

DEVELOP INDIA

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99TH SESSION OF ISC

“Year 2012 Declared Year of Mathematics”

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh has said that we must aim to increase the total R&D spending as a percentage of GDP to at least 2 per cent by the end of the XII Plan Period from the current level of about 1 per cent. This can only be achieved if industry, which contributes about one-third of the total R&D expenditure today, increases its contribution significantly. He said, "I sincerely believe that Public Sector Undertakings, particularly those in the energy sector should also play a major role in this expansion".

To pay tribute to our great scientist M S Ramanujan, the year 2012 will be celebrated as the Year of Mathematics, the Prime Minister added.

Inaugurating the 99th Annual Session of the Indian Science Congress at Bhubaneswar today, the Prime Minister said that we have to increase public private partnerships and catalyse significantly increased interaction between publicly owned Science and Technology institutions and industry. It is in some ways ironic that General Electric and Motorola have created world-class technology hubs in India, while our own industry has not done so, except perhaps in the pharmaceutical sector. We need therefore, to look at ways of incentivising private Research and Development investment under Indian conditions, the Prime Minister added.

The Prime minister informed that a proposal is under consideration to build national capacity and capability in supercomputing which will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore at an estimated cost of Rs. 5000 crore.

The prime Minister said that over the last few years, the number of scientific publications by Indian scientists working in India has increased at more than 12% per annum against the global average of 4%. India has moved from the 15th rank in 2003 to the 9th rank in 2010 with respect to the number of publications in peer-valued journals. He informed about the National Innovation Council's proposal to set up an India Inclusive Innovation Fund that will drive and catalyse enterprise, entrepreneurship, and venture capital, while targeting solutions for the bottom of the national pyramid.

Congratulating Dr. Geetha Bali, General President of 99th Indian Science Congress, Dr. Manmohan Singh said, "the role of Science And technology for inclusive Innovation with special reference to the role of women was the theme for the Congress. I have often spoken about the commitment of our Government to give a boost to the science and technology sector in the country. We have taken several steps towards this end".

The Prime Minister said that while research generates new knowledge, we need innovation to use this knowledge creatively and productively for social benefit. Our Government has declared 2010-20 as the "Decade of Innovations". We need to give practical meaning to innovation so that it does not end up being just a buzz word.

He said, it is important that we explore and rejuvenate traditional knowledge systems found all over our country in areas such as agriculture, architecture, handicrafts and textiles. One need go no further than the tribal communities of the Kharia, Santhals, Gonds and Kolhas who live in the deep forest areas of Mayurbhanj and have a reservoir of knowledge on medicinal usage of locally available plants.

The Prime minister gave away awards to the eminent persons in the field of development of science and technology.

On the occasion, the Governor of Odisha, Shri M. C. Bhandare, the Union Minister of Science and Technology, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri Ashwani Kumar were present. An Exhibition of scientific innovations and models was also organized. This was the third time that Odisha hosted Science Congress. Earlier, the 49th Science Congress was organized in Cuttack in 1862 and the 64th at Bhubaneswar. Around 15 Nobel Laureates and noted speakers from various countries and India are participating.

Kolkata to Host 100th Indian Science Congress

B Hari Gopal Receives Vigyan Jyoti on Behalf of Prime Minister

The 99th Indian Science Congress concludes at Bhubaneshwar with Childrens' Science Congress and Womens' Science Congress. Shri B Hari Gopal, Adviser , Science and Technology to the Prime Minister took charge from Smt Geetha Bali, out going President of 99th Indian Science Congress. The Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh will be the President of the 100th Indian Science Congress which will be held at Kolkata next year.

Several awards were given away to the winners of best entries in various competitions like posters, essays etc which were held to create awareness in the field of science and technology in 14 sections.

The 99th edition of ISC was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday. More than 15,000 delegates, including scientists and students participated in the January 3-7 event held at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT University). The theme of the conference was "Science and Technology for Inclusive Innovation - Role of Women". Along with the event Women's Science Congress and Childrens' Science Congress were also organised.

The five-day event witnessed 35 special lectures and 30 plenary sessions and panel discussions, a `Pride of India` expo and other programmes. Experts from various science and technology related fields took part in the event which saw a huge attendance of school children from across the country. Around 250 delegates from abroad including NRIs and several noble laureates participated in the ISC.

Besides the emphasis on women and children, the other issue in focus at the Congress were missiles. India`s premier military weapons developer, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) displayed models of the Agni, Prithvi, Nag, Akash, BrahMos and Astra missiles. Departments from various government departments and private organisations and industries exhibited various research modules and programmes.

National Infant Mortality Rate Reduces Further - To Forty Seven

As per the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin, December 2011 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI), it is noted that Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has dropped further by 3 points from 50 to 47 infants deaths per 1000 live births during 2010. The IMR for rural areas has dropped by 4 points from 55 to 51 infant deaths per 1000 live births while the Urban rate now stands at 31 from the previous 34/1000.

State of Goa still has the lowest IMR of 10 infant deaths followed by Kerala with 13 infant deaths per 1000 live births (as against 12/1000 in January 2011 figures) - the Urban IMR in Kerala has however reduced to 10 against 11 of previous figures. Madhya Pradesh has the highest IMR of 62/1000 followed by UP and Odisha with 61/1000 IMR. States/UTs of Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Meghalaya still have IMRs more than the national average of 47. Copy of December 2011 SRS bulletin is attached.

The Sample Registration System (SRS) is a large-scale demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of birth rate, death rate and other fertility & mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels. The field investigation consists of continuous enumeration of births and deaths in selected sample units by resident part time enumerators, generally anganwadi workers & teachers, and an independent survey every six months by SRS supervisors. The data obtained by these two independent functionaries are matched. The unmatched and partially matched events are re-verified in the field and thereafter an unduplicated count of births and deaths is obtained. The sample unit in rural areas is a village or a segment of it, if the village population is 2000 or more. In urban areas, the sampling unit is a census enumeration block with population ranging from 750 to 1000. At present, SRS is operational in 7,597 sample units (4,433 rural and 3,164 urban) spread across all States and Union territories and covers about 1.5 million households and 7.27 million population.

Civil Services (Pre) Exam, 2012 to be Held on May 20

The Union Service Public Commission (UPSC) will hold the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2012 on May 20, 2012 for recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service and certain other Group 'A' and Group 'B' Central Services/Posts. The examination will be held at various centers across the country.

For details regarding the syllabus and scheme of the examination, centers of examination, guidelines for filling up application form etc. aspirants must consult the website of the Commission (www.upsc.gov.in) from 04.02.2012. Detailed Notice of the examination is being published in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar on 11.02.2012.

Candidates must apply online using the website www.upsconline.nic.in. Detailed instructions for filling up online applications are available on the above-mentioned website.

In case of any difficulty in filling up of the on-line application form, candidates are advised to contact the facilitation counter of the Commission or over telephone no.011-23389366/Fax No.011-23387310, on working days during working hours.

The online applications can be filled up to March 5, 2012 till 11.59 pm after which the link will be disabled. The candidates are strongly advised to apply online well in time without waiting for last date for submission of online application. In case of any guidance/information/clarification regarding their applications, candidature etc. candidates can contact UPSC's Facilitation Counter near 'C' Gate of its campus in person or over Telephone No.011-23385271/011-23381125/011-23098543 on working days between 1000 hrs and 17000 hrs.



INDIA DECLARED FREE FROM BIRD FLU

India has declared itself free from bird flu (H₅N₁). The declaration was made here on **December 29, 2011** and notified to OIE. However, the surveillance will be continued throughout the country especially in the vulnerable areas bordering the infected countries and in areas visited by migratory birds. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture has advised the States to maintain vigil against the disease. Outbreak of bird flu was notified on September 8, 2011 in village Bhamondanga, part- I, Agomoni Block in Dhubri district of Assam. This was followed by another outbreak in Betai Nanshatola and Putimari Christianpara in Tehetta Block of Nadia district of West Bengal, which was notified on September 19, 2011. Thereafter, there has been no further outbreak.

The control measures adopted in the outbreaks were stamping out of entire poultry population including destruction of eggs, feed, litters and other infected materials in the radius of 3 kms. around each outbreak location, restriction on movement of poultry, poultry products to and from the area of outbreak, disinfection and cleaning up of infected premises. The final disinfection process was completed on September 29, 2011.

Surveillance was carried out throughout the country. Surveillance around the area of outbreak since completion of the operation (including culling disinfection and clean up) and surveillance in rest of the country has shown no evidence of presence of bird flu (H₅N₁).

National Voters' Day

The national function of second National Voters' Day (NVD) was observed today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, a practice that was initiated last year to coincide with the foundation day of the Election Commission of India and also to enhance the participation of the voters, especially the youth, in the democratic process. The Former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the Chief Guest at the occasion. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, the Election Commissioners Shri V.S. Sampath and Shri H.S. Brahma, and eminent foreign dignitaries and representatives from political parties were also present at the occasion. Dr. Kalam distributed Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to 20 newly eligible and enrolled voters of Delhi, belonging to different sections of society, along with a badge "Proud to be a Voter- Ready to Vote". All present were also administered the NVD pledge. Dr. Kalam also gave away National Awards to four District Electoral Officers (DEO's)/ Superintendents of Police (SP's), namely, Shri Mayur Maheshwari, DEO, Ramabai Nagar (U.P.), Shri Prabhav Kumar, SP, Bankura (WB), Shri Amit Singla, DEO, North-west Delhi, and Smt. S. Sangeetha, RDO, Trichy West R.O. (TN) for adopting "Best Electoral Practices".

The Chief Guest Dr. Kalam applauded the work of Election Commission of India in conducting free and fair elections across different levels. Dr. Kalam said that youth are the "vibrant partners" of democracy. He further said that in order for Election Commission to perform well in future it is required that Information and Communications technology is used in the electoral process. This will not only save cost but also make way for transparency. Dr. Kalam added that India requires a shift towards developmental politics to raise her poor from the clutches of poverty. He further added that correlation between wealth and politics needs to be removed and conscience needs to play a big role for that.

Dr. Quraishi in his address said that National Voters' day function is being run on a "mission mode" and the motive is to enhance the voter enrolment level until all voters are registered across India. He also said that the National Voters' Day is not just for the voters to take a pledge but also for the Commission to resolve how to make voters participation friendlier and attractive. He said that Election Commission launched vigorous campaigns, again as a part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, to disseminate necessary information, motivate voters and facilitate participation.

In his Welcome address, Shri Sampath said that Election Commission of India was honored that its national brand ambassador as Chief Guest on the occasion of second National Voters' Day. He said that NVD is now a flagship programme of the Election Commission of India for empowerment of citizens especially youth. Today, similar programmes are being held at 8.5 lakh polling stations across the country.

Shri Brahma gave an introduction of the National awards and stated the Commission, as part of NVD, should initiate the programme to educate the voters to enable them to choose better legislators. He further said that the Commission should, besides focussing on voters' awareness, also focus on better and bigger participation of people in the political process.

Shri Akshay Rout, Director General, Election Commission of India, in his Vote of Thanks, said that the Commission was honoured to have Dr. Kalam as Chief Guest. He also thanked the foreign dignitaries, representatives from the political parties, media-persons, and other guests and dignitaries for their cooperation and participation. The Election Commission's objective behind National Voters' Day is to increase enrolment of voters, especially of the newly eligible ones, by using this occasion to make universal adult suffrage a complete reality, and thereby enhance the quality of Indian democracy. The day is also utilized to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process. As per the reports of Voters' registration, approximately 3.83 crore new registrations have been done throughout the country, out of which 1.11 crore are in the age group 18-19 as on 01st January, 2012, which was the qualifying date. Last year 52 lakh young voters, who had attained the age of 18 years, had been enrolled which marked the biggest empowerment of youth on a single day anywhere in the world.

Weekly Current Affairs

Alka Sirohi Assumes Office as Member, UPSC

Smt. Alka Sirohi today assumed office as Member, UPSC. An IAS officer of 1974 batch of Madhya Pradesh Cadre, she served as Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training,



M/o Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution in Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in Government of India. Earlier, she was Special Secretary and Additional Secretary in the same Ministry and also held the post of Principal Advisor in the Planning Commission.

In her state cadre, Smt. Alka Sirohi held important assignments in the departments of Agriculture Cooperation, Women & Child Development and Health & Family Welfare. A post graduate in Western History, Smt. Sirohi is trained in management and issues related to sustainable development.

World Sanskrit Conference 2012

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressed the World Sanskrit Conference in New Delhi today. Following is the text of the Prime Minister's address on the occasion: "Sanskrit Bharat ki aatma hai. Iss liye mujhe aaj iss sammelan mein shaamil hote huey bahut khushi prapt ho rahi hai.

I compliment my colleague Shri Kapil Sibal, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS) for organizing this truly unique event. I also extend my very warm greetings to all the scholars who are participating in this Conference and have come to Delhi from far corners of the world.

The IASS owes its origin to an International Sanskrit Conference that was held in Delhi way back in 1972 and was sponsored by the Government of India in collaboration with UNESCO. Since its inception, the IASS has been organizing the World Sanskrit Conference every three years, with three previous Conferences having been held in India. I learn that the IASS is not concerned with Sanskrit in the narrow sense but more broadly with research work based on solid knowledge of one or more Indian languages and on fundamental textual sources from South and South-East Asia. This is indeed a most worthy cause.

Sanskrit, which is recognized as one of the oldest living languages of the world, is often misunderstood as only a language of religious hymns and rituals. Such an understanding does injustice to the great genius of this language and betrays ignorance of the work of great writers, thinkers, sages and scientists like Kautilya, Charaka, Sushruta, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Brahmagupta, Bhaskaracharya and many others. Indeed, Sanskrit, is much more than a language. It is a complete knowledge system that embodies the great learning tradi-

tions of ancient India. Jawaharlal Nehru, once described Sanskrit language and literature as the "the greatest treasure that India possesses". He went on to say "this is a magnificent inheritance; so long as this endures and influences the life of our people, so long will the basic genius of India continue to flourish."

Sanskrit has not only some of the greatest classics of world literature, but also a treasure of knowledge in Mathematics, Medicine, Botany, Chemistry, Arts and Humanities. If we provide the missing links and establish the required inter-disciplinary approaches, the wisdom of Sanskrit has the potential of enriching the present day knowledge systems and Indian languages immensely.

