

DEVELOP INDIA

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AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2012

The 2012 Australian Open was a tennis tournament that took place in Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia from 16 to 29 January 2012. It was the 100th edition of the Australian Open, and the first Grand Slam event of the year. The tournament consisted of events for professional players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles play. Junior and wheelchair players competed in singles and doubles tournaments. Novak Djokovic successfully defended his title after he defeated Rafael Nadal in the longest final in history. Novak Djokovic beat aching limbs, a briefly wavering spirit and one of the bravest fighters in the history of the game to hang on to his Australian Open title with his seventh successive victory over Rafael Nadal in surely the best performance of his career. It was their third consecutive final in a major championship and lasted five hours and 53 minutes, longer by almost an hour than the previous longest match in a grand slam final, the four hours and 54 minutes Mats Wilander took to beat Ivan Lendl at the 1988 US Open.

It was also the longest match in the history of this tournament, beating Nadal's five hours and 14 minutes semi-final win over Fernando Verdasco three years ago. It will come to be regarded as one of the best. The 2012 final passed the 2008 Wimbledon final for the record, finishing after 5 hours and 53 minutes of play. Victoria Azarenka defeated Maria Sharapova for her first Grand Slam title; and over took Caroline Wozniacki as the number one ranked player on the WTA Tour. In the doubles Leander Paes and Radek Štěpánek won the title. Paes completed a career Grand Slam with the title while Štěpánek won his first Slam. On the women's side an all Russian duo of Svetlana Kuznetsova and Vera Zvonareva took the title. The mixed event was won by Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Horia Tecău.

Men's Singles

Serbia Novak Djokovic def. Spain Rafael Nadal, 5–7, 6–4, 6–2, 6–7(5–7), 7–5

Women's Singles

Belarus Victoria Azarenka def. Russia Maria Sharapova, 6–3, 6–0

Men's Doubles

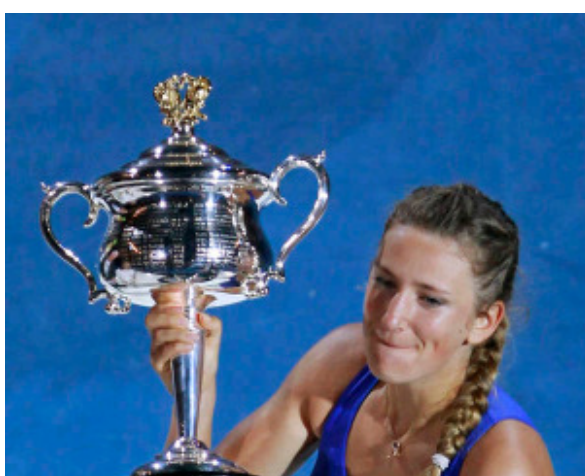
India Leander Paes / Czech Republic Radek Štěpánek def. United States Bob Bryan / United States Mike Bryan, 7–6(7–1), 6–2

Women's Doubles

Russia Svetlana Kuznetsova / Russia Vera Zvonareva def. Italy Sara Errani / Italy Roberta Vinci, 5–7, 6–4, 6–3

Mixed Doubles

United States Bethanie Mattek-Sands / Romania Horia Tecău def. Russia Elena Vesnina / India Leander Paes, 6–3, 5–7, [10–3]



BANGLADESH SIGNS \$1.5 BN POWER DEAL WITH INDIA

Bangladeshi and Indian electricity companies have signed a deal to build a \$1.5bn (£950m) plant to help address Bangladesh's chronic power shortages. The coal-fired plant will produce 1300 megawatts of electricity, about one fifth of the country's daily needs.



Bangladesh relies on old gas-fired plants for its power and experiences daily electricity shortfalls. However environmentalists say the proposed site for the plant is too close to famous Sundarbans forests.

They argue that discharge from the power plant, like sulphur dioxide and fly ash, will have disastrous consequences for the fauna and flora of the mangrove swamps - a Unesco World Heritage site.

"If excess pressure is put on the [Poshu] river, that means less water for Sundarbans, which will mean that it will have a definite negative impact on the forests," environmentalist Rizwana Hossain told.

However, officials say they will take steps to mitigate the impact of the planned plant on the environment.

The deal was signed in Dhaka by Bangladesh's Power Development Board and India's National Thermal Power Corporation.

The Bangladeshi government says it needs to build more stations to meet the country's growing demand for electricity.

Erratic supplies have been blamed for hampering industrial production and economic growth. Last November Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for two new nuclear plants, which should produce 1,000 megawatts each when they come online in 2018.

World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a Swiss non-profit foundation, based in Cologny, Geneva. It describes itself as an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

The Forum is best known for its annual meeting in Davos, a mountain resort in Graubünden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland. The meeting brings together some 2,500 top business leaders, international political leaders, selected intellectuals and journalists to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world, including health and the environment.



The organisation also convenes some six to eight regional meetings each year in locations such as Latin America and East Asia, as well as undertaking two further annual meetings in China and the United Arab Emirates. Beside meetings, the foundation produces a series of research reports and engages its members in sector specific initiatives.

The 2011 annual meeting in Davos was held from 26 January to 30 January. The 2012 meeting was held on 25-29 January 2012, with the theme "The Great Transformation: Shaping New Models".

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, British Prime Minister David Cameron, whose economy would be severely affected, denounces the Tobin tax under consideration in the European Union.

A Tobin tax, suggested by Nobel Laureate economist James Tobin, was originally defined as a tax on all spot conversions of one currency into another. The tax is intended to put a penalty on short-term financial round-trip excursions into another currency.

Tobin suggested his currency transaction tax in 1972 in his Janeway Lectures at Princeton, shortly after the Bretton Woods system of monetary management ended in 1971. Prior to 1971, one of the chief features of the Bretton Woods system was an obligation for each country to adopt a monetary policy that maintained the exchange rate of its currency within a fixed value—plus or minus one percent—in terms of gold. Then, on August 15, 1971, United States President Richard Nixon announced that the United States dollar would no longer be convertible to gold, effectively ending the system. This action created the situation whereby the U.S. dollar became the sole backing of currencies and a reserve currency for the member states of the Bretton Woods system, leading the system to collapse in the face of increasing financial strain in that same year. In that context, Tobin suggested a new system for international currency stability, and proposed that such a system include an international charge on foreign-exchange transactions.

In 2001, in another context, just after "the nineties' crises in Mexico, South-east Asia and Russia," which included the 1994 economic crisis in Mexico, the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, and the 1998 Russian financial crisis,

Ecuador court upholds \$18 billion ruling against Chevron

An Ecuadorean appeals court upheld a ruling that Chevron Corp should pay \$18 billion in damages to plaintiffs who accused the U.S. oil giant of polluting the Amazon jungle and damaging their health.

A local judge ordered Chevron to pay \$8.6 billion in environmental damages last February, but the amount was more than doubled to about \$18 billion because Chevron failed to make a public apology as required by the original ruling. "We ratify the ruling of February 14 2011 in all its parts, including the sentence for moral reparation," the court in the Amazonian city of Lago Agrio said in its ruling, which was obtained by Reuters.

The events are being watched closely by the oil industry for precedents that could impact other big claims against companies accused of pollution in the countries where they operate.

Chevron swiftly denounced the appellate court's ruling, calling it "illegitimate" and a fraud. "Today's decision is another glaring example of the politicization and corruption of Ecuador's judiciary that has plagued this fraudulent case from the start," it said. "The Lago Agrio judgment was procured through a corrupt and fraudulent scheme, much of which was captured on film and memorialized in the plaintiffs' representatives' own emails and correspondence."

In a statement, the company said it was pursuing an action in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York against the plaintiffs' representatives regarding violations of the federal racketeering statute and common-law fraud.

The second largest U.S. oil company could also call for the intervention of Ecuador's Supreme Court in the case, which would open a new chapter in the 18-year-old legal saga. The plaintiffs accused Texaco, which was acquired by Chevron in 2001, of dumping oil-drilling waste in unlined pits, polluting the forest and causing illness and deaths among indigenous people. They appealed the original court ruling, claiming more money would be needed for the cleanup.

"This (ruling) confirms and ratifies that the company polluted and affected the Amazon," the plaintiffs said in a statement. "It is necessary to clarify that no amount will be enough to repair all the crime they did in our area, nor will it be enough to bring the dead back to life."

Chevron had also appealed the ruling, arguing that Texaco cleaned up all waste pits for which it was responsible, and said the Ecuadorean judge in the original case had ignored evidence of fraud on the part of the plaintiffs. Commenting on the appellate court's decision, Ecuador's leftist president, Rafael Correa, said he was happy, and he described the dispute as a "David and Goliath" battle. "I think justice has been done. The harm that Chevron caused to the Amazon cannot be denied," Correa told reporters in the coastal city of Guayaquil.

Chevron has also been under pressure recently over environmental issues in Brazil. Last week, Brazil's oil industry watchdog issued a third citation against the company for an oil spill at an offshore field in November. The company has also been cited in a \$20 billion civil lawsuit filed by public prosecutors over that spill. Brazilian federal police have indicted Chevron, the drilling company Transocean and executives from both companies in a criminal case alleging environmental crimes and obstruction of justice.

The long legal battle in Ecuador has spawned accusations of dirty tricks and bribery. Activists portray it as a fight for justice against rich polluters - but Chevron says it is driven more by opportunism and greedy lawyers. A judge in New York sought to freeze the original judgment against Chevron, but the decision was overruled on appeal in September. Chevron has argued that Ecuador's judicial process has been corrupted and is banking on international arbitrators who are expected to decide this month if they will weigh in on what has become a landmark international legal dispute. A tribunal working under The Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration ordered last February that Ecuador suspend enforcement of any judgment in the lawsuit, pending a decision by its panel.

The arbitration could then take years, if a previous dispute with Ecuador is any guide. It took four years for a separate international tribunal to rule that the OPEC-member country must pay Chevron \$96 million in connection with commercial claims made in Ecuadorean courts in the early 1990s.

India at a Glance

According to its constitution, India is a "sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic." Like the United States, India has a federal form of government. However, the central government in India has greater power in relation to its states, and its central government is patterned after the British parliamentary system.

The government exercises its broad administrative powers in the name of the president, whose duties are largely ceremonial. The president and vice president are elected indirectly for 5-year terms by a special electoral college. Their terms are staggered, and the vice president does not automatically become president following the death or removal from office of the president.

Real national executive power is centered in the Council of Ministers (cabinet), led by the prime minister. The president appoints the prime minister, who is designated by legislators of the political party or coalition commanding a parliamentary majority. The president then appoints subordinate ministers on the advice of the prime minister.

India's bicameral parliament consists of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and the Lok Sabha (House of the People). The Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha. The legislatures of the states and union territories elect 233 members to the Rajya Sabha, and the president appoints another 12. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha serve 6-year terms, with one-third up for election every 2 years. The Lok Sabha consists of 545 members; 543 are directly elected to 5-year terms. The other two are appointed.

India's independent judicial system began under the British, and its concepts and procedures resemble those of Anglo-Saxon countries. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and 25 other justices, all appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister.

India has 25 states and 7 union territories. At the state level, some of the legislatures are bicameral, patterned after the two houses of the national parliament. The states' chief ministers are responsible to the legislatures in the same way the prime minister is responsible to parliament.

Each state also has a presidentially appointed governor who may assume certain broad powers when directed by the central government. The central government exerts greater control over the union territories than over the states, although some territories have gained more power to administer their own affairs. Local governments in India have less autonomy than their counterparts in the United States. Some states are trying to revitalize the traditional village councils, or panchayats, which aim to promote popular democratic participation at the village level, where much of the population still lives.

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It has achieved all-round socio-economic progress during the last 62 years of its Independence. India has become self-sufficient in agricultural production and is now one of the top industrialized countries in the world and one of the few nations to have gone into outer space to conquer nature for the benefit of the people. It covers an area of 32,87,263 sq. km, extending from the snow-covered Himalayan heights to the tropical rain forests of the south. As the 7th largest country in the world, India stands apart from the rest of Asia, marked off as it is by mountains and the sea, which give the country a distinct geographical entity. Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer, tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.

Weekly Current Affairs

ASSAD FAMILY BLACKLISTED EU

The European Union has sought to punish Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, by targeting his closest female relatives, with sanctions barring his wife, mother, sister and sister-in-law from travelling in the EU and freezing bank accounts and other assets. However, it remained unclear how the symbolic move aimed at curbing the luxury lifestyle of a dynasty engaged in a bloodbath in Syria would affect Asma al-Assad, the president's wife and until recently an international style icon. The travel ban placed on the four women means they cannot enter the EU. But Asma al-Assad is exempted from that overall ban since the British-born former investment banker is a UK national and may still travel to London, though not to the rest of the union. William Hague, the foreign secretary, confirmed Assad would be able to visit her parents, who live in London, but thought she was unlikely to. And despite the asset freeze, British government sources said Assad would still be able to use the house she owns in London. There would be no attempt to strip her of her British nationality. "British passport-holders have a right of entry to the UK. But given we are imposing an asset freeze on all of these individuals and a travel ban on other members of the same family or regime, we are not expecting Mrs Assad to try and travel to the UK at present," Hague said after a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

Twitter to enable country specific censorship

Micro-blogging service unveils shift in policy as it seeks to expand into new territories and expand its user base.



The micro-blogging service, Twitter, has announced that it has altered the technology behind the service to allow for country-specific censorship of messages. The announcement comes as the San Francisco, USA-based company makes a push to expand into new territories hoping to increase their 100 million active user base and generate more money. Twitter announced on Wednesday support for right to left languages - Farsi, Hebrew, Arabic and Urdu - in its crowd-sourced translation centre. The move, announced in an entry titled "Tweets still must flow" on the company's official blog, may raise concerns that the service could in fact be inhibiting free speech through the new policy. In the blog post, Twitter says that in the global expansion, it "will enter countries that have different ideas about the contours of freedom of expression. "Some [countries] differ so much from our ideas that we will not be able to exist there". The company says the new feature will be an improvement upon the old technology, which would see individual tweets deleted all over the world. Twitter says it has authored the new feature with transparency in mind. In a move similar to search engine Google, Twitter says it "will attempt to let the user know, and we will clearly mark when the content has been withheld." Though Twitter says it has yet to utilise the feature, it, like Google, will share removal requests from companies, individuals, and governments on the webiste chillingeffects.org. One reason the service is believed to censor tweets is that if Twitter defies the laws of a nation where its employees reside, they then could face arrest.

