurti, Sanskrit theatre scholar Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi and classical music maestros

news agency reported. The pair had been considered key backers of the young son. It is unclear whether the older Mr Kim will gradually relinquish power or whether a third figure - such as powerful National Defence Commission Chairman Jang Song-thaek - will act as the younger Kim's mentor. Alternately, our correspondent adds, a struggle for power could develop if Kim Jong-il's grip weakens.

The priority of military positions in North Korea's secretive power apparatus stems from the policy known as "songun" or military first. The military, backed up by a standing army of 1.2 million troops, is said to run the country's political process through the National Defence Commission, chaired by Kim Jong-il. The 68-year-old leader has been described as frail and is said to have had a stroke two years ago. Kim Il-sung is known as the "eternal president", while Kim Jong-il has styled himself the "dear leader". Kim Jong-il became leader when his father died in 1994. Under his rule, the country's isolation from the outside world has become entrenched. Mr Kim has built up a personality cult around his family, while North Korea's economy has all but ceased to function and its people suffer from frequent food shortages.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Successfully held in South Africa

The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas(PBD) Africa was held from 1-2 October, 2010 at the International Convention Centre(ICC), Durban, South Africa. The event was inaugurated on 1st October, 2010 by the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi. The President of South Africa Mr.Jacob Zuma graced the closing session on 2nd October 2010. The theme of the Conference was on 'India-Africa: Building Bridges.'

This was the 4th regional PBD Convention organized by Government of India outside India. The first such event was held on 24th September, 2007 in New York, the second on 10-11 October, 2008 in Singapore and the third on 19 September, 2009 at The Hague. PBD Africa marked the 150th anniversary of the arrivals of Indians in South Africa and coincided with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The PBD Conventions are organized by the Government of India to engage with the overseas Indian community across the globe to build bridges with them and their host countries. The Convention in Durban focused on the Indian diaspora in the Africa and especially focused on South Africa which has a population of over 1.2 million of Indian origin.

The two-day Convention was attended by more than 400 delegates from the Africa. It was co-hosted by the Government of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. The Convention opened on 1st October, 2010 with a formal inauguration and dinner hosted by Shri Vayalar Ravi. The inaugural dinner was attended by Ms. Lulama Xingwana, Arts and Culture Minister of South Africa, Dr. Z.L.Mkhize, Premier of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, Members of the National Assembly of South Africa, Members of Parliament of KwaZulu-Natal, Mayors and several other dignitaries. Two Pre-Conference events were held on October 1st: A Business Roundtable and an Academic Seminar on Diaspora.

The Business Roundtable on 'Opportunity Africa' at ICC Durban was attended by over 100 prominent business leaders and professionals from India and Africa. The possibility of enhancing economic and trade relations between India and Africa and particularly South Africa were discussed in the meeting focusing

Pandit Jasraj and Kishori Amonkar.

Awards were also given to Abdul Rashid Khan and Vasundhara Komkali (Hindustani vocal), Lachman Singh (tabla) and Ali Ahmad Hussain (shehnai), while Parassala B. Ponnammal was recognised in the Caratic vocal field. U. Srinivas (mandolin) and Dandamudi Sumathi Rama Mohan Rao (mridangam) were honoured for their contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.

L. Ibohalmacha Singh (Nata Sankirtana) received the award for other major traditions of music.

The dancers who were felicitated with awards included Ananda Shankar Jayant (Bharatanatyam), Prerana Shrimali (Kathak), Kalamandalam Rajan (Kathakali), L. Bino Devi (Manipuri), Geeta Mahalik (Odissi), Vyjayanthi Kashi (Kuchipudi), Daksha Sheth (Creative & Experimental) and Kala Krishna (Andhranatyam).

Playwright Vayala Vasudevan Pillai (Malayalam), actors Sudha Shivpuri and Neeta Mohindra, directors Joy Michael and Dinesh Thakur along with 10 other traditional, folk tribal artists were also given Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships.

