

DEVELOP INDIA

YEAR 4, VOL. 1, ISSUE 190, 25 MARCH - 1 APRIL, 2012

ALLAHABAD

PAGE-8

English Weekly Newspaper

ICC World T20

Cricket tournament ticket sale to begin from March 24

The ICC World Twenty20 world cup cricket tournament ticket sale will begin in Colombo today. The Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, is expected to purchase the first ticket of the tournament. The ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat as well as representatives from both the Sri Lankan men's and women's cricket teams, popular musicians and other dignitaries, including the Minister for Sports in Sri Lanka Mahindananda Aluthgamage and Sri Lankan Cricket Association President Upali Dharmadasa will be present on the occasion.

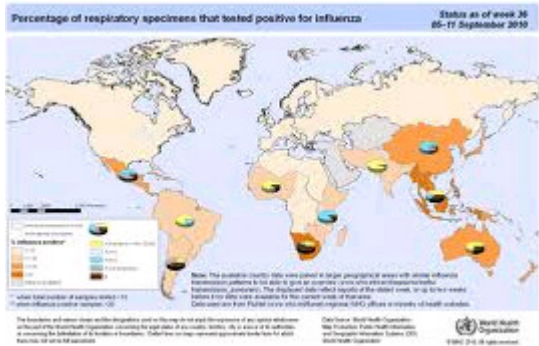
As part of the launch festivities, the ICC will be handing out 800 free match tickets to fans for the tournament. The tournament will be held from 18th September to 7th October 2012. This is the first time the ICC World Twenty20 cricket is being held in Asia. The tickets will go on sale to the public from March 26, 2012.

The **2012 ICC World Twenty20** will be the fourth ICC World Twenty20 competition, an international Twenty20 cricket tournament that will be held in Sri Lanka between September 18 and October 7, 2012. The schedule has been posted by ICC. This will be the first World Twenty20 tournament held in an Asian country, the last three being held in South Africa, England and the West Indies respectively. The format will see four groups of three in a preliminary round. India and England are in the same group and will be joined by one of the Associate or Affiliate teams that qualify. The other qualifying team will be in a group with West Indies and Australia. Sri Lanka, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and Pakistan, New Zealand and Bangladesh are the other two groups. Match fixtures were announced on 21 September 2011 by ICC. On the same date, the ICC also unveiled the logo of the tournament, named "Modern Spin"



Global flu under surveillance

Imagine a global weather and climate forecasting system that collects data regularly in just a handful of countries, and takes measurements elsewhere only during extreme weather events. That is what today's global flu-surveillance system mostly looks like.



The shortcomings of flu surveillance have long been, but they are attracting renewed attention following the creation in labs of strains of the H₁N₁ avian influenza virus that can spread between mammals. The main cited public-health benefit of the research is that it will allow for monitoring for such mutations in the wild, and give a remote chance of containing an emerging pandemic.

It is certainly urgent to monitor wild flu strains for mutations that might make them transmissible between mammals. But as Malik Peiris, a flu virologist at the University of Hong Kong, says, detection of a breaking pandemic is "a very ambitious goal, and this is where vastly enhanced global surveillance is needed".

"Current surveillance can barely identify threats, let alone track them." Current surveillance can barely identify threats, let alone track them. The precursor to the H₁N₁ virus that caused a pandemic in 2009 had been circulating worldwide for years in pigs, and the pandemic virus had been infecting humans in Mexico for months, before either was detected. That virus is also a reminder that threats come from many flu subtypes other than H₁N₁.

An analysis by *Nature* shows that timely, continued and representative global surveillance of the genetic sequences of flu isolates from pigs and poultry just isn't happening. From 2003 to 2011, most countries collected few or no sequences, and genetic surveillance of flu in pigs was and is almost non-existent. There is typically a lag of years between collection of viruses and the release of their sequences into public databases, so there are very few data on their recent evolution.

Yet the analysis gives hope that this situation could be rectified, given political will, modest funding and international coordination. Hong Kong has collected the most flu sequences from pigs after the United States and China, and most of those come from labs at the University of Hong Kong, including Peiris's; this shows what a few dedicated centres can achieve. Similarly, the Influenza Genome Sequencing Project of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which was launched in 2004 and sequences whole flu genomes from isolates collected globally, accounts for around half of sequences generated worldwide. And in the past decade, many nations affected by H₁N₁ have greatly improved their surveillance, often despite limited resources and poor veterinary and health infrastructure.

More sequencing alone is not enough. Sequences tend currently to come in fits and starts, in response to an outbreak, one-off projects or as funding allows, and there is little sustained passive surveillance. Global, scientific and representative sampling is needed, from multiple outbreaks and diverse populations, taking into account risk factors such as the size of livestock populations, husbandry practices and proximity to waterfowl reservoirs.

Funding is not the only problem. Few countries, for example, compensate for culled animals to encourage farmers to report outbreaks; and some might conceal, or not actively look for, flu infections for trade reasons. Nations can be reluctant to share viral isolates if they do not get anything in return, although the World Health Organization's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework, published last year, should help to ensure that they do get appropriate benefits, including access to vaccines.

Surveillance makes sense even without the promise of tracking a pandemic. Detecting outbreaks in livestock allows control through culling or vaccination to avoid crippling losses, and limits the opportunities for viruses to mutate, outpace vaccines and possibly turn pandemic. Surveillance also generates crucial data for epidemiology and drug-resistance monitoring, yet it remains a low priority. Sequencing costs can fall all they like, but without greater, and more sustained, routine surveillance efforts, there will be few samples to sequence.

Syria 'accepts' Annan six-point plan to end strife

The Syrian government has agreed to accept the six-point plan by joint UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan on ending the violence in Syria, the former UN chief's spokesman has said. "The Syrian government has written to the joint special envoy Kofi Annan, accepting his six-point plan, endorsed by the United Nations Security Council," spokesman, Ahmad Fawzi said in a statement on March 27, 2012. "Mr Annan views this as an important initial step that could bring an end to the violence and the bloodshed, provide aid to the suffering, and create an environment conducive to a political dialogue that would fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people," he added. Annan, who is in China to seek Beijing's support for his peace proposal, had written to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad asking Damascus to "put its commitments into immediate effect".

Google Add 'Google Play' to Navigation Bar

Google appears to be preparing to put Google Play front and center in user's minds – literally.

"Play" has begun showing up on the black index bar that Google suspends over Google.com, Gmail, and its other sites within its network. The "Play" button (without its triangular logo) appeared on my Google pages Monday afternoon, as the picture indicates.

Google rebranded the Android Market as Google Play earlier this month, attempting to make it a one-stop shop for apps, e-books, music, and videos. The rebranding won't be consistent on a worldwide basis, however. For example, in Canada and the U.K., Google said it will offer movies, books and Android apps; in Australia, books and apps; and in Japan, movies and apps. Everywhere else, Google Play will be the new home for just Android apps, the company said.

Google appears to be preparing to put Google Play front and center in user's minds – literally.

"Play" has begun showing up on the black index bar that Google suspends over Google.com, Gmail, and its other sites within its network. The "Play" button (without its triangular logo) appeared on my Google pages Monday afternoon, as the picture indicates.

Google rebranded the Android Market as Google Play earlier this month, attempting to make it a one-stop shop for apps, e-books, music, and videos. The rebranding won't be consistent on a worldwide basis, however. For example, in Canada and the U.K., Google said it will offer movies, books and Android apps; in Australia, books and apps; and in Japan, movies and apps. Everywhere else, Google Play will be the new home for just Android apps, the company said.

Additional evidence that Google Play will soon become a featured part of the Google experience can be found on the main Google.com page. There, Google has affixed the subheading "Google Play: the entertainment you love, anywhere you go" under the main search box. A link connects users to a series of pages explaining what Play is (and with a tiny, easy-to-miss link to the main Play Web site on those explanatory pages). CNET has also reported that Google may begin selling movies via Play. If true, putting that capability in front of Chrome users would attract even more potential customers; according to StatCounter Feb. 2012 data, 27.24 of the Web's pageviews are viewed via Chrome, with just 1.93 percent via Android.

The addition of Play also gives Google's black bar more of an entertainment focus, as both "Documents" and "Calendar" have been banished into the "More" category, which houses older or lower-priority services, such as Blogger, Google Finance, Google Videos and even Google Wallet. Web site designers typically roll out live versions of "test pages", sometimes in different formats, known as "A/B" testing. The idea is to allow "live" audiences to test and interact with the new format, to gauge the response before actually pushing the new design live to the Web at large.

Korean-American physician-anthropologist Jim Yong Kim could be next World Bank President

US President Barack Obama made an unusual and what some described as an "inspired" pick for the post of World Bank President, nominating Korean-American physician-anthropologist Jim Yong Kim for a job that in the past has typically been awarded to a US establishment figure.

Jim Yong Kim is a Korean-American physician and 17th President of Dartmouth College. He was formerly the Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and was a co-founder and executive director of Partners in Health. On March 2, 2009, Kim was named the 17th President of Dartmouth College, a position he formally assumed on July 1, 2009. Kim is the first Asian-American to assume the post of president at an Ivy League institution.

On March 23, 2012, President Obama announced that the United States would nominate Kim as the next President of the World Bank.

Obama, who himself broke the US political mold by becoming the country's first mixed-race President, made known his surprise choice shortly before he embarked on a visit to South Korea for the nuclear security summit, where he will also meet India's Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. Kim was born in South Korea and grew up in Iowa, and is currently President of Dartmouth College, the first Asian-American to head an Ivy League school.

Although the World Bank Presidency is a US preserve by convention (with the IMF leadership going to the Europe), several Indian names were in the mix this time as Washington came under pressure to relinquish its hold on the job. Among the names bandied around were the now infamous Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh, and Pepsico CEO Indra Nooyi.



James Cameron back on surface after deepest ocean dive

Hollywood director James Cameron has returned to the surface after plunging nearly 11km (seven miles) down to the deepest place in the ocean, the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific. He made the solo descent in a submarine called Deepsea Challenger, taking over two hours to reach the bottom. He spent more than three hours exploring the ocean floor, before a speedy ascent back to the surface.

His craft was kitted out with cameras and lights so he could film the deep.

This is only the second manned expedition to the ocean's deepest depths - the first took place in 1960. The earlier descent was made by US Navy Lt Don Walsh and Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard. They spent about 20 minutes on the ocean floor but their landing kicked up silt, meaning their view was obscured. The Deepsea Challenger was made in Australia.

Cameron has spent the past few years working in secret with his team of engineers to design and build the craft, which weighs 11 tonnes and is more than 7m (23ft) long.

The tiny compartment that the film-maker sits in is made from thick steel, which is able to resist the 1,000 atmospheres of pressure he will experience at full ocean depth.

Mr Cameron's multi-million-dollar expedition, which has been financed by the film-maker himself, Rolex and National Geographic, is the first manned effort to the deep for half a century. Google's Eric Schmidt has helped to finance another sub being built by a US marine technology company called Doer Marine.

In 1960, former US navy lieutenant Don Walsh and Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard made the first historic dive in a bathyscaphe called the Trieste. Don Walsh, who is now in his 80s, joined Mr Cameron and his team of engineers out at sea for the dive.

Scientific riches

While manned exploration had until now seen a 52-year hiatus, scientists have used two robotic unmanned vehicles to explore the Mariana Trench: Japan's Kaiko made a dive there in 1995 and the US-based Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's vessel Nereus explored the deep in 2008.