The 140-character messages, or tweets, that make up the content of the service, like social media website Facebook, was touted by some as responsible for the string of protests known as the Green Movement following Iran's highly-contested tenth presidential election in **2009 and the recent uprisings in the Arab world.**

This was a role that Twitter and other public figures embraced, most notably, Mark Pfeifle, a former US national security adviser. In the summer of 2009, Pfeifle called for Twitter to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in response to the role he said the service played in Iran's Green Movement. Most of the tweets deleted worldwide through their previous technology, had contained child pornography.

Illumina adopts poison pill to stave off Roche

U.S. gene sequencing company Illumina Inc (ILMN.O) adopted a "poison pill" defense strategy against a hostile \$5.7 billion bid from Swiss drugmaker Roche Holding AG (ROG.VX), saying it would trigger a rights agreement if any party bought 15 percent of its stock. Illumina's first public move since Roche announced the offer on Wednesday showed its leadership would not be easily convinced of the proposal's value, especially at the current price, deal-watchers said. Roche said it was "disappointed" in the action by Illumina's Board and still believes its offer delivers "full and fair value" to shareholders. "Illumina has strong defenses. Only more money is going to buy Roche access," said one healthcare investment banker, who was not involved in the deal. The banker declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media. In addition to the poison pill, Illumina has a so-called staggered election for its board of directors, which makes it difficult for an outside party to gain control of the board in one year. A deal would give Roche's diagnostics unit a leading position in the fast-growing area of gene sequencing, which is central to medicine's future as it allows researchers and physicians to better predict how patients are likely to respond to a drug. A deal would be the latest in a series of healthcare transactions as drugmakers look for new areas of growth to offset the loss of patented drugs and biotech's search for new areas of expertise. Amgen Inc (AMGN.O), the world's largest biotechnology company, agreed to buy Micromet Inc MITI.O in a \$1.16 billion deal to acquire another novel technology that aims to harness the body's immune system to fight cancer. Meanwhile, Celgene Corp said it would buy smaller biotech firm Avila Therapeutics for \$350 million. Roche may be facing a drawn-out battle after Illumina announced the rights plan, which typically allows a shareholder other than the bidder to buy more shares at a discount, often with the aim of forcing a higher offer or deterring a bid because of the higher cost of acquiring the extra shares. "The Illumina Board has taken this action to ensure that our stockholders receive fair treatment and protection in connection with any proposal or offer to acquire the company, including the proposal announced by Roche," Illumina

Chief Executive Jay Flatley said in a statement. The Swiss drugmaker plans to formally launch a tender offer for Illumina by early next week at \$44.50 per share, according to a source familiar with the matter. U.S.-based Illumina would have 10 days to respond. Illumina investors are convinced the company is worth more, and traded the shares above \$54. Analysts and traders suggested Roche may have to pay close to \$60 a share to win Illumina, though Roche has said it has no plans of raising the offer. "The poison pill would make the tender offer useless, so it's unclear what Roche would gain other than a chance to posture that it's serious," said an arbitrage trader who declined to be named. Roche plans to nominate directors for Illumina's board and make a shareholder proposal to increase the size of the nine-member board by two people, a source familiar with the situation said. The source was not authorized to speak to the media. "The point, counter-point of a bid and then poison pill and the back-and-forth just makes this seem like a longer, drawn-out battle," said another arbitrageur who declined to be named. Roche, however, has been forced to raise its offer in other bidding situations -- for biotech company Genentech and test maker Ventana -- even when it declared its initial salvo a full-and-fair value. With Schwan as its diagnostics chief, Roche in 2008 overcame months-long resistance from test maker Ventana to snap it up for \$3.4 billion. It had made an unsolicited, low-end bid, before increasing its original offer by 19 percent. Roche stock closed nearly flat on Thursday. Shares of Illumina were down 4.6 percent at \$52.60 in late trading on Thursday, after gaining more than 45 percent on Wednesday.

Egyptians mass in Tahrir to honour uprising

Hundreds of thousands of people have gathered in Cairo's Tahrir Square to commemorate the first anniversary of the Egyptian revolution that toppled their long-time ruler, Hosni Mubarak. It is a year since Egyptians, inspired by an uprising in Tunisia, took to the streets to call for reform and to demand the resignation of Mubarak, Egypt's president for 30 years. "Down with military rule" and "Revolution until victory, revolution in all of Egypt's streets" were chanted by one group of mainly youths in an area of Tahrir. Sherine Tadros, reporting from Tahrir Square, said: "For a section of people demonstrating here, it's really just about military hijacking the revolution, and about Islamist parties and movements now making the gains instead of those who actually initiated the revolution." "But others say it is a rocky transition but it is still a transition pointing out to the fact that Egypt had first free and fair elections in decades and people's assembly which reflects will of the people." Meanwhile, about 3,000 people, who were pardoned by the military rulers coinciding with the anniversary, have walked out of Tora prison located on the outskirts of Cairo. In an apparent attempt to appease reformist demands, the military council has in recent days pardoned people convicted in military courts since Mubarak was toppled. The military, which was handed power as the president stepped

down on February 11, has planned mass celebrations with a naval parade in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, air shows in Cairo and fireworks displays around the country. The ruling military council is also issuing commemorative coins for the occasion and is expected to honour public servants. It has called on Egyptians to "preserve the spirit of January 25, which united the Egyptian people, men and women, young and old, Muslims and Christians". Al Jazeera's Tadros said: "What we have right now is their [military] promise. And this was something reiterated by Field Marshal Tantawi." "Apart from saying that the scope of emergency law would be narrowed, he also said and promised, come July when there is new president in power the military will go back to barracks. "But the big question is what will be their legacy? What kind of role they want to carve out for themselves? What kind of backroom deal they could have made with the largest force in the parliament [Muslim Brotherhood] so is to guarantee their immunity." 'Objectives of the revolution' Activists say the revolution has been hijacked by Hussein Tantawi, for two decades Mubarak's defence minister, who now heads the military council. Wael Khalil, Egyptian blogger and activist, told Al Jazeera: "Definitely, the revolution has not achieved its goal and that's why the main slogan now on the street is, people going back to Tahrir Square, because the revolution continues until it realises its goal." "Everything that has been achieved in the past one year was a result of people's protests and demands. "The trial of Mubarak, free elections, participation of people in the elections and other demands were not achieved by power from above, not by SCAF, but people pressuring from below." Prominent novelist and pro-democracy activist Alaa al-Aswani wrote in the independent daily al-Masry al-Youm: "We must take to the streets on Wednesday, not to celebrate a revolution which has not achieved its goals, but to demonstrate peacefully our determination to achieve the objectives of the revolution." These goals remain to "live in dignity, bring about justice, try the killers of the martyrs and achieve a minimum social justice", he wrote. Dalia Mogahed, director and senior analyst at the Abu Dhabi Gallup Center, told Al Jazeera "Egyptians are more optimistic about their future than they have been in a very a long time". According to research done by her group, Mogahed said most Egyptians believe things are getting better and will get better in the future. She said the vast majority of Egyptians still have faith in the military and the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF). She said Tahrir Square was an important component of the story, but not the entire story. Research shows that more than 85 per cent of Egyptians say they still have confidence in the SCAF. Protesters want Tantawi and the other ruling generals to step down immediately and to stay out of the drafting of the country's new constitution, for fear they may enshrine military powers into the charter. The military has pledged to cede power to civilian rule when a president is elected by June. It announced a partial lifting of a state of emergency, but kept a clause saying emergency laws in place since 1981 would still apply to cases falling into the vague category of "thuggery".

The Muslim Brotherhood, which won the most seats in recent parliamentary elections, has announced it will join the celebrations on Wednesday, without calling for "a second revolution" or demanding that the military give up power. "The formation of the parliament is the biggest celebration of the anniversary of the revolution," the group said on its website, a day after the lower house convened for the first time since it was dissolved after the uprising. Leading **Muslim Brotherhood** member Saad al-Katatni was elected speaker of parliament on Monday, in scenes unthinkable just a year ago when the group was still banned. Mubarak will spend the anniversary in a Cairo military hospital, where he is in custody accused of involvement in the killing of protesters during the uprising that toppled him.

Cabinet backs the burka ban

The cabinet voted to ban burkas and other face-covering garments from public places. Once the legislation has passed through parliament, the **Netherlands** will become the **third country in Europe to ban the Islamic garment**, after **France** and **Belgium**. The ban will apply to people wearing balaclavas and full-frontal motorbike helmets on the street as well as the estimated 100 burka wearers in the Netherlands. Women wearing a burka or a full veil face a fine of €380. Home affairs minister Liesbeth Spies said after the cabinet vote it is of 'immense importance' that burkas are banned. People in an open society should communicate with each other openly, she told reporters on Friday afternoon. It is not yet clear when the draft legislation will be submitted to parliament and when it will come into effect. The ban forms part of the agreement between the minority cabinet and the anti-Islam PVV so the bill can be assured of at least a majority of one. Dutch Turkish association Inspraaakorgaan Turken in Nederland said the government had not thought through the effect of the ban properly. 'Women who only dared or were allowed to leave their homes in a burka will not stay at home,' the organisation's chairman Aydin Akkaya told news agency ANP. And Groen Links parliamentarian Tofik Dibi, said he does not understand why the burka is such a big issue. 'People are unsure about their and their children's future, but instead lets track down and fine a handful of burkas,' he said. Earlier this week, regional newspapers reported the draft legislation had been heavily criticised by the government's most important advisory body and needed significant amendments. Minister Spies told reporters the cabinet had decided not to accept some of the Council of State's recommendations.

Europe Crisis Stifling Remittances, African Central Bankers Say

East Africans are sending less money back to their home countries as the crisis in the euro region crimps the outlook for the global economy, government officials from

African Union opens Chinese-funded HQ in Ethiopia

The African Union has inaugurated its newly built headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The entire \$200m (£127m) project was funded by China as a gift to the AU, as Beijing continues to strengthen its influence in Africa. In front of African leaders a huge golden key was handed over and the 100m high building was officially opened. The tower overlooks a vast conference centre where African heads of state are expected to meet for years to come. Their **first AU summit** in the building will take place. China's most senior political adviser, Jia Qinglin, attended the opening of the new headquarters. "The towering complex speaks volumes about our friendship to the African people, and testifies to our strong resolve to support African development," he said. The **AU chairman, Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang** Nguema, said the complex was "a reflection of the new Africa," the agency reports. The new AU building dominates the skyline of Addis Ababa and is the city's tallest building. Most of the materials used were imported from China and even the furnishings were paid for by Beijing, AFP news agency reports. Construction began in January 2009 and involved 1,200 Chinese and Ethiopian workers. The project co-ordinator, Fantalum Michael, says the new building signifies China's growing friendship with Africa. Trade between China and Africa has increased more than six-fold during the past decade to \$120bn (£76bn) in 2011. China is interested in Africa's natural resources and in return is investing huge sums in African infrastructure. Roads are being built by Chinese firms at a staggering rate, says the BBC's Will Ross in Addis Ababa. While other rich nations impose conditions before aid is given, China's relationship with African countries is strictly a business one, he says. Human rights groups have criticised China for undermining efforts by western countries to link aid to improvements in governance. However African leaders have welcomed the Chinese approach and have embraced investment from Beijing. In Ethiopia, many jobs have been created through Chinese-funded projects. Chinese cars are being made in Ethiopian factories and China is also building a light railway across Addis Ababa.



Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda said. "The European crisis has an impact on our region because the union is an important partner for us," Gaspard Sindayigaya, governor of Burundi's central bank, said in an interview today at Bloomberg's headquarters in New York. "There has been a decrease in term of the remittances. We're monitoring the possible impact particularly in the area of budget adjustments," he said.

African economic growth slowed to 2.7 percent in 2011, from 5 percent in 2010, and the continent may face "serious" threats this year because of the situation in Europe, according to the Economic Commission for Africa. Growth excluding North Africa was 4.5 percent last year, steady from 2010, the Addis Ababa-based United Nations agency said in a statement distributed to reporters in the Ethiopian capital today.

"The current account transactions from Europe are a major source of capital for us," Louis Kasekende, the deputy governor of the Bank of Uganda, said in an interview.

"There's always an issue of capital relocated out of emerging markets and back to the safe havens and that is something that we will have to face."

Economic growth in Africa also slowed last year after uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, the Economic Commission said.

Europe is Africa's biggest economic partner and any slowdown there may curb trade flows, remittances, investment, tourism and donor funding, the Commission said.

Efforts to deflect some of the impact of the euro zone crisis by diverting exports to emerging economies are being stymied by slowing growth in economies including Brazil, China, India and Mexico, according to the report.

"Africa's prospects for 2012 would seem encouraging, but given current global economic uncertainty, I would urge continuous vigilance as the signs are ominous and we may face serious threats," Abdoulie Janneh, executive secretary of the Commission, said in the statement.

The African Development Bank estimates that a one percentage point decline in the gross domestic product of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries translates into a decline of about 0.5 percent in African GDP and a 10 percent drop in the continent's export earnings, according to the bank's website.

African heads of state will begin meeting in Addis Ababa on Jan. 29 to discuss ways to boost trade between countries on the continent. Intra-regional trade currently stands at an "abysmally low" 11 percent of the total, according to the Commission.

Increased trade within the continent would boost consumer demand, stimulate investment and promote food security by facilitating the movement of food from surplus countries to those facing deficits, Janneh said.