Sachin Tendulkar bags ICC Cricketer of the Year Trophy

Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has bagged his maiden ICC Cricketer of the Year trophy along with the People's Choice Award, while compatriot Virender Sehwag was named the Test Cricketer of the Year at a glittering ceremony in Bangalore. Tendulkar, who has an international career spanning over two decades, clinched the coveted trophy by beating South African Hashim Amla, Englishman Graeme Swann and Sehwag. Talking to newsmen the master blaster said that he is happy to get this award even after his 21 years of illustrious career.

on four crucial sectors: IT, skill enhancement and education; pharmaceuticals; mining and minerals and infrastructure. The recommendations of the Business Roundtable were placed at the business plenary session on 2nd October.

The Seminar 'Diaspora: Heritage in the context of Globalization' was held at Durban University of Technology. Prominent academics from India and Africa participated in the event. The recommendations of the seminar were placed before the plenary session on Diaspora on October 2nd.

On 2nd October, 5 plenary sessions were held on 'The relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the 20th century', 'Business: Opportunity Africa', 'Youth and Gender: the Knowledge Economy and Social Development', 'Diaspora: Heritage in the Context of Globalization' and a Valedictory session.

The first session on the 'Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the 21st century' was addressed by Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Ms. Ela Gandhi, Justice Moosa Ebrahim, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe and Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, legendary freedom fighter and anti-apartheid activist of South Africa. All speakers highlighted the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the context of his principles of non-violence, non-cooperation and truth-based resistance for addressing challenges around the world. Shri Vayalar Ravi, exhorted the Indian diaspora in Africa to be a cultural bridge that continued to interpret and convey Mahatma Gandhi's message to their home countries in Africa.

The second session on 'Business: Opportunity Africa' was addressed by Mr. Pravin Jamnadas Gordhan, Minister of Finance of South Africa. He recognized the increasingly important role of Africa and India in the emerging world economic order. The panelists discussed the vast opportunities for business, especially for small and medium enterprises, between India and Africa.

The third session on 'Youth and Gender' focused on the Knowledge Economy and Social Development. Ms. D. Purandeshwari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India, in her keynote address highlighted India's success as a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic democracy, and its great strides in education, skill development and emancipation of women. She exhorted young Indians overseas to participate in the growth of India and of Africa, to build a better future.

The fourth session on 'Diaspora' focused on 'Heritage in the context of globalization', and recommended greater cooperation in research and studies of the diaspora of both India and Africa across the world. This will emerge as a new area of cooperation in the already extensive India-Africa relationship.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, urged the participants to attend the 9th PBD Convention being held in India on 7-9 January, 2011 in New Delhi. This event will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on 8th January, 2010. The President of India will give the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards to selected overseas Indians on 9th January, 2010.

Toxic sludg in Danube

The company at the centre of Hungary's toxic sludge leak said it has released \$150,000 to local authorities to help deal with the disaster, while insisting it has done nothing wrong. According to the mayor of one of the villages worst hit by the sludge, the sum from MAL Hungarian Aluminium Production and Trade Company would give payments of \$504 to each family affected by the leak.

The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010

The Union Cabinet has approved 'The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010' and its introduction in the Parliament.

The Bill provides a mechanism for enquiring into complaints against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, lays down judicial standards and requires the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts to declare their assets and liabilities. The Bill seeks to replace the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 while retaining its basic features.

The enactment of the Bill will address the growing concerns regarding the need to ensure greater accountability of the higher judiciary by bringing in more transparency and would further strengthen the credibility and independence of the judiciary.

At present there is no legal provision for dealing with complaints filed by the public against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Also, the judiciary has adopted resolutions for declaration of assets by Judges and "Restatement of values of Judicial Life". However, there is no law that requires the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts to declare their assets and liabilities and also there is no statutory sanction for judicial standards. ■ ■ ■

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