The Sanskrit language has also been the source of values and ideals that have sustained India through the ages. Like the great civilization of India, Sanskrit does not belong to any particular race, sect or religion. It represents a culture that is not narrow and sectarian but open, tolerant and all-embracing. The open-minded seers and thinkers who spelt out their vision and philosophy in the sacred Vedas and the Upanishads were able to balance the opposites in their life and in philosophy. It is this spirit of liberalism and tolerance imbedded in Sanskrit that we must inculcate in our present-day life. The message of the ancient sages of India, who gave us the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world as one family, continues to be of great significance to the world even.

The Government of India is committed to the promotion and development of Sanskrit. Three institutions established by the government - Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth - are actively engaged in this task. These institutions offer flexible and non-formal Sanskrit courses in order to popularize the language. They also facilitate the conduct of vocational courses for the students of traditional Sanskrit pathshalas, so that their employability is increased. The Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan is engaged in the task of preserving, developing and propagating the oral tradition of Vedic studies.

There are a number of other measures that are being taken to encourage the study of Sanskrit. These include financial assistance to modern schools offering Sanskrit as a subject and traditional Sanskrit schools offering modern subjects, and to voluntary organizations that are maintaining traditional Sanskrit institutions. In addition, Sanskrit departments of the universities are funded by the University Grants Commission under its various schemes. Financial assistance is also provided for the production of Sanskrit literature including newspapers and journals, and reprinting of rare books. Scholars who have excelled in the study of Sanskrit are honoured every year.

In the course of time, we will further strengthen our efforts for the promotion, development and enrichment of Sanskrit.

I understand that over the next six days the scholars participating in this Conference will deliberate on a diverse range of topics. They include poetry, drama and aesthetics; scientific literature; Buddhist studies, Jain studies, Sanskrit and regional languages and literatures, and Vedas. I am sure that the deliberations of this Conference will not only lead to a better understanding of the various areas of Sanskrit Studies, but will also result in a better appreciation of India's culture, our values, our ideals and our world-view.

Many of the modern Indian languages depend upon Sanskrit for their vocabulary. The Commission for Technical and Scientific Terms established by the Government of India has also depended on Sanskrit

sources for developing the technical terms in science and technology for Indian languages. I expect that this Conference will also contribute to better learning tools for Indian languages, and better translation software and other computer programs in Indian languages.

Let me end by wishing all of you very productive deliberations over the next few days. It is my sincere hope that each one of you will return from the Conference with a much deeper understanding of your particular area of interest. I also hope that this Conference will enrich Sanskrit Studies even more than what the preceding ones have done. May God bless your path."

SCRA Exam, 2011 Result Announced

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced the result of Special Class Railway Apprentices' (SCRA) Examination, 2011 on the basis of result of the Special Class Railway Apprentices' Examination, the written examination for which was held on 31st July, 2011 followed by Personality Test from 19th December, 2011 to 21st December, 2011. Against the 42 vacancies reported by Railway Ministry, the following is the list, in order of merit, of 42 candidates { 19 General (including 02 PH-I), 13 Other Backward Classes (including 01 PH-I) 06 Scheduled Castes and 04 Scheduled Tribes (including 01 PH-I)} who have been recommended by the Commission for appointment as Special Class Railway Apprentices in the Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers. The medical examination for these recommended candidates shall be conducted by the Ministry of Railways. A communication for medical examination is expected to be issued by the Ministry of Railways to the candidates individually within 21 days from the date of declaration of final result. The full result is available at www.upsc.gov.in.

National Competition Policy

Government had constituted a Committee for drafting the National Competition Policy with a view to achieve highest sustainable levels of economic growth, entrepreneurship, employment, higher standards of living for citizens, protect economic rights for just, equitable, inclusive and sustain-



able economic and social development, promote economic democracy and support good governance by restricting rent seeking practices. The Committee has already given its report. The salient features of the policy proposed by the Committee are as follows: -

- (1) To aim at creation of a framework of policies and regulations that will inform other policies to facilitate competitive outcomes in the market, with a view to promoting efficiency in economy, protecting consumers' interests and maximising social welfare, help in reducing inflationary pressures, accelerate inclusive growth, development of entrepreneurs and new employment opportunities and strengthen infrastructure;
- (2) To review all existing and new Acts/ regulations/ policies to correct where anti-competitive outcomes are noticed, and to proactively promote competition principles;
- (3) To provide for Institutional separation between policy making, operations and regulatory wings of the Government;
- (4) To provide for fair Market regu-

lation procedures, whether by public authorities, regulatory bodies or through self-regulatory mechanisms;- (5) To provide for 'Competitive neutrality', in order to establish a 'level playing field';
- (6) To provide for Fair pricing and inclusionary behaviour, particularly of public utilities;
- (7) To provide for Third party access to 'essential facilities', which require dominant infrastructure and intellectual property right owners to grant access to third parties to their essential infrastructure and platforms on agreed, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions aligned with competition principles;
- (8) To provide for Public policies and programmes to work towards promotion of competition in the market place;
- (9) To promote for National, regional and international co-operation in the field of competition policy enforcement and advocacy;
- (10) Establishment of a National Competition Policy Council for the oversight mechanism.

Suggestions have been invited from the stakeholders, including the State Government, on the recommendations of the Committee, are awaited.

India's Sovereign Credit Ratings- Fourth Upgrade by Moody's Investor Services

On 20th December, 2011, Moody's Investor Services released a credit rating update for India. It upgraded the rating on long-term government bonds denominated in domestic currency from Bal to Baa3 (from speculative to investment grade). The long-

term country ceiling on the foreign currency bank deposits was also upgraded from Bal to Baa3 (from speculative to investment grade). Apart from this, Moody's had upgraded the short-term government bonds denominated in domestic currency from NP(Not Prime) to P-3 (from speculative to investment grade). This short-term rating had been upgraded for the first time since it was newly assigned in 1998.

In addition to the three upgrades above, there has been another upgrade by Moody's with the short-term country ceiling on foreign currency bank deposits increasing from NP (Not Prime) to P-3 (Prime: acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations).

In its Investors Services Global Credit research (released on 20th December, 2011), Moody's has underlined some of the Government's efforts at fiscal consolidation by appreciating that the "[Government] eliminated petrol subsidies and changed the way fertilizer subsidies are calculated, which may yield some budgetary savings. There have also been initiatives on the revenue front involving simplification (and hence hoped-for improvements in compliance) of indirect and direct taxes."



Moody's upgrade follows a positive rating action by Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS). It had been rating India's debt since June 2007. For the first time, in June 2011 they upgraded the trend of India's Long Term foreign and local currency debt ratings from BBB (low) Negative to Stable outlook. Similarly, in its June 2011 report, Fitch affirmed the credit ratings issued the year before and appreciated the management of the economy by India. Fitch noted, "India's medium-term

economic growth prospects remain strong, as potential GDP growth remains greater than 8%, well above the 'BBB' - range median."

India's sovereign debt is rated by six international sovereign credit rating agencies namely Standard and Poor's (S&P), Moody's Investors Service, Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS), Fitch Ratings, Japanese Credit Rating Agency (JCRA) and Rating and Investment Information (R&I). These agencies normally visit the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India before making their credit assessment. DEA will continue to engage rating agencies on regular basis to impress upon them the long-term structural strengths and sound fundamentals of the Indian economy.

IMO Sets Emission Norms for Shipping

International Maritime Organization (IMO) has made the following regulations mandatory for the international Shipping:



1. Sulphur limit in the fuel oil is reduced to 3.5% from 4.5% applicable from 1st January, 2012.
 2. Sulphur limit in the fuel oil is reduced to 1% from 1.5% in Emission Control Area (ECA) - applicable since 1st July, 2010.
- The proposed regulation by International Maritime Organization sets a required 'Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI)' value to apply in four phases from 1st January, 2013 to 1st January, 2025.

Government has approved ratification of MARPOL (Marine Pollution) Annex VI so as to avail the waiver of the requirements of compliance with the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI). Parties to the MARPOL Annex VI have the option to waive the EEDI requirement on their ships for a maximum of 4.0 to 6.5 years after the entry into force.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has already been advised the requirement of the IMO regarding maximum limit of sulphur in fuel oil for ships.

Red Ribbon Express Ph-III to be Launched on National Youth Day

The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad will launch the National AIDS Control Organization's Red Ribbon Express Phase III on January 12, 2012



while optimizing on the theme of National Youth Day. This time the renewed focus of the Red Ribbon Project is on youth. The specially designed RRE will be flagged off on 12th January, 2012 from Delhi and during its year long journey across 23 states, it will cover 162 halt stations. It has three exhibition coaches with exhibits on HIV and AIDS while the fourth exhibition coach on National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has exhibits on Tuberculosis, Malaria, Reproductive and Child Health services,

general health and hygiene. There is one coach also on counseling and another one for conducting trainings of local stakeholders such as members of Panchayati Raj Institutions, self help groups, health workers, youth organizations, teachers, police personnel etc. Those who are not able to come to the train will be reached through the exhibitions in IEC vans and folk troupes which will travel in the periphery of the districts through which the train will pass.

The RRE Phase III Project will continue to focus on rural and difficult to reach areas with an objective of disseminating the information regarding primary prevention services, developing an understanding about the infection to reduce the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and strengthening people's knowledge while focusing on youth, in particular, about the measures to be taken to prevent HIV/AIDS to adopt preventive health behavior.

The On- Board planned Activities include Interactive Exhibition carrying messages on Health, HIV and AIDS; Sensitization and training on Health, HIV and AIDS; Counseling and testing facilities; General health check up, STI treatment and referral service and Adolescent/youth friendly Reproductive and Sexual Health information. The Planned Outreach Activities will have Red Ribbon Buses carrying a portable version of train exhibition; Counseling and testing services; Condom demonstration stalls as also Inter Personal Communication via local folk media.

The Red Ribbon Express Train was first launched on the World AIDS Day in 2007. The Project has since evolved into being the largest multimedia and multi-sectoral mass mobilization project. This innovative initiative has been commended globally as a unique example of its kind in various forums. In the IIInd phase of 2009, the Red Ribbon Express had reached out to more than 8 million people touching 153 stations and a distance of 27,000 kilometers.

National Steel Policy

In view of changed economic environment, both globally as well as domestically, Ministry of Steel has initiated the process of drafting the New National Steel Policy in place of existing National Steel Policy 2005. An Apex Committee, headed by Secretary, Ministry of Steel and consisting of representatives of Planning Commission, Ministries/ Departments of Central Government and concerned State Governments has been constituted for monitoring the process of formulation of the New National Steel Policy. Four Task Forces have been constituted under the Chairmanship of eminent experts to study, analyze, consult and formulate draft policy documents in different aspects of the subject. These task forces are currently in various stages of discussion and consultation with the stakeholders and experts in the industry to identify all the relevant issues and come up with the policy prescriptions. A final view on the New National Steel Policy will be taken on receipt of reports of these Task Forces and after discussions with the various stakeholders in the matter.

The production of finished steel for sale in the country has been consistently higher than the real consumption of steel in the country. However, a small quantity of import as well as



export of various products of steel takes place depending upon the specific requirements of the individual companies. The quantity of import has significantly reduced by about 35.8% during April-September 2011 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

India Signs MoU on Tourism with ASEAN

Union Tourism Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahai has said that MoU between India and ASEAN would serve as the key instrument for more action oriented cooperation, encouraging both parties to cooperate in facilitating travel and tourist visit and



further strengthening the close tourism partnership. Shri Sahai was speaking after the signing of MoU at Manado, Indonesia yesterday. The Tourism Minister expressed his happiness towards the progress made in the implementation of the work plan for the development of ASEAN-India cooperation in Buddhist pilgrimage tourism including the production and promotion of materials and documentary films on Buddhist pilgrimage in ASEAN-India. He said Government of India is looking forward for more joint-tourism promotion and product activities in future. Shri Sahai said since the number of tourist arrivals between ASEAN and India had shown steady growth, the establishment of ASEAN Promotional Chapter in Mumbai would act as a tourism marketing and promotion agency of ASEAN National Tourism Organisation. The Minister directed the senior officials of his Ministry to report and brief him on regular basis regarding the progress of implementation of the MoU.

Shri Sahai also welcomed the forthcoming ASEAN-India car rally to be held this year. This rally would mark another meaningful step towards tourism cooperation and at the same time reflect the existence of land connectivity that would facilitate tourism exchange between ASEAN and India. The ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers held their Third Meeting yesterday in Manado, Indonesia in conjunction with the meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Forum. The Meeting was jointly chaired by Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Union Minister of Tourism and Dr Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia.

It may be recalled that Prime Minister of India had announced during the 9th ASEAN Summit held at Bali on November 19, 2011 that a Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening tourism cooperation between India and ASEAN would be signed preferably at the Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Minister in early 2012. Consequent to the announcement made by the Prime Minister the MoU has been signed between India and ASEAN on strengthening tourism cooperation.

The main objectives of the MoU are to :

Cooperate in facilitating travel and tourist visits.

Further strengthen the tourism partnership.

Enhance mutual assistance and human resource development for tourism sector

Take necessary steps for exploring avenues of cooperation and sharing of information.

Exchange information pertaining to statistics and development strategies, investment opportunities and economic data in tourism, travel and hospitality sectors relevant to each other.

Jointly organize seminars, workshops and face-to-face meetings wherever possible, with a view to exploring and discussing new opportunities and avenues for the development and promotion of tourism and

Any other area of activity aiming at tourism cooperation.

"2012: Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization"

India has declared year 2012 as the year of intensification of routine im-



munization. The present full immunization coverage of children is 61%. The key objective of this campaign is to improve full immunization coverage and reach all children, particularly in remote, inaccessible and backward areas as well as in urban slums. The strategies that are being deployed include: Updating of Micro plans to cover all villages and hamlets in the country; Special immunization drives in pockets of low immunization coverage; Intensification of immunization activity by observing immunization weeks in low performing states; IEC related activities for demand generation towards immunization; Deployment of adequate number of Health workers; Prioritization of areas with exclusive strategy for 200 districts poor performing districts in the country; and Special focus on migrant and mobile populations.