Other teams, such as Scotland's Oceanlab, have also been dropping simple landers loaded with bait and cameras into the deepest ocean. While places like the Mariana Trench were once thought to be of little interest, there has been a recent resurgence of scientific interest in the deep. Scientists are finding life that can resist the colossal pressures, from deep-sea fish to shrimp-like scavengers called amphipods, some of which can reach 30cm (1ft) long.

They are also trying to understand the role that deep seas trenches play in earthquakes - these cracks in the sea floor are formed at the boundary of two tectonic plates and some believe the push and pull taking place deep underwater could be the cause of major earthquakes, such as the 2011 quake that resulted in such devastation in Japan.



Weekly Current Affairs

1st Arab summit in Baghdad

Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Araby arrived in Baghdad on Sunday ahead of this week's Arab summit in the Iraqi capital. This is the first Arab summit in Iraq to be held here in more than 20 years. On his arrival Araby said, this is a summit for Iraq. He told the entire world is watching the summit and looking forward to the resolutions it will pass. The summit, which runs from Tuesday to Thursday, is likely to take a call on how to resolve the Syrian crisis, the impact of regional Arab Spring revolts, as well as structural reforms to the 22-member Arab League. Iraq has beefed up security in the capital in the run up to the summit. Baghdad airspace will be closed during the summit Thousands of extra policemen and soldiers have been deployed. According to reports, Iraqi Government has spent a whopping \$500 million on refurbishing hotels, summit venues and some infrastructure in the capital.

Egypt Parliament elects Islamist-dominated panel to draft new constitution

In Egypt, the parliament has elected an Islamist-dominated panel to draft a new constitution. According to reports, 39 of the 50 MPs chosen for the 100-member constituent assembly are Islamists. Among the remaining 50 members drawn from outside parliament, the Islamists are in majority. Liberal activists have challenged the move in court. AIR correspondent reports, the election of a 100 member panel to draft the new constitution of Egypt has once again run into controversy. Reports suggest Islamists have the support of Over 75 percent of law-

makers and almost 40 percent of panel members elected from outside. The liberals and left wing parties have alleged that Islamist parties are trying to monopolize the panel. The panel will draft the new constitution of Egypt replacing the one from Mubarak regime. Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), has the biggest representation on the panel, followed by the ultra-conservative Salafi Al-Nur party. Only Six women have been elected on the panel while it also has some Coptic Christians who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's population. The 50 people appointed from outside parliament include a member of the ruling military council, a senior Muslim Brotherhood religious guide, judges, lawyers and an activist who lost both eyes in clashes with police. Liberals fear that the Islamists will try to beef up references to Islam in the new constitution.

Govt hospital performs its 1000th kidney transplant

The Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital on Tuesday performed the 1,000th renal transplant. This makes it the first government-run hospital in the country to achieve such a distinction, said Dean V. Kanakasabai. For hospital authorities and nephrologist M.A. Muthusethupathi who did the first transplant surgery 25 years ago on July 10, 1987 at the hospital, it is time to recollect. "It is almost 25 years [since the programme was started] and 1,000 is a good number. Earlier, in 1982, we did a transplant in Government Royapettah Hospital. Then, when I was transferred to the GH, we continued it there. Every time you do a transplant you have to plan; it needed a lot more effort back then but gradually, it has become stable," he said. When the transplant programme began about 75 to 80 per cent of the patients had a three-year survival rate. "It is time to look back and see how the patients are do-

ing," Dr. Muthusethupathi said. Another reason the program has done so well is because the State provides a life-times of free immunosuppression drugs to the patients. "When we made a request to the State government, they promptly agreed," Dr. Muthusethupathi recalled. And, since the beginning of the programme, the patients have been receiving free supply of the drugs. Today the drugs cost around Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 per person. The State government now allots Rs. 2 crore a year for immunosuppression therapy, Dr. Kanakasabai said. On World Kidney Day on March 8, patients who had undergone renal transplant and donors interacted with prospective renal transplant patients. The oldest patient had undergone a transplant 17 years ago. Although survival rate have improved nephrologists think they can do better. "In my own experience I have seen patients who have crossed 20 years. The problem lies in treating infections caused by immune suppression. Nowhere in the world do doctors see a 100 per cent success rate," Dr. Muthusethupathi said. The programme is considered a success because patients with renal failure normally have very low survival rates. "Such patients have been given a new lease of life. We would like the results to be even better. Cadaver transplant is lot more difficult. It is the logistics and that was somewhat more difficult. However, results from cadaver deceased donors are as good," he added. The first successful cadaver renal transplantation was performed at the hospital in January 1996. But, it was only in 2008 that cadaver transplantation picked up, Dr. Kanakasabai said. Vodafone have to pay tax once Parliament amends IT Act : FinMin British telecom major Vodafone will have to pay over Rs 11,000 crore taxes, once the amendment to

change the Income Tax Act is approved by Parliament, a Finance Ministry official said. "They (Vodafone) will have to automatically pay the tax after approval of the amendments to the Finance Bill by Parliament. We don't need to send fresh tax demand notice to them," a Finance Ministry official said in New Delhi on March 21, 2012. The government on Tuesday refunded Rs 2,500 crore along with 4 percent interest to Vodafone following dismissal of its review petition against 20th January order by the Supreme Court. The government had raised a Rs 11,000 crore withholding tax demand on UK-based telecom firm for its USD 11 billion acquisition deal with Hutchison Essar in 2007. With an aim to clarify the intent of the Income Tax 1961 on taxation of overseas deals involving domestic assets, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in his 2012-13 Budget has proposed to amend the law with retrospective effect, to ensure that such deals are taxed. "You can only tax on the basis of existing law. We have no right to tax them, current law will prevail so long law is not changed," Law Minister Salman Khurshid had said on March 20, 2012 after a meeting of senior Cabinet Ministers following dismissal of review petition by the apex court. According to the Finance Ministry official, "an important question is about equity in taxation. While ordinary tax payer pays its taxes honestly, those who have huge wealth do not pay taxes by taking recourse to tax avoidance through creation of multiple structures and routing their investments through low tax and no tax jurisdiction." In the USD 11.2 billion deal in May 2007, Vodafone had acquired 67 percent stake in the Hutchison-Essar Ltd (HEL) from Hong Kong-based Hutchison Group through companies based in the Netherlands and Cayman Island. On industry concerns that retrospective amendment to the tax law would create negative sentiments among foreign investors, the official said the apprehension is "not correct". Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), he said, "is not primarily dependent upon tax, but is more governed by aspects like huge domestic market, low cost of operation, low labour cost and huge skilled manpower". Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee recently said the move was not merely to prevent erosion of revenues in present cases but also to prevent the outgo of revenues in old cases. Illustrating the point, he had said that suppose the government had collected taxes in such cases during the last 10 years and did nothing after the Supreme Court judgement, companies would demand refund of the tax paid by them. At post-Budget briefing, Finance Secretary R S Gujral had said the amendment could fetch Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore. The Finance Ministry has said that "intention of the legislature on the initial stage was very clear that the transactions like Vodafone, are subject to taxation in India". As per experts, the changes in the Income Tax Act will have a bearing on about 500 overseas deals of similar kind.

developments in the child welfare case involving two Indian children make it impossible to carry out the hearing in Stavanger District Court that was scheduled for March 23, 2012. According to an Embassy of Norway release, the case was due to be heard on March 23 on the condition that the parties entered into an agreement that care of the children should be awarded to their uncle in India. The conflicts over the last few days between the parents and their respective families mean that the conditions for entering into an agreement of this kind are no longer present. In January, a process was initiated following a joint request from the families of the children's parents to find a mutually agreed solution for the children. At the end of this process, the Child Welfare Service in Stavanger concluded that the children's uncle should be awarded care of the children, so that he could take them back to India to be with their extended family there. The Child Welfare Service was of the view that this was a satisfactory way of ensuring that the children were given the care and follow-up they needed. According to the plan, Stavanger District Court was to decide whether the children could be removed from the care of the public authorities on this basis. There has been close dialogue with the family throughout the process, which has until now proceeded as planned. However, the head of the Child Welfare Service, Gunnar Toresen, says that the authorities have now been made aware of a conflict in the family that could influence the outcome of the case. "Over the last few days, both the parents and the uncle of the children have changed their position several times on the agreement that had originally been reached. his has caused the Child Welfare Service to doubt their motives as far as the agreement is concerned. The conflicts over the last few days have revealed that the necessary foundation for an agreement does not exist. The Child Welfare Service is no longer confident that the parties wish to enter into a genuine agreement. Over the last few days, the parties to the agreement have provided conflicting and different information, both to the Child Welfare Service and to the media, on their positions in the case," Toresen said. Toresen emphasises that the Child Welfare Service is well aware that there is a great deal of external pressure on the family, and that this makes it difficult for them to agree on a clear position. "But in the light of the great uncertainty that now prevails, the Child Welfare Service cannot maintain that a move to India would be in the best interests of the children. Even if the parents and the children's uncle should nevertheless now want to sign an agreement, the Child Welfare Service does not have sufficient confidence that an agreement would be fulfilled as intended, because the necessary consensus and understanding between the parties and their families does not exist. This means that the children could be caught up in a very unfortunate tug of war in India," Toresen said. he family no longer appears to be in agreement, and the necessary conditions for entering into an agreement of this kind are therefore not present. Toresen stresses that the Child Welfare Service had a clear intention to sign and implement the agreement, but that the events of the last few days now make this impossible.

Terrorist Government abduct two Indian Babies

The municipality of Stavanger will seek to clarify the next steps to be taken in this case in dialogue with the lawyer, the private parties and Stavanger District Court, since new


porngate

After Karnataka, Gujarat BJP MLAs allegedly watched porn inside the Assembly After Karnataka, Gujarat BJP MLAs allegedly watched porn inside the Assembly After Karnataka the porngate has hit Gujarat. Two BJP MLAs allegedly watched porn inside the Gujarat Assembly. They were watching porn on a tablet computer while the assembly proceeding was on. Gujarat Speaker Ganpat Vasava has ordered probe into allegations against two BJP MLAs of watching obscene pictures during Assembly proceedings. Sources said that the two MLAs facing the allegations are Shankarbbhai Lagadhirbbhai Chaudhary and Jethabhai Ghelabhai Ahir Bharwad from the BJP. While Chaudhary is an MLA from Radhanpur, Bharwad is from Shehra. A reporter from a local Gujarati newspaper is believed to have captured the duo watching porn on his cell phone. Chaudhary, however, denied allegations, saying that this was an attempt to malign her image. "The allegations of me watching porn in assembly is baseless. This is an attempt to politically malign me. The assembly proceedings are recorded in CCTV. I request the Opposition to check the CCTV footage. All the allegations against me are baseless. I am not the person who watches porn at all." Reacting to the allegations against BJP MLAs, Congress spokesperson Manish Tiwari slammed BJP for violating temples of democracy. "Sad that BJP ruled states are violating temples of democracy. This is their real 'charitra' (character)," he said. Leader of Opposition in Gujarat Assembly Arjun Modhwadia said that BJP's real face has now come out in open and demanded that a House Committee should investigate the matter. "BJP's real face came out in the open when legislators were caught watching porn clips in Karnataka assembly. Legislators in Gujarat also were caught watching obscene photographs. A house committee should investigate this case," Congress leader Modhwadia said. BJP leader Balbir Punj said, "If this news is indeed true, we will take action on the guilty MLAs just the same way as we did in the case of Karnataka." Janakbbhai Purohit, journalist of a local daily who recorded the BJP MLAs watching porn, said that he even informed the Speaker about it but after a while the duo continued to watch porn. "First they took out a photograph of Swami Vivekananda, but then they started looking at vulgar photographs of girls. I realised that this was wrong and I informed the speaker about it," Purohit said. The controversy comes a few days after three BJP MLAs in Karnataka were forced to resign from the state cabinet after being caught watching porn in the assembly. Karnataka Porngate The Karnataka Assembly Committee appointed to probe the porngate case met on Thursday and decided to restrict the probe to just the three former BJP ministers caught watching porn in the state Assembly. No MLA from any other party will be investigated by the committee. The committee has sought another week's time and is expected to submit the report by March 20. The Speaker will take a final decision after the committee submits its report. Former ministers - Lakshman S Savadi, CC Patil and J Krishna Palemar - were caught by a private TV channel watching porn on their mobile phones while proceedings