S. Korea lifts temporary ban on visits to N. Korea

South Korea has lifted a temporary ban it placed on visits to North Korea in the wake of the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, a Seoul official said.

The government suspended all visits to North Korea on Dec. 19 after the communist state announced the death of its 69-year-old leader. The only exception was visits to an inter-Korean industrial park in the North Korean border city of Kaesong.

South Koreans are required by law to receive state approval before traveling to the North, as the two sides remain in a technical state of war following the 1950-53 Korean

War that ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

"As the mourning period for Chairman Kim (Jong-il) has ended, we will act accordingly when civilians apply for a visit to North Korea," said an official at the Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs.

No individuals or groups are currently awaiting approval, the official added.

North Korea held a funeral ceremony for Kim last Wednesday and a memorial service on Thursday to wrap up a 13-day mourning period for the late leader.

Visits will continue to be restricted, however, under a set of sanctions South Korea imposed on the communist regime for sinking a southern warship in March 2010.

Pyongyang denies any role in the torpedo attack that killed 46 South Korean sailors.

Seoul has allowed only private aid groups or religious and cultural leaders to visit the North since then.

Militias may drag Libya into civil war: NTC chief

Libya risks sliding into civil war unless it cracks down on the rival militias which filled the vacuum left by Muammar Gaddafi's downfall, the head of the interim administration said after an outbreak of violence in the capital.

Mustafa Abdel Jalil, chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC), issued the stark warning in response to a gun battle between militias in one of Tripoli's busiest streets which killed four fighters.

More than two months after anti-Gaddafi fighters captured and killed the former dictator, Libya's new rulers still struggle to exert their authority as rival militia leaders refuse to cede control of their fighters and hand in their arms.

"We are now between two bitter options," Abdel Jalil told a gathering in the eastern city of Benghazi late Tuesday.

"We deal with these violations (clashes between militias) strictly and put the Libyans in a military confrontation which we don't accept, or we split and there will be a civil war."

"If there's no security, there will be no law, no development and no elections," he said. "People are taking the law into their own hands."

The militias, drawn from dozens of different towns and ideological camps, led the nine-month uprising, backed by NATO air strikes, to end Gaddafi's 42-year rule. Now though, they are reluctant to disband and lay down their arms.

They are vying with each other for influence, and believe that to ensure they receive their due share of political power they need to keep an armed presence in the capital.

The NTC has begun to form a fully functioning army and police force to take over the task of providing security. Abdel Jalil acknowledged though that progress has been too slow.

"We have no security because the fighters have not handed over their weapons despite the chances they've been given to do so through local councils," he said. "The response has been weak so far, people are still holding on to their weapons."

Tripoli is now an unruly patchwork of fiefdoms, each controlled by a different militia. Police are rarely seen - except when directing traffic - and there is no sign of the newly created national army.

Although their presence on the streets significantly declined toward the end of last month, militias still occupy security compounds previously used by Gaddafi's forces.

Their presence increases in the streets of Tripoli as night falls.

Tripoli has two main home-grown militias. One is led by Abdel Hakim Belhadj, an Islamist who spent time

in Taliban camps in Afghanistan and now runs his militia from a suite of rooms in a luxury Tripoli hotel. The other is headed by Abdullah Naker, a former electronics engineer who is openly disdainful of Belhadj.

There are also the militias from outside town. Fighters from Zintan, an anti-Gaddafi bastion south-west of the capital, control the international airport.

Militias from the city of Misrata, east of Tripoli, have mostly withdrawn from central Tripoli but keep a presence in the eastern outskirts of the city. Fighters from the Berber, or Amazigh, ethnic minority mark out their territory with their blue, green and yellow flags.

Another set of fighters from the east of Libya, the original heartland of the anti-Gaddafi revolt, add to the mix. The closest to the NTC's leaders, their ambitions to form the core of the new national army irk their rivals.

Until Abdel Jalil issued his warning about the militias, most senior government officials preferred to avoid the issue.

"What militia?" Prime Minister Abdurrahim El-Keib told Reuters this week when asked about the rival groups.

"Look around you! ... We're building the Libyan National Army and we want to guarantee that this army is effective when we need it," he said.

The militias are united by their shared experience in fighting Gaddafi. Their leaders profess loyalty to the NTC, and say they want to work together to build a new, democratic Libya.

This is a fragile unity which breaks down whenever one group impinges on the territory of another. Flare-ups in violence are most commonly triggered when fighters refuse to submit to checks when passing through a rival group's checkpoint, or when one group detains fighters from another militia.

The spark for a gunbattle in Tripoli Tuesday was, by some accounts, the arrest by a Tripoli militia of several fighters from Misrata. The arrested men's comrades attacked the building where they were being held using anti-tank weapons and heavy machine guns.

"Some of them screamed 'We're from Misrata, you dogs!' while they were firing," said a Tripoli fighter.

Wednesday, a few guards carrying semi-automatic machine guns stood outside the compound on Zawiya Street which had been the focus of the fighting a day earlier.

Militia vehicles that had blocked the intersection leading to the compound had been removed and the street, lashed by heavy rain, was mostly empty.

But the potential for outbreaks of violence remains.

"The tension will always arise because there are many groups," said Hakim Abdul Rahman Hammad, a former military pilot who now heads the military council of Tobruk, a city on Libya's border with Egypt.

"There are many armed groups and there might be interaction among them that ends up in confrontation," he told Reuters.

The militias' dominance in Libya has now reached a crucial crossroads, with the appointment this week of a chief of staff for the new national army.

Until now, the militias have said they cannot surrender their weapons and allow their fighters to be absorbed into the army because the command structure was not in place.

By naming Yousef al-Manqoush, a retired general from Misrata, as head of the armed forces, the NTC presents the militias with a choice - they must either start ceding control to the army or openly defy Libya's leadership.

In an interview broadcast on Libyan television, al-Manqoush said the mechanism for absorbing former militia fighters into the military would be ready soon.

"My message to the revolutionaries is ... they have to prove to the world once again that they are patriotic

Libyans, prove to world that they will integrate into the state's institutions and work on building a strong national military," he told Libya Al Hurra television station.

But the militias will require convincing. One member of Misrata's military council said he was still not sure the time was right for the militias to relinquish their role.

"When the state proves it's able to take responsibility to protect border and secure the country, then we will hand our arms," said the council member, Fethi Bashaga.

Naker, the head of one of Tripoli's two main, home-grown militias, said he welcomed the appointment of an army chief of staff and said he would cooperate with him.

But he too, had conditions for handing over weapons and advising his men to join the national army.

"We will do so after we guarantee the revolutionaries' rights and their salaries," he told reporters Sunday.

"We gave them the absolute freedom to join the military, the police or hand their arms and take up a civilian job, but before we hand them (fighters and weapons) over we want a mechanism, we want to know how much they will be paid," Naker said.

African Union : Ban Ki-moon urges respect for gay rights

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has urged African leaders to respect gay rights.

Discrimination based on sexual orientation had been ignored or even sanctioned by many states for



too long, Mr Ban told an African Union summit.

Homosexuality is illegal in many African countries - a situation which has drawn increasing criticism from activists and the West.

Mr Ban also said the Arab Spring proved leaders "must listen to their people".

The two-day summit, in the AU's new building in the **Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa**, is set to elect a new AU Commission chair.

South Africa has put forward long-serving minister Nkosozana Dlamini Zuma - the ex-wife of President Jacob Zuma - to challenge the incumbent, Jean Ping of Gabon, who has been in post since 2008.

If Ms Zuma wins Monday's vote, she will be the first woman to take the helm of the 54-nation bloc's executive council.

The AU has already chosen Benin President Thomas Boni Yayi to become AU chairman - replacing Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema in the one-year rotating post, the AFP news agency quotes officials as saying.

Ban Ki-moon told delegates that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity "prompted governments to treat people as second class citizens or even criminals".

"Confronting these discriminations is a challenge, but we must not give up on the ideas of the universal declaration (of human rights)," he said.

Homosexual acts are illegal in most African countries, including key Western allies such as Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt and Botswana.

Both the US and UK have recently warned they would use foreign aid to push for homosexuality to be decriminalised on the socially conservative continent.

The Arab Spring, Mr Ban noted, was a "reminder that leaders must listen to their people".

"Events proved that repression is dead. Police power is no match to people power seeking dignity and justice," he said.

He also called on the leaders of Sudan and South Sudan to reach agreement on how to divide up their oil wealth. Some analysts warn the feud risks seeing a return to all-out conflict.

Delegates are meeting in the new \$200m (£127m) AU headquarters, funded and built by China, which was officially opened.

The 100m tall building - which dominates the Addis skyline - is a "testimony" to the growing relationship between China and Africa, project co-ordinator Fantalum Michael said.

It is the first summit since the death of Libya's Colonel Gaddafi, who played a key role in the formation of the African Union.

Heads of states never admitted it, but his eccentric manner and constant grandstanding at summits would often hold up any meaningful talk for hours, the BBC's Will Ross reports from Addis Ababa.

"He was a nuisance," one senior politician told our correspondent.

As well as the growing tension between Sudan and South Sudan, the war in Somalia and the escalating violence in Nigeria are also expected to be discussed during the summit.

Hamas leader meets Jordan's king; first official visit since 1999

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Khaled Meshaal meets with King Abdullah II in Amman
- It's his first official visit since Jordan expelled Hamas in the 1990s
- Abdullah is attempting to broker new Israeli-Palestinian peace talks
- Israel, Palestinians point fingers over the latest impasse



Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal is shown during a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II in Amman.

The exiled leader of the Palestinian Islamic faction Hamas met with Jordan's King Abdullah II on Sunday in his first official trip to Jordan since his expulsion in 1999.

In a statement issued by Hamas, Khaled Meshaal expressed his appreciation to the king for supporting Palestinians.

Meshaal met with Abdullah and the crown prince of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Jordan's state news agency Petra reported.

Abdullah reaffirmed his support for a Palestinian state based on the borders drawn before the 1967 Middle East war, "with East Jerusalem as its capital," Petra reported.

Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its own capital, and its ultimate status is one of the most contentious points in the talks. But Abdullah also called negotiations "the sole means to regain Palestinian rights," a stance Israel and the United States have supported as Palestinian leaders seek recognition of an independent Palestine at the United Nations.

Jordan kicked the leadership of Hamas out of the country in 1999 after accusing it of breaking a deal to restrict its activity to politics. The movement has maintained a headquarters in Syria's capital Damascus since then, receiving financial and military support from

the governments of Hafez al-Assad and his successor, his son Bashar.

But Hamas has been distancing itself from its long-time patron as Syria battles a 10-month-old popular uprising against al-Assad.

Hamas personnel and their families have left Syria in recent weeks, and Ismail Haniya, the Hamas leader in Gaza, did not stop in Damascus during a recent regional trip.

Abdullah, meanwhile, told CNN during a recent visit to Washington that he was stepping up to try to restart the stalled Israeli-Palestinian talks. He said his message to President Barack Obama was, "It's up to us to do the heavy lifting ... We can't always have to fall back on the United States to do everything."

But Israel and the Palestinian Authority, which controls the West Bank, spent Sunday blaming each other for the latest lack of progress.

Speaking at the start of his weekly Cabinet meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Palestinians "refused to even discuss Israel's security needs with us" in the most recent contacts in Amman.

"Signs are not particularly good," Netanyahu said in comments released by his office. "But I hope that they will come to their senses and continue with the talks in order for us to advance to true negotiations."

But Palestinians have blamed Israel's ongoing construction of settlements in the West Bank, on land the Palestinians consider part of their future state, for the impasse.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Mohammad Shtayeh told CNN that the Palestinians presented Israel, Jordan and members of the Mideast Quartet powers with a written document on security and border issues, "and the Israeli side did not present anything in writing as the Quartet requested."

Writers condemn violence against Mexico journalists

A host of international authors - including seven Nobel laureates - have called for an end to attacks on journalists in Mexico.

The writers took out a full page advert in Mexican newspaper El Universal to defend the right of all journalists to be free from fear and censorship.

The statement by the PEN International writers group was signed by 170 of the world's most acclaimed authors.

PEN says 67 journalists have been murdered in Mexico since 2000.

Among those signing the declaration "to the journalists and writers of Mexico" were Nobel laureates JM Coetzee, Nadine Gordimer, Toni Morrison, Orhan Pamuk, Wole Soyinka, Mario Vargas Llosa and Derek Walcott.

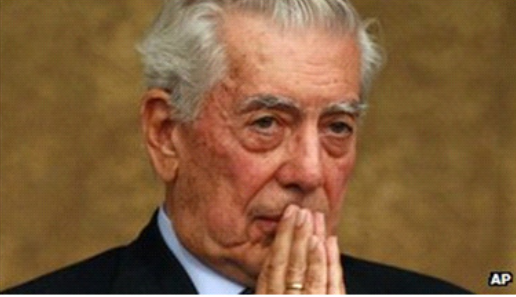
Other famous signatories included Chinua Achebe, Margaret Atwood, Ariel Dorfman and Salman Rushdie.

"We, writers from around the world, stand with you and all Mexican citizens who are calling for the killing, the impunity, the intimidation to stop," the newspaper advert said.

"These violations diminish us all and threaten the right of Mexican citizens to live lives both safe and free from censorship," it went on.

"We call on your government to apprehend and prosecute all who have silenced your colleagues and seek to silence you".

Mexico is considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists.



NATIONAL SYMBOLS

This section introduces you to the National Identity Elements of India. These symbols are intrinsic to the Indian identity and heritage. Indians of all demographics backgrounds across the world are proud of these National Symbols as they infuse a sense of pride and patriotism in every Indian's heart.

National Flag
The National Flag is a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (kesaria) at



the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of width of the flag to its length is two to three. In the centre of the white band is a navy-blue wheel which represents the chakra. Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes. The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 22 July 1947.