Government of India has also expanded the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) by introducing 2nd dose of Measles, Hepatitis B and Pentavalent vaccination: India has introduced second dose of measles vaccine in UIP. The target is to vaccinate more than 12 crore children through Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) in 14 states of which 3.4 crore children have already been vaccinated. This will prevent an estimated 1 lakh measles related death. Hepatitis B has been expanded and universalized across the entire country. Pentavalent, a combination vaccine against five diseases (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenza B) has been introduced on pilot basis in 2 States - Tamil Nadu and Kerala - in mid December 2011. The initial response of the community has been very encouraging and more than one lakh children have been successfully vaccinated within the 1st month.

In order to track every child for assured delivery of immunization services, a web enabled name based tracking system has been put in place with a database of more than 10 million children. Parents are being sent SMS alerts before the due date of vaccination and health workers are also now receiving the list of children due for vaccination through SMS. This is expected to improve immunization coverage substantially within the next one year and facilitate real time reporting on immunization coverage.

Twenty Point Programme (TPP)

The Twenty Pint Programme (TPP) was launched by the Government of India in the year 1975 and has been restructured thrice in 1982, 1986 and again in 2006. The restructured programme, known as Twenty Point Programme (TPP) - 2006, became operational with effect from 1st April, 2007. The TPP - 06 is meant to give a



thrust to schemes relating to poverty alleviation, employment generation in rural areas, housing, education, family welfare & health, protection of environment and many other schemes having a bearing on the quality of life, especially in the rural areas. The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) - 2006 consists of 20 Points with 65 items which are monitored on an-

nual basis. Out of the 65 items, 20 items are monitored on monthly basis also on the basis of progress report submitted by State Governments/ UT Administrations and concerned Central Nodal Ministries. Performance of 15 of the 20 items is monitored against pre-set targets which are fixed by concerned Central Nodal Ministries. The Ministry releases a Monthly Progress Report (MPR) on implementation of monthly monitored items. During the financial year 2011, MPR's have been released for the months of October, 2010 to September, 2011 respectively. In addition to MPR, an Annual Review Report on TPP - 2006 covering progress of implementation of all items during the year under TPP - 2006 is also released. During 2011 Annual Review Report for 2009-10 has been released.

In order to strengthen the monitoring of the implementation framework of schemes/ programmes covered under TPP - 06 TPP Division of the Ministry has been mandated to undertake Monitoring and Impact Assessment Studies on selected programmes/ schemes covered under TPP-2006. So far, the Ministry has undertaken two Impact Assessment Studies. First relates to impact of MGNREGA in 3 selected districts of North Eastern States namely Mon (Nagaland), Saiha (Mizoram), Dhalai (Tripura). The second study related to rehabilitation of Disabled persons under Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) in the States of Delhi, Karanataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. The concerned Nodal Ministries will be apprised of the findings of these studies in order to improve the performance of schemes/ programmes undertaken for study.

Ministry of Statistics & PI also undertakes review meetings at National and State levels as part of monitoring and consultation mechanism. Two National Review Meetings of TPP-06 have been successfully held so far on 28.10.10 and 11.11.11 respectively. These review meeting are held to review the overall schemes / programme so to improve the implementation of schemes/ programmes covered under TPP. The meeting addressed the core issue with States Govts/UT Administrations and with concerned nodal Ministries viz. State-wise performance of Programmes and Schemes covered under Twenty Point Programme, Variation in reported performance figures by States/UTs and furnished by Central Nodal Ministries, Delays in reporting of monthly performance figures, Constitution of TPP Monitoring committees at State, District & Block levels and their meetings at regular interval, Target fixation approach taken by central nodal Ministries, suggestions for revamping of TPP - 2006, need for a single portal of TPP, difficulties faced by the implementing agencies in the implementation of schemes/ programmes and suggestion for dropping obsolete schemes/ programmes and inclusion of new schemes in view of the Bharat Nirman and new flagship programmes of Govt. of India.

National Bravery Awards

Twenty four children from different parts of the country will receive the National Bravery Awards for 2011 from the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh at a function in New Delhi on the eve of Republic Day this year. Among the awardees eight are girls and sixteen are boys. Five Awards will be given posthumously. The prestigious Geeta Chopra Award will be conferred on 13 year old Km. Mittal Mahendrabhai Patadiya of Gujarat who faced armed miscreants and foiled a robbery attempt. Master Kapil Singh Negi of Uttarakhand will get the coveted Bharat Award posthumously. The 15-year-old-boy sacrificed his life while helping his younger schoolmates to



of heavy rain and landslide.

The Sanjay Chopra Award has been given to 12½-year-old Master Om Prakash Yadav of Uttar Pradesh who saved his schoolmates from a burning van.

Late Master Adithya Gopal (14 years) of Arunachal Pradesh, Master Uma Shankar (14 years) of Delhi and Km. Anjali Singh Gautam (15 years) of Chhattisgarh will get the Bapu Gaidhani Awards. Late Master Adithya Gopal lost his life while trying to save his friend from drowning. Master Uma Shankar was instrumental in rescuing victims of a bus accident and helping them get medical aid while Km. Anjali Singh Gautam saved her younger brother in a Naxalite attack.

The other recipients are: Master Yandam Amara Uday Kiran and Master Suthrapu Shiva Prasad (Andhra Pradesh), Master Ranjan Pradhan and Km. Sheetal Sadvi Saluja (Chhattisgarh), Km. Divyaben Mansangbhai Chauhan (Gujarat), Master Sandesh P Hegde and Km. Sindhushree B.A. (Karnataka), Master Mohammed Nishadh V.P., Master Anshif C.K. and Master Sahsad K (Kerala), Master Johnson Tourangbam and Master Kshetrimayum Rakesh Singh (Manipur), Late Master C. Lalduhawma (Mizoram), Km. Prasanta Shandilya (Odisha), Master Dungan Singh (Rajasthan), Master G. Parameswaran (Tamil Nadu), Late Km. Lovely Verma (Uttar Pradesh) and Late Km. Saudhita Barman (West Bengal).

The National Bravery Award Scheme was initiated by the Indian Council for Child Welfare to give due recognition to the children who distinguish themselves by performing outstanding deeds of bravery and meritorious service and to inspire other children to emulate their example. Children will get a medal, certificate and cash under the scheme and awardees will be granted financial assistance until they complete their schooling. The Government has reserved some seats for the awardees in medical and engineering colleges and polytechnics.

Draft resolution against Sri Lanka submitted to UNHCR

The United States Wednesday submitted the draft resolution against Sri Lanka to the United Nations Human Rights Council at its 19th session in Geneva.



The draft resolution submitted to the UN body notes the report of Sri Lanka's domestic Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and its findings and recommendations while acknowledging its possible contribution to the country's national reconciliation process. The resolution welcomes the constructive recommendations made by the LLRC in its report but, it also notes with concern that the report does not adequately address serious allegations of violations of international humanitarian law. The draft resolution calls on the Sri Lankan government to implement the constructive recommendations in the LLRC report and take all necessary additional steps to fulfill its "relevant obligations and commitment to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability and reconciliation for all Sri Lankans."

It requests the government to present a comprehensive action plan as "ex-

peditionously as possible" detailing the steps the government has taken and will take to implement the LLRC recommendations and also to address alleged violations of international law.

The draft resolution encourages the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and relevant special procedures to provide, and the Sri Lankan government to accept, advice and technical assistance of implementing those steps.

It also requests the OHCHR to present a report to the UNHRC on the provision of such assistance at its 22nd session.

Sri Lanka's special human right envoy Mahinda Samarasinghe who is currently in Japan is expected to return to Geneva next week to address the resolution.

Sri Lanka is confident that the country has enough support from the Council's member states to fend off the resolution at the voting to be followed.

Members of the Sri Lankan delegation have already met diplomats from several countries and explained the situation in Sri Lanka to them and received support from the power houses of China, Russia and Pakistan as well as from African states, the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) and the members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Sri Lanka has stressed that the majority of the international community supports Sri Lanka's efforts and its stand that a functioning domestic mechanism should not be circumvented by interference until its conclusion.

The LLRC report recommends the need to credibly investigate widespread allegations of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, demilitarize the North, implement impartial land dispute resolution mechanisms, reevaluate detention policies, strengthen formerly independent civil institutions, reach a political settlement involving devolution of power to the provinces, promote and protect the right of freedom of expression for all and enact rule of law reforms.

Sri Lanka says the government is taking measures to implement the LLRC recommendations methodically and it needs time and space to work towards reconciliation without interference from the international community.

"Many thousands of Sri Lankan civilians died or suffered other viola-

This report - which found the armed forces had not acted inappropriately - was rejected by the UN and criticised by human rights groups.

The US, which has welcomed some of the LLRC's recommendations, says it fails to deal with the issue of accountability. "There cannot be impunity for large-scale civilian casualties, and that if there is to be real reconciliation it must be based on an accounting of the truth and serious implementation of changes," said Ms Donahoe.

Sri Lanka has dismissed the US claims and a large team of officials, headed by foreign minister GL Peiris, is lobbying countries to oppose any resolution, saying such a move would damage ongoing reconciliation efforts. A government spokesman, Susil Premajayantha, said rallies would be held across Sri Lanka in opposition to the move.

"We will organise demonstrations to show that the people of this country are with the government. They are against the Western forces," he told reporters. "We have lobbied member countries [of the UNHRC] and the feedback that we have is very positive. We will be able to block any resolution against us."

An earlier attempt to pass a resolution against Sri Lanka in 2009 failed, largely because of the decision by India, Pakistan and other nations to adopt a different document that praised the government in Colombo for its treatment of refugees.

Western diplomats in South Asia and Geneva said the wording of the resolution was still being worked out but that it is likely to be modest, given the desire to have secure the support of as many of the 47 UNHCR member countries as possible. "No-one wants to see the resolution defeated," said one Western diplomat, who asked not be identified. It is unlikely the phrase "war crimes" will appear, though there could be a demand for Sri Lanka to report back to the council.

The role of India at the meeting could be crucial. A spokesman for India's foreign ministry said no decision had yet been taken on whether Delhi will support the resolution.

Campaigners claim that given the sensitivity of the issue, even a modest resolution would mark a success. Fred Carver of the Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice, said: "If successful, this motion will show the opinion of the world, and in particular the opinion of nations in the global south, has shifted and that the Sri Lankan government can no longer turn a blind eye to war crimes and crimes against humanity without becoming a pariah."

The Sri Lankan authorities insist a number of recommendations made by the LLRC have already been put in place. Earlier this month, the army said it had established a panel to investigate whether soldiers were responsible for civilian deaths. The army has always insisted it adopted a zero civilian casualty policy and for some time claimed no civilians had been killed. Prof Rajiva Wijesinha, an MP and an adviser on reconciliation to President Mahinda Rajapaksa said he had recommended the establishment of a ministry dedicated to reconciliation. He added: "Unfortunately we are hopeless about letting the world know what we are doing." Britain will support the resolution but will not sponsor the measure. The US is currently looking for a co-sponsor, ideally a nation from the developing world.

Thousands of Sri Lankans have rallied to condemn a United Nations resolution that calls on the government to look into alleged war crimes during the last days of the country's civil war.

The protesters, who have been joined by monks, continued demonstrating outside the US embassy in the capital Colombo on Thursday. The rallies began when Washington said earlier this week that it was planning to bring the resolution before the UN rights council in Geneva.

The government, dominated by ethnic Sinhalese, arranged the protests across the country against the resolution, which it calls interference in Sri

Lanka's affairs.
At least 10,000 people marched in Colombo on Thursday to denounce the proposed resolution. Smaller groups met with UN, British, Norwegian and German officials to urge them not to support it.
Ethnic Tamil legislators, however, have asked the rights council to press the government to investigate alleged wartime abuses.

The legislators have demanded power sharing with their ethnic minority to prevent the country from sliding back into violence.

Sri Lanka's civil war ended in 2009 when government troops crushed separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Both sides have been accused of committing war crimes during the final stages of the conflict.

Human rights organisations have said that up to 40,000 civilians perished in the final months of fighting in 2009, during which the Sri Lankan army is accused of shelling populated areas as well as hospitals and refugee camps.

Tamil legislators said they support the resolution, with the leader of the Tamil National Alliance, Rajavarotheyam Sampanthan, saying the government has not shown a genuine interest in sharing power, despite promises made to the UN and other nations.

Power sharing remains a long-standing demand of ethnic minority Tamils. Sampanthan accused the military of bringing ethnic Sinhalese settlers into former war zones to alter the demographics.

"As the opportunities for post-war peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka gradually slip away, the members of the UNHRC [UN Human Rights Council] just act urgently to prevent an ominous slide toward a recurrence of the tragedies of the past," Sampanthan said in a statement on Thursday.

A UN panel has concluded that tens of thousands of civilians may have been killed in the final months of the civil war.

It said there were credible allegations against both government soldiers and Tamil Tiger rebels of serious human rights abuses, some of which could amount to war crimes.

The government's own probe last year acknowledged that civilians had been killed, but said it was not due to any action by the security forces.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka rejected as "baseless and unacceptable" a new documentary by Britain's Channel 4 which suggested that the army executed the 12-year-old son of LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran after he surrendered.

The British news channel broadcast an account from a forensic expert on Wednesday who said Prabhakaran's son appeared to have been shot at close range.

The video, "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields: War Crimes Unpunished", also claimed it had "damning new evidence" of abuses against civilians.

"The ministry categorically rejects the video as baseless and unacceptable," the defence ministry said adding that Channel 4 had aired the documentary to defame Sri Lanka during a session of the UNHCR in Geneva.

In June, Channel 4 aired a documentary containing videos which it said amounted to evidence of war crimes by Sri Lankan soldiers during their final offensive against the LTTE. Prabhakaran was killed at the end of an army offensive against the brutal rebel group which ended a 37-year-old civil war estimated to have cost up to 100,000 lives.

Sahitya Akademi Awards
2011 Presented

Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year



2011were presented here today. Among 23 authors, famous poets honoured with the Award are (late) Kabin Phukan (Assamese), Manindra Gupta (Bengali), Premananda Mosahari (Bodo), Naseem Shafaie (Kashmiri), Melvyn Rodrigues (Konkani), Harekrishna Satapathy (Sanskrit), Aditya Kumar Mandi (Santali) and Khaleel Mamoon (Urdu).