Govt to hold dialogue with ULFA on 9th April

After a gap of six months, the government will hold dialogue with ULFA on 9th April as part of its efforts to bring a lasting solution to the decades-old insurgency problem in Assam. Union Home Secretary R K Singh and other senior Home Ministry officials will hold peace talks with ULFA led by its 'chairman' Arabinda Rajkhowa and try to iron out differences on key demands of the banned outfit. Top ULFA leaders will discuss with the government delegation various aspects of its "charter of demands" which, among others, seeks amendment in the Constitution for finding meaningful ways to protect the rights and identity of the indigenous people of Assam. Observance of ground rules, signed by both sides, surrender of arms and ammunition and total halt of operations by security forces against the pro-talk faction are other key issues which are expected to be discussed, official sources said. The dialogue with ULFA will be held after nearly six months. The last such meeting was held on 25th October in New Delhi. Members of the rebel group -- numbering around 600 -- are now in special camps, called as 'Nabanirman Kendras'. ULFA 'commander-in-chief' Paresh Baruah has steadfastly opposed any peace talk with the government and vowed to continue his fight for a "sovereign" Assam. **United Liberation Front of Assam** or ULFA is a separatist group from Assam, among many other such groups in North-East India. It seeks to establish a sovereign Assam via an armed struggle in the Assam conflict. The government of India banned the organisation in 1990 citing it as a terrorist organisation, while the United States Department of State lists it under "other groups of concern." ULFA claims to have been founded at the site of Rang Ghar on April 7, 1979, a historic structure from the Ahom kingdom. According to Sunil Nath, the ULFA established its relationships with Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in 1983 and with KIA, operating in Burma, in 1987. It initiated major violent activities in 1990. Military operations against it by the Indian Army that began in 1990 continue till present. In the past two decades some 18,000 people have died in the clash between the rebels and India. On December 5, 2009, the Chairman and the deputy commander-in-chief of ULFA fell into Indian custody. The major leaders of the organisation are :

- **Paresh Baruah** (Commander-in-Chief)(Presently in Myanmar, shuttling between Myanmar and China(Yunnan province))
- **Arabinda Rajkhowa** (Chairman) (released from Government of Assam custody on January 1, 2011)
- **Pradip Gogoi** (Vice-Chairman) (released on bail from Government of Assam custody)
- **Anup Chetia** (General Secretary) (in Government of Bangladesh custody)
- **Raju Barua** (Deputy Commander-in-Chief) (Released on bail)
- **Mithinga Daimary** (Publicity Secretay) (Released on Bail)
- **Chitraban Hazarika** (Finance Secretary) (Released on bail)
- **Pranati Deka** (Cultural Secretary) (released on bail)
- **Bhimkanta Borgohain**@ Mama (Political Ideologue) (released on bail) from Government of Assam custody)
- **Sashadhar Coudhury** (Foreign Secretary) Released on bail custody of Government of Assam)



were on in the Assembly on February 7.

The ministers had to resign, and cannot enter the Assembly till the committee completes its inquiry. However, Chairman of the Legislature Committee Shrishailappa Bidarur said eight to ten other legislators had also watched sleazy clips in the Assembly. "That may be eight to ten", Bidarur said when asked how many more MLAs had watched the adult content in the assembly. The committee called two top officials of the Law Department for consultations with regard to legal aspects of the case and "what can be recommended", he said. Bopaiah had constituted a seven-member House panel, comprising four members from BJP, two from the Congress and one from JDS to probe the episode, but the opposition had boycotted the committee alleging the move is an exercise to cover up the scandal. The have maintained that there was no need for probe as the three MLAs have admitted to their actions.

Mauritania 'agrees to Senussi extradition'

Abdullah al-Senussi is also wanted in France and by the ICC in The Hague. Mauritania has agreed that Muammar Gaddafi's intelligence chief Abdullah al-Senussi, arrested in Nouakchott last week, can be extradited to Libya, Libya's deputy prime minister has said.

The decision, if implemented, sets Libya on a collision course with France and the international war crimes court in The Hague, which also want to extradite Senussi, Gaddafi's right-hand man before the Libyan leader's overthrow and death in a popular revolt last year. "I have met the president of Mauritania and he agreed to the extradition of Senussi to Libya," Libyan Deputy Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shagour wrote on Twitter on Tuesday in a comment confirmed as official by a Libyan government representative. A Mauritanian security source said a deal was close but acknowledged pressure from Paris. "We agreed to study their request favourably. It's almost a done deal but one should be careful. The French are applying lots of pressure," the source said on condition of anonymity.

"They say their claim takes priority because their arrest warrant went in first and because they helped with the arrest." 'Crimes against humanity' Crimes against humanity' Senussi, whose whereabouts had been unclear for months, was arrested at Mauritania's Nouakchott airport late on Friday when he stepped off a flight from Morocco. A senior Libyan delegation to Mauritania feted President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz for his "brave stance" in arresting Senussi and during talks at his presidency stressed that Senussi should be extradited to Libya.

"We greatly appreciate the position of the president who promised us that good will come of this matter," said a statement attributed to Shagour earlier and issued by Mauritania's official news agency AMI.

France and the International Criminal Court also want Senussi. The ICC has indicted him for crimes against humanity, while he is also alleged to have had a role in the 1989 bombing of an airliner in which 54 French nationals died. "We want Senussi to be extradited to France. We feel we owe it to the victims' families and to justice," French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said of a step that would allow France to confirm the life sentence already handed down to Senussi in absentia by a French court.

Separately, diplomatic sources said the United States - which on Monday confirmed it had contacts with Mauritania over Senussi - had requested access to him before any transfer.

"The Americans put in a request to Mauritanian authorities yesterday (Monday) morning to be able to meet Senussi while he is still in Mauritania, said one diplomatic source.

A second diplomat also confirmed the request had been made. No comment was immediately available either from the Mauritanian or US governments.

Senussi's name has been linked to the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland of a Pan Am jet that killed 270 people. A State Department spokeswoman said on Monday the US had long expressed an interest in talking to him about it. 'Fair trial' "Fair trial" Human rights groups doubt Senussi, 62, will have a fair trial in Libya and have called for his transfer to the ICC.

Amnesty International described the Libyan judicial system as "paralysed", noting it had not successfully investigated the death of prisoners in rebel detention or high-profile cases like the death of former military chief Abdel-Fattah Younis. "The Libyan judiciary has done nothing. It has held no one accountable and has not investigated a single case yet," Amnesty's Donatella Rovera told Reuters news agency.

However, Deputy Justice Minister Khalifa Faraj Ashour told Reuters in Tripoli the former intelligence chief would be tried fairly in his home country.

"Security is good, the courts are working fine in almost all of the country," he said. "Even if there is a security breach once in a while, we can deal with it." Ashour said it was too early to discuss what charges Senussi could face in Libya. Interpol has issued a Red Notice for him at Libya's request for fraud offences including embezzling public funds and misuse of power for personal benefit. "In general, we can say one of the crimes is financial corruption. He knows a lot about hidden money," Ashour said. Senussi is also suspected of a key role in the killing of more than 1,200 inmates at Tripoli's Abu Salim prison in 1996.

Why humans began walking upright

An international team of researchers have discovered that human bipedalism, or walking upright, may have originated millions of years ago as an adaptation to carrying scarce, high-quality resources. The team of researchers from the US, England, Japan and Portugal investigated the behaviour of modern-day chimpanzees as they competed for food resources, in an effort to understand what ecological settings would lead a large ape - one that resembles the 6 million-year old ancestor we shared in common with living chimpanzees - to walk on two legs.

"These chimpanzees provide a model of the ecological conditions under which our earliest ancestors might have begun walking on two legs," said Dr Brian Richmond, an author of the study and associate professor of anthropology at the George Washington University's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

"Something as simple as carrying an activity we engage in every day may have, under the right conditions, led to upright walking and set our ancestors on a path apart from other apes that ultimately led to the origin of our kind," he explained. The research findings suggest that chimpanzees switch to moving on two limbs instead of four in situations where they need to monopolize a resource, usually because it may not occur in plentiful supply in

their habitat, making it hard for them to predict when they will see it again.

Standing on two legs allows them to carry much more at one time because it frees up their hands. Over time, intense bursts of bipedal activity may have led to anatomical changes that in turn became the subject of natural selection where competition for food or other resources was strong.

The team conducted two studies in Guinea. The first study was in Kyoto University's "outdoor laboratory" in a natural clearing in Bossou Forest. Researchers allowed the wild chimpanzees access to different combinations of two different types of nut-the oil palm nut, which is naturally widely available, and the coula nut, which is not.

The chimpanzees' behaviour was monitored in three situations: (a) when only oil palm nuts were available, (b) when a small number of coula nuts was available, and (c) when coula nuts were the majority available resource.

When the rare coula nuts were available only in small numbers, the chimpanzees transported more at one time. Similarly, when coula nuts were the majority resource, the chimpanzees ignored the oil palm nuts altogether. The chimpanzees regarded the coula nuts as a more highly prized resource and competed for them more intensely. In such high-competition settings, the frequency of cases in which the chimpanzees started moving on two legs increased by a factor of four. Not only was it obvious that bipedal movement allowed them to carry more of this precious resource, but also that they were actively trying to move as much as they could in one go by using everything available-even their mouths.

The second study, by Kimberley Hockings of Oxford Brookes University was a 14-month study of Bossou chimpanzees crop-raiding, a situation in which they have to compete for rare and unpredictable resources. Here, 35% of the chimpanzees' activity involved some sort of bipedal movement, and once again, this behaviour appeared to be linked to a clear attempt to carry as much as possible at one time.

Maruti to set up Rs 1,700-cr diesel engine plant in Gurgaon

The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India on Saturday said it will invest Rs 1,700 crore to set up a diesel engine plant, with a total annual production capacity of three lakh units, at its Gurgaon facility by 2014. "We are going to invest Rs 1,700 crore to set up the diesel plant, which will be constructed inside our Gurgaon manufacturing facility. This will be a brand new unit and will be owned by the company," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Chairman R C Bhargava told reporters in Gurgaon.

The company will build the plant in phases and will start operations by mid-2013 with an initial capacity of 1.5 lakh units a year, he added. "In the first phase, we will invest Rs 950 crore. After that, we will double the capacity to three lakh units per year by 2014 and it will entail a total investment of Rs 1,700 crore," Bhargava said after a meeting of the Board of Directors on March 24, 2012. MSI's Gurgaon plant, at present, produces all types of petrol engines. It has a capacity of over eight lakh units per annum.