Apart from non-statutory instructions issued by the Government from time to time, display of the National Flag is governed by the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 (No. 12 of 1950) and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 (No. 69 of 1971). The Flag Code of India, 2002 is an attempt to bring together all such laws, conventions, practices and instructions for the guidance and benefit of all concerned. The Flag Code of India, 2002, took effect from 26 January 2002 and superseded the 'Flag Code-Indias' as it existed. As per the provisions of the Flag Code of India, 2002, there are no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organisations, educational institutions, etc., except to the extent provided in the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 and any other law enacted on the subject.

National Bird
The Indian peacock, Pavo cristatus, the national bird of India, is a



colourful, swan-sized bird, with a fan-shaped crest of feathers, a white patch under the eye and a long, slender neck. The male of the species is more colourful than the female, with a glistening blue breast and neck and a spectacular bronze-green tail of around 200 elongated feathers. The female is brownish, slightly smaller than the male and lacks the tail. The elaborate courtship dance of the male, fanning out the tail and preening its feathers is a gorgeous sight.

National Flower
Lotus (Nelumbo Nucipera Gaertn) is the National Flower of India. It is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and my-



thology of ancient India and has been an auspicious symbol of Indian culture since time immemorial.

India is rich in flora. Currently available data place India in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. From about 70 per cent geographical area surveyed so far, 47,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

National Tree
Indian fig tree, Ficus bengalensis, whose branches root themselves like new trees over a large area. The roots then give rise to more trunks and branches. Because of this characteristic and its longevity, this tree is considered immortal and is an integral part of the myths and



legends of India. Even today, the banyan tree is the focal point of village life and the village council meets under the shade of this tree.

National Anthem
The National Anthem of India is played or sung on various occasions. Instructions have been issued from time to time about the correct versions of the Anthem, the occasions on which these are to be played or sung, and about the need for paying respect to the anthem by observance of proper decorum on such occasions. The substance of these instructions has been embodied in this information sheet for general information and guidance. The composition consisting of the words and music of the first stanza of the late poet Rabindra Nath Tagore's song known as "Jana Gana Mana" is the National Anthem of India. It reads as follows:

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka, jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
Punjab-Sindh-Gujarat-Maratha
Dravida-Utkala-Banga
Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga
Uchchala-Jaladhi-taranga.
Tava shubha name jage,
Tava shubha asisa mange,
Gahe tava jaya gatha,
Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,
Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he!
The above is the full version of the Anthem and its playing time is approximately **52 seconds**. A short version consisting of the first and last lines of the National Anthem is also played on certain occasions. It reads as follows:

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka, jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,
Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he!
Playing time of the short version is about **20 seconds**. The following is Tagore's English rendering of the anthem:
Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people,
Dispenser of India's destiny.
Thy name rouses the hearts of Punjab, Sind,
Gujarat and Maratha,
Of the Dravida and Orissa and Bengal;
It echoes in the hills of the Vindhyas and Himalayas,
mingles in the music of Jamuna and Ganges and is
chanted by the waves of the Indian Sea.
They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise.
The saving of all people waits in thy hand,
Thou dispenser of India's destiny.
Victory, victory, victory to thee.
The occasions on which the full

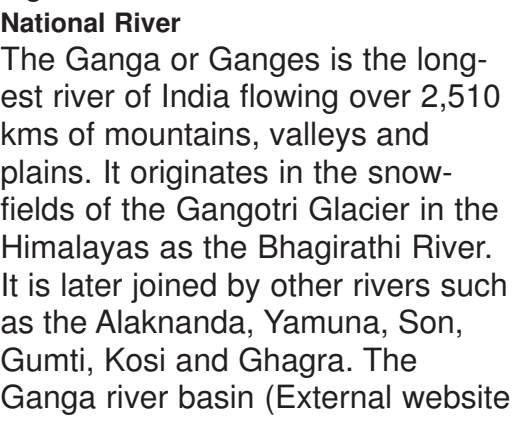
versions or the short version will be played have been indicated at the appropriate places in these instructions.

Playing of the Anthem
1. The full version of the Anthem shall be played on the following occasions:

1. Civil and Military investitures;
2. When National Salute (which means the Command "Rashtriya Salute - Salami Shastr" to the accompaniment of the National Anthem is given on ceremonial occasions to the President or to the Governor/Lieutenant Governor within their respective States/Union Territories;
3. During parades - irrespective of whether any of the dignitaries referred to in (ii) above is present or not;
4. On arrival of the President at formal State functions and other functions organized by the Government and mass functions and on his departure from such functions;
5. Immediately before and after the President addresses the Nation over All India Radio;
6. On arrival of the Governor/Lieutenant Governor at formal State functions within his State/Union Territory and on his departure from such functions;
7. When the National Flag is brought on parade;
8. When the Regimental Colours are presented;
9. For hoisting of colours in the Navy.

2. The short version of the Anthem shall be played when drinking toasts in Messes.
3. The Anthem shall be played on any other occasion for which special orders have been issued by the Government of India.
4. Normally the Anthem shall not be played for the Prime Minister, though there may be special occasions when it may be played.
5. When the National Anthem is played by a band, the Anthem will be preceded by a roll of drums to assist the audience to know that the National Anthem is going to be played, unless there is some other specific indication that the National Anthem is about to be played, as for example, when fanfares are sounded before the National Anthem is played, or when toasts are drunk to the accompaniment of the National Anthem or when the National Anthem constitutes the National Salute given by a Guard of Honour. The duration of the roll, in terms of marching drill, will be 7 paces in slow march. The roll will start slowly, ascend to as loud a volume as possible and then gradually decreases to original softness, but remaining audible until the seventh beat. One beat rest will then be observed before commencing the National Anthem.

National River
The Ganga or Ganges is the longest river of India flowing over 2,510 kms of mountains, valleys and plains. It originates in the snow-fields of the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas as the Bhagirathi River. It is later joined by other rivers such as the Alaknanda, Yamuna, Son, Gumti, Kosi and Ghagra. The Ganga river basin (External website



that opens in a new window) is one of the most fertile and densely populated areas of the world and covers an area of 1,000,000 sq. kms. There are two dams on the river - one at Haridwar and the other at Farakka. The Ganges River Dolphin is an endangered animal that specifically habitats this river. The Ganga is revered by Hindus as the most sacred river on earth. Key religious ceremonies are held on

the banks of the river at cities such as Varanasi, Haridwar and Allahabad. The Ganga widens out into the Ganges Delta in the Sunderbans swamp of Bangladesh, before it ends its journey by emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

National Aquatic Animal
River Dolphin is the National Aquatic Animal of India. This mammal is also said to represent the purity of the holy Ganga as it can only survive in pure and fresh water. Platanista gangetica has a long pointed snout and also have visible teeth in both the upper and lower



jaws. Their eyes lack a lens and therefore function solely as a means of detecting the direction of light. Dolphins tend to swim with one fin trailing along the substrate while rooting around with their beak to catch shrimp and fish. Dolphins have a fairly thick body with light grey-brown skin often with a hue of pink. The fins are large and the dorsal fin is triangular and undeveloped. This mammal has a forehead that rises steeply and has very small eyes. River Dolphins are solitary creatures and females tend to be larger than males. They are locally known as susu, because of the noise it makes while breathing. This species inhabits parts of the Ganges, Meghna and Brahmaputra rivers in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, and the Karnaphuli River in Bangladesh. River dolphin is a critically endangered species in India and therefore, has been included in the Schedule I for the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The main reasons for decline in population of the species are poaching and habitat degradation due to declining flow, heavy siltation, construction of barrages causing physical barrier for this migratory species.

State Emblem
The state emblem is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. In the original, there are four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of



an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening wheels over a bell-shaped lotus. Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the Capital is crowned by the Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra).

In the state emblem, adopted by the Government of India on 26 January 1950, only three lions are visible, the fourth being hidden from view. The wheel appears in relief in the centre of the abacus with a bull on right and a horse on left and the outlines of other wheels on extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted. The words Satyameva Jayate from Mundaka Upanishad, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs', are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script.

National Calendar
The national calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from 22 March

1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for the following official purposes:

1. Gazette of India.
 2. News broadcast by All India Radio.
 3. Calendars issued by the Government of India.
 4. Government communications addressed to the members of the public.
- Dates of the national calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar, 1 Chaitra falling on 22 March normally and on 21 March in leap year.

National Animal
The magnificent tiger, Panthera tigris is a striped animal. It has a thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes. The combination of grace, strength, agility and enormous power has earned the tiger its pride of place as the national animal of India. Out of eight races of the species known, the Indian race, the Royal Bengal Tiger, is found throughout the country except in the



north-western region and also in the neighbouring countries, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. To check the dwindling population of tigers in India, 'Project Tiger' was launched in April 1973. So far, 27 tiger reserves have been established in the country under this project, covering an area of 37,761 sq km.

National Song
The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom. It has an equal status with Jana-gana-mana. The first political occasion when it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. The following is the text of its first stanza:
Vande Mataram!
Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja
shitalam,
Shasyashyamalam, Mataram!
Vande Mataram!
Shubhrajyotsna pulakitayaminim,
Phullakusumita drumadala
shobhinim,
Suhasinim sumadhura bhashinim,
Sukhadam varadam, Mataram!
Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram!
The English translation of the stanza rendered by Sri Aurobindo in prose 1 is:

I bow to thee, Mother,
richly-watered, richly-fruited,
cool with the winds of the south,
dark with the crops of the harvests,
The Mother!
Her nights rejoicing in the glory of the moonlight,
her lands clothed beautifully with her trees in flowering bloom,
sweet of laughter, sweet of speech,
The Mother, giver of boons, giver of bliss.

National Fruit
A fleshy fruit, eaten ripe or used green for pickles etc., of the tree Mangifera indica, the mango is one of the most important and widely



cultivated fruits of the tropical world. Its juicy fruit is a rich source of Vitamins A, C and D. In India there

are over 100 varieties of mangoes, in different sizes, shapes and colours. Mangoes have been cultivated in India from time immemorial. The poet Kalidasa sang its praises. Alexander savoured its taste, as did the Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang. Mughal emperor Akbar planted 100,000 mango trees in Darbhanga, Bihar at a place now known as Lakhi Bagh.

National Game
India has conquered the podium when it comes to the game of Hockey. Our nation has an excellent record with eight Olympic gold medals. Indian hockey's golden period was from 1928-56, when the



Indian hockey team won six successive Olympic gold medals. Team also won the 1975 World Cup besides two more medals (silver and a bronze). The Indian Hockey Federation (External website that opens in a new window) gained global affiliation in 1927 and joined the International Hockey Federation (FIH) (External website that opens in a new window).

Thus began the history of Indian Hockey Federation as India entered the Olympics to begin its golden saga. The tour was a huge success with India winning 18 out of the 21 matches and the legendary Dhyan Chand was the cynosure of all the eyes scoring over 100 goals of the 192 Indian accounted for. The match began in Amsterdam in 1928 and India went on a winning spree in Los Angeles in 1932 and Berlin in 1936 and thus bagged a hat-trick of gold medals at the Olympics. Post Indian Independence; the Indian team achieved another hat-trick of gold medals at the 1948 London Olympics, 1952 Helsinki Games and the Melbourne Olympics.

During the Golden Era, India played 24 Olympic matches, won all 24, scored 178 goals (at an average of 7.43 goals per match) and conceded only 7 goals. The two other gold medals for India came in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Currency Symbol
The symbol of Indian Rupee typifies India's international identity for money transactions and economic strength. The Indian Rupee sign is an allegory of Indian ethos. The symbol is an amalgam of



Devanagari "Ra" and the Roman Capital "R" with two parallel horizontal stripes running at the top representing the national flag and also the "equal to" sign. The Indian Rupee sign was adopted by the Government of India on 15th July, 2010.

The symbol, conceptualised and designed by Udaya Kumar, a post graduate in Design from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, has been chosen from thousands of concept entries received by the Ministry of Finance through an open competition among resident Indian nationals. The process of establishing and implementing this new identity is underway through various digital technology and computer applications.

OPINION - EDITORIAL

SENEGAL WAKES TO NEW ERA
AFTER WADE BOWS OUT

Chitra Singh Rajput

Residents of Senegal woke up to a new future on Monday after challenger Macky Sall defeated long-serving leader Abdoulaye Wade in elections, widely praised for cementing the country's reputation as West Africa's most stable democracy. Excited residents gathered at tea shops as boys hawked newspapers splashed with headlines like 'Wade Knocked Out', after a night marked by fireworks, honking horns and singing in parts of the capital Dakar. "This is a victory for all Senegalese people, not just the politicians," said Bassirou Sylla, 32, a trader in Dakar's upscale neighborhood of Point E. The election was the latest test for democracy in a region plagued by bloodshed and flawed votes, including Ivory Coast's which triggered a civil war last year. A military coup in Senegal's neighbor Mali last week demonstrated how quickly a democracy can unravel. Wade, whose 12-year rule saw big infrastructure spending but little progress in tackling poverty, He admitted defeat in the election just hours after the polls closed, as early results showed Sall with a landslide, maintaining Senegal as the only nation on mainland West Africa not to have seen a coup or civil war since independence. While hopes for a better future were running high in Dakar, where Wade faced his harshest opposition, it remained to be seen whether Sall, who is a former Wade ally and

served for years as his prime minister, would bring real change. The United Nations, the European Union and the African Union congratulated Senegal on its smooth election, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy praised Wade for accepting his loss. "By accepting the choice of your countrymen, you have once again shown your dedication to democratic principles," Sarkozy said in a letter addressed to Wade. The election was the latest test for democracy in a region plagued by bloodshed and flawed votes, including Ivory Coast's which triggered a civil war last year. A military coup in Senegal's neighbor Mali last week demonstrated how quickly a democracy can unravel. Senegal is the only nation on mainland West Africa not to have seen a coup or civil war since independence. Wade, 85, began his career as president with a sterling democratic reputation but drew criticism for seeking to extend his rule with a third term, setting off street protests in which six people were killed. Sall campaigned for Sunday's election on lowering the cost of living, including by cutting taxes on rice. He had criticized Wade for pursuing vanity projects - including an African Renaissance Monument standing slightly taller than New York's Statue of Liberty - instead of helping poor Senegalese. Serigne Bakhoun, a taxi driver who said he voted for Sall, said the country where average daily income



is \$3 was now pinning its hopes on Sall for change. "We are demanding that President Macky Sall follow through on his campaign promise to bring down the price of fuel, which is too high in Senegal," he said. "I'm waiting impatiently to see what he will do." PROTESTS Opposition activists had said Wade's quest for a third term was unconstitutional and some voters viewed him as yet another example of a long-serving African leader seeking to hang on to power. The Constitutional Council, however, upheld his argument that his first term did not count because it began before a two-term limit was adopted. The ruling set off weeks of protests in which at least six people died. Early results from Dakar, where Wade has faced his harshest opposition, showed Sall ahead, including in Wade's own precinct in the Point

E neighborhood with 417 votes to Wade's 120. Full results are expected later on Monday or Tuesday. Wade fell short of the outright majority needed to avoid a run-off in the February 26 first round, with 34.8 percent to Sall's 26.6 percent. Defeated candidates then united behind Sall. The European Union said the election conditions were mostly positive, but noted that the voter list contained errors, including the names of about 130,000 dead people. Senegal \$500 million Eurobond, which analysts said depreciated before the first round vote due to the deteriorating political and security climate, rallied early on Monday. "The bond rallied intraday to a price of 109, from 105.25 on Friday, and the yield fell to 7.4 percent, from 7.9 percent, respectively. This suggests the market reacted positively to the smooth run-off election and power shift in Senegal," said Samir Gadio at Standard Bank.