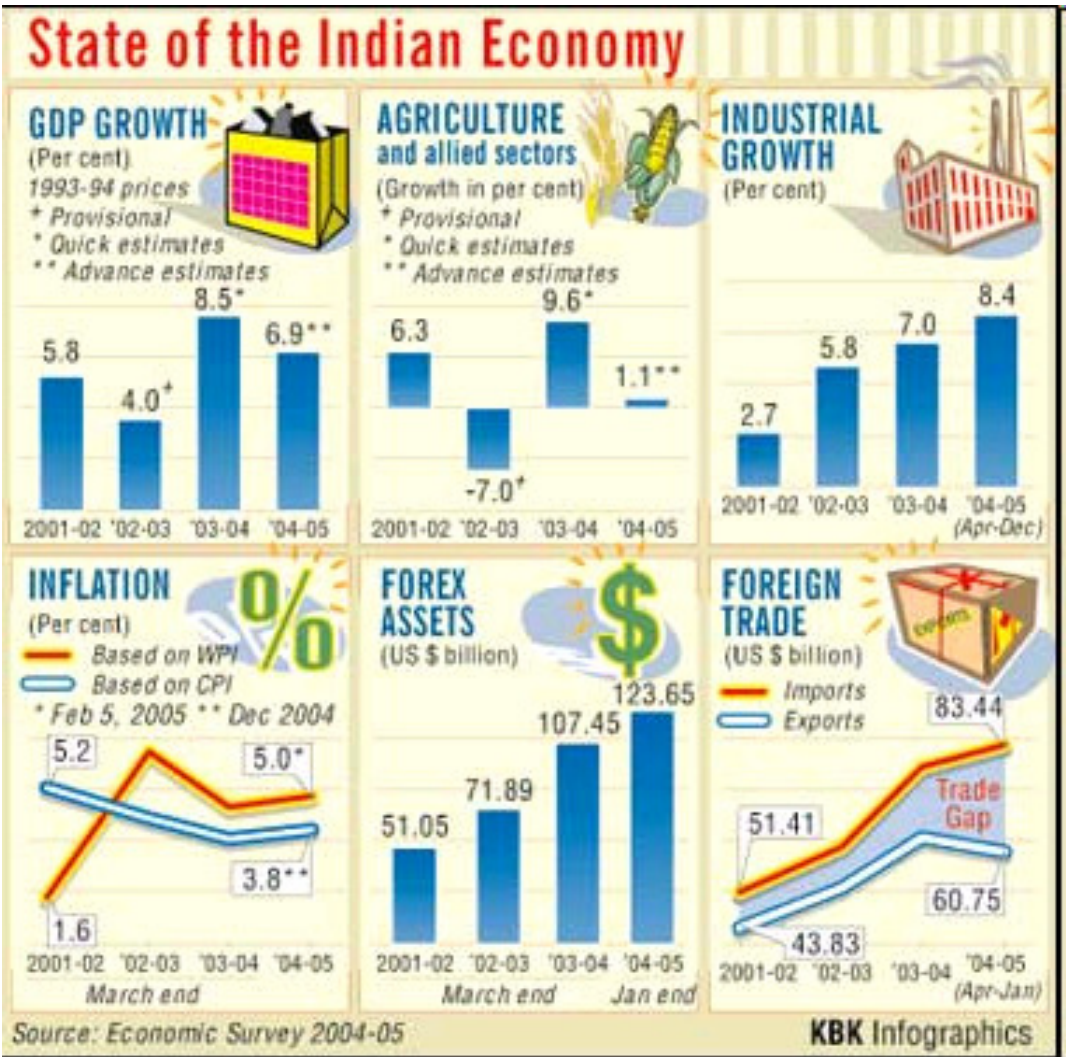
The well-known novelists Kashinath Singh (Hindi), Gopalakrishna Pai (Kannada), Kshetri Bira (Manipuri), Kalpanakumari Devi (Odia), Baldev Singh (Punjabi), Atul Kanakk (Rajasthani) and S. Venkatesan (Tamil) also received the awards. Lalit Magotra (Dogri), Grace (Marathi) and Samala Sadasiva (Telugu) got the Award for their books of essays.

Ramachandra Guha (English) for his book of Narrative History, Mohan Parmar (Gujarati) for his book of short stories, M. K. Sanu (Malayalam) for his book of biography and Mohan Gehani (Sindhi) for his book of plays have been honoured.

The Awards in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and a cheque of Rs. 1,00,000/- was presented to the authors of these books at a special function held here today during the Festival of Letters organized by Sahitya Akademi. Eminent Hindi critic Prof. Namwar Singh was the chief guest of the function and Sumathy Sivamohan, Sahitya Akademi Premchand fellow was the guest of honour.

Review of the Economy
2011-12 Highlights

Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime



Minister released the document 'Review of the Economy 2011-12' at a Press Conference in New Delhi today. Following are the highlights of the document:

Review of the Economy 2011-12

- The rate of growth in 2011-12 is now estimated at 7.1%, which is marginally higher than the projection of 6.9% as per the Advance Estimates (AE). The Council projects a slightly higher growth for agriculture and construction than the Advance Estimates.
- Investment activity has slowed down and as a result the Gross fixed Capital formation (GFCF) for 2011/12 has slipped to 29.3 per cent, a decline of almost 4 percentage points over the last four years.
- Global economic and financial conditions likely to remain under pressure during the year.
- Overall farm sector GDP growth for 2011/12 will average 3 per cent, riding high on record outputs for rice, wheat and strong trend growth in horticulture and animal husbandry.
- Mining and quarrying sector likely to report negative growth for 2011/12 on account of weak coal output growth, restrictions imposed on iron ore production, decline in natural gas production and negative growth in crude oil output.
- Electricity sector has performed well. It is expected to grow at 8.3 per

cent during 2011/12.

- Manufacturing and construction have been sluggish during the first three quarters of 2011/12. This may show improvement in the last quarter. The overall growth rate will be 3.9 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively.
- Strong growth in the services sector will continue with overall growth of 9.4 per cent for 2011/12.
- For the year as a whole the Balance of Payment (BoP) position will be tight, this clearly indicates the need to keep the Current Account Deficit (CAD) within limits.
- CAD has weakened, averaging 3.6 per cent (annualized) of GDP in the first half of 2011/12.
- CAD for the 2011/12 is projected to be 3.6 per cent.
- Headline inflation has shown decline since November 2011 and more strongly in January 2012. It is projected to be around 6.5 per cent at the end of March 2012. Policies-both monetary and other public policies seem to have had the desired effect.
- Sustained high food prices particularly on account of fruit, milk, eggs, meat & fish began to get passed into the price behaviour of manufactured goods.
- Year-on year inflation for manufactured goods rose from around 5 per cent in September 2010 to 8 per cent in September and October 2011.
- Expansion of the fiscal deficit beyond its budgeted estimate of 4.6 per cent of GDP -an area of concern. Government must strive to contain and improve the efficacy of subsidies.

Prospects for 2012/13

- Economy is likely to grow in the range of 7.5 to 8 per cent. Mining and manufacturing are expected to show substantial improvement in 2012/13

Combined Defence
Services Exam (I) 2011
Final Results Announced

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced the final results of Combined Defence Services Examination (I). A total of 356 candi-



dates (272 *Men + 84 Women), have finally qualified on the basis of the results of the Combined Defence Services Examination (I)-2011 conducted by the UPSC and interviews held by the Services Selection Board of the Ministry of Defence for admission to the (i) *Officers' Training Academy, Chennai for 95th Short Service Commission Course (for Men) and (ii) Officers' Training Academy, Chennai 9th Short Service Commission Women (Non-Technical) Course, commencing in April, 2012. The list of 95th Short Service Commission Course (for Men) also includes the names of the candidates who were recommended earlier on the basis of the result of the same examination for admission to the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala and Air Force Academy, Hyderabad (Pre-Flying) Training Course(s).

The number of vacancies as intimated by the Government, for (i) 95th Short Service Commission Course (for Men) is 175 and for (ii) 9th Short Service Commission Women (Non-Technical) Course is 25.

The result of Medical Examination of candidates has not been taken into account in preparing the merit list. The candidature of all the candidates is Provisional. Verification of date of birth and Educational Qualification of these candidates will be done by Army HQ.

Result is available on PIB website i.e www.pib.nic.in and also on the U.P.S.C. website i.e. www.upsc.gov.in. However, marks of the candidates will be available within 15 days from the date of declaration of final result on Commission's web-site and will be available for 60 days.

UPSC has a Facilitation Counter near Examination Hall Building in its Campus. Candidates may obtain any information/clarification regarding their examination on working hours in person or over telephone No. 011-23385271, 011-23381125 and 011-23098543 from this Counter.

President to Present
National Tourism
Awards

The Ministry of Tourism has introduced three new category of Awards from this year as apart of National Tourism Awards. In an attempt to encourage States and Union Territo-



ries to put into place effective mechanisms for maintaining cleanliness at tourist destinations, a new Category of award for "The Best State : Campaign Clean India" has been introduced. In addition two new categories of awards for the "Best Heritage City" and "Best Heritage Walk" have also been introduced. The President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil will give away these awards on February 29,2012 in New Delhi. The Ministry of Tourism, Govern-

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ment of India annually presents National Tourism Awards to various segments of the travel, tourism and hospitality industry. These awards are presented to State Governments / Union Territories, classified hotels, heritage hotels, approved travel agents, tour operators and tourist transport operators, individuals and other private organizations in recognition of their performance in their respective fields and also to encourage healthy competition with an aim to promote tourism. The National Tourism Awards have over the years emerged as a prestigious recognition of achievements in the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors. Tourism is dynamic industry and every year, the categories of awards are reviewed with new categories being added to recognize excellence in diverse fields, in accordance with the requirements of changing times. In the year 2010, a new category of Awards was introduced for "Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination in India". This award was introduced to encourage eco-friendly practices by various civic bodies in cities / towns / villages for the maintenance and upkeep of tourist sites / parks, etc.

Amongst the important awards conferred each year are the Awards for the Best States / UTS for the Comprehensive Development of Tourism; Inbound Tour Operators and Travel Agents judged on the basis of their Foreign Exchange Earnings; Domestic Tour Operators and Tourist Transport Operators with high turnovers; Hotels in different categories, including Heritage Hotels, Chefs; Best Rural Tourism Project; Best Responsible Tourism Project; Innovative & Unique Tourism Projects; Best Airport, Railway Station and Convention Centres; Best Heritage City and Heritage Walk; Best Overseas. Tour Operators for India from different Regions; Best Tourism Film, Website/ Portal, Publicity Material; amongst others.

National Science Day -
2012



The Department of Science & Technology, Government of India declared February 28 as National Science Day (NSD) 1987. It is the celebration of excellence in Indian Science, in memory of acceptance of "Raman Effects" Sir C.V. Raman who got the Nobel Prize in Physics later. After the declaration of February 28 National Science Day (NSD), celebrated throughout the country with great enthusiasm. The programmes ranges from a day to a month long activities either beginning or culminating a February 28. The activities includes debates, quizzes, exhibitions, lectures etc. involving colleges and school children. The research institutions/ laboratories organize "Open House Day/Week" for creating awareness and popularizing science among the public.

The NSD is celebrated around a focal theme. The focal theme this year is "Clean Energy Options and Nuclear Safety". This department provides the grant to all States Science & Technology Councils/Departments to celebrate the National Science Day in a big way. The State Science & Technology Councils request proposals from different organizations of their states, after consolidating the proposals they submit the same to this department for financial support across the states through their partners such as NGOs, DST organizations and academic institutions.

This year the National Science Day Lecture was delivered by Dr. Baldev Raj, a distinguished scientist and former Director of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalapakkam on February 28, 2012 at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. On this occasion, this department also gave away the National Awards on six different categories for recognizing outstanding efforts in the field of Science & Technology Communication. This year following persons have won the National Award which is being given away in a prestigious function organized at Raman Auditorium, Technology Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology, Dr.Aswani Kumar gave away the awards.

India Takes Over Chair
of ASOSAI

India took over the chair of assembly and governing board of Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) on Feb 29, 2012. Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Mr. Vinod Rai is the new chairman of the 45 nation strong Asian Organization of the Institutions of the Accountants General. ASOSAI is the largest regional organization of the government auditors. Mr. Rai takes over the prestigious post from Pakistan. In his speech delivered at the 12th ASOSAI

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OPINION - EDITORIALS

KOODANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROTEST

Chitra Singh Rajput

Preparing for a showdown with the anti-Kudankulam agitators, the state government on Monday gave its nod to commission the plant. A decision to this effect was taken in the state Cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister J. Jayalalithaa. The Cabinet accepted the report submitted by the state-appointed experts' committee headed by former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, MR Srinivasan, which said the plant is safe.

Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant is a Nuclear Power station currently under construction in Koodankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Project investment cost to India was estimated to be US\$ 3 billion (Rs.13,615 Crores) in a 2001 agreement.

Controversies

The People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy is an anti-nuclear power group in Tamil Nadu, India. The aim of the group is to close the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant site and to preserve the largely untouched coastal landscape, as well as educate locals about nuclear power. S P Udayakumar, a teacher, is leader of the group. He lives in a village around 30km (18 miles) from the plant site. Udayakumar believes nuclear power benefits only "industrial India", and not the common man. He says the movement has a clear aim: "Our end game is to close down this nuclear power plant. We think that this will have a disastrous impact on our livelihood, on our future generations. Because the Indian government never talks about waste, never talks about decommissioning. It does not tell us the full story."

In March 2012, Udayakumar said: "We have been carrying out hunger strikes, rallies, public meetings, seminars, conferences, and other demonstrations such as shaving our heads, cooking on the street, burning the models of the nuclear plants. This struggle has been going on for the past 197 days and the morale of the people is still very very high".