The company, which is sourcing diesel engines from Suzuki Powertrain India Ltd (SPIL) and Fiat India, had put on hold investments on the plant awaiting clarity over any additional taxes on diesel vehicles in the Budget. With demand for diesel cars increasing, SPIL is ramping up its diesel engine capacity to three lakh units per annum from 2.4 lakh units. More-

over, MSI will also get one lakh diesel engines a year from Fiat, supply of which have already started from January this year. Demand for diesel cars have soared in India as diesel is sold at subsidised rates, much lower than petrol prices.

Indra Nooyi gets \$17 mn compensation

Beverage and food major PepsiCo has given its India-born Chief Indra Nooyi a pay package of USD 17.1 million for 2011, a 6 per cent hike from previous year, to better align her salary with the peer group. The company has hiked the base annual salary of Nooyi, currently Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, for the first time since her elevation to the post of CEO in 2006. "Nooyi earned total direct compensation of USD 17.1 million, which represents a 6 per cent increase from her 2010 total direct compensation, driven primarily by changes in her retirement benefit valuation," the US-based company said in a regulatory filing.

The Compensation Committee increased her annual base salary, for the first time since her appointment as CEO in 2006, from USD 1.3 million to USD 1.6 million effective February 2011. "This increase better aligns Nooyi's base salary with the peer group median," the company said.

Indra Nooyi is Indian-born American business executive. She is the current Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo, the second largest food & beverage business in the world (by net revenue). According to Forbes, she is consistently ranked among World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

Cabinet approves amendments in Marriage Act

The Union Cabinet has approved amendments on March 24, 2012 to the Hindu Marriage Act to make divorce with mutual consent more women friendly. In a significant change in matrimonial laws, the cabinet approved the amendment to include allowing the courts to reduce or waive off the waiting period of six months for divorce by mutual consent.

The cabinet also approved the provision to ensure that women get a share in property acquired during the marriage. The government has accepted the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice that women have a share in the property of the husband in the case of a divorce but the quantum of share will be decided by courts on a case by case basis.

Apart from giving women the right to their husband's property, the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2010, also aims at giving rights to adopted children at par with biological offsprings in case the parents go for a divorce.

The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2010, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha two years ago and was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice and Personnel.

The Cabinet also proved a seven percentage point increase in dearness allowance to its employees. The decision, was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

The new DA rate of 65 per cent of basic pay against 58 per cent earlier will be applicable from First January 2012 .It will benefit about 50 lakh employees and 30 lakh pensioners.

In yet another decision, the Union Cabinet approved the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster for pay-

Leung as a new leader Hong Kong

Leung Chun-ying wins poll of 1,200 Hong Kong notables to become semi-autonomous Chinese territory's new chief executive. A former property consultant has been elected as the new chief executive of Hong Kong, according to a live televised stream of the vote count.



Leung Chun-ying had been considered the favourite to win Sunday's vote after securing the support of the semi-autonomous territory's main pro-Beijing party. Applause broke out from delegates on the floor of the tally room as his count ticked up to a winning tally of 689, well ahead of his main rival Henry Tang with 285 and pro-democracy candidate Albert Ho on 76. Just 1,200 Hong Kong business, labour and political leaders were eligible to vote in the election of the city's next leader, which had prompted the hardest fought campaign since the handover to Chinese rule in 1997. An official for China's liaison office with Hong Kong congratulated Leung on his victory and told the state Xinhua news agency that he would lead an administration "to unite all circles of society". Hundreds of pro-democracy activists packed the streets around the harbour-side convention centre where the committee meeting was taking place, shouting slogans demanding "direct elections". The vast majority of Hong Kong's seven million residents have no right to vote in the "small circle" poll, according to the One Country, Two Systems arrangement by which China rules the former British colony. Tang, a former businessman, had initially been seen as Beijing's preferred choice to replace outgoing chief executive Donald Tsang, but his gaffe-ridden campaign disappointed his backers among the city's powerful tycoons and saw his public approval ratings plunge below 20 percent. Leung, 57, a self-made Hong Kong-born surveyor with deep China connections and a reputation as a tough political operator, told reporters earlier that he hoped to build broad community support for his leadership.

ment of ex-gratia to additional 9000 cases of Cancer and total Renal Failure among the Bhopal Gas Victims.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the establishment of the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust (CRGFT) for Low Income Housing.

The Trust will have an initial corpus of 1200 crore Rupees of which 1000 crore Rupees is being contributed from the Centre and the remaining 200 core will come from the State Governments who draw on it, in accordance with their slum populations.

India offers to launch South Korean satellite on ISLV

India has offered to launch South Korean Satellites on Indian Space Launch Vehicles. The offer came during the talks between the Prime



Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the South Korean President, Lee Myung-Bak in Seoul on March 25, 2012.

Addressing reporters at the end of talks, Dr. Singh said that the two sides agreed to expand political and security cooperation.

The two leaders also recognised the need for comprehensive UN reforms including the expansion of the Security Council to make it more representative and effective. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and President Lee reiterated their commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

A joint statement issued after the talks said that the two sides had agreed to upgrade the already booming business cooperation to achieve an ambitious trade target of 40 billion dollars by 2015, doubling the figure.

The statement expressed concern over North Korea's plan to launch an application satellite which could escalate tension in the peninsula. The two leaders expressed grave concern about the continued threat of terrorism and piracy emanating from various quarters. The statement said that the two leaders were hopeful that the comprehensive convention on international terrorism which was under consideration

at the UN would be adopted soon. India also sought South Korea's support in its bid for the Membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and other international regimes related to nuclear trade. The Secretary(East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sanjay Singh told reporters that the Prime Minister's request was noted. He said, there is a process that is ongoing and India is making considerable progress.

India - Republic of Korea Joint Statement: Deepening the Strategic Partnership

1. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an Official Visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK), at the invitation of President Lee Myung-bak, on 25 March 2012. The Prime Minister of India, his spouse Shrimati Gursharan Kaur and the accompanying delegation were received with great warmth and accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Blue House. Prime Minister Singh held a restricted summit meeting with President Lee, followed by delegation level talks. Thereafter, a luncheon banquet was hosted by President Lee in honour of the visiting dignitary and his delegation.

2. During the summit meeting, Prime Minister Singh and President Lee conducted a thorough review of and hailed the multifaceted bilateral relationship, which has rapidly acquired greater depth and vitality since its elevation to a Strategic Partnership during the landmark State visit to India of President Lee in January 2010. They agreed that the State visit of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Republic of Korea in July 2011, had imparted further momentum to the engagement and dialogue process between the two countries. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at regular high-level exchanges, steadily growing economic, trade, security and cultural ties, as well as robust people-to-people exchanges. They examined ways to further enhance ties, underscoring the mutual convergence of interests and outlook between these two democracies of Asia.

3. The two leaders also held wide-ranging discussions on regional, international and multilateral issues. It was noted that India - Republic of Korea relations were of mutual advantage and were conducive to peace, progress and stability in our

respective regions, in the whole of Asia and even beyond.

Strengthening Political and Security Cooperation

4. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee, appreciating the role of the India-ROK Joint Commission (JCM) co-chaired by the Foreign Minister and External Affairs Minister of the two countries, reaffirmed that the Commission meet every year, alternately in Seoul and New Delhi. It was also decided that the seventh meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in New Delhi at the earliest date this year.

5. The two leaders shared the view that the Foreign Policy & Security Dialogue (FPSD) at the level of Vice Foreign Minister, MOFAT and Secretary (East), MEA was a useful instrument to exchange views and harmonize positions on a vast variety of bilateral, regional and international issues. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the FPSD soon within this year in New Delhi.

6. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the strengthening bilateral cooperation in the areas of defense and security. Prime Minister Singh conveyed India's decision to set up a defense wing at the Embassy of India, Seoul within this year, which was welcomed by President Lee.

7. The two sides exchanged views on the prevailing complex security situation and underlined the need to actively pursue consultations and cooperation in the field of maritime safety and security both bilaterally and in association with other countries of the region.

8. The ROK side recalled the timely and useful visit of Defense Minister A K Antony in September 2010, which provided an excellent opportunity for both sides to exchange views on the entire range of defense and security issues. It was agreed that the Defense Minister of ROK would pay a return visit to India later this year.

9. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee also agreed to continue high-level exchanges between the defense establishments of both sides, undertake activities as mutually agreed for deepening bilateral defense relations and to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in research & development and manufacture of military equipment, including through the transfer of technology and co-production. President Lee underscored that the ROK side wanted to increase cooperation with India in military and defense industry including, inter alia, naval ships, aircrafts, and ship-building.

Expanding Economic and Trade Cooperation

10. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee noted with satisfaction that bilateral trade had increased by around 70 percent in two years

since the entry into force of the India - ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 1 January, 2010, crossing the \$ 20 billion mark in 2011. A Joint Committee has already been instituted at the level of Trade/Commerce Ministers to regularly review the working of CEPA and upgrade it as and when required. The first meeting of the Joint Committee had taken place in New Delhi on 20th January 2011. It was agreed to have the second Ministerial Committee meeting in Seoul this year.

11. The two leaders agreed to set a new bilateral trade target of US\$ 40 billion by 2015. Prime Minister Singh underlined the desirability of balanced trade relations, which would facilitate a robust growth rate in the long term. It was agreed that both sides would explore constructive and forward looking ways to facilitate greater market access to each other's products and services. Prime Minister Singh reiterated that the Indian side was hopeful of providing ROK with pharmaceutical and agricultural products, as well as, IT enabled services.

12. Prime Minister Singh apprised his host of India's efforts to strengthen the national infrastructure and plans to invest \$ 1 trillion in infrastructure development between 2012-17. Noting the enviable track record of Korean companies in successfully executing infrastructure projects all over the globe, Prime Minister Singh invited them to actively participate in the construction projects for highways, ports, airports, metros and power plants being regularly launched in India. Prime Minister Singh pointed out that India followed a transparent and competitive bidding process, which was open to qualified companies from all countries.

13. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee welcomed the growing presence and investments of Korean companies in India and those of Indian companies in ROK, which had been stimulated by the bilateral CEPA. They also agreed to explore new possibilities for joint investment in third countries. The two leaders also reaffirmed the importance of implementing the POSCO project in the State of Odisha.

14. The two leaders welcomed the steady growth in travel between the two countries, reflective of enhanced business and people to people exchanges. They agreed to increase mutual efforts to further improve air connectivity between the two countries. It was also agreed to hold the next round of civil aviation talks at an early date, to examine various proposals on the table, including the increase of the capacity entitlements for the air carriers of the two countries, in a

constructive and forward-looking spirit.

Enhancing Science and Technology Cooperation

15. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee welcomed the upgrading of the Joint Committee on Science and Technology to the ministerial level as a foundation for common growth. They noted that the \$ 10 million joint R&D fund is being actively utilized for joint research projects, human resources exchanges, workshops, and other science and technology cooperation programs.

16. Both leaders pledged to enhance cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space as envisaged in the MOU on cooperation between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI). The leaders noted that the technical experts from both sides met in Bangalore, India, in March 2011 and identified priority areas of cooperation. The Korean side welcomed India's participation in the ROK's international open bidding for launching Korean satellites. The two leaders proposed that the concerned agencies of both countries study the possible cooperation in future space activities including launching a nano-satellite developed by Korean students on an Indian launch vehicle.

17. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement during the State visit of the President of India to ROK in July 2011. Recognizing the criticality of non-polluting nuclear energy in the economic development of countries, they agreed to discuss specific items of cooperation with the ongoing review of the safety and security aspects of operating nuclear plants. President Lee requested that the Indian Government allocate a site for Korean nuclear reactors.

Promoting Culture, Education and People-to-People Exchanges

18. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the successful organization of reciprocal year long cultural festivals in both countries during 2011. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee, decided that the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between ROK and India in 2013, be celebrated in a befitting manner. Both sides will consult each other in developing a suitable calendar of events. President Lee welcomed the opening of an Indian Cultural Centre in Seoul in July 2011 and conveyed that the Korean Cultural Centre would be operational in New Delhi in the course of the year. Prime Minister Singh noted that the initiative would help the Indian people become more interested in the rich Korean culture and tradition.

19. The two leaders welcomed the growing educational and academic exchanges between the two countries. They agreed to promote tie-ups and exchanges between educational institutions of the two countries, with a view to increasing student exchanges in various areas including language, information technology, and science.

20. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee expressed a strong desire to see greater parliamentary exchanges between the two countries, which are amongst the two most vibrant democracies in the world.

21. Recognizing the critical role of the media in informing and shaping public opinion in democratic nations, Prime Minister Singh and President Lee also welcomed the MOU on media exchanges, concluded in July 2011 in Seoul. It was noted that the two countries would exchange media delegation in the second half of this year. They also agreed to facilitate institutional tie ups between media organizations of both countries to promote further exchange of content and journalists. Furthering Cooperation in the International Arena

22. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee exchanged views on the global economic and financial

situation, which continues to be very difficult. They reiterated the pressing need for all countries and international financial institutions to work in tandem in order to overcome the crisis affecting each and every nation. They agreed to step up consultations including those in the G20 process to enhance transparency and cooperation in both regional and global economic structures.

23. The two leaders also recognized the need for comprehensive UN reforms including Security Council expansion to make the body even more representative and effective. Prime Minister Singh emphasized India's aspirations for a greater role in the reformed UN Security Council. Both sides commended each other's roles and constructive contributions in promoting global peace, security and prosperity.

24. The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in their respective regions, as well as the Gulf, West Asia and North Africa, expressing concern at a number of flashpoints that could endanger peace and security in Asia and beyond. They underlined their strong commitment to the peaceful settlement of issues, without resorting to force or the threat of use of force.

25. The two leaders shared their views on the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula including its denuclearization. Noting North Korea's announcement made on March 16, 2012 that it plans to launch the so-called "application satellite", they urged that nothing should be done which increases tensions in the region and violates the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

26. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee and expressed grave concern about the continued threat of terrorism and piracy, emanating from various quarters. The two leaders expressed the hope that the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which was under consideration at the UN, would be adopted soon. The two leaders pledged to enhance mutual cooperation including through information sharing.

27. The two leaders reiterated their common commitment to nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They attached importance to the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in strengthening international efforts to address the challenge of nuclear terrorism. The Republic of Korea welcomed India's intention for future membership and active participation in the multilateral export control regimes with the objective of strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

28. The two leaders agreed to expand cooperation and coordination between their countries within the East Asia Summit (EAS), which they acknowledged should continue to remain an ASEAN-led, open, transparent and inclusive structure. They welcomed the inclusion of the United States and the Russian Federation in the EAS.

29. The two leaders welcomed the commencement of a Trilateral India-ROK-Japan dialogue amongst think-tanks of the three countries, the first of which will be held in Delhi in 2012.

30. Prime Minister Singh informed President Lee of the rapid progress in the establishment of the new Nalanda University as a symbol of excellence in learning in a resurgent Asia. President Lee stated that ROK welcomed the progress in re-establishing this premier educational institution and would examine possible ways to contribute.

31. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the following agreement and MOU :

- (i) Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures
- (ii) MOU on Cooperation between KNDA (Korea National Diplomatic Academy) and FSI (Foreign Service Institute)

MINERVA

Hindi & English Monthly Magazines

SUBSCRIPTION

Yearly : 600/-
Bi Yearly : 1000/-
Tri Yearly : 1500/-

for more details

visit : developindiamediagroup@gmail.com

32. The two leaders welcomed regular bilateral high level visits, which have become a hallmark of the relationship and observed that the Official visit of the Prime Minister of India to the Republic of Korea would contribute immeasurably to deepening and expanding the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

33. On behalf of the Government and the people of India, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed gratitude to President Mr. Lee Myung-bak and the friendly people of the Republic of Korea for the warm and gracious hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. Prime Minister Singh extended a cordial invitation to the President of ROK to visit India at a mutually convenient time. The invitation was accepted with appreciation.

Turkey closes embassy in Syria, recalls ambassador

Turkey closed its embassy in Damascus and called back its ambassador to Syria, citing a worsening security situation in the country. Activities at the embassy in the Syrian capital are being "temporarily



orarily suspended," but Turkey's consulate in Aleppo will remain operational. The embassy is being closed because of the poor security situation in Syria, a ministry official said on condition of anonymity in line with ministry regulations. The Turkish ambassador and other diplomats will be returning to Turkey, he said. The move comes two days after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was on the brink of breaking diplomatic ties with Syria and withdrawing its ambassador. The U.N. says more than 8,000 people, many of them civilian protesters, have been killed since Syria's President Bashar Assad launched a crackdown on the opposition a year ago. Turkey, which shares a 911-kilometer (566-mile) border with Syria, has said it cannot ignore the atrocities

on its doorstep and is seeking ways to stem the violence and push Assad toward leaving power. Erdogan discussed the situation in Syria with President Barack Obama on Sunday before a nuclear security meeting in Seoul, South Korea. After the meeting, U.S. officials said the United States and other key allies are considering providing Syrian rebels with communications help, medical aid and other "non-lethal" assistance. On Sunday, that issue is expected to be a key focus of a so-called Friends of Syria meeting in Istanbul involving countries that are trying to quell the violence.

About 17,000 Syrians refugees who have fled the violence are now in Turkey, many in temporary refugee camps. Turkey also is allowing Syrian civilian and army defectors to shelter and regroup on its territory.

India records decline in child mortality rate

India has recorded a decline in under-five mortality rate. However, more females are dying even now before they reach their fifth birthday. Country's latest Sample Registration System data finalised by the Registrar General of India says India in total saw 15.41 lakh under-five deaths in 2010 as compared to 16.83 lakh in 2009. According to the data, while the death rate of male children before they reached five years of age stood at 55 deaths per 1,000 male children born in 2010, it was 64 deaths per 1,000 when it came to female children.

Also, the child mortality rate was much higher in rural India than in urban. While 61 male children died per 1,000 male births in rural India, the corresponding figure for females stood at 71 .The corresponding numbers for urban India were 36 for male children and 40 for female children.

Among Indian states, Assam recorded the highest overall under-five mortality rate followed by Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. At the other end of the spectrum, Kerala recorded the lowest overall under-five mortality rate of 15 followed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra , Delhi , Punjab and Karnataka. Deaths of female children before their fifth birthday was highest in Assam and UP and lowest in Kerala.

AIR correspondent reports that India, however, still has a higher under-five mortality rate than poorer neighbours like Nepal and Bangladesh and much higher than in Sri Lanka ,according to the World Health Organisation's 'World Health Statistics 2011'.

South Africa launches health test campaign

The South African government will test thousands of miners for tuberculosis over the next year, prompted by an alarming rate of disease among the industry. Gold mining is of particular concern because it has been linked to silicosis, an incurable lung disease that increases vulnerability to tuberculosis.



There are also more than five million people living with HIV in South Africa, more than anywhere else in the world, putting even more strain on an already struggling public health sector.

In a venture aimed at getting tomorrow's leaders tested today, the Innovative Medicines of South Africa (Imsa) on Monday launched a university-based HIV counselling and testing (HCT) campaign called First Things First.

"First Things First aims to help South African students, as future leaders, to be responsible, get tested for HIV, know their status and commit to behaviour that will benefit themselves and their peers," said Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi.

The campaign seeks to encourage university students to have their "first HIV test in the first weeks of first-year student life at university", said Val Beaumont, executive director of Imsa.

The launch was held at the Wits University medical campus, and present to kick-start the campaign along with Motsoaledi were Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Hlengiwe Mkhize and Gauteng minister of health Ntomi Mekgwé.

Enabling positive change within society

Motsoaledi said there are an estimated 5.7-million South Africans living with the HI virus, contributing 17% to the world's population of people living with HIV. "Knowing your status is not the only prevention strategy, but it is the most important intervention," said Motsoaledi. "We chose to reach out to students as they are our future leaders who can enable positive change within society.

EDITORIALS

JUDICIAL STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY BILL, 2010

Chitra Singh Rajput

A judge who makes oral comments against another constitutional authority or individuals, would be liable for "judicial misconduct" under a Bill passed in Lok Sabha on Thursday dealing with complaints against Supreme Court and High Court judges.

The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010, which was introduced in December, 2010 was brought to the Lower House with fresh amendments in December last year, including one which seeks to restrain judges from making "unwarranted comments" against conduct of any Constitutional authority. According to the revised bill, any judge who makes oral comments against other constitutional authorities and individuals would render himself/herself liable for judicial misconduct.

Making a brief reply amid pandemonium to the debate on the Bill which took place during the Winter Session, Law Minister Salman Khurshid said the legislation seeks to set up a mechanism to inquire into complaints against a judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court. He said the bill aims at striking a balance between maximising judicial independence and laying down accountability at the same time for members of the higher judiciary. In his detailed reply tabled in the House amid din over Telangana, Khurshid said "the passage of this

Bill shall be a major achievement in establishing systems and procedures which will be far superior and practicable to that provided for in the Judges Enquiry Act."

Khurshid referred to some members raising the issue regarding appointment of judges and said the current system of selection of judges has been mandated by the Supreme Court in its judgement.

He said in the present system, judiciary has major say in judicial appointments.

"The executive endorses the recommendations made by the Collegium both at the level of the High Courts as well as the Supreme Court. This system which deprives the executive to have a meaningful participation as well as sharing of information in its possession is required to be reformed," Khurshid said.

He said this can be achieved only if the executive and the judiciary have a consultation process.

"...representations have been received from various quarters in the past to restore the balance between the executive and the judiciary in the selection and appointment of judges."

"There has been a suggestion to set up a National Judicial Commission...We are anxious to put in place a system that would ensure that best and brightest are elevated to the bench and in a transparent manner..." he said.



The Bill seeks to repeal the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968 but retain some of its key features like power to Parliament to impeach a judge of the Supreme Court or the High Courts, Khurshid said.

At present there is no legal provision for dealing with complaints filed by the public against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

The judiciary had adopted resolutions for declaration of assets by Judges and "Restatement of values of Judicial Life".

However, there is no law that requires the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts to declare their assets and liabilities and also there is no statutory sanction for judicial standards.