Ex-cricketer Chris Cairns wins
£90,000 libel damages

The former New Zealand cricket captain Chris Cairns has been awarded £90,000 in damages after allegations on Twitter that he was involved in match-fixing. Mr Cairns, 41, sued Lalit Modi, the former chairman of the IPL, the Twenty20 franchise in India. Mr Modi has so far refused to apologise for the allegation he made in a tweet. Mr Cairns's lawyer said the comments had tainted the career of his client, who played for Nottinghamshire before a spell in India. It is the first Twitter libel case in England. Last year a councillor in Caerphilly, Wales, was ordered to pay £3,000 and costs to a political rival for posting a libellous comment on Twitter. Mr Modi was also ordered to pay Mr Cairns' £400,000 legal costs. Mr Cairns, who took 200 wickets and scored 3,000 runs in 62 Test matches, said Mr Modi's tweet in January 2010 was an "unequivocal allegation". He was not at the High Court in London for the ruling by Mr Justice Bean. This case demonstrates that posts on Twitter are taken as seriously, in the eyes of the law, as comments printed in mainstream press" But later he made a statement, saying: "I feel great relief that I am (now) able to walk into any cricket ground in the world with my head held high." The judge, who sat without a jury, said Mr Modi had "singularly failed" to provide any reliable evidence Mr Cairns was involved in match-fixing



‘Serious allegation’

He said: "It is obvious that an allegation that a professional cricketer is a match-fixer goes to the core attributes of his personality and, if true, entirely destroys his reputation for integrity. "The allegation is not as serious as one of involvement in terrorism or sexual offences (to take two examples from recent cases). But it is otherwise as serious an allegation as anyone could make against a professional sportsman." The court was told Mr Modi's tweet was picked up by cricket website Cricinfo, who withdrew its report, paid damages and apologised after Mr Cairns complained. But Mr Modi declined to apologise and pleaded justification, maintaining the allegation was true. Mr Cairns said the allegation was "wholly untrue" and could destroy the reputation he built up during a 20-year career. Mr Cairns captained the Chandigarh Lions in 2007/8 in the Indian Cricket League (ICL), a rival to Mr Modi's IPL. Lawyer and defamation expert Niri Shan, a partner at Taylor Wessing, said: "'This case demonstrates that posts on Twitter are taken as seriously, in the eyes of the law, as

comments printed in mainstream press. "Whilst people may feel less cautious about tweeting- the level of risk they are taking, and protection of those being referred to, remains the same. "The fact that this will have cost Lalit Modi over £1m, if both sides' costs are accounted for, reinforces the point of how careful people should be." 'Lifts a dark cloud' After the ruling, Mr Cairns said: "Today's verdict lifts a dark cloud that has been over me for the past two years. I feel mixed emotions. CHRIS CAIRNS' CAREER · Born 13 June 1970 · Right-handed fast-medium bowler and batsman · Made Test debut against Australia in 1989 · Made one-day match debut against England in 1991 · Son of cricketer Lance Cairns · He played for Nottinghamshire between 1989 to 1996 and returned to Trent Bridge for a brief spell in 2003 "Firstly, sadness that I should ever have had to put myself, my friends and my family through this because of one man's misdirected allegations. "But I also feel great joy because my past career has come through unscathed and remains intact and because I had the courage to stand up in the highest court to defend my name. "Lastly, I feel great relief that I am able to walk into any cricket ground in the world with my head held high."



The judge granted Mr Modi permission to appeal over the amount of damages but refused permission on the question of liability. However, it is understood Mr Modi's lawyers wish to pursue that application directly with the Court of Appeal. Judge Bean rejected a claim by Mr Modi's lawyer, Ronald Thwaites QC, that the action amounted to "libel tourism". He pointed out Cairns' children went to school in England, that he had played county cricket for seven seasons, and that Mr Modi had lived in the UK since the summer of 2010. Cricketers Gaurav Gupta, Rajesh Sharma and Tejinder Pal Singh gave evidence on behalf of Mr Modi but the judge said it was not to be believed and he said hearsay evidence from two other players, Amit Uniyal and Love Ablish, was "inconsistent and unreliable". "Even if I were applying a simple balance of probabilities test, the plea of justification would fail in both respects," he said. The judge said he had increased the damages from the starting point of £75,000 to £90,000 to reflect the "sustained and aggressive" actions of Mr Thwaites, who had used the words "lie", "liar" and "lies" 24 times in his closing speech.

EDITORIAL
DEVELOP INDIA

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President
Patil's foreign
trips cost
record Rs
205 cr

President Pratibha Patil's wanderlust has cost the public exchequer a whopping Rs 205 crore on her foreign visits, surpassing the record of all her predecessors. Since assuming office as the country's first woman President in July 2007, Patil has undertaken 12 foreign trips covering 22 countries across four continents. She has four more months to go for her five-year tenure and a trip to South Africa is said to be on the anvil. A series of RTI applications has revealed that Air India incurred over Rs 169 crore on use of chartered aircraft, always a Boeing 747-400, on the foreign visits by Patil, mostly accompanied by her family members. A visit to Bhutan was covered by a smaller jet. A further sum of nearly Rs 36 crore has been incurred by the ministry of external affairs on accommodation, local travel, daily allowance and "miscellaneous" expenses, according to the information provided by the ministry. The RTI applications were filed over a period of three years during which the authorities concerned showed great reluctance to reveal information. The ministry of defence, which pays Air India for use of chartered



aircraft by the President, fended off RTI queries and provided little information. Air India has billed the defence ministry for over Rs 169 crore on account of aircraft used by Patil. Of this, the ministry has paid nearly Rs 153 crore, leaving unpaid bills of over Rs 16 crore. Patil has so far visited Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Bhutan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Spain, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, the UK, Cyprus, China, Laos, Cambodia, the UAE, Syria, Mauritius, South Korea, Switzerland and Austria spending a total of 79 days abroad. Her immediate predecessor Dr A P J Abdul Kalam undertook seven trips to 17 countries during his five-year tenure. Before that, K R Narayanan covered 10 countries in six trips and S D Sharma 16 countries in four trips. Details of other Presidents are not available but its unlikely that Patil's record of foreign travel is matched by any of her predecessors. Former President Kalam remained on foreign trips for 47 days during his tenure covering the UAE (twice), Sudan, Bulgaria, Tanzania, South Africa, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Iceland, Ukraine, Singapore, Philippines, South Korea, Myanmar, Mauritius, France and Greece. His predecessor Narayanan visited Peru, Brazil, Nepal, Germany, Portugal, Luxembourg, Turkey, Germany, France and China in his six trips abroad in 46 days of his tenure. Sharma, who was President between 1992-97, also covered 16 countries in four trips which included Ukraine, Turkey, Hungary, the UK, Bulgaria, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Oman, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Italy. He remained on these trips for 47 days of his five-year tenure.

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Our Solar System
Our solar system comprises the sun and eight known planets which orbit around it. The solar system also consists of:

- The Natural satellites accompanying the Planets
- Several thousand minor planets called asteroids
- A Large number of comets

The Planets
The Bodies revolving around the sun (at the same time rotating on their own axis) are called planets. There are eight known planets:

Mercury: It is the planet closed to the sun. It rotates on its own axis in 58.65 days and takes 88 days to complete one revolution around the sun. Thus, it is also the fastest planet in our solar system.

Venus: It is the brightest object in the sky after the sun and the moon. It is also the hottest planet in our solar system. It rotates backwards (unlike other planets) on its axis.

Earth: The earth is in the third position from the sun and is the fifth largest planet in the solar system.

Mars: It is the fourth planet from the sun and is next after the earth. It is also known as the red planet. Because of its similarities with earth, astronomers have been speculating on the existence of some kind of life on this planet.

Jupiter: It is the largest planet in our solar system. Its diameter is 11 times the diameter of the earth. It has 63 satellites.

Saturn: It is the outermost planet visible to the naked eye and second largest in size after Jupiter. The most spectacular feature of Saturn is its system of rings.

Uranus: It is the seventh planet from the sun and is not visible to the naked eye. It was discovered in 1781 by William Herschel.

Neptune: It is the eighth in position from the sun. It was discovered by J. G. Galle in 1846.

Which is farthest, Neptune or Pluto?

Pluto revolves farther from the sun than any of the planets for most or its orbit. However, because of its orbital eccentricity, Pluto moves closer to sun for approximately 20 years, leaving Neptune at a farther distance. From January 23, 1979 Pluto moved closer to the sun and remained in that position till March 15, 1999. After 1999 it is now Pluto's turn to go further and Neptune will remain closer to the sun for approximately 228 years.

Satellites
Satellites are bodies which revolve around the planets. There are approximately 153 satellites in our solar system:

<i>Planet</i>	<i>No. of Satellites</i>
Mercury	0
Venus	0
Earth	1
Mars	2
Jupiter	63
Saturn	47
Uranus	27
Neptune	13

Important Data on the Moon

- Distance from earth (centre to centre) -3.84,400 km
- Distance from the earth (surface to surface)-3,76,284 km
- Diameter (Period of option units axis 28 days)-3475 km
- Orbital Speed- 3680 km/s
- Period of rotation on its axis-28 days

The Moon
The Moon is earth's natural satellite and is its nearest neighbor in space. It revolves around the earth while rotating on its own axis. The moon is about 1/6th the size of the earth. The moon takes 27 days, 7 hrs, 43 min and 11.47 s to complete one revolution of the earth. It rotates on its axis in exactly the same time. Hence, we see only one side of the moon.

The moon is the first member of our solar system to have been visited by man. Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin created history on July 21, 1969 when they first set foot on the moon.

Asteroids
It is believed that asteroids are debris left over from the formation of the inner planets. They are too small to retain any atmosphere of their own. Asteroids are also called 'planetoids' or small planets. They circle around the sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. There are about 50,000 known asteroids in our solar system. The largest is Ceres with a diameter of 1025 km.

Meteors
Meteors are small bodies often seen in the sky, shooting with great speed from one point to another and producing a trail of light. Meteors may burn up or fall on earth (known as shooting stars) in the form of dust or fragments (called meteorites).

Comets
Comets are celestial bodies that move around the sun. A Prominent feature of a comet is its long tail, and hence, its name, which comes from the Greek, word Kometes, Meaning 'hair-like'. Some important comets are; Halley's D Arrest, Encke, Borrelly, Pons-winnecke, Finlay, Faye, Smith-tuttle etc.

Important Comets
Helley's Comet is perhaps the most famous comet, named after the British astronomer, Edmund Halley, who discovered it in 1705. He stated that the comets seen in 1531, 1607 and 1683 were in fact the same body, which circles the sun every 76 years. Halley's Comet last appeared in 1986 and it may reappear again after 76 years. Comet 'Smith-Tuttle' is a huge comet heading on a collision course with earth on August 17, 2116. It was first sighted in 1862 and rediscovered in 1992. It could kill off most of life with an explosion more powerful than the explosion of a million nuclear bombs put together.

Basic Knowledge about the Earth

The earth is in the third position from the sun and is the fifth largest planet in the solar system.

Shape of the Earth
The earth is an oblate spheroid (ball flattened at the poles), i.e., almost spherical, flattened a little at the poles, and with a slight bulge at the centre (equator). The spinning (rotation) of the earth at a high speed has caused its mass to bulge at the equator and sinking at the poles.

Structure of the Earth
The earth is made up of a number of concentric layers of material as in the bulb of an onion.

Composition of the Earth
The earth is made up of more than 100 different elements. The important ones are:

Oxygen	46.6%
Silicon	27.72%
Aluminum	8.13%
Iron	5.01%
Calcium	3.63%
Sodium	2.85%
Potassium	2.62%
Magnesium	2.09%

The earth has four distinct spheres:

1. Lithosphere: Top crust which includes land surface and ocean floor.
2. Hydrosphere: Water surface which includes oceans, seas, rivers and lakes
3. Atmosphere: The cover of air that envelops the earth's surface
4. Biosphere: The region where life exists

Important Data about the Earth

Diameter	
At the equator	12,734 km
At the poles	12,713.54 km
Mean diameter	12,756.32 km
Equatorial Radius	6377 km
Total Surface Area	509,700,000 sq. km
Total Land Area (29.08%)	148,400,000 sq. km
Total Water area (70.92%)	361,300,000 sq. km
Mean Distance from the Sun	1,49,407,000 sq. km
Time for rotation on its own Axis	23 h, 56 min and 4.09 sec
Period for Revolution around the Sun	365 days, 6 hrs, 9 min and 9.54 sec

Earth's Movements
The earth has two types of movements:

Rotation: The earth spins on its own imaginary axis from west to east once in 24 hours. It is also called diurnal or daily motion, which causes the formation of day and night.