Protests

As of October 2011, thousands of protesters and villagers living around the Russian-built Kudankulam nuclear plant in the southern Tamil Nadu state, blocked highways and staging hunger strikes, preventing further construction work, and demanding its closure as they fear of the disas-

ters like the Environmental impact of nuclear power, Radioactive waste, nuclear accident similar to the radiation leak in March at Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster. The protesters have stated specific reasons for opposing the Kudankulam NPP project like "More than 1 million people live within the 30 km radius of the KKNPP which far exceeds the AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board) stipulations. It is quite impossible to evacuate this many people quickly and efficiently in case of a nuclear disaster at Koodankulam", etc. According to SP Udayakumar, of the voluntary People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy, "the nuclear plant is unsafe" and "the safety analysis report and the site evaluation study have not been made public. No public hearing was held. It's an authoritarian project that has been imposed on the people." A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has also been filed against the government's civil nuclear program at the apex Supreme Court. The PIL specifically asks for the "staying of all proposed nuclear power plants till satisfactory safety measures and cost-benefit analyses are completed by independent agencies". Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha that "all precautions would be taken at the Kudankulam nuclear plant to maintain the highest safety standards". There has also been rallies and protests in favor commissioning this nuclear power plant.

History

An Inter-Governmental Agreement on the project was signed on November 20, 1988 by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The project remained in limbo for 10 years due to political and economic upheaval in Russia after the post-1991 Soviet breakup, and also due to objections of the United States on the grounds that the agreement does not meet the 1992 terms of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Since the plant was conceived in the mid-1980s, an anti-nuclear group People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy was opposing the plant for about 25 years due to the Environmental impact of nuclear power and its threat to the people and environment.

A small port became operational in Kudankulam on January 14, 2004. This port was established to receive

barges carrying over sized light water reactor equipment from ships anchored at a distance of 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi). Until 2004 materials had to be brought in via road from the port of Tuticorin, risking damage during transportation. In 2008 negotiation on building four additional reactors at the site began. Though the capacity of these reactors has not been declared, it is expected that the capacity of each reactor will be 1000 MW or 1 GW. The new reactors would bring the total capacity of the power plant to 9200 MW or 9.2 GW.

In June 2011, Sergei Ryzhov, the chief designer of the light water VVER nuclear reactors used at this Nuclear Power Plant was killed in an airplane accident. The plane belonging to the Rus-Air airlines was flying from Moscow to the Karelian capital Petrozavodsk.

Technical description

Two 1 GW reactors of the VVER-1000 model are being constructed by the Nuclear Power corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Atomstroyexport. When completed they will become the largest nuclear power generation complex in India producing a cumulative 2 GW of electric power. Both units are water-cooled, water-moderated power reactors. The first was scheduled to start operation in December 2009 and the second one was scheduled for March 2010. Currently, the official projections put unit 1 into operation in June 2011, and unit 2 will go in March 2012. Four more reactors are set to be added to this plant under a memorandum of intent signed in 2008. A firm agreement on setting up two more reactors, has been postponed pending the ongoing talks on liability issues. Under an inter-government agreement signed in December 2008 Russia is to supply to India four third generation VVER-1200 reactors of 1170 MW.

The reactors have some advanced safety features like passive heat removal system, double containment, Core Catcher, and hydrogen re-combiner instead of conventional systems

Nobel ozone-scientist dies
F. Sherwood Rowland, the Nobel prize-winning chemist who sounded the alarm on the thinning of the Earth's ozone layer, has died. He was 84.

Rowland died 10.03.2012 at his home

of complications from Parkinson's disease, the dean of the University of California, Irvine's physical sciences department said on 11.03.2012. "We have lost our finest friend and mentor," Kenneth C. Janda said in a statement. "He saved the world from a major catastrophe - never wavering in his commitment to science, truth and humanity and did so with integrity and grace."

Rowland was among three scientists awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize for chemistry for explaining how the ozone layer is formed and decomposed through chemical processes in the atmosphere.

The prize was awarded more than two decades after Rowland and post-doctoral student Mario Molina calculated that if human use of chlorofluorocarbons, a by-product of aerosol sprays, deodorants and other household products, were to continue at an unchanged rate, the ozone layer would be depleted after several decades. Their work built upon findings by atmospheric scientist Paul Crutzen.

Their prediction caught enormous attention and was strongly challenged partly because the non-toxic properties of CFCs were thought to be environmentally safe. Their work gained widespread recognition more than a decade later with the discovery of the ozone hole over the Earth's polar regions.

"It was to turn out that they had even underestimated the risk," a Nobel committee said in its award citation for Rowland, Molina and Crutzen.

Mr. Molina said his former mentor never shied from defending his work or advocating a ban on CFCs. "He showed me that if we believe in the science ... we should speak out when we feel it's important for society to change," Mr. Molina told.

Rowland was survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Joan, a son and a daughter.

Rowland, Frank Sherwood (1927-) is an American chemist. He shared the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his pioneering contributions explaining how the earth's protective layer of ozone (a form of oxygen most often found in the upper atmosphere) is formed and broken down through chemical processes in the atmosphere.



then there is a distribution component, which from the numbers I have seen are probably in the region of 50 percent of the reduction story.

Poverty ratio for Social Groups:

In rural areas, Scheduled Tribes exhibit the highest level of poverty (47.4%), followed by Scheduled Castes (SCs), (42.3%), and Other Backward Castes (OBC), (31.9%), against 33.8% for all classes.

In urban areas, SCs have HCR of 34.1% followed by STs (30.4%) and OBC (24.3%) against 20.9% for all classes.

In rural Bihar and Chhattisgarh, nearly two-third of SCs and STs are poor, whereas in states such as Manipur, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh the poverty ratio for these groups is more than half.

EDITORIAL

DEVELOP INDIA

English Weekly Newspaper
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POVERTY AMONG RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Sikhs have lowest HCR in rural areas (11.9%) whereas in urban areas, Christians have the lowest proportion (12.9%) of poor.
- In rural areas, the HCR for Muslims is very high in states such as Assam (53.6%), Uttar Pradesh (44.4%), West Bengal (34.4%) and Gujarat (31.4%).
- In urban areas poverty ratio at all India level is highest for Muslims (33.9%). Similarly, for urban areas the poverty ratio is high for Muslims in states such as Rajasthan (29.5%), Uttar Pradesh (49.5%), Gujarat (42.4%), Bihar (56.5%) and West Bengal (34.9%).

For occupational categories:

- Nearly 50% of agricultural labourers and 40% of other labourers are below the poverty line in rural areas, whereas in urban areas, the poverty ratio for casual labourers is 47.1%.
- As expected, those in regular wage/ salaried employment have the lowest proportion of poor. In the agriculturally prosperous state of Haryana, 55.9% agricultural labourers are poor, whereas in Punjab it is 35.6%.
- The HCR of casual laborers in urban areas is very high in Bihar (86%), Assam (89%), Orissa (58.8%), Punjab (56.3%), Uttar Pradesh (67.6%) and West Bengal (53.7%).
- o Based on the Education level of head of the household:
- In rural areas, as expected, households with 'primary level and lower' education have the highest poverty ratio, whereas the reverse is true for households with 'secondary and higher' education. Nearly two third households with 'primary level & lower' education in rural areas of Bihar and Chhattisgarh are poor, whereas it is 46.8% for UP and 47.5% for Orissa.

The trend is similar in urban areas.

For categories by age and sex of head of the household :

- In rural areas, it is seen that households headed by minors have poverty ratio of 16.7% and households headed by female and senior citizen have poverty ratio of 29.4% and 30.3% respectively.
- In urban areas, households headed by minors have poverty ratio of 15.7% and households headed by female and senior citizen have poverty ratio of 22.1% and 20.0% respectively against overall poverty ratio of 20.9%.
- State wise details of poverty lines for 2009-10, poverty ratios for 2009-10 and poverty ratios for 2004-05 are given in the Table below:

<i>States</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>
1 Andhra Pradesh	693.8	926.4
2 Arunachal Pradesh	773.7	925.2
3 Assam	691.7	871
4 Bihar	655.6	775.3
5 Chhattisgarh	617.3	806.7
6 Delhi	747.8	1040.3
7 Goa	931	1025.4
8 Gujarat	725.9	951.4
9 Haryana	791.6	975.4
10 Himachal Pradesh	708	888.3
11 Jammu & Kashmir	722.9	845.4
12 Jharkhand	616.3	831.2
13 Karnataka	629.4	908
14 Kerala	775.3	830.7
15 Madhya Pradesh	631.9	771.7
16 Maharashtra	743.7	961.1
17 Manipur	871	955
18 Meghalaya	686.9	989.8
19 Mizoram	850	939.3
20 Nagaland	1016.8	1147.6
21 Orissa	567.1	736
22 Puducherry	641	777.7
23 Punjab	830	960.8
24 Rajasthan	755	846
25 Sikkim	728.9	1035.2
26 Tamil Nadu	639	800.8
27 Tripura	663.4	782.7
28 Uttar Pradesh	663.7	799.9
29 Uttarakhand	719.5	898.6
30 West Bengal	643.2	830.6
<i>All India</i>	<i>672.8</i>	<i>859.6</i>

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POVERTY ESTIMATES FOR 2009-10

Suraj Singh Rajput

The Planning Commission had released a report, indicating reduced poverty line to Rs 28.65 per capita daily consumption in cities and Rs 22.42 in rural areas, scaling down India's poverty ratio from 37.2 percent to 29.8 percent in 2009-10.

The Tendulkar Committee for the first time recommended use of implicit prices derived from quantity and value data collected in household consumer expenditure surveys for computing and updating the poverty lines. Tendulkar Committee developed a methodology using implicit prices for estimating state wise poverty lines for the year 2004-05. Using these poverty lines and distribution of monthly per capita consumption expenditure based on mixed reference period (MRP), the Tendulkar Committee estimated poverty ratios for the year 2004-05. In its Report, Tendulkar Committee recommended a methodology for updating 2004-05 poverty lines derived by it. Accordingly, implicit price indices (Fisher Price Index) have been computed from the 66th Round NSS (2009-10) data on Household Consumer Expenditure Survey. As per

Tendulkar Committee recommendations, the state wise urban poverty lines of 2004-05 are updated for 2009-10 based on price rise during this period using Fisher price indices. The state wise rural-urban price differential in 2009-10 has been applied on state specific urban poverty lines to get state specific rural poverty lines. The head count ratio (HCR) is obtained using urban and rural poverty lines which are applied on the MPCE distribution of the states. The aggregated BPL population of the states is used to obtain the final all-India HCR and poverty lines in rural and urban areas. Some of the key results are: The all-India HCR has declined by 7.3 percentage points from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10, with rural poverty declining by 8.0 percentage points from 41.8% to 33.8% and urban poverty declining by 4.8 percentage points from 25.7% to 20.9%.

Poverty ratio in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttarakhand has declined by about 10 percentage points and more.

In Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur,

Mizoram and Nagaland, poverty in 2009-10 has increased.

Some of the bigger states such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh have shown only marginal decline in poverty ratio, particularly in rural areas.

What is this reduction a reflection of?

A number of things. I don't think a proper analysis of the causes has been done yet. There are views that are floating around that are based on certain presumptions. For example, some will say that the rate of growth went up and therefore poverty declined. The problem with this is, if you disaggregate this-although papers on it are not yet available- it does show that a considerable part of the poverty reduction, probably a third or maybe even a half can be attributed directly to improved PDS (public distribution system), higher wages and such things. Higher wages would, of course, be related to growth but a significant number of people would say that part of it is to do with the NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). Obviously, there is a growth component - which some people think is almost it - and

59th National Film Awards for the Year 2011



The Prestigious 59th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi in a joint Press Conference addressed by the Chairpersons of the three juries, Ms Rohini Hattangady for feature films, Shri Ramesh Sharma for non- feature films and Ms. Vijaya Mulay for Best Writing on Cinema category here today. Earlier, the Jury Chairpersons submitted their report to Smt. Ambika Soni, Minister for Information & Broadcasting. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister lauded the efforts made by the jury members in selecting the different category of awardees. Such efforts, the Minister said had enabled the awards to achieve new heights in terms of enhanced participation in different categories and the prestige associated with such awards.

The top honour in the Feature Film category, the Best Film is shared by films Deool (Marathi) produced by Abhijeet Gholap & directed by Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni and Byari (Byari language) produced by T.H. Althaf Hussain & directed by Suveeram. The award carries Swarna Kamal and cash prize of Rs. 2,50,000/- . In Non-feature film category the top honour , Best Film goes to And We Play On (Hindi & English)directed and produced by Pramod Purswane . The awards carries Swarna Kamal and Cash prize of Rs. 1,50,000/- . In Best Writing on Cinema category the Swarna Kamal goes to the book titled R.D. Burman - The Man, The Music written by Anirudha Bhattacharjee & Balaji Vittal, published by Harper Collins India. Whereas Manoj Barpujari from Assam has been awarded Best Film Critic.

In Feature Film category, five films have won three awards each. These Films are The Dirty Picture (Hindi), Balgandharva (Marathi), Anhe Ghorey Da Daan (Punjabi), Deool (Marathi) & Ranjana Ami Ar Ashbo Na (Bengali). Six films have won two awards each. These are Chillar Party (Hindi), Azhagarsamiyin Kuthirai (Tamil), Aaranyakandam (Tamil), Phijigee Mani (Manipuri) , Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara (Hindi) & Game (Hindi).

The Best Actor award goes to Girish Kulkarni for film Deool (Marathi) and Best Actress to Vidya Balan for the film The Dirty Picture (Hindi). Azhagarsamiyin Kuthirai (Tamil) won the award for Wholesome Entertainment, Chillar Party (Hindi) won Best Children Film, Best Direc-

tor to Gurvinder Singh for Punjabi film Anhe Ghorey Da Daan , Best Singer to Anand Bhate (Male) for Marathi film Balgandharva and Roopa Ganguly (Female) for the Bengali film Abosheyshey . Kumararaja Thiagarajan has won the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut film of a Director.

In the Non-Feature film category, three films have won two awards each. The Film Tiger Dynasty has won the Best Environmental Film & Best Cinematography awards. Awards for Best Direction and Best Editing have been taken away by the film There is Something in the Air. Film Panchakki has been awarded Best Short Fiction and Best Music Direction.

59th National Film Awards Winners

Winners of the prestigious 59th National Film Awards were announced today at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. The award ceremony will be held on May 3, 2012.