Space the latest frontier for Earth Hour

Dare the World to Save the Planet. We only have one planet. You can help protect it. Participate in the world's largest single campaign for the planet: Earth Hour. It starts by turning off your lights for an hour at 8:30 pm on March 31, 2012 in a



collective display of commitment to a better future for the planet. Think what can be achieved when we all come together for a common cause. Millions of people are expected to switch off their lights for Earth Hour today in a global effort to raise awareness about climate change that will even be monitored from space. From Egypt's Tahrir Square to New York's Empire State Building, thousands of cities will turn off lights for 60 minutes from 8:30 pm local time, with switches flicked in around 150 countries and territories. Newcomers to the Sydney-led initiative, now in its sixth year, include Libya, Iraq and the International Space Station, which will watch over the event as it rolls across the globe. "There is no better way to raise awareness for the future of the most beautiful planet in the universe," Andre Kuipers, an astronaut who will share photos and live commentary as he views Earth Hour from space, said this month. Since it began in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour has grown to become what environmental group WWForganisers say is the world's largest demonstration of support for action on carbon pollution. A total of 5,251 cities took part in 2011, as the movement reached 1.8 billion people in 135 countries, they say. "Earth Hour 2012 is a celebration of people power — the world's largest mass environmental event in support of the planet," said chief executive of WWF-Australia Dermot O'Gorman on March 31, 2012.

Sydney's Opera House and Harbour Bridge will be among the first landmarks to plunge into darkness from 0930 GMT, and will be followed by the likes of Tokyo Tower, Taipei 101 and the Great Wall of China. In the Chinese capital Beijing, Olympic Park's two landmark monuments the Bird's Nest and Water Cube will spend an hour in darkness. And in Singapore, 32 malls - many located in the glittering Orchard Road shopping belt — and more than 370 companies including luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton and Armani will turn off non-essential lighting.

Earth Hour is a worldwide event that is organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and is held on the last Saturday of March annually, encouraging households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour to raise awareness about the need to take action on climate change. Earth Hour was conceived by WWF and The Sydney Morning Herald in 2007, when 2.2 million residents of Sydney participated by turning off all non-essential lights. Following Sydney's lead, many other cities around the world adopted the event in 2008. Earth Hour 2012 will take place on



March 31, 2012 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at participant's local time. WWF Australia began to look at new ways to take climate change mainstream after being confronted with serious scientific data. WWF Australia and advertising agency Leo Burnett Sydney discuss ideas for engaging Australians on the issue of climate change.

Criticism

The criticisms of Earth Hour include:

- In 2009, economist Ross McKittrick criticized the idea, saying, "Abundant, cheap electricity has been the greatest source of human liberation in the 20th century.[...] The whole mentality around Earth Hour demonizes electricity."
- In March 2010, the Telegraph quoted electricity experts that "it could therefore result in an increase in carbon emissions" due to complications related to rapidly lowering then raising electricity generation.
- In February 2010, Rick Giles, president of ACT on Campus, the youth wing of New Zealand's ACT Party, appeared on the morning television show Sunrise to denounce Earth Hour and instead suggested the celebration of "Edison Hour". He argued that Earth Hour is an "anti-technology" cause, and that people will simply use candles instead, which is undesirable as they are petroleum-based. He argued that if we are heading for some kind of disaster, it makes sense to use technology to combat this. Rick said "I think my argument is so powerful that it's not necessary to talk about it".
- The Christian Science Monitor said that most candles are made from paraffin, a heavy hydrocarbon derived from crude oil, a fossil fuel, and that depending on how many candles a person burns (if one uses candles during Earth Hour), whether or not they normally use compact fluorescent light bulbs, and what source of energy is used to produce their electricity, in some cases, replacing light bulbs with candles will cause an increase, instead of a decrease, in carbon dioxide emissions.
- An alternative celebration of "Human Achievement Hour" was promoted by the libertarian think tank the Competitive Enterprise Institute to celebrate the advancement of human prosperity. Participants in this celebration were asked to "celebrate the achievements of humanity such as eating dinner, seeing a film, driving around, keeping the heat on in your home".

EDITORIAL

DEVELOP INDIA

English Weekly Newspaper
Year 4, Vol. 1, Issue 190, 25 March - 1 April, 2012

Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is the most vulnerable in the world

Will it confront the dangers posed by Pakistan's unsecured nuclear programme, asks Nikhil Lakshman, currently in the South Korean capital. Truckers caught in the traffic on the bustling highway from Multan to Rawalpindi swear at the heat and mull over the convoy of seemingly unconnected trucks traveling the other way from the garrison town where the Pakistan army has its headquarters to the bustling city in the Punjab.

'They don't look like truckwallahs,' one driver tells the cleaner, sitting alongside, digging his nose. 'They look fauji.'

Suddenly, out of almost nowhere it seems, a gaggle of pick-up trucks and SUVs block either end of the 'fauji' convoy.

Shooting breaks out between the men in the trucks and the men in the pick-up vehicles.

The exchange of fire continues for several minutes. Traffic halts instantaneously. People take cover. Even in Pakistan where gunfire is a daily occurrence these days, the vehemence of the encounter is startling.

When the firing stops, men from the pick-up trucks emerge, wearing radioactive- protective uniforms. They seem to know what they are looking for, quickly entering one of the trucks and taking away what appears to be a small canister.

As they race to the SUVs, one of them tosses grenades into the trucks.

The entire operation takes less than 15 minutes. As military helicopters emerge over the horizon, the SUVs vanish.

The first nuclear heist has just taken place... Fiction yes, but for how long?

As 50 of the world's leaders gather in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday and Tuesday for the second Nuclear Security Summit, the nightmare that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal could be stolen by terrorists and used to mount an attack — no prizes for guessing on which country — is truly terrifying.

Mumbai is invariably mentioned whenever nuclear security pundits mull over the threat to Pakistan's nuclear arsenal from terrorists or from army officers and nuclear scientists who are sympathetic to the terrorists' cause.

On March 20, the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a group dedicated to the study of the threats posed by vulnerable atomic arsenals worldwide, noted, 'The consequence of a nuclear terrorist attack — whether in Tokyo or Tel Aviv, Mumbai or New York — are almost unthinkable. World leaders in Seoul should take important steps to ensure that such a catastrophe never happens.'

In his feature on Pakistan in The Atlantic magazine — 'The Ally From Hell' — Jeffrey Goldberg quotes Graham Allison, an expert on nuclear weapons at Harvard's Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs as saying a terrorist theft of a weapon which they could take to Mumbai or New York and trigger off a nuclear 9/11 is among the three major fears about Pakistan's nuclear programme.

In 2010, United States President Barack Obama invited 46 heads of government to Washington, DC for the first Nuclear Security Summit, the largest number of world leaders who gathered on American soil since 1945.

As the Belfer Center noted, Obama wanted to focus world leaders' minds like a laser beam on what he identified as the 'single biggest threat' — nuclear terrorism

All 46 leaders agreed to secure 'vulnerable nuclear material worldwide from the reach of thieves and terrorists within four years. Among the leaders was Prime Minister Manmohan Singh — whose presence at the summit, South Asia expert Dr Ashley Tellis then noted on Rediff.com, 'epitomises the support of a key country that along with the US and Israel would be among the most likely victims of nuclear terrorism should the summit's objectives not be realised.'

Also present was Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousaf Reza Gilani whose country has the fastest growing nuclear weapons programme in the world!

The Nuclear Security Summit is not country specific. It did not discuss the many threats to Pakistan's nuclear weapons in Washington and it is unlikely the meeting in Seoul will do so, at least externally — even though as Matthew Bunn, Eben Harrell and Martin B Mallin noted in their eve-of the second-NSS report released on Friday, 'Pakistan's nuclear assets face a greater threat from extremists seeking nuclear weapons than any other stockpile on earth.'

TEST SERIES;

Study Materials

IAS Prelims and main examinations

Fee : 1000/-

for more details

visit : developindiamediagroup@gmail.com

BRICS SUMMIT 2012

The 2012 BRICS summit was the fourth annual BRICS summit, an international relations conference attended by the head of states or heads of government of the five member states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The summit was held at Taj Mahal Hotel in New Delhi, India on March 29, 2012. This is the first time that India has hosted a BRICS summit. The theme of the summit was "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity".

The BRICS countries India, China, Russia, Brazil and South Africa have signed two agreements to push intra-country trade in their local currencies and to set up a development bank. The five emerging economies agreed on Thursday on a joint working group to set up a development bank that will extend credit facilities to member countries in local currencies. It is aimed at reducing the demand for fully convertible currencies dollar, euro and pound for transactions among BRICS nations. This will also help reduce the transaction costs of intra-BRICS trade.

In a joint media statement after the BRICS Summit, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said the agreements would boost trade among the BRICS countries. Dr. Singh said all five countries were affected by the global economic slowdown, volatility in food and energy prices, political uncertainty in West Asia and the rise of terrorism and extremism. In a Joint Delhi Declaration adopted after the summit the leaders underlined that dialogue was the only way to resolve issues related to Iran and Syria. Expressing deep concern over the situation in Syria, the leaders called for an immediate end to all violence and violations of human rights.

On Iran, the BRICS leaders voiced concern over the situation emerging around its nuclear programme and said it cannot be allowed to escalate into conflict as it could have disastrous consequences which will be in no one's interest.

At their Summit meeting , Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and South African President Jacob Zuma pitched for close coordination among the five leading economies to meet the challenges being witnessed in the global scenario.

BRICS nations sign pacts to promote trade in local currency
In an initiative to promote trade in local currencies, the BRICS nations signed two agreements to provide line of credit to business community and decided to examine the possibility of setting up a development bank on lines of multilateral lending agencies.

The agreements were signed by officials of five countries -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- at the fourth BRICS summit in New Delhi.

"The agreements signed today by development banks of BRICS countries will boost trade by offering credit in our local currency," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in a media statement after the meeting. The Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currency and the Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement are being perceived as a step towards replacing the dollar as the main unit of trade between them.

Such intra-BRICS initiatives, according to officials, will not only contribute to enhanced trade and investments among the nations but would also facilitate economic growth in difficult economic times. As regards the initiative to set up a

BRICS Development Bank on the lines of multilateral lending agency, Dr. Singh said the proposal would be examined by the finance ministers.

"A suggestion has been made to set up a BRICS development bank, we have directed our FM to examine the proposal and report back by next summit," Dr. Singh said. The initiative to set up a BRICS Development Bank on the lines of the World Bank would allow the member countries to pool resources for infrastructure development and could also be used to lend during the difficult global environment. Intra-BRICS trade is about USD 230 billion and has the potential of more than doubling to USD 500 billion by 2015.

Rich Nations distorting global trade: BRICS

Expressing concern over protectionism in a difficult economic environment, the BRICS countries on Wednesday said the developed nations are undermining the global food security by distorting trade through agriculture subsidies. Ahead of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Thursday, trade ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa said in a joint statement, "subsidies in agriculture by some developed countries continue to distort trade and undermine the food security and development prospects of developing countries".

Such protectionism should be shunned, the statement said, after the trade ministers' meeting. "The ministers emphasised the need to resist protectionist tendencies...", it added.

They have also agreed to a pact to extend cross-country credit in local currencies of the member countries. The MoU in this regard would be signed on Thursday, a Commerce Ministry official said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma, in a joint press conference, said it should be possible for the intra - BRICS trade to more than double to USD 500 billion by 2015. At present, it is USD 212 billion.

Concerned over the fallout of the European sovereign debt crisis, BRICS countries called for collective efforts to deal with the problem. "Adversity of financial crisis is being faced by all. There is a need to work together to overcome from this problem," Sharma said on Wednesday.

China's Trade Minister Chen Deming said, his country would make "due contribution" to a fund to bail out the euro zone from the financial crisis.