Tips for Interview and Job Search

Being prepared is like winning half the battle. If you are one of those executive types unhappy at your present post and embarking on a New Year's resolution to find a new one, here's a helping hand. The job interview is considered to be the most critical aspect of every expedition that brings you face-to-face with the future boss. One must prepare for it with the same tenacity and quickness as one does for a fencing tournament or a chess match.

1. Tell me about yourself.
Since this is often the opening question in an interview, be extra careful that you don't run off at the mouth. Keep your answer to a minute or two at most. Cover four topics: early years, education, work history, and recent career experience. Emphasize this last subject. Remember that this is likely to be a warm-up question. Don't waste your best points on it.

2. What do you know about our organization?
You should be able to discuss products or services, revenues, reputation, image, goals, problems, management style, people, history and philosophy. But don't act as if you know everything about the place. Let your answer show that you have taken the time to do some research, but don't overwhelm the interviewer, and make it clear that you wish to learn more.
You might start your answer in this manner: "In my job search, I've investigated a number of companies. Yours is one of the few that interests me, for these reasons..."
Give your answer a positive tone. Don't say, "Well, everyone tells me that you're in all sorts of trouble, and that's why I'm here", even if that is why you're there.

3. Why do you want to work for us?
The deadliest answer you can give is "Because I like people." What else would you like-animals?
Here, and throughout the interview, a good answer comes from having done your homework so that you can speak in terms of the company's needs. You might say that your research has shown that the company is doing things you would like to be involved with, and that it's doing them in ways that greatly interest you. For example, if the organization is known for strong management, your answer should mention that fact and show that you would like to be a part of that team. If the company places a great deal of emphasis on research and development; emphasize the fact that you want to create new things and that you know this is a place in which such activity is encouraged. If the organization stresses financial controls, your answer should mention a reverence for numbers. If you feel that you have to concoct an answer to this question - if, for example, the company stresses research, and you feel that you should mention it even though it really doesn't interest you then you probably should not be taking that interview, because you probably shouldn't be considering a job with that organization.
Your homework should include learning enough about the company to avoid approaching places where you wouldn't be able or wouldn't want to function. Since most of us are poor liars, it's difficult to con anyone in an interview. But even if you should succeed at it, your prize is a job you don't really want.

4. What can you do for us that someone else cannot?
Here you have every right, and perhaps an obligation, to toot your own horn and be a bit egotistical. Talk about your record of getting things done, and mention specifics from your resume or list of career accomplishments. Say that your skills and interests, combined with this history of getting results, make you valuable. Mention your ability to set priorities, identify problems, and use your experience and energy to solve them.

5. What do you find most attractive about this position? What seems least attractive about it?
List three or four attractive factors of the job, and mention a single, minor, unattractive item.

6. Why should we hire you?
Create your answer by thinking in terms of your ability, your experience, and your energy. (See Question 4)

7. What do you look for in a job?
Keep your answer oriented to opportunities at this organization. Talk about your desire to perform and be recognized for your contributions. Make your answer oriented toward opportunity rather than personal security.

8. Please give me your definition of the position for which you are being interviewed.
Keep your answer brief and task oriented. Think in terms of responsibilities and accountability. Make sure that you really do understand what the position involves before you attempt an answer. If you are not certain, ask the interviewer; he or she may answer the question for you.

9. How long would it take you to make a meaningful contribution to our firm?
Be realistic. Say that, while you would expect to meet pressing demands and pull your own weight from the first day, it might take six months to a year before you could expect to know the organization and its needs well enough to make a major contribution.

10. How long would you stay with us?
Say that you are interested in a career with the organization, but admit that you would have to continue to feel challenged to remain with any organization. Think in terms of, "As long as we both feel achievement-oriented."

11. Your resume suggests that you may be over-qualified or too experienced for this position. What's your opinion?
Emphasize your interest in establishing a long-term association with the organization, and say that you assume that if you perform well in his job, new opportunities will open up for you. Mention that a strong company needs a strong staff. Observe that experienced executives are always at a premium. Suggest that since you are so well qualified, the employer will get a fast return on his investment. Say that a growing, energetic company can never have too much talent.

12. What is your management style?
You should know enough about the company's style to know that your management style will complement it. Possible styles include: task oriented ("I'll enjoy problem-solving identifying what's wrong, choosing a solution and implementing it"), results-oriented ("Every management decision I make is determined by how it will affect the bottom line"), or even paternalistic ("I'm committed to taking care of my subordinates and pointing them in the right direction").
A participative style is currently quite popular: an open-door method of managing in which you get things done by motivating people and delegating responsibility.
As you consider this question, think about whether your style will let you work happily and effectively within the organization.

13. Are you a good manager? Can you give me some examples? Do you feel that you have top managerial potential?
Keep your answer achievement and ask-oriented. Rely on examples from your career to buttress your argument. Stress your experience and your energy.

14. What do you look for when you hire people?
Think in terms of skills. Initiative and the adaptability to be able to work comfortably and effectively with others. Mention that you like to hire people who appear capable of moving up in the organization.

15. Have you ever had to fire people? What were the reasons, and how did you handle the situation?
Admit that the situation was not easy, but say that it worked out well, both for the company and, you think, for the individual. Show that, like anyone else, you don't enjoy unpleasant tasks but that you can resolve them efficiently and in the case of firing someone humanely.

16. What do you think is the most difficult thing about being a manager or executive?
Mention planning, execution, and cost-control. The most difficult task is to motivate and manage employees to get something planned and completed on time and within the budget.

17. What important trends do you see in our industry?
Be prepared with two or three trends that illustrate how well you understand your industry. You might consider technological challenges or opportunities, economic conditions, or even regulatory demands as you collect your thoughts about the direction in which your business is heading.

18. Why are you leaving (did you leave) your present (last) job?
Be brief, to the point, and as honest as you can without hurting yourself. Refer back to the planning phase of your job search where you considered this topic as you set your reference statements. If you were laid off in an across-the-board cutback, say so; otherwise, indicate that the move was your decision, the result of your action. Do not mention personality conflicts.
The interviewer may spend some time probing you on this issue, particularly if it is clear that you were terminated. The "We agreed to disagree" approach may be useful. Remember that your references are likely to be checked, so don't concoct a story for an interview.

19. How do you feel about leaving all your benefits to find a new job?
Mention that you are concerned, naturally, but not panicked. You are willing to accept some risk to find the right job for yourself. Don't suggest that security might interest you more than getting the job done successfully.

20. In your current (last) position, what features do (did) you like the most? The least?
Be careful and be positive. Describe more features that you liked than disliked. Don't cite personality problems. If you make your last job sound terrible, an interviewer may wonder why you remained there until now.

21. What do you think of your boss?
Be as positive as you can. A potential boss is likely to wonder if you might talk about him in similar terms at some point in the future.

22. Why aren't you earning more at your age?
Say that this is one reason that you are conducting this job search. Don't be defensive.

MIND BLOWING FACTS FOR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- Turtles have no teeth.
- Prehistoric turtles may have weighed as much as 5,000 pounds.
- Only one out of a thousand baby sea turtles survives after hatching.
- Sea turtles absorb a lot of salt from the sea water in which they live. They excrete excess salt from their eyes, so it often looks as though they're crying.
- Helium is a colorless, odorless, tasteless inert gas at room temperature and makes up about 0.0005% of the air we breathe.
- Helium Balloon Gas makes balloons float. Helium is lighter than air and just as the heaviest things will tend to fall to the bottom, the lightest things will rise to the top.
- Helium Balloon Gas makes balloons float. Helium is lighter than air and just as the heaviest things will tend to fall to the bottom, the lightest things will rise to the top.
- Camels can spit.
- An ostrich can run 43 miles per hour (70 kilometers per hour).
- Pigs are the fourth most intelligent animal in the world.
- Dinosaurs didn't eat grass? There was no grass in the days of the dinosaurs.
- Dolphins can swim 37 miles per hour (60 kilometers per hour).
- A crocodile's tongue is attached to the roof of its mouth? It cannot move. It cannot chew but its Digestive juices are so strong that it can digest a steel nail, Glass pieces, etc.
- Sharks are immune to disease i.e. they do not suffer from any Disease.
- Animals are either right- or left-handed? Polar bears are always left-handed, and so is Kermit the Frog.
- Paris, France has more dogs than people.
- New Zealand is home to 70 million sheep and only 40 million people.
- Male polar bears weigh 1400 pounds and females only weight 550 pounds, on average.
- Bison are excellent swimmers? Their head, hump and tail never go below the surface of the water.
- There are 6 to 14 frog? species in the world that have no tongues. One of these is the African dwarf frog.
- A frog named Santjie, who was in a frog derby in South Africa jumped 33 feet 5.5 inches.
- The longest life span of a frog was 40 years
- The eyes of a frog flatten down when it swallows its prey
- The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus
- The Persian invaders converted it into Hindu. The name 'Hindustan' combines Sindhu and Hindu and thus refers to the land of the Hindus.
- Chess was invented in India.
- The 'place value system' and the 'decimal system' were developed in 100 BC in India.
- The game of snakes & ladders was created by the 13th century poet saint Gyandev. It was originally called 'Mokshapat.' The ladders in the game represented virtues and the snakes indicated vices.
- India has the most post offices in the world
- 'Navigation' is derived from the Sanskrit word NAVGATI
- The word navy is also derived from the Sanskrit word 'Nou'.
- Until 1896, India was the only source for diamonds to the world
- The 'place value system' and the 'decimal system' were developed in 100 BC in India.
- A snail can sleep for 3 years.
- The names of the continents all end with the same letter with which

- they start
- Twenty-Four-Karat Gold is not pure gold since there is a small amount of copper in it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be molded with the hands.
- Electricity doesn't move through a wire but through a field around the wire.
- The first bicycle that was made in 1817 by Baron von Drais didn't have any pedals? People walked it along
- The first steam powered train was invented by Robert Stephenson. It was called the Rocket.
- A cheetah does not roar like a lion - it purrs like a cat (meow).
- The original name for the butterfly was 'flutterby'
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Ants don't sleep.
- Dolphins usually live up to about twenty years, but have been known to live for about forty.
- Dolphins sleep in a semi-alert state by resting one side of their brain at a time
- A dolphin can hold its breath for 5 to 8 minutes at a time
- Bats can detect warmth of an animal from about 16 cm away using its "nose-leaf".
- Bats can also find food up to 18 ft. away and get information about the type of insect using their sense of echolocation.
- The eyes of the chameleon can move independently & can see in two different directions at the same time.
- Cockroach: Can detect movement as small as 2,000 times the diameter of a hydrogen atom.
- Dragonfly: Eye contains 30,000 lenses.
- Pig's Tongue contains 15,000 taste buds. For comparison, the human tongue has 9,000 taste buds.
- The number system was invented by India. Aryabhatta was the scientist who invented the digit zero.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- Earth weighs 5,972,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons
- Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo anywhere
- Man is the only animal who'll eat with an enemy
- The average woman uses about her height in lipstick every five years.
- The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25, AD 336 in Rome.
- A Cockroach will live nine days without its head, before it starves to death.
- A chimpanzee can learn to recognize itself in a mirror, but monkeys can't
- A rat can last longer without water than a camel can
- About 10% of the world's population is left-handed
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open
- Snakes have no external ears. Therefore, they do not hear the music of a "snake charmer". Instead, they are probably responding to the movements of the snake charmer and the flute. However, sound waves may travel through bones in their heads to the middle ear.
- Many spiders have eight eyes.
- The tongue of snakes has no taste buds. Instead, the tongue is used to bring smells and tastes into the mouth. Smells and tastes are then detected in two pits, called "Jacobson's organs", on the roof of their mouths. Receptors in the pits

- then transmit smell and taste information to the brain.
- Birds don't sweat
- The highest kangaroo leap recorded is 10 ft and the longest is 42 ft
- Flamingo tongues were eaten common at Roman feasts
- The smallest bird in the world is the Hummingbird. It weighs 1oz
- The bird that can fly the fastest is called a White it can fly up to 95 miles per hour.
- The oldest living thing on earth is 12,000 years old. It is the flowering shrubs called creosote bushes in the Mojave Desert
- Tea is said to have been discovered in 2737 BC by a Chinese emperor when some tea leaves accidentally blew into a pot of boiling water.
- A person can live without food for about a month, but only about a week without water. If the amount of water in your body is reduced by just 1%, one will feel thirsty. If it's reduced by 10%, one will die.
- Along with its length neck, the giraffe has a very long tongue — more than a foot and a half long. A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue
- Ostriches can kick with tremendous force, but only forward. Don't Mess with them
- An elephant can smell water three miles away
- If you were to remove your skin, it would weigh as much as 5 pounds
- A hippopotamus can run faster than a man
- India never invaded any country in her last 10000 years of history
- The world's known tallest man is Robert Pershing Wadlow. The giraffe is 5.49m (18 ft.), the man is 2.55m (8ft. 11.1 in.).
- The world's tallest woman is Sandy Allen. She is 2.35m (7 ft. 7 in.).
- The only 2 animals that can see behind themselves without turning its head are the rabbit and the parrot.
- The blue whale is the largest animal on earth. The heart of a blue whale is as big as a car, and its tongue is as long as an elephant.
- The largest bird egg in the world today is that of the ostrich. Ostrich eggs are from 6 to 8 inches long. Because of their size and the thickness of their shells, they take 40 minutes to hard-boil. The average adult male ostrich, the world's largest living bird, weighs up to 345 pounds.
- Every dolphin has its own signature whistle to distinguish it from other dolphins, much like a human fingerprint
- The world's largest mammal, the blue whale, weighs 50 tons i.e. 50000 Kg at birth. Fully grown, it weighs as much as 150 tons i.e. 150000 Kg.
- 90 % of all the ice in the world in on Antarctica
- Antarctica is DRIEST continent. Antarctica is a desert
- Antarctica is COLDEST continent, averaging minus 76 degrees in the winter
- Mercury is the closest planet to the sun and it doesn't have a moon. Its atmosphere is so thin that during the day the temperature reaches 750 degrees, but at night it gets down to -300 degrees.
- Jupiter is the largest planet. If Jupiter were hollow, you could fit 1000 earths inside! It is made up of gas and is not solid. The most famous feature on Jupiter is its Red Spot, which is actually an enormous hurricane that has been raging on Jupiter for hundreds of years! Sixteen moons orbit Jupiter.