List of winners

Feature Films

Best Feature Film: Shared by Deool (Marathi) and Byari (Byari)

Deool

Producer: Abhijeet Gholap

Director : Umesh VinayakKulkarni

Byari (Byari)

Producer: T.H. AlthafHussain

Director :Suveeran

SwarnaKamal: Rs.2,50,000/-

Indira Gandhi Award For Best Debut Film of a Director: Aaranyakandam (Tamil)

Producer:S.P.Charan

Director :Kumararaja Thiagarajan

SwarnaKamal: Rs.1,25,000/

Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: AzhagarsamiyinKuthirai (Tamil)

Producer: P. Madan

Director :Suseentharan

SwarnaKamal: Rs.2,00,000/-

Best Children’s Film: Chillar Party(Hindi)

Producer: UTV Software Communications Ltd


Director : VikasBahl & Nitesh Tiwari

SwarnaKamal: Rs.1,50,000/-

Best Direction: GurvinderSingh for Anhe Ghorey Da Daan (Punjabi)


SwarnaKamal: Rs. 2,50,000/-

Best Actor: Girish Kulkarni for Deool (Marathi)



Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Actress: Vidya Balan for The Dirty Picture (Hindi)



Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Supporting Actor: Appu Kutty for Azhagarsamiyin Kuthirai (Tamil)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Supporting Actress: Leishangthem Tonthoingambi Devi for Phijigee Mani(Manipuri)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Best Child Artist (Shared): Partho Gupte for Stanley ka Dabba (Hindi)

Irrfan Khan, Sanath Menon, Rohan Grover, Naman Jain, Aarav Khanna, Vishesh Tiwari, ChinmaiChandranshuh, Vedant Desai, Divij Handa and Shriya Sharma for Chillar Party(Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Best Male Playback Singer: Anand Bhate for Balgandharva(Marathi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Best Female Playback Singer: RoopaGanguly for Abosheyshey (Bengali)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Cinematography: Anhe Ghorey DaDaan (Punjabi)

Cameraman: Satya RaiNagpaul

Laboratory: Reliance Media Works

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Best Screenplay

Screenplay Writer (Original): Vikas Behl & Manish Tiwari for Chillar Party(Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Screenplay Writer (Adapted): Avinash Deshpande Nigdi for Shala (Marathi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Dialogues: Girish Kulkarni for Deool (Marathi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Best Audiography

Location Sound Recordist: Baylon Fonseca for Zindagi NaMilegi Dobara (Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Sound Designer: Baylon Fonseca for Game (Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Re-recordist of the final mixed track: Hitendra Ghosh for Game (Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/-

Best Editing: Pravin KL for Aaranyakandam (Tamil)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Production Design: Indraneel Ghosh for Naukadubi (Bengali)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Costume Designer (Shared): Neeta Lulla for Balgandharva (Marathi)

Niharika Khan: The Dirty Picture (Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Make-Up Artist: VikramGayakwad for Balgandharva (Marathi) and The Dirty Picture (Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Music Direction

Songs: Neel Dutt for Ranjana Ami Ar Ashbo Na (Bengali)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Background Score: Mayoekh Bhaumik for Laptop (Bengali)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Lyrics: Amitabh Bhattacharya for ‘Agar Zindagi’ in I AM (Hindi)

Special Jury Award: Anjan Dutt for Ranjana Ami Ar Ashbo Na (Bengali)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Special Effects: Harry Hingorani and Keitan Yadav for Ra. One (Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-

Best Choreography: Bosco and Caesar for ‘Senorita’ from Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara (Hindi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 50,000/-



Best Feature Film In Each Of The Language Specified In The Schedule Viii Of The Constitution

Best Bengali Film: Ranjana Ami Ar Ashbo Na

Producer: Rana Sarkar

Director : AnjanDutt

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Dogri Film: Dille Ch Vasya Koi

Producer: Sanjeev Rattan

Director: Sanjeev Rattan

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Hindi Film: I AM

Producer: Anirban Dhar (Onir) & Sanjay Suri

Director : Onir

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Kannada film: Kurmavatarata

Producer: Basant Kumar Patil

Director : Girish Kasaravalli

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Malayalam Film: Indian Rupee

Producer: August CinemaIndia Pvt. Ltd.

Director :RanjithBalakrishnan

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Manipuri Film: Phijigee Mani

Producer:Takhelchangbam Ongbi and Medha Sharmi

Director :Oinam GautamSingh

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Marathi Film: Shala

Producer: Vivek D. Wagh & NileshNavalkha

Director: Sujay SunilDahake

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Punjabi Film: Anhe Ghorey Da Daan

Producer: National Film Development Corporation

Director : Gurvinder Singh

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Best Tamil Film: Vaagai Sooda Va

Producer: S. Muruganandham

Director : A. Sargunam

Rajat Kamal: Rs.1,00,000/-

Special Mention

Byari (Byari): Mallika

Certificate only

Adimadhyantham(Malayalam)

Director : Sherry

Certificate only

Non-Feature Films

Best Non Feature Film: And We Play On (Hindi & English)

Producer: PramodPuRs.wane

Director: Pramod PuRs.wane

Swarna Kamal: Rs.1,50,000/- each

Best Debut Film Of A Director: The Silent Poet (Manipuri)

Producer: BorunThokchom

Director: Borun Thokchom

Rajat Kamal: Rs.75,000/- each

Best Anthropological/ Ethnographic Film: Bom (Hindi & English)

Producer: Anirban Datta

Director: Amlan Datta

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/- each

Best Biographical/ Historical Reconstruction: Vishnupant Damle: BolpatanchaMook Nayak (Marathi)

Producer: Anil Anant Damle

Director :Virendra Valsangkar

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/- each

Best Arts /Cultural Film (Jointly Being given to two Films): Fried Fish, Chicken Soup and a Premiere Show (Manipuri & English)

Producer: Madhusree Dutta

Director: Mamta Murthy

Lasya Kavvya – the World ofAlarmel Valli (English)

Producer: Sankalp Meshram

Director: SankalpMeshram

Rajat Kamal: Rs.25,000/- each

Best Promotional Film: The Dream Fulfilled - Memories of the Engineering Challenges (English)

Producer: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation

Director: Satish Pande

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/- each

Best Environment Film: Tiger Dynasty (English)

Producer: S.Nallamuthu

Director: S. Nallamuthu

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/- each

Best Film On Social Issues (Jointly Being given to two Films):

Mindscapes... of Love and Longing (Hindi & English)

Producer: Public Service Broadcasting Trust

Director: Arun Chadha

Inshallah, Football (Kashmiri, Urdu & English)

Producer: Ashvin Kumar

Director: Ashvin Kuma

Rajat Kamal: Rs.25,000/- each

Best Educational Film: A Drop of Sunshine (English)

Producer: Public Service Broadcasting Trust

Director: Aparna Sanyal

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/- each

Best Exploration/ Adventure Film (Including sports): The Finish Line (English)

Producer: Syed Sultan Ahmed & Tabassum Modi

Director: Akshay Roy

Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/- each

Best Investigative Film: Cotton for My Shroud (English)

Producer: Kavita Bahl

Director: Nandan Saxena and Kavita Bahl

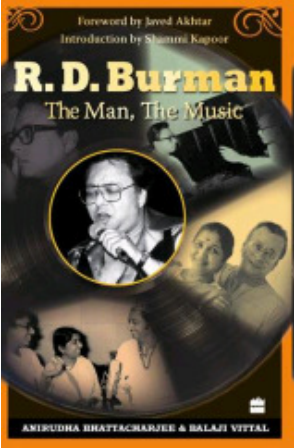
Rajat Kamal: Rs.50,000/- each

Special Jury Award: Anand Patwardhan for Jai BhimComrade (Marathi)

Rajat Kamal: Rs. 1,00,000/-

Best Film Critic: Manoj Barpujari (Assamese and English)

Best Book on Cinema: R.D. Burman The Man, The Music (English)



Publisher: Harper Collins India

Author: Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Balaji Vittal

Swarna Kamal: Rs. 75,000

meeting year the outgoing chairman of ASOSAI and Auditor General of Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Akhtar Buland Rana expressed the hope that Mr. Rai will take the Auditors institution to new heights. The ASOSAI aims to promote understanding and cooperation among member institutions through exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of public audit. On assuming the new post, Mr. Rai exhorted the Accountants General and help their respective countries combat the grave economic problems facing each nation. "These major challenges have imposed an onus on public audit institutions also to widen their canvas beyond probity and compliance. The increasing demands from citizens and legislature require AGs to transgress beyond being financial auditors to an objective evaluator of outcomes of government spending and the efficiency of government delivery channels for different projects particularly in the social sector", Mr. Rai said. He said that audit reports must recommend mid course corrections based on an objective analysis of the implementation of government projects. He reiterated the need for positive reporting and balanced observations. Mr. Rai welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution recognizing the autonomy and independence of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). The resolution says "SAIs can accomplish their tasks objectively and effectively only if they are independent of the audited entity and are protected against outside influence." It also recognizes "the important role of SAIs in promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration."

Shri Vinod Rai, also said that traditionally, Public Audit was rule based and was concerned with probity and compliance alone. Recently, increasing demands from stakeholders to know more about performance and results has altered the perception of the role of the Auditors General in most countries. The SAIs` role has expanded from being merely an auditor of financial transactions of the Government to that of a promoter of an organisations' performance and to act as a powerful trustee of public good. Our Reports provide an opportunity to the Government to make mid-course corrections and improve service delivery. He also said that keeping in view the increasing importance of environmental issues globally and to provide the necessary skills to auditors in auditing environmental issues, they are setting up an international environment audit training facility.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2010 Presented



Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for the year 2010 were presented by Smt. Leela Samson, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi, at a special function here today. 33 young artists who have made a mark in their respective fields of performing arts have been selected from all over the country by the General Council of the Akademi for the Puraskar. The presentation ceremony will be followed by a weeklong festival of Music, Dance and Theatre featuring some of the recipients of the year, from 7-13 March 2012 at Kamani Auditorium and in Meghdoot Theatre Complex, Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg in New Delhi. The 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' was instituted in the year 2006 by Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, an autonomous body of Ministry of Culture, Government of India and apex institution of performing arts in the country. The Puraskar is meant to encourage

outstanding young talents in diverse fields of performing arts and give them national recognition early in life so that they may work with greater commitment and dedication in lifelong pursuit of their chosen art form. The Puraskar is given to performing artists below the age of 40 years as on 1st April of the year of the Puraskar, and covers music, dance, theatre, puppetry and other traditional, folk and tribal forms of performing arts. In the field of Music, eight artists namely Manjusha Sandeep Patil and Kaushiki Desikan for Hindustani Vocal Music; Suyog Kundalkar (Harmonium) and Ashutosh Upadhayay (Pakhawaj) --- Hindustani Instrumental Music; Savita Narasimhan (Carnatic Vocal Music); Embar Kannan (Violin) and G Guru Prasanna (Kanjira) --- Carnatic Instrumental Music; Alankar Singh for Other Major Traditions of Music - Gurbani Kirtan of Punjab received the Puraskar.

In the field of Dance, eight artists namely Praveen Kumar (Bharatanatyam), Pallabi De (Kathak), M Amaljith (Kathakali), Yeleswarapu Srinivasulu (Kuchipudi), Arushi Mudgal (Odissi), Naren Barua (Sattriya), Madhu Nataraj (Creative & Experimental Dance) and Yogesh Gangani (Music for Dance -Tabla for Kathak) received the Puraskar.

In the field of Theatre also eight artists namely Meeta Mishra and S Thaninleima Chanu for Direction; Anita Shabdeesh, Danish Iqbal, Dakshina Sharma and Pakija Begum for Acting; Rajesh K V (Lighting) for Allied Theatre Arts; Srikanth Natarajan for Major Traditions of Theatre - Bhagavata Mela of Tamil Nadu received the Puraskar. For their talent in Other Traditional/Folk/Tribal Dance/Music/Theatre and Puppetry, U Natarajan for Folk Dance (Tamil Nadu), Arti Kale Nagarkar for Lavani (Maharashtra), Ahongshangbam Priyaran Devi for Folk Music (Manipur), Fakira Khan for Folk Music (Rajasthan), Manzoor UI Haq for Soofiyan Kalam (Jammu and Kashmir), Kajuram Salaam for Tribal Dance (Chhattisgarh), Mahmood Farooqui & Murtaza Danish Husaini (Joint Puraskar) for Dastangoi - Folk Narrative (Uttar Pradesh) and Hanumathu Rao for Tolu Bommalatta (Puppetry of Andhra Pradesh) have been selected for the Puraskar.

TRAI Releases Consultation Paper on “Auction of Spectrum”

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released Consultation paper on “Auction of Spectrum” on 7th March,2012. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 21st March 2012 and counter-comments by 28th March 2012. Stakeholders have been asked to send their comments by due dates as there will be no further extension of timelines. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form.

Earlier, TRAI issued a pre-consultation paper on 3rd February 2012, on the issue of “Allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 Service Areas by auction”, in accordance with the judgment of Hon ble Supreme Court of India. On the basis of the comments



received from the stakeholders on the Pre-consultation paper and considering the international practices, the draft Consultation paper on „Auction of Spectrum` has been prepared. The key issues raised in the Consultation paper are quantum of spectrum to be auctioned, liberalization of the spectrum, reframing of spectrum in 800/900 MHz bands, structure of auction,

spectrum block size, eligibility criteria for participating in the auction, reserve price, roll out obligations, spectrum usage charges and spectrum trading. The consultation paper has been placed on TRAI website www.traigov.in

The Hon ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dated 2nd February 2012 in the writ petitions no 423/2010 and 10/2010, has directed TRAI to make fresh recommendations for grant of licence and allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 Service Areas by auction, as was done for allocation of spectrum in 3G band, keeping in view the decision taken by the Central Government in 2011.