"There is a large untapped potential for intra-BRICS trade and investments...that would facilitate economic growth at a time when the global economy is hobbled by uncertainty," Sharma said.

Further, the joint statement said that the Ministers also directed their officials to explore ways to enhance intra-BRICS cooperation in areas of customs, trade facilitation, investment promotion for small and medium enterprises, trade data collection and intellectual property rights. They also directed their officials to explore ways to enhance intra-BRICS cooperation in areas of customs, trade facilitation, investment promotion for small and medium enterprises, trade data collection and intellectual property rights. Ministers also asked officials to enhance trade in higher value-added manufactured products to support industrialisation and employment in their countries.

Expressing "deep concern" over the current impasse in the Doha Development Round, ministers said that there is a need to explore outcomes in specific areas where progress is possible.

"It is of utmost importance that negotiations on any components of the Doha Round are consistent with the existing mandates. The Ministers did not support any plurilateral initiatives that go against the fundamental principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism," it added.

The Ministers agreed to coordinate their positions at the WTO and in other multilateral fora such as the forthcoming meeting of the G20 Trade Ministers. "At a time when the global economy is in crisis, the Doha trade Round is at an impasse and multilateralism is under challenge, it is vital for UNCTAD to strengthen its role of policy dialogue, consensus building and capacity building for developing countries," it said.

They also took note of the discussions in the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) on Russia's proposal for setting up BRICS Projects Platforms/ technology pool for joint projects development. Meanwhile, officials said that the BRICS group may launch on Thursday a joint development bank and steps to bring their stock exchanges closer.

The move would allow the member countries to pool resources for infrastructure development and could also be used to lend during the difficult global environment, the officials added.

Fourth BRICS Summit - Delhi Declaration

1. We, the leaders of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met in New Delhi, India, on 29 March 2012 at the Fourth BRICS Summit. Our discussions, under the overarching theme, "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity", were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and warmth and inspired by a shared desire to further strengthen our partnership for common development and take our cooperation forward on the basis of openness, solidarity, mutual understanding and trust.

2. We met against the backdrop of developments and changes of contemporary global and regional importance - a faltering global recovery made more complex by the situation in the euro zone; concerns of sustainable development and climate change which take on greater relevance as we approach the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity being hosted in Brazil and India respectively later this year; the upcoming G20 Summit in Mexico and the recent 8th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva; and the developing political scenario in the Middle East and North Africa that we view with increasing concern. Our deliberations today reflected our consensus to remain engaged with the world community as we address these challenges to global well-being and stability in a responsible and constructive manner.

3. BRICS is a platform for dialogue and cooperation amongst countries that represent 43% of the world's population, for the promotion of peace, security and development in a multi-polar, inter-dependent and increasingly complex, globalizing world. Coming, as we do, from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, the transcontinental dimension of

our interaction adds to its value and significance.

4. We envision a future marked by global peace, economic and social progress and enlightened scientific temper. We stand ready to work with others, developed and developing countries together, on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law and multilateral decision making, to deal with the challenges and the opportunities before the world today. Strengthened representation of emerging and developing countries in the institutions of global governance will enhance their effectiveness in achieving this objective.

5. We are concerned over the current global economic situation. While the BRICS recovered relatively quickly from the global crisis, growth prospects worldwide have again got dampened by market instability especially in the euro zone. The build-up of sovereign debt and concerns over medium to long-term fiscal adjustment in advanced countries are creating an uncertain environment for global growth. Further, excessive liquidity from the aggressive policy actions taken by central banks to stabilize their domestic economies have been spilling over into emerging market economies, fostering excessive volatility in capital flows and commodity prices. The immediate priority at hand is to restore market confidence and get global growth back on track. We will work with the international community to ensure international policy coordination to maintain macroeconomic stability conducive to the healthy recovery of the global economy.

6. We believe that it is critical for advanced economies to adopt responsible macroeconomic and financial policies, avoid creating excessive global liquidity and undertake structural reforms to lift growth that create jobs. We draw attention to the risks of large and volatile cross-border capital flows being faced by the emerging economies. We call for further international financial regulatory oversight and reform, strengthening policy coordination and financial regulation and supervision cooperation, and promoting the sound development of global financial markets and banking systems.

7. In this context, we believe that the primary role of the G20 as premier forum for international economic cooperation at this juncture is to facilitate enhanced macroeconomic policy coordination, to enable global economic recovery and secure financial stability, including through an improved international monetary and financial architecture. We approach the next G20 Summit in Mexico with a commitment to work with the Presidency, all members and the international community to achieve positive results, consistent with national policy frameworks, to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

8. We recognize the importance of the global financial architecture in maintaining the stability and integrity of the global monetary and financial system. We therefore call for a more representative international financial architecture, with an increase in the voice and representation of developing countries and the establishment and improvement of a just international monetary system that can serve the interests of all countries and support the development of emerging and developing economies. Moreover, these economies having experienced broad-based growth are now significant contributors to global recovery.

9. We are however concerned at the slow pace of quota and governance reforms in the IMF. We see an urgent need to implement, as



agreed, the 2010 Governance and Quota Reform before the 2012 IMF/ World Bank Annual Meeting, as well as the comprehensive review of the quota formula to better reflect economic weights and enhance the voice and representation of emerging market and developing countries by January 2013, followed by the completion of the next general quota review by January 2014. This dynamic process of reform is necessary to ensure the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Fund. We stress that the ongoing effort to increase the lending capacity of the IMF will only be successful if there is confidence that the entire membership of the institution is truly committed to implement the 2010 Reform faithfully. We will work with the international community to ensure that sufficient resources can be mobilized to the IMF in a timely manner as the Fund continues its transition to improve governance and legitimacy. We reiterate our support for measures to protect the voice and representation of the IMF's poorest members.

10. We call upon the IMF to make its surveillance framework more integrated and even-handed, noting that IMF proposals for a new integrated decision on surveillance would be considered before the IMF Spring Meeting.

11. In the current global economic environment, we recognise that there is a pressing need for enhancing the flow of development finance to emerging and developing countries. We therefore call upon the World Bank to give greater priority to mobilising resources and meeting the needs of development finance while reducing lending costs and adopting innovative lending tools.

12. We welcome the candidatures from developing world for the position of the President of the World Bank. We reiterate that the Heads of IMF and World Bank be selected through an open and merit-based process. Furthermore, the new World Bank leadership must commit to transform the Bank into a multilateral institution that truly reflects the vision of all its members, including the governance structure that reflects current economic and political reality. Moreover, the nature of the Bank must shift from an institution that essentially mediates North-South cooperation to an institution that promotes equal partnership with all countries as a way to deal with development issues and to overcome an outdated donor-recipient dichotomy.

developing countries, to supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development. We direct our Finance Ministers to examine the feasibility and viability of such an initiative, set up a joint working group for further study, and report back to us by the next Summit.

14. Brazil, India, China and South Africa look forward to the Russian Presidency of G20 in 2013 and extend their cooperation.

15. Brazil, India, China and South Africa congratulate the Russian Federation on its accession to the WTO. This makes the WTO more representative and strengthens the rule-based multilateral trading system. We commit to working together to safeguard this system and urge other countries to resist all forms of trade protectionism and disguised restrictions on trade.

16. We will continue our efforts for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round, based on the progress made and in keeping with its mandate. Towards this end, we will explore outcomes in specific areas where progress is possible while preserving the centrality of development and within the overall framework of the single undertaking. We do not support plurilateral initiatives that go against the fundamental principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism. We believe that such initiatives not only distract members from striving for a collective outcome but also fail to address the development deficit inherited from previous negotiating rounds. Once the ratification process is completed, Russia intends to participate in an active and constructive manner for a balanced outcome of the Doha Round that will help strengthen and develop the multilateral trade system.

17. Considering UNCTAD to be the focal point in the UN system for the treatment of trade and development issues, we intend to invest in improving its traditional activities of consensus-building, technical cooperation and research on issues of economic development and trade. We reiterate our willingness to actively contribute to the achievement of a successful UNCTAD XIII, in April 2012.

18. We agree to build upon our synergies and to work together to intensify trade and investment flows among our countries to advance our respective industrial development and employment objectives. We welcome the outcomes of the second Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers held in New Delhi on 28 March 2012. We support the regular consultations amongst our Trade Ministers and consider taking suitable

measures to facilitate further consolidation of our trade and economic ties. We welcome the conclusion of the Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currency under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism and the Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement between our EXIM/Development Banks. We believe that these Agreements will serve as useful enabling instruments for enhancing intra-BRICS trade in coming years.

19. We recognize the vital importance that stability, peace and security of the Middle East and North Africa holds for all of us, for the international community, and above all for the countries and their citizens themselves whose lives have been affected by the turbulence that has erupted in the region. We wish to see these countries living in peace and regain stability and prosperity as respected members of the global community.

20. We agree that the period of transformation taking place in the Middle East and North Africa should not be used as a pretext to delay resolution of lasting conflicts but rather it should serve as an incentive to settle them, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict. Resolution of this and other long-standing regional issues would generally improve the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. Thus we confirm our commitment to achieving comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the universally recognized international legal framework including the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative. We encourage the Quartet to intensify its efforts and call for greater involvement of the UN Security Council in search for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We also underscore the importance of direct negotiations between the parties to reach final settlement. We call upon Palestinians and Israelis to take constructive measures, rebuild mutual trust and create the right conditions for restarting negotiations, while avoiding unilateral steps, in particular settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

21. We express our deep concern at the current situation in Syria and call for an immediate end to all violence and violations of human rights in that country. Global interests would best be served by dealing with the crisis through peaceful means that encourage broad national dialogues that reflect the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Syrian society and respect Syrian independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. Our objective is to facilitate a Syrian-led inclusive political process, and we welcome the joint efforts of the United Nations and the Arab League to this end. We encourage the Syrian government and all sections of Syrian society to demonstrate the political will to initiate such a process, which alone can create a new environment for peace. We welcome the appointment of Mr. Kofi Annan as the Joint Special Envoy on the Syrian crisis and the progress made so far, and support him in continuing to play a constructive role in bringing about the political resolution of the crisis.

22. The situation concerning Iran cannot be allowed to escalate into conflict, the disastrous consequences of which will be in no one's interest. Iran has a crucial role to play for the peaceful development and prosperity of a region of high political and economic relevance, and we look to it to play its part as a responsible member of the global community. We are concerned about the situation that is emerging around Iran's nuclear issue. We recognize Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent

with its international obligations, and support resolution of the issues involved through political and diplomatic means and dialogue between the parties concerned, including between the IAEA and Iran and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

23. Afghanistan needs time, development assistance and cooperation, preferential access to world markets, foreign investment and a clear end-state strategy to attain lasting peace and stability. We support the global community's commitment to Afghanistan, enunciated at the Bonn International Conference in December 2011, to remain engaged over the transformation decade from 2015-2024. We affirm our commitment to support Afghanistan's emergence as a peaceful, stable and democratic state, free of terrorism and extremism, and underscore the need for more effective regional and international cooperation for the stabilisation of Afghanistan, including by combating terrorism.

24. We extend support to the efforts aimed at combating illicit traffic in opiates originating in Afghanistan within the framework of the Paris Pact.

25. We reiterate that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any act of terrorism in any form or manifestation. We reaffirm our determination to strengthen cooperation in countering this menace and believe that the United Nations has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism, within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of international law. We emphasize the need for an early finalization of the draft of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN General Assembly and its adoption by all Member States to provide a comprehensive legal framework to address this global scourge.