- Saturn is a very windy place! Winds can reach up to 1,100 miles per hour. Saturn is also made of gas. If you could find an ocean large enough, it would float. This planet is famous for its beautiful rings, and has at least 18 moons.
- Uranus is the third largest planet, and is also made of gas. It's tilted on its side and spins north-south rather than east-west. Uranus has 15 moons.
- Neptune takes 165 Earth years to get around the sun. It appears blue because it is made of methane gas. Neptune also has a big Spot like Jupiter. Winds on Neptune get up to 1,200 mile per hour! Neptune has 8 moons.
- Pluto is the farthest planet from the sun... usually. It has such an unusual orbit that it is occasionally closer to the sun than Neptune. Pluto is made of rock and ice.
- Just about everyone listens to the radio! 99% of homes in the United States have a least one radio. Most families have several radios.
- Sound is sent from the radio station through the air to your radio by means of electromagnetic waves. News, music, Bible teaching, baseball games, plays, advertisements- these sounds are all converted into electromagnetic waves (radio waves) before they reach your radio and your ears.
- At the radio station, the announcer speaks into a microphone. The microphone changes the sound of his voice into an electrical signal. This signal is weak and can't travel very far, so it's sent to a transmitter. The transmitter mixes the signal with some strong radio signals called carrier waves. These waves are then sent out through a special antenna at the speed of light! They reach the antenna of your radio. Your antenna "catches" the signal, and the radio's amplifier strengthens the signal and sends it to the speakers. The speakers vibrate, and your ears pick up the vibrations and your brain translates them into the voice of the radio announcer back at the station. When you consider all the places the announcer's voice travels.
- Every radio station has its own frequency. When you turn the tuning knob on your radio, you are choosing which frequency you want your antenna to "catch."
- Mountain lions are known by more than 100 names, including panther, catamount, cougar, painter and puma. Its scientific name is Felis concolor, which means "cat of one color." At one time, mountain lions were very common!
- The large cats of the world are divided into two groups- those that roar, like tigers and African lions, and those that purr. Mountain lions purr, hiss, scream, and snarl, but they cannot roar. They can jump a distance of 30 feet, and jump as high as 15 feet. It would take quite a fence to keep a mountain lion out! Their favorite food is deer, but they'll eat other critters as well. They hunt alone, not in packs like wolves. They sneak up on their prey just like a house cat sneaks up on a bird or toy- one slow step at a time. A lion can eat ten pounds of meat at one time!
- Queen ants can live to be 30 years old
- Dragonflies can flap their wings 28 times per second and they can fly up to 60 miles per hour
- As fast as dragonflies can flap their wings, bees are even faster... they can flap their wings 435 times per second
- Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.

- You can't kill yourself by holding your breath
- Your heart beats over 100,000 times a day
- Right handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people
- The elephant is the only mammal that can't jump!
- Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails!
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men
- Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible
- Coca-Cola would be green if colouring weren't added to it.
- More people are allergic to cow's milk than any other food.
- Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand
- Earth is the only planet not named after a god.
- It's against the law to burp, or sneeze in a church in Nebraska, USA.
- Some worms will eat themselves if they can't find any food!
- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open
- Queen Elizabeth I regarded herself as a paragon of cleanliness. She declared that she bathed once every three months, whether she needed it or not
- Slugs have 4 noses.
- Owls are the only birds that can see the blue colour.
- Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end
- More than 1,000 different languages are spoken on the continent of Africa.
- There was once an undersea post office in the Bahamas.
- Abraham Lincoln's mother died when she drank the milk of a cow that grazed on poisonous snakeroot
- After the death of Albert Einstein his brain was removed by a pathologist and put in a jar for future study.
- Penguins are not found in the North Pole
- A dentist invented the Electric Chair.
- A whip makes a cracking sound because its tip moves faster than the speed of sound
- Alexander Graham Bell's wife and mother were both deaf
- Cockroaches break wind every 15

- minutes.
- Fish scales are an ingredient in most lipsticks
- Canada" is an Indian word meaning "Big Village".
- 259200 people die every day.
- 11% of the world is left-handed
- 1.7 liters of saliva is produced each day
- The world's oldest piece of chewing gum is 9000 years old!
- The largest beetle in the Americas is the Hercules beetle, which can be 4 to 6 inches in length. That's bigger than your hand!
- A full-grown male mountain lion may be 9 feet long, including his tail!
- There are two kinds of radio stations: AM and FM. That's why there are two dials on your radio. AM is used mostly for stations that specialize in talking, such as Christian stations at have Bible stories and sermons; sports stations that broadcast live baseball and football games; and stations that specialize in news programs and "talk shows," where listeners call the station and discuss various topics. FM is used mostly for stations that specialize in music.
- The average lead pencil can draw a line that is almost 35 miles long or you can write almost 50,000 words in English with just one pencil
- The Wright Brothers invented one of the first airplanes. It was called the Kitty Hawk.
- The worst industrial disaster in India occurred in 1984 in Bhopal the capital of Madhya Pradesh. A deadly chemical, methyl isocyanate leaked out of the Union Carbide factory killing more than 2500 and leaving thousands sick. In fact the effects of this gas tragedy are being felt even today.
- Mars is nicknamed the "Red Planet," because it looks reddish in the night sky. Mars has 2 moons.
- Venus is nicknamed the "Jewel of the Sky." Because of the greenhouse effect, it is hotter than Mercury, even though it's not as close to the sun. Venus does not have a moon but it does have clouds of sulfuric acid! If you're going to visit Venus, pack your gas mask!
- Tens of thousands of participants come from all over the world, fight in a harmless battle where more than one hundred metric tons of over-ripe tomatoes are thrown in the streets.



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GUPTA & OTHER DYNASTIES AND INVADORS

The Gupta Dynasty
Gupta Empire Golden Age of India
On the ruins of the Kushan empire arose a new empire, which established its way over a good part of the former dominions of both Kushans and Satavahanas. The first two



kings of the dynasty were Srigupta and Ghatotkacha.

Chandragupta I (AD 319 – 335):

- First important king of Gupta Dynasty.
- Started the Gupta era in 319-320 AD.
- He enhanced his power & prestige by marrying Kumara Devi, princes of the Lichchavi clan of Nepal.
- He acquired the title of Maharajadhiraj.
- Struck coins in the joint names of himself, his queen and the Lachchavi nation, thereby acknowledging his marriage alliance.
- History of Samudragupta (AD 335 – 375):**
- The Gupta kingdom was enlarged enormously by Chandragupta's son & successor Samudragupta.
- His court poet Harisena wrote a glowing account of the military exploits of his patron. In a long inscription at the Prayag Prashasti pillar (at Allahabad), the poet enumerated the people & countries that were conquered by Samudragupta.
- Samudragupta believed in the policy of war and conquest and because of his bravery and generalship he is called the 'Napoleon' of India (by the historian V.A. Smith).
- Samudragupta is said to have composed numerous poems of high merit. Some of his coins represent him playing vina. He also performed Asvamedha sacrifice.
- He assumed the titles of Kaviraj and Vikramanka.
- Vasubandhu, a celebrated Buddhist scholar was his minister.
- Though a follower of the brahmanical religion, he was tolerant of other faiths; Received a missionary from Meghavarmā, the ruler of Sri Lanka, seeking his permission to build a Buddhist temple at Gaya, which he granted.

History of Chandragupta – II (AD 380 – 413):

- Samudragupta was succeeded by Ramgupta but Chandragupta II killed him and married his queen Dhruvadevi.
- He entered into matrimonial alliance with the Nagas (of upper and the Central Provinces) by marrying princess Kubernaga whose daughter Prabhavati was married to Rudrasena-II of the Vakatakas family.
- Took the title of Vikramaditya by defeating Rudrasimha III, a Kshatrap king of Ujjain. He also took the title of Simhavikrama.
- He was the first ruler to issue silver coins. Also issued copper coins.
- The iron pillar inscription, fixed near Qutabminar in Delhi mentions a king Chandra (considered by many as Chandragupta II only).
- His court was adorned by celebrated nine gems (navratnas) including Kalidasa, Amarsimha, Varahmihir, and Dhanyantri.
- Chinese pilgrim Fahien visited India at this time.

History of Kumaragupta – I (AD 413 – 455):

- He adopted the title of Mahendraditya.
- Founded Nalanda University (a renowned university of ancient India).
- He was the worshipper of Lord Kartikeya (son of Lord Shiva).
- In the last years of his reign, the peace and prosperity of the empire was disturbed due to the invasion of Turko-Mongol tribe, Hunas. During the war with the Hunas, Kumaragupta died.

History of Skandagupta (AD 455 – 467):

- Kumaragupta-I was followed by Skandagupta. He faced Hunas effectively.
- Restored Sudarshana Lake.
- After his death, the great days of the Guptas were over. The empire continued but central control weakened, and local governors became feudatory kings with hereditary rights.

Fall of Gupta Empire :

- The weak successors of Skandagupta could not check the growing Huna power.
- Feudatories rose in Bihar, Bengal, MP, Vallabhi, etc.
- Note: Mihirkula was the most famous Huna king. Hiuen Tsang mentions him as a fierce persecutor of Buddhism. He was defeated by Yashodharman (one of the feudatories of Guptas in Malwa).
- Contributions of Gupta Rulers

Gupta Administration :

- Kings were called Parameshwara / Maharajadhiraja / Paramabhattacharaka.
- The most important officers were Kumaramatyas.



- Their military organization was feudal in character (though the emperor had the standing army).
- They issued the largest number of gold coins in Ancient India, which were called Dinars. Silver coins were called rupyakas.
- Social Development of Guptas Empire :**
- The castes were further divided into sub-castes.
- Vishti (forced labour) was there.
- Position of women declined further. First instance of Sati took place at Eran, MP.
- The position of shudras improved substantially.
- The practice of untouchability intensified. (Especially hatred for Chandalas). Fa-hien mentions that the Chandalas lived outside the village and were distanced by the upper class.
- Nalanda (a university) was established as a Buddhist monastery during the reign of Kumara Gupta.

Gupta Religion :

- Bhagavad-Gita was written during this time only. Buddhism declined.
- Bhagavatism centered around worshipping Vishnu or Bhagvat.
- History was presented as a cycle of 10 incarnations of Vishnu.
- Idol worship became a common feature.
- Vishnu temple at Deogarh (near Jhansi), a small temple near Sanchi and a brick temple at Bhitrageon (near Kanpur) belong to the Gupta architecture.

Gupta Art :

- Samudragupta is represented on his coins playing the lute (vina).
- 2 mt high bronze image of Buddha belonging to the Mathura school (The Gandhara Buddha represents mask-like coldness, while the Buddha from the Mathura school imparts a feeling of warmth and vitality).
- The Buddha sitting in his Dharma Chakra mudra belongs to Sarnath.
- Buddha images of Bamiyan belonged to Gupta period.
- Ajanta Paintings and paintings at Bagh, near Gwalior in MP, are of this time. They belong to the Buddhist art.



- Images of Vishnu, Shiva & some other Hindu Gods feature I time in this period.
- Gupta Literature in India :**
- Kalidas, the great Sanskrit dramatist, belonged to this period. His books are: Abhigyanashakuntalam, (considered as one of the best literary works in the world & one of the earliest Indian work to be translated into European language, the other work being the Bhagavadgita), Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Kumarasambhavam, Malavikagnimitram, Raghuvansha, Vikramurvashi etc. Out of these, Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Raghuvansha were epics and the rest were plays.
- Apart from Kalidas, others were Sudraka (author of Mrichchakatikam), Bharavi (Kiratarjuniya), Dandin (Kavyadarshana and Dasakumaracharita). To this period belongs 13 plays written by Bhasa. Most famous of these was Charudatta.
- Vishakhadatta wrote Mudrarakashasa and Devichandraguptam.
- Vishnu Sharma wrote Panchatantra and Hitopdesh.
- The Gupta period also saw the development of Sanskrit grammar based on Panini and Patanjali. This period is particularly memorable for the compilation of Amarakosha by Amarasimha.
- Ramayana & Mahabharata were almost completed by the 4th century AD.

Science and Technology of Gupta Period :

- Gupta period is unparalleled for its achievements in the field of mathematics and astronomy.
- Aryabhata, the great mathematician wrote Aryabhatiya and Suryasiddhanta. In Aryabhatiya, he described the place value of the first nine nos. & the use of zero. He also calculated the value of pie and invented Algebra.
- In Suryasiddhanta, he proved that the earth revolves round the sun and rotates on its axis. In this way he discovered the cause of the solar and lunar eclipses and the methods for calculating the timings of their occurrence. He also said that the heavenly bodies, like the moon, were spherical and they shone by reflecting the light.
- Varahamihira wrote Panchasi-dhantika and Brihatsamhita. He said that the moon moves round the earth and the earth, together with the moon, move round the sun.
- Brahmagupta was a great mathematician. He wrote Brahmasphutic Siddhanta in which he hinted at the Law of Gravitation.
- In the field of astronomy, Romakasidhanta was compiled.
- Vagbhata was the most distinguished physician of the Ayurvedic system of medicine.
- Palakapya wrote Hastyagarveda, a treatise on the disease of elephants.
- Court language was Sanskrit.
- Dhanyantri – famous for Ayurveda knowledge.