Lion as a National Animal

As per the latest Country level assessment undertaken during 2010, the wild population of tigers in the coun-

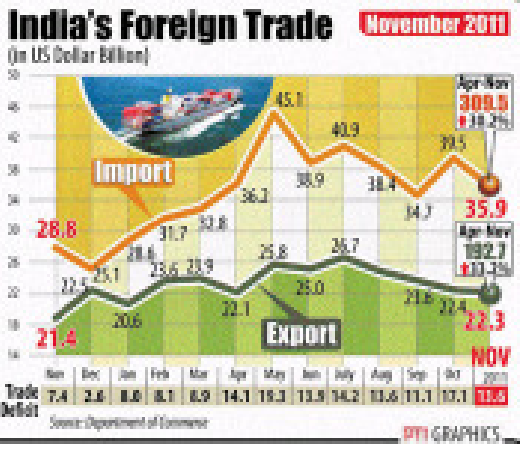


try has been estimated to be 1,707 (1,520 being the lower limit and 1,909 being the upper limit of the estimated range). Further, the population of Asiatic lions in Gir National Park, Sanctuary and other areas of Greater Gir (Brihad Gir) was estimated at 411 by the Government of Gujarat in 2010. This was revealed in Rajya Sabha today by the Minister of State (I/C) for Environment & Forest Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan. She stated that it is a fact that the Gir forest has the only wild population of Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica) in the world. The Bengal tiger (Panthera tigris tigris) is a subspecies of tiger native to Indian subcontinent and its geographical range includes most of the States in India. Other than India, the Bengal tiger also occurs in Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Tiger was adopted as our National Animal in place of the Lion in a meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife held in 1972 in view of the following considerations:

- (i) Worldwide importance of Tiger and its existence over the entire Country;
 - (ii) Need for its strict protection all over the Country;
 - (iii) Tiger is found in as many as 16 States whereas Lion only in one State. The Minister added that presently, Bengal tiger continues to be our National Animal, and there is no proposal under consideration with the Government to replace it with the Asiatic lion.
- Smt. Natarajan further stated that the Planning Commission has approved, in principle, a project for “Conservation of Asiatic lion in Greater Gir Region” to be implemented by the Government of Gujarat over a period of five years at the cost of Rs.262.36 crores including central assistance of Rs.236.63 crores. The project, inter alia, includes creation of infrastructure for promotion of eco-tourism in the Gir forest.

India’s Foreign Trade: January, 2012

EXPORTS (including re-exports) India’s Exports during January, 2012 were valued at US \$ 25346.90 million (Rs.130128.95 crore) which was 10.10 per cent higher in Dollar terms (24.52 per cent higher in Rupee terms) than the level of US \$ 23021.57 million (Rs. 104502.74) during January, 2011. Cumulative value of exports for the period April-January 2011 -12 was US \$ 242791.81 million (Rs 1153799.74 crore) as against US \$ 196632.76 million (Rs.896518.37 crore) registering a growth of 23.47 per cent in Dollar terms and 28.70 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last



year.

IMPORTS

India’s Imports during January, 2012 were valued at US \$ 40107.95 million (Rs.205911.00 crore) representing a growth of 20.25 per cent in Dollar terms (36.00 per cent in Rupee terms) over the level of imports valued at US \$ 33353.59 million (Rs. 151403.30 crore) in January, 2011. Cumulative value of imports for the period April-January, 2011-12 was US\$ 391459.42 million (Rs.1859168.34 crore) as against US \$ 302528.75 million (Rs. 1379477.78 crore) registering a growth of 29.40 per cent in Dollar terms and 34.77 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.

CRUDE OIL AND NON-OIL IMPORTS

Oil imports during January, 2012 were valued at US\$ 12325.2 million which was 26.78 per cent higher than oil imports valued at US\$ 9721.7 million in the corresponding period last year. Oil imports during April-January, 2011-12 were valued at US\$ 117914.3 million which was 38.83 per cent higher than the oil imports of US\$ 84933.1 million in the corresponding period last year.

Non-oil imports during January, 2012 were estimated at US\$ 27782.7 million which was 17.56 per cent higher than non-oil imports of US\$ 23631.9 million in January, 2011. Non-oil imports during April - January, 2011-12 were valued at US\$ 273545.1 million which was 25.71 per cent higher than the level of such imports valued at US \$ 217595.7 million in April - January, 2010-11.

TRADE BALANCE

The trade deficit for April-January, 2011-12 was estimated at US\$ 148667.61 million which was higher than the deficit of US\$ 105895.99 million during April-January, 2010-11.

PM writes to Chief Ministers on NCTC

The Prime Minister has written to the seven Chief Ministers addressing their concerns about the NCTC. Dr. Manmohan Singh in his communication said the NCTC has been located within the IB and is not a separate organization. The communication has been sent to the Chief Ministers of Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar and

Uttar Pradesh. The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's dinnity, to resolve differences with the ruling side as Trinamool Ministers stayed away from the

which deputed Hooghly MP for the dinner, had earlier in lifted its differences with the by seeking removal of the ref National Counter Terror-NCTC) from the President's demand has the backing of

making an amendment to the NCTC should be deleted," Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee the very firm, our party is very

the mat- in the charged upon in the all too,"

assur- before t much believe a num- nation e fed- said in ers ex- n hour

over its formation in the present form. He said even states that have expressed concern have backed NCTC with some changes. However, the Opposition is not buying this argument saying that NCTC proposal should have been placed before the National Integration Council for discussion.

A meeting of chief secretaries and DGPs of states was held on Monday to discuss the issue. A meeting of chief ministers scheduled on April 16 is also likely to debate the NCTC order. The anti-Congress approach of the allies has given the Opposition hope that the numbers could sway against the government on issues involving federalism. An Opposition leader also said that the government could be cornered on certain budgetary proposals with cut motions.

The axis of 10 non-Congress chief ministers has objected to NCTC on grounds that it impinges on the powers of state governments. This had forced the Centre to put off operationalisation of NCTC. However, NCTC was incorporated in the President's address to Parliament on Monday. President Patil had said "the National Intelligence Grid and the National Counter Terrorism Centre aim to improve India's capability to counter internal security threats."

World Bank says a plan to trim lending to India continue

The World Bank will not reduce financial assistance to India for poverty alleviation measures because of the recent official data that showed a decline in the number of poor people in the country.

The international funding agency takes a long-term view on its commitments and the poverty data released on Monday will not have any bearing on those commitments, World Bank Country Head N Roberto Zagha told agency on the sidelines of an event at Mumbai on Wednesday. Zagha said, however, that the Bank does use official data put out by Indian agencies while making its plans. "We are constantly analyzing (data), and right now I don't feel there will be any cut because the data have shown a reduction in poverty."

The Washington-based multilateral lender envisages lending USD 14 billion for projects in the country between 2009 and 2012, according to the Bank's country website.

According to the data by the Planning Commission, the number of people under the poverty line - whose daily consumption is below Rs 28.65 for urban centers and Rs 22.43 for rural areas - declined to 29.8 per cent in 2009-10, from 37.2 per cent in 2004. Zagha welcomed the Union Budget 2012-13 that was presented to Parliament last week, calling it "realistic". He said, however, that energy, uneducated labour force, increased urbanization and regulatory issues are the challenges being faced by the country at present and demand added attention of policymakers.

Tech Mahindra-Mahindra Satyam merger: Exchange ratio of 2:17 positive for

Shares of Tech Mahindra rallied on March 21, 2012 after its board approved merger with Mahindra Satyam to create the fifth largest software services exporter by market value.

The merger will result in combined revenue of about \$2.4 billion and more than 350 clients across different geographies and industrial sectors, Tech Mahindra said in a statement on. Mahindra Satyam shareholders will get one share of Tech Mahindra for 8.5 shares of Satyam, the companies said.

According to analysts, the swap ratio of 8.5 shares of Satyam for every share in Tech Mahindra is positive for Tech Mahindra at current prices. "The swap ratio of 2:17 for the merger was inline with market expectations, however the ratio was bit favourable to Tech Mahindra," said Sanjeev Hota - AYP Research, Sharekhan Ltd "On a broader basis, the combined entity now have a size and strength to bid for larger ticket size deals and also the merged entity revenues

stream would be much more diversified than earlier," added Sanjeev.

"As per the terms decided for amalgamation, 204,000,000 shares of Mahindra Satyam will be transferred to a trust, in which Tech Mahindra will be the beneficiary," said Nitin Prakash Daga, AVP - Research, Microsec Capital Ltd.

Tech Mahindra, a unit of Mahindra & Mahindra, took over Satyam in April 2009 and rebranded it as Mahindra Satyam.

"We have looked at scenarios based on synergies from the deal. Tech Mahindra stock could see some near-term upside due to the related news flow. Longer-term benefits could come in the form of (a) marketcap/ scale bringing in new set of investors; (b) Inclusion in indices resulting in upsidess," brokerage firm Citi said in a report.

"However, given the challenges in Tech Mahindra's core business and our concerns on the macro, we remain Neutral. We continue to prefer Wipro and HCL Technologies in the sector," added the Citi report.

The merger between technology outsourcing firms Mahindra Satyam and Tech Mahindra will lead to the constitution of a new management structure to guide the combined entity, sources close to the development. Shares of Tech Mahindra Ltd closed 5.48% higher at Rs 683.90. The stock has hit a high of Rs 695.90 and a low of Rs 649.40.

Shares of Mahindra Satyam ended 4.6% higher at Rs 77.55. The stock has hit a high of Rs 79.80 and a low of Rs 70.00.

1. The announcement of merger between Mahindra Satyam and Tech Mahindra is done. The swap ratio indicated is 2 shares of Tech Mahindra for every 17 shares of Mahindra Satyam. More or less, this swap ratio is in line with our estimates.
2. This swap ratio of 8.5:1 will make the merger transaction "market-price" neutral. Meaning thereby, there may not be any arbitrage opportunity left for the shareholders of both the companies.
3. However, the swap ratio close to 9:1 appears to be "value" decreitive for the shareholders of Mahindra Satyam and "value" accretive for the shareholders of Tech Mahindra.
4. This final swap ratio of 8.5:1, then the combined entity will be having the market cap to the tune of about Rs 17,000 Crores. The combined entity will become 5th largest IT company in terms of Market Cap.
5. With this size, the combined entity stands a good chance of getting bigger business, bigger projects and bigger clients. Further, the combined entity can cater to more project verticals in comparison to the standalone basis by these companies.
6. However, it will take considerable effort and time for the combined entity to reach the league of Infosys / TCS.
7. As of now, Tech Mahindra's stake in Mahindra Satyam is to the extent of 42.7%. Post this merger, it will be interesting to observe what will be the treatment for this cross holding. As per regulations, there are two ways of handling this.
8. One way is, create a trust to hold this cross holding shares called "treasury shares". If they follow this route, then the value of these "treasury shares" comes to about Rs 4,132 Crores. And, they can issue these shares in the future whenever they need funds.
9. Second way is, they can extinguish these shares and hence, the EPS of the combined entity will go up.
10. British Telecom, other promoter of Tech Mahindra, will be closely watching this space as they hold about 23.20% stake in Tech Mahindra. As the swap ratio is 8.5:1, then British Telecom will hold about 11.11% stake in the combined entity.
11. Overall, it is a merger which is proving to be win-win for all the parties involved and is a logical transaction, as this Mahindra group to consolidate their IT assets under one roof.
12. As said by management, Tech Mahindra and Mahindra Satyam merger is appearing to be "marriage made in heaven". And, if they can execute their future business properly, one can expect that 'honeymoon' period to last longer.

Year 2011 Review

Remember first year of 21st century second decade

We are giving year end review of the year 2011 of in these following topics

1. News effect to the World
2. News effect to the India
3. News effect to the Archaeology
4. News effect to the Literature
5. News effect to the Art

News effect to the World

January

January 1 – Estonia officially adopts the Euro currency and becomes the seventeenth Eurozone country



January 9–15 – Southern Sudan holds a referendum on independence. The Sudanese electorate votes in favour of independence, paving the way for the creation of the new state in July.

January 11 – Flooding and mudslides in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro kills 903.

January 14 – Arab Spring: The Tunisian government falls after a month of increasingly violent protests; President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali flees to Saudi Arabiaafter 23 years in power.



January 24 – 37 people are killed and more than 180 others wounded in a bombingat Domodedovo International Airport in Moscow, Russia.

February

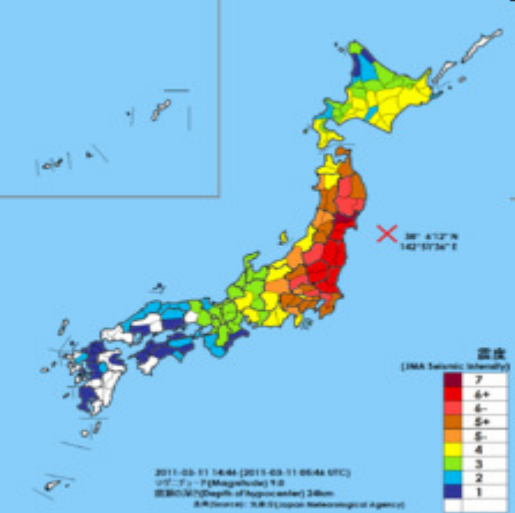
February 11 – Arab Spring: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigns afterwidespread protests calling for his departure, leaving control of Egypt in the hands of the military until a general election can be held.



February 22 - March 14 – Uncertainty over Libyan oil output causes crude oil prices to rise 20% over a two-week period following the Arab Spring, causing the 2011 energy crisis.

March

March 11 – A 9.1-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit the east of Japan, killing 15,840 and leav-



ing another 3,926 missing. Tsunami warnings are issued in 50 countries and territories. Emergencies are declared at four nuclear power plants affected by the quake.

March 15 – Arab Spring: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain declares a three-month state of emergency as troops from the Gulf Cooperation Council are sent to quell the

civil unrest.

March 17 – Arab Spring and the Libyan civil war: The United Nations Security Council votes 10-0 to create



a no-fly zone over Libya in response to allegations of government aggression against civilians.

March 19 – Arab Spring and the Libyan civil war: In light of continuing attacks on Libyan rebels by forces in support of leader Muammar Gaddafi, military intervention authorized under UNSCR 1973 begins as French fighter jets make reconnaissance flights over Libya.

April

April 11 – Former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo is arrested in his home in Abidjan by supporters of elected President Allassane Ouattara with support from French forces thereby ending the 2010–2011 Ivorian crisis and civil war.

April 29 – An estimated two billion people watch the wedding of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Catherine Middleton at Westminster Abbey in London.

May

May 1 – U.S. President Barack Obama announces that Osama bin Laden, the founder and leader of the militant group Al-Qaeda, has been killed during an American military operation in Pakistan.