26. We express our strong commitment to multilateral diplomacy with the United Nations playing a central role in dealing with global challenges and threats. In this regard, we reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more effective, efficient and representative so that it can deal with today's global challenges more successfully. China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to the status of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN.

27. We recall our close coordination in the Security Council during the year 2011, and underscore our commitment to work together in the UN to continue our cooperation and strengthen multilateral approaches on issues pertaining to global peace and security in the years to come.

28. Accelerating growth and sustainable development, along with food, and energy security, are amongst the most important challenges facing the world today, and central to addressing economic development, eradicating poverty, combating hunger and malnutrition in many developing countries. Creating jobs needed to improve people's living standards worldwide is critical. Sustainable development is also a key element of our agenda for global recovery and investment for future growth. We owe this responsibility to our future generations.

29. We congratulate South Africa on the successful hosting of the 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 7th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP17/CMP7) in December 2011. We welcome the significant outcomes of the Conference and are ready to work with the international community to imple-

ment its decisions in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

30. We are fully committed to playing our part in the global fight against climate change and will contribute to the global effort in dealing with climate change issues through sustainable and inclusive growth and not by capping development. We emphasize that developed country Parties to the UNFCCC shall provide enhanced financial, technology and capacity building support for the preparation and implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries.

31. We believe that the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is a unique opportunity for the international community to renew its high-level political commitment to supporting the overarching sustainable development framework encompassing inclusive economic growth and development, social progress and environment protection in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

32. We consider that sustainable development should be the main paradigm in environmental issues, as well as for economic and social strategies. We acknowledge the relevance and focus of the main themes for the Conference namely, Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (GESDPE) as well as Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD).

33. China, Russia, India and South Africa look forward to working with Brazil as the host of this important Conference in June, for a successful and practical outcome. Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa also pledge their support to working with India as it hosts the 11th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2012 and look forward to a positive outcome. We will continue our efforts for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, with special attention to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

34. We affirm that the concept of a 'green economy', still to be defined at Rio+20, must be understood in the larger framework of sustainable development and poverty eradication and is a means to achieve these fundamental and overriding priorities, not an end in itself. National authorities must be given the flexibility and policy space to make their own choices out of a broad menu of options and define their paths towards sustainable development based on the country's stage of development, national strategies, circumstances and priorities. We resist the introduction of trade and investment barriers in any form on the grounds of developing green economy.

35. The Millennium Development Goals remain a fundamental milestone in the development agenda. To enable developing countries to obtain maximal results in attaining their Millennium Development Goals by the agreed time-line of 2015, we must ensure that growth in these countries is not affected. Any slowdown would have serious consequences for the world economy. Attainment of the MDGs is fundamental to ensuring inclusive, equitable and sustainable global growth and would require continued focus on these goals even beyond 2015, entailing enhanced financing support.

36. We attach the highest importance to economic growth that supports development and stability in Africa, as many of these countries have not yet realised their full economic potential. We will take our cooperation forward to support their efforts to accelerate the diversification and modernisation of their economies. This will be through infrastructure development, knowledge exchange and support for increased access to technology, enhanced capacity building, and investment in human capital, including within the framework of the New

Delhi Action Plan

1. Meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers on sidelines of UNGA.
2. Meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on sidelines of G20 meetings/other multilateral (WB/IMF) meetings.
3. Meeting of financial and fiscal authorities on the sidelines of WB/IMF meetings as well as stand-alone meetings, as required.
4. Meetings of BRICS Trade Ministers on the margins of multilateral events, or stand-alone meetings, as required.
5. The Third Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts on agro-products and food security issues and the second Meeting of Agriculture Expert Working Group.
6. Meeting of BRICS High Representatives responsible for national security.
7. The Second BRICS Senior Officials' Meeting on S&T.
8. The First meeting of the BRICS Urbanisation Forum and the second BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum in 2012 in India.
9. The Second Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers.
10. Mid-term meeting of Sous-Sherpas and Sherpas.
11. Mid-term meeting of CGETI (Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues).
12. The Third Meeting of BRICS Competition Authorities in 2013.
13. Meeting of experts on a new Development Bank.
14. Meeting of financial authorities to follow up on the findings of the BRICS Report.
15. Consultations amongst BRICS Permanent Missions in New York, Vienna and Geneva, as required.
16. Consultative meeting of BRICS Senior Officials on the margins of relevant environment and climate related international fora, as necessary.
17. New Areas of Cooperation to explore:
 - (i) Multilateral energy cooperation within BRICS framework.
 - (ii) A general academic evaluation and future long-term strategy for BRICS.
 - (iii) BRICS Youth Policy Dialogue.
 - (iv) Cooperation in Population related issues.

Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

37. We express our commitment to the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis that still affects millions of people in the Horn of Africa and support international efforts to this end.

38. Excessive volatility in commodity prices, particularly those for food and energy, poses additional risks for the recovery of the world economy. Improved regulation of the derivatives market for commodities is essential to avoid destabilizing impacts on food and energy supplies. We believe that increased energy production capacities and strengthened producer-consumer dialogue are important initiatives that would help in arresting such price volatility.

39. Energy based on fossil fuels will continue to dominate the energy mix for the foreseeable future. We will expand sourcing of clean and renewable energy, and use of energy efficient and alternative technologies, to meet the increasing demand of our economies and our people, and respond to climate concerns as well. In this context, we emphasise that international cooperation in the development of safe nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should proceed under conditions of strict observance of relevant safety standards and requirements concerning design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants. We stress IAEA's essential role in the joint efforts of the international community towards enhancing nuclear safety standards with a view to increasing public confidence in nuclear energy as a clean, affordable, safe and secure source of energy, vital to meeting global energy demands.

40. We have taken note of the substantive efforts made in taking intra-BRICS cooperation forward in a number of sectors so far. We are convinced that there is a storehouse of knowledge, know-how, capacities and best practices available in our countries that we can share and on which we can build meaningful cooperation for the benefit of our peoples. We have endorsed an Action Plan for the coming year with this objective.

41. We appreciate the outcomes of the Second Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development at Chengdu, China in October 2011. We direct our Ministers to take this process forward with particular focus on the potential of cooperation amongst the BRICS to contribute effectively to global food security and nutrition through improved agriculture production and productivity, transparency in markets and reducing excessive volatility in commodity prices, thereby making a difference in the quality of lives of the people particularly in the developing world.

42. Most of BRICS countries face a number of similar public health challenges, including universal access to health services, access to health technologies, including medicines, increasing costs and the growing burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. We direct that the BRICS

Health Ministers meetings, of which the first was held in Beijing in July 2011, should henceforth be institutionalized in order to address these common challenges in the most cost-effective, equitable and sustainable manner.

43. We have taken note of the meeting of S&T Senior Officials in Dalian, China in September 2011, and, in particular, the growing capacities for research and development and innovation in our countries. We encourage this process both in priority areas of food, pharma, health and energy as well as basic research in the emerging inter-disciplinary fields of nanotechnology, biotechnology, advanced materials science, etc. We encourage flow of knowledge amongst our research institutions through joint projects, workshops and exchanges of young scientists.

44. The challenges of rapid urbanization, faced by all developing societies including our own, are multi-dimensional in nature covering a diversity of inter-linked issues. We direct our respective authorities to coordinate efforts and learn from best practices and technologies available that can make a meaningful difference to our societies. We note with appreciation the first meeting of BRICS Friendship Cities held in Sanya in December 2011 and will take this process forward with an Urbanization and Urban Infrastructure Forum along with the Second BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum.

45. Given our growing needs for renewable energy resources as well as on energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies, and our complementary strengths in these areas, we agree to exchange knowledge, know-how, technology and best practices in these areas.

46. It gives us pleasure to release the first ever BRICS Report, coordinated by India, with its special focus on the synergies and complementarities in our economies. We welcome the outcomes of the cooperation among the National Statistical Institutions of BRICS and take note that the updated edition of the BRICS Statistical Publication, released today, serves as a useful reference on BRICS countries.

47. We express our satisfaction at the convening of the III BRICS Business Forum and the II Financial Forum and acknowledge their role in stimulating trade relations among our countries. In this context, we welcome the setting up of BRICS Exchange Alliance, a joint initiative by related BRICS securities exchanges.

48. We encourage expanding the channels of communication, exchanges and people-to-people contact amongst the BRICS, including in the areas of youth, education, culture, tourism and sports.

49. Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa extend their warm appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of India for hosting the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

50. Brazil, Russia, India and China thank South Africa for its offer to host the Fifth BRICS Summit in 2013 and pledge their full support.

4th BRICS Summit history

The BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) idea was first conceived in 2001 by Goldman Sachs as part of an economic modeling exercise to forecast global economic trends over the next half century; the acronym BRIC was first used in 2001 by Goldman Sachs in their Global Economics Paper No. 66, "The World Needs Better Economic BRICs".

Expansion of BRIC into BRICS

2. BRIC Foreign Ministers at their meeting in New York on 21st September 2010 agreed that South Africa may be invited to join BRIC. Accordingly, China, as the host of 3rd BRICS Summit, invited South African President to attend the Summit in Sanya on 14 April 2011 with the concurrence of other BRIC Leaders.

BRIC(S) Summits

The First Summit - Yekaterinburg, Russia (June 2009)

3. The Leaders reviewed the state of global economic and financial crisis and had consultations on the issues on G-8 and G-20 Agenda. The Leaders stressed the need to intensify cooperation in the BRIC format on economic matters, to seek speedy implementation of G-20 decisions of interest to developing countries, and reform of global governance and the international financial system. The Summit adopted Joint Statement of BRIC Leaders and a Joint Statement on Global Food Security.

The Second BRIC Summit - Brasilia, April 2010

4. The Leaders reiterated the need for closer cooperation, reform of international financial institutions and protecting the interests of the developing countries.

5. A Joint Statement was issued after the Summit. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed among BRIC Development Banks. A BRIC Statistical publication was also released.

Third BRICS Summit, Sanya, China, April 2011

6. The theme of the Summit was "Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity". The Sanya Summit was the first after inclusion of South Africa in BRICS. The Summit took place at a time when all five BRICS countries were together in the UN Security Council.

Consultation meeting of BRICS Leaders on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Cannes, France, 3 November 2011

7. BRICS Leaders held a consultation meeting on 3rd November 2011 in Cannes, France, before the G-20 Summit. The Leaders exchanged views on BRICS cooperation and the Cannes G20 Summit. ●●●



G.K. Test Series - 3

These questions are very useful for you

1. Consider the following statements and using the code given below identify the personality with whom these statements are associated

- He has recently joined the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited as its Chairman
 - He is one of the few outsiders to head HAL
 - He started his career with ONGC in 1976
 - He has also served as the head of Pawan Hans Limited
- (a) RK Sharma
(b) RK Tyagi
(c) AM Naik
(d) Pratip Chaudhury

Answer: (b)

2. Which of the following Indian company has formed a joint venture with South African firm Exxaro

- (a) Reliance Industries
(b) Essar
(c) Tata Power
(d) Vodafone India

Answer: (c)

3. Who has been appointed the new Managing Director of Hyundai India?

- (a) Bo Shin Seo
(b) Andrew Mark
(c) Anil Aggarwal
(d) Anand Mahindra

Answer: (a)

4. Admax, South Asia's largest digital media network was acquired by which Indian company

- (a) Komli Media
(b) Mindtree
(c) Tata Teleservices