Other Dynasties and Rulers (7th Century – 12th Century AD)

History of Harshavardhana (AD 606 – 647) :

- Belonged to Pushyabhuti family & son of Prabhakar Vardhan.
- Originally belonged to Thaneshwar, but shifted to Kannauj (after Harsha's death Kannauj was won from Harsha's successors by the Pratiharas).
- Brought '5 Indies' under his control (Punjab, Kannauj, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa).
- Defeated by Pulakesin – II, the great Chalukya king, on the banks of Narmada in 620. Pulakesin – II bestowed the title of 'Sakalottara – patha – natha' – 'the lord of the entire north' – on him.
- Chinese pilgrim, Hiuen Tsang (Prince of Travelers) visited during his reign. He spent about eight years (635 – 643) in the dominions of Harsha and earned his friendship. Hiuen Tsang has left a detailed account of a grand assembly held at Kannauj in 643 attended by representatives of Hinduism and Jainism.
- Harsha used to celebrate a solemn festival at Prayag (Allahabad), at the end of every five years.
- Harsha was a great patron of learning. He established a large monastery at Nalanda. Banabhatta, who adorned his court, wrote Harshacharita and Kadambari. Harsha himself wrote 3 plays – Priyadarshika, Ratnavali and Nagananda.
- After the death of Harsha in 647, the empire once again broke up into petty States.
- I – tsing, another Chinese pilgrim, visited in 670 AD.

The Vakatakas History :

- The Vakatakas came to control parts of the Deccan and Central India till the rise of the Chalukyas.
- The founder of this Brahmin dynasty was Vindhyasakti.
- Most important king was Pravarsen – I who performed 4 Ashvamedha yagyas.
- Chandragupta – II married his daughter Prabhawati to the Vakataka king, Rudrasena – II.

Chalukyas of Vatapi (Badami) :

- **Founder** : Pulakesin – I.
- Established their kingdom at Vatapi (modern Badami, Karnataka).
- Pulakesin – II was their most famous king, who was a contemporary of Harsha. He sent an embassy to the Persian king, Khuro – II. His court poet, Ravikirti, wrote Aihole inscription. Hiuen Tsang visited his kingdom.
- They were the maritime powers of their time.
- Much of the paintings and sculptures of the Ajanta and Ellora caves were completed during the Chalukyan reign. They build several magnificent temples in Aihole and other places. Aihole is called the cradle of Indian temple architecture.

Note :

1. There were two more Chalukya dynasties which were separate entities. They were Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi and Western Chalukyas of Kaivani.
2. Vengi dynasty was founded by Pulakesin II's brother, Kubja – Vishnu-Vardhana. The power of Eastern Chalukyas was weakened in the tenth century and they became the allies of Cholas.
3. The greatest ruler of Kalyani Chalukyas was Vikramaditya II Tribhuvanamalla. He was the hero of Bilhana's Vikramankadeva Gharita. He introduced the Chalukya – Vikrama era (1076 A.D.).

The Rashtrakutas Dynasty :

- **Founder** : Dantidurga.
- Originally district officers under Chalukyas of Badami.
- Their king, Krishna – I is remembered for constructing the famous rock – cut Kailasha temple at Ellora. It was constructed in the Dravidian style and elaborately carved with fine sculptures.

- Their king, Amoghvarsha, is compared to Vikramaditya in giving patronage to men of letters. He wrote the first Kannada poetry named Kaviraj marg and Prashnottar Mallika. He built the city of Manyakheta as his capital.
- Their king, Krishna – III set up a pillar of victory and a temple at Rameshwaram.
- Rashtrakutas are credited with the building of cave shrine of Elephanta. It was dedicated to Shiva, whose image as Mahesh (popularly known as Trimurti), counts among the most magnificent art creations of India. The three faces represent Shiva as creator, Preserver and Destroyer.
- The Gangas Dynasty :**
- Also called Chedagangas of Orissa.
- Their king Narsimhadeva constructed the Sun Temple at Konark.
- Their king Anantvarman Ganga built the famous Jagannath temple at Puri.
- Kesaris, who used to rule Orissa before Gangas built the Lingaraja temple at Bhubaneswar.

The Pallavas History :

- **Founder** : Simhavishnu. They set up their capital at Kanchi (south of Chennai). Narsimhavarmā was their greatest king. He founded the town of Mamalapuram (Mahabalipuram) which he adorned with beautiful rock – cut Rathas or Seven Pagoras. Hiuen Tsang visited Kanchi during his reign.

History of Ghazni Mahumud Invasion of Ghazni Mohammed :

- Until the rise of the west, India was possibly the richest country in the world. Such a country presented an irresistible target for the ravaging Mongols and their descendents who settled in present day Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, all within comparatively easy reach of north-western India.
- The northwest was, at this time, a mish-mash of warring kingdoms, more interested in sending scores with their neighbours than in unifying against the Mongols. It is then unsurprising that Mahmud Ghaznavi's armies so handily defeated those of the Indian kings.
- Born in 971 AD, Mahmud Ghaznavi was the eldest son of Subuktigin, the king of Ghazni (in present day Afghanistan). When Subuktigin attacked King Jaipala in 620. Pulakesin – II bestowed the title of 'Sakalottara – patha – natha' – 'the lord of the entire north' – on him.
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- In his sixth expedition, Mahmud defeated Anandpala in the II Battle of Waihind (1008). Anandpala had organized a confederacy of rulers of Ujjain, Gwalior, Kalinjar, Kannauj, Delhi and Ajmer, but the alliance was defeated.
- In his other expeditions, Mahmud plundered Nagarkot, Thaneshwar, Kannauj, Mathura and Somnath.
- His sixteenth expedition was the plunder of Somnath temple (dedicated to Shiva) in 1025 AD, situated on the sea coast of Kathiawar.
- After looting the Somnath temple, when Mahmud was going back to Ghazni, the Jats had attacked his army. So, to punish the Jats, he returned and defeated them in 1026.
- The objective of Mahmud's expeditions was to plunder the riches of temples and palaces and was not interested in expanding his empire to India. However, he later annexed Punjab and made it a part of his kingdom, just to have easy access.

He patronized 3 persons :

1. Firdausi (Persian poet, known as Homer of the east) who wrote Shahnama.
2. Alberuni (a brilliant scholar from Central Asia) who wrote Tahqiq-I-Hind.
3. Utbi (court historian), who wrote Kitab-ud-Yamni.

History of Somnath Temple Gujarat:

The Somnath Temple located in the Kathiawar region of Gujarat, is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas (golden lingas) symbols of the God Shiva. It is mentioned in the Rig Veda. Somnath mean "The Protector of Moon God". It is known as "the Shrine Eternal", as although the temple has been destroyed six times it has been rebuilt every single time.

The first temple of Somnath is said to have existed before the beginning of the Christian era. The second temple, built by the Maitraka kings of Vallabhi in Gujarat, replaced the first one on the same site around 649 AD. In 725 Junayad, the Arab governor of Sind sent his armies to destroy the second temple.

The Pratihara king Nagabhata II constructed the third temple in 815 AD, a large structure of red sandstone. Mahmud of Ghazni attacked this temple in 1025 AD, and looted it of gems and precious stones.

He then massacred the worshippers and had the temple burnt. It was then that the famous Shiva lingam of the temple was entirely destroyed.

The temple and citadel were sacked, and most of its defenders massacred; Mahmud personally hammered the temple's gilded lingam to pieces and the stone fragments were carted back to Ghazni, where they were incorporated into the steps of the city's new Jamiah Masjid.

The fourth temple was built by the Paramara King Bhoj of Malwa and the Solanki king Bhima of Gujarat between 1026 AD and 1042 AD. The wooden structure was replaced by Kumarpal who built the temple of stone. The temple was razed in 1297 when the Sultanate of Delhi conquered Gujarat, and again in 1394 AD. The Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb destroyed the temple again in 1706 AD.

The present temple is the seventh temple built on the original site. It was completed on December 1, 1995 and the then President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma dedicated it in the service of the nation. The present temple was built by the Shree Somnath Trust which looks after the entire complex of Shree Somnath and its environs.

History of Muhammad Ghori

Muhammad Ghori History

- The real founder of the Muslim Empire in India was Shihab – ud – Din Muhammad Ghori or Muhammad of Ghur. It is true that Muhammad bin Qasim was the first Muslim invader of India but he failed to carve out a Muslim empire in India on account of his premature death.
- Mahmud also failed to set a Muslim empire in India and the only permanent effect of his invasions was the annexation of Punjab. It was left to Muhammad Ghori to build up a Muslim Empire in India on a secure footing.
- He was also a ruler of a small kingdom in Afghanistan. But he was interested in conquering northern India and adding it to



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- his kingdom, and not merely in getting gold and jewellery like Mahmud.
- His first invasion was directed against Multan in 1175 AD, which was successful. By 1182, Sindh was also captured. Punjab was captured by 1186 AD.
- Prithviraj Chauhan, who was the king of Delhi at that time, received contingents from other Rajput kings and defeated him in the First Battle of Tarain (1191).
- But he defeated Prithviraj in the Second Battle of Tarain in 1192. Captured Delhi and Ajmer and thus laid the foundation of Muslim Rule in India. Also defeated Jaichandra (Gahadval Rajput, ruler of Kannauj) at the Battle of Chandwari in 1194 AD.
- Ikhtiyar – ud – din Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khajli, one of Ghori's commanders, annexed Bihar and Bengal and destroyed Nalanda and Vikramshila University.
- Died in 1206 AD, leaving Qutab – ud – Din Aibak the charge.

Rajput King Prithviraj Chauhan

Prithviraj III (1179-1192), also called Rai Pithaura by Muslim historians, was a king of the Rajput Chauhan (Chahamanā) dynasty, who ruled a kingdom in northern India during the latter half of the 12th century. He was born to king Someshwara Chauhan and his wife Karpuravalli. He succeeded to the throne while still a minor, and ruled from the twin capitals of Ajmer and Delhi.

His elopement with Samyukta, the daughter of Jai Chandra, the Gahadvala king of Kannauj, is a popular romantic tale and is one of the subjects of the Prithviraj Raso, an epic poem composed by Prithviraj's court poet, Chand Bardai.

His kingdom included much of the present-day Indian states of Rajasthan and Haryana, and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. In Prithviraj Raso, Chand Bardai depicts Prithviraj as a romantic, chivalrous and an extremely fearless king.

His fast rise aroused the envy of the then powerful ruler of Kannauj, Jaichand Gahadwala, and caused ill-feeling between the two. Samyogita also known as Samyukta in folklore, daughter of Jaichand, fell secretly in love with Prithviraj and began a secret correspondence with him. Her father got wind of this and resolved to have her safely wed at an early date.



He arranged a Swayamwara, a ceremony where a maiden date. He arranged a Swayamwara, a ceremony where a maiden selects her husband from a number of suitors who assemble at the invitation of her guardian. Jaichand invited many princes of acceptable rank and heritage, but deliberately failed to invite Prithviraj.

To add insult to injury, Jaichand had a statue of Prithviraj made and placed at the door of the venue, thus parodying Prithviraj as a doorman. Prithviraj came to hear of this. He made his plans and confided the same to his lover, Samyukta.

On the day of the ceremony, Samyukta emerged from an inner chamber, entered the venue of the, swayamwara, walked straight down the hall past the assembled suitors, bypassing them all. She reached the door and garlanded the statue of Prithviraj. The assemblage was stunned at this brash act, but more was to follow:

Prithviraj, who had been hiding behind the statue in the garb of a doorman, emerged, put Samyukta upon his steed, and made a fast getaway. Jaichandra and his army gave earnest chase, to no avail. This incident resulted in a string of battles between the two kingdoms and both of them suffered heavily. The Chauhan-Gahadvala feud led to the weakening of both Rajput kingdoms. After the Second Battle of Tarain, Prithviraj was taken as a prisoner in Ghor and was brought in chains before Mahmud. He haughtily looked Ghori straight into the eye. Ghori ordered him to lower his eyes, whereupon a defiant Prithviraj declared that the eyelids of a Rajput are lowered only in death.

On hearing this, Ghori flew into a rage and ordered that Prithviraj's eyes be burnt with red hot iron rods. This heinous deed was committed. The blind Prithviraj was then regularly brought to the presence of the barbaric warlord to be taunted by Ghori and his courtiers.

Chand Bardai came to Ghor to be near Prithviraj in his misery. Chand Bardai came in disguise and secured himself a place in Mahmud's court by purveying his skills as a composer of poems. The two got the revenge opportunity when Ghori announced an archery competition. Chand Bardai told Ghori that Prithviraj was so skilled an archer, that he could take aim based only on sound, and did not even need to look, at his target.

The blind and hapless Prithviraj was brought out to the field and given a bow and arrows. In the a spirit of the occasion, Mahmud Ghori personally gave Prithviraj the order to shoot. Thus, Chand Bardai provided Prithviraj with an aural indication of where Ghori was seated. He gave Prithviraj one further indication of the same, by composing a couplet on the spot and reciting the same in Prithviraj's hearing.

The couplet, composed in a language understood only by Prithviraj went thus: Char bans, chaubis gai, angul ashta praman, Ete pal hai Sultan, (Taa Ungar hat Sultan), ab mat chuko hey Chauhan. (Ten measures ahead of you and twenty four feet away, is seated the Sultan. Do not miss him now Chauhan).

Ghori then ordered Prithviraj to shoot, Prithviraj turned in the direction from where he heard Ghori speak, and, taking aim based only on the voice and on Chand Bardai's couplet, he sent an arrow racing to Ghori's throat. Ghori was thus stuck dead by Prithviraj.

Naturally, after this deed, Prithviraj was killed by Mahmud's courtiers. But the brave Rajput had avenged the betrayals and humiliations suffered by him. Selects her husband from a number of suitors who assemble at the invitation of her guardian. Jaichand invited many princes of acceptable rank and heritage, but deliberately failed to invite Prithviraj.

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