May 16 – The European Union agree to •78 billion rescue deal for Portugal. The bailout loan will be equally split between the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, the European Financial Stability Facility, and the International Monetary Fund.

May 26 – Former Bosnian Serb Army commander Ratko Mladic', wanted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, is arrested in Serbia.

June

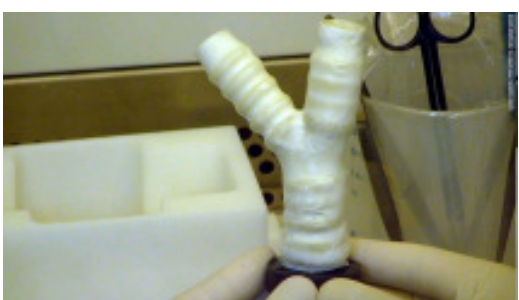
June 4 – Chile's Puyehue volcano erupts, causing air traffic cancellations across South America, New Zealand, Australia and forcing over 3,000 people to evacuate.

June 5 – Arab Spring: Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh travels to Saudi Arabia for treatment of an injury sustained during an attack on the presidential palace. Protesterscelebrate his transfer of power to his Vice-President Abd al-Rab Mansur al-Hadi.

June 12 – Arab Spring: Thousands of Syrians flee to Turkey as Syrian troops lay siege to Jisr ash-Shugur.

July

July 7 – The world's first artificial organ transplant is achieved, using an



artificial windpipecoated with stem cells.

July 9 – South Sudan secedes from Sudan, per the result of the independence referendumheld in January.



July 20 Goran Had•ic' is detained in Serbia, becoming the last of 161 people indicted by theInternational Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The United Nations declares a famine in southern Somalia, the first in over thirty years.

July 21 – Space Shuttle Atlantis lands successfully at Kennedy Space Center after completing STS-135, concluding NASA's space shuttle program.

July 22 – 76 people are killed in twin terrorist attacks in Norway after a bombing in the Regjeringskvartalet (the government center in Oslo) and a shooting at a political youth camp in the island of Utøya.

July 31 - September 24 – Arab Spring: Because of the uncertainties associated with a clamp-down of the free press, there is believed to be at least 121 people killed in a Syrian Army tank raid on the town of Hama and over 150 people are reportedly killed across the country. The total dead throughout Syria may never be known, but an estimate as of September 24 is 3,000.

August

August 5 NASA announces that its Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter captured photographic evidence of possible liquid water on Mars during warm seasons. Juno, the first solar-powered spacecraft on a mission to Jupiter, is launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

August 20–28 – Arab Spring and the Libyan civil war: In the Battle of Tripoli, Libyan rebels took control the nation's capital effectively overthrowing the government of Muammar Gaddafi.

September

September 5 – India and Bangladesh sign a pact to end their 40-year border demarcation dispute.

September 10 – Zanzibar ferry sinking: The MV Spice Islander I, carrying at least 800 people, sinks off the coast of Zanzibar, killing 240 people.

September 12 – Approximately 100 Kenyans die after a petrol pipeline explodes in Nairobi.

September 19 – With 434 dead, the United Nations launches a \$357 million appeal for victims of the 2011 Sindh floods in Pakistan.

October

October 4 2011 Mogadishu bombing: 100 people are killed in a car bombing in the Somali capital Mogadishu. In Thailand, 657 people are killed by floods during a severe monsoon season, with 58 of the country's 77 provinces affected. The death toll from the flooding of Cambodia's Mekong River and attendant flash floods reaches 207.

October 18 – Israel and the Palestinian militant organization Hamas begin a major prisoner swap, in which the captured Israeli Armyssoldier Gilad Shalit is released by Hamas in exchange for 1,027 Palestinian and Israeli-Arab prisoners held in Israel, including 280 prisoners serving life sentences for planning and perpetrating terror attacks.

October 20 - Arab Spring and the Libyan civil war: Former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi is killed in Sirte, with National Transitional Council forestaking control of the city, and ending the war. Basque separatist militant organisation ETA declares an end to its 43-year campaign of political violence, which has killed over 800 people since 1968.

October 23 – A magnitude 7.2 Mw earthquakes jolted eastern Turkey near the city of Van, killing 604 people, and damaging about 2,200 buildings. October 27 – After an emergency meeting in Brussels, the European Union announced an agreement to tackle the European sovereign debt crisis which includes a writedown of 50% of Greek bonds, a recapitalisation of European banks and an increase of the bailout fund of the European Financial Stability Facility totaling to •1 trillion.

October 31 - Date selected by the UN

as the symbolic date when global population reaches seven billion. UNESCO admitted Palestine as a member, following a vote in which 107 member states supported and 14 opposed.

November

November 26 – The Mars Science Laboratory rover Curiosity, the most elaborate Martian exploration vehicle to date, is launched from the Kennedy Space Center. It is slated to land on Mars on August 5, 2012.

December

December 15 – The United States formally declares an end to the Iraq War.

December 16 – Russia becomes WTO 153rd member.

News effect to the India

January 1 - Union Home Ministry winds up the Srikrishna committee on Telangana following submission of its report

Arabinda Rajkhowa, chairman of ULFA, released on bail from the Guwahati central prison

India and Pakistan exchange the annual lists of their nuclear installations and facilities under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations, which was signed on December 31, 1988.

Nagesh Pydah assumes charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce

April 2 – India wins the 2011 Cricket World Cup.

April 30 – Dorjee Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh since 2007, dies in a helicopter crash.

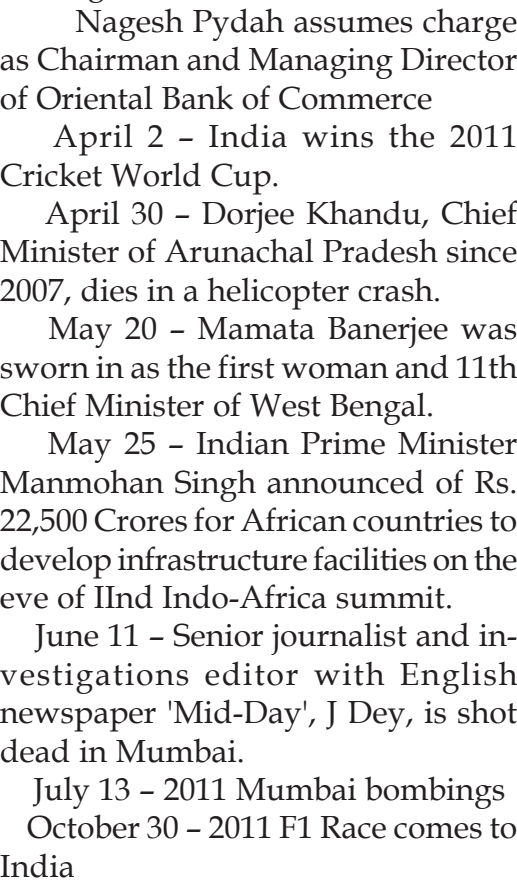
May 20 – Mamata Banerjee was sworn in as the first woman and 11th Chief Minister of West Bengal.

May 25 – Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced of Rs. 22,500 Crores for African countries to develop infrastructure facilities on the eve of IInd Indo-Africa summit.

June 11 – Senior journalist and investigations editor with English newspaper 'Mid-Day', J Dey, is shot dead in Mumbai.

July 13 – 2011 Mumbai bombings

October 30 – 2011 F1 Race comes to India



Deaths

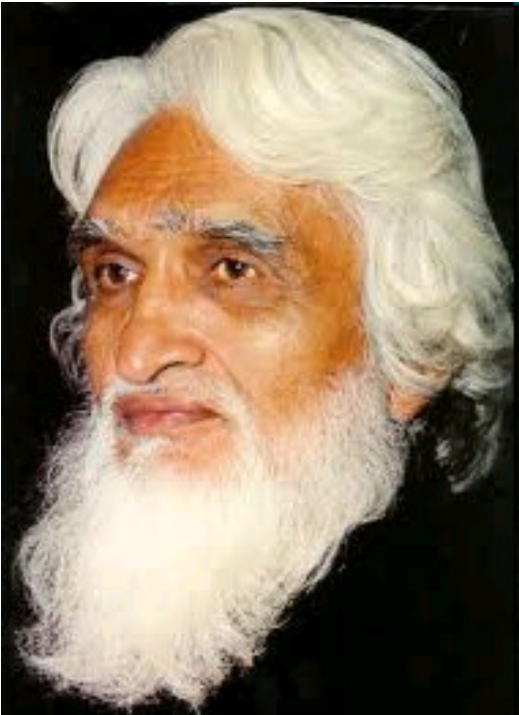
- January 2 – Bali Ram Bhagat, 88, former Lok Sabha Speaker.
- January 10 – Vivek Shauq, 47, actor, comedian.
- January 17 – Gita Dey, 79, actress.
- January 21 – E. V. V. Satyanarayana, 54, film director.
- January 24 – Bhimsen Joshi, 88, musician.



- January 28 – Sushil Kumar Dhara, 99, revolutionary.
- February 3 – Machan Varghese, 50, Malayalam film actor.
- February 12 – Vipindas, 72, cinematographer and director.
- February 19 – Suresh Babu, 58, athlete.
- February 20 – Malaysia Vasudevan, 66, actor and playback singer.
- February 21 – Aranmula Ponnamma, 96, Malayalam film actress.
- February 23 – Mullapudi Venkata Ramana, 79, screenwriter and film producer.
- February 24 – Anant Pai (Uncle Pai), 81, educationalist and comics writer.
- March 1 – Fateh Singh Rathore, 72, wildlife conservationist.
- March 3 – Goga Kapoor, 70, film actor.
- March 4 – Arjun Singh, 80, politician.
- March 10 – Baliram Kashyap, 74,

politician.

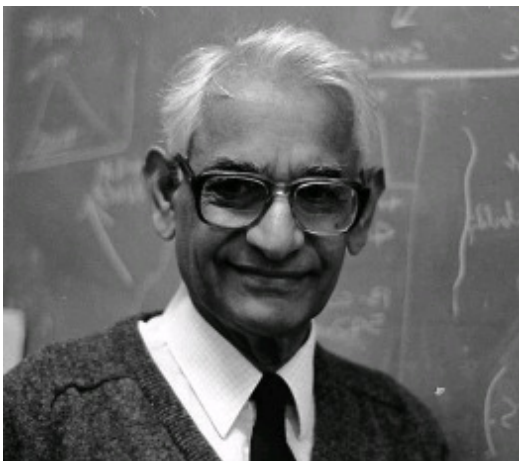
- March 12 – Kumar Indrajitsinhji, 73, cricketer.
- March 19 – Navin Nischol, 65, actor.
- March 20 – Bob Christo, Indian actor of Australian origin.
- April 1 – Varkey Vithayathil, 83, cardinal and religious leader.
- April 3 – Rafique Alam, 81, politician.
- April 5 – Sujatha, 58, actress.
- April 12 – Sachin Bhowmick, 80, screenwriter.
- April 17 – Bhawani Singh, 79, titular Maharaja of Jaipur.
- April 22 – Madhava Gudi, 72, Hindustani classical vocalist.
- April 24 – Sathya Sai Baba, 84, Guru, spiritual leader & educator.
- April 30 – Dorjee Khandu, 56, politician, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
- May 13 – Badal Sarkar, 85, dramatist
- May 15 – Mahendra Singh Tikait, 76, leader of farmers, President of the Bharatiya Kisan Union
- June 3 – Bhajan Lal, 80, two-time Chief Minister of Haryana
- June 7 – Nataraja Ramakrishna, 88, dance guru.
- June 9 – M. F. Husain, 95, painter



- June 11 – Jyotirmoy Dey, 55, journalist
- June 14 – Asad Ali Khan, 74, musician
- June 18 – John Perumattam, 89, Catholic hierarch
- June 21 – Kothapalli Jayashankar, 76, educator and politician
- Suresh Tendulkar, 72, economist
- June 29 – K. D. Sethna, 106, scholar and writer
- July 2 – Chaturanan Mishra, 86, politician and union leader.
- July 6 – Mani Kaul, 66, film director
- August 14 – Shammi Kapoor, 79, actor
- August 18 – Johnson Master, 58, musician
- September 22 – Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, 70, cricketer
- October 10 – Jagjit Singh, 70, singer



- November 5 – Bhupen Hazarika, 85, singer
- November 9 – Har Gobind Khorana, Indian-born American Nobel biochemist



- November 27 – Ustad Sultan Khan, 71, musician
- December 4 – Dev Anand, 88, actor and director



News Effect

- January : Teams commence a survey of the World War II Auxiliary Units headquarters site at Coleshill on the Oxfordshire/Wiltshire border in England.
- Spring: Excavation of unused British escape tunnel "George" (c. September 1944) at the site of the Stalag Luft III camp in Zagan' (present-day Poland) by a British team.
- Publications
- Robert Van De Noort - North Sea Archaeologies: a maritime biography 10,000 BC–AD 1500 (Oxford University Press).
- February 16 - Scientists from the Natural History Museum publish an analysis of human skulls from 14,700 years BP found at Gough's Cave in Cheddar Gorge, England, around 1987, which they believe were deliberately fashioned into ritual drinking cups. Human bones butchered and discarded nearby also suggest the practice of cannibalism.
- March - Archaeologists writing in Science argue that 15,500 BP finds from near Austin, Texas overturn the theory that the Clovis culture represents the earliest settlers in North America.
- January 11: An article in Journal of Archaeological Science reveals the discovery of the earliest known winemaking equipment in caves in Armenia, from 6,000 years BP.
- February 11 - Marine archaeologists from the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announce the discovery of artefacts from the whaling ship Two Brothers which sank off the French Frigate Shoals atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands on February 11, 1823 under Captain George Pollard, Jr.
- March 10 - English archaeologists report finding one of the earliest complete Neolithic pots in the country on a housing development in Didcot. It is thought to be about 5,500 years old.
- March 25 - The discovery of the Jordan Lead Codices, a series of codices from a cave in Jordan, is announced. The books, which reportedly contain early Christian symbols are purportedly around 2,000 years old. The authenticity of the codices is doubted.
- October 19 - The discovery of the United Kingdom mainland's first fully intact Viking ship burial site, at Ardnamurchan in the western Scottish Highlands, is announced.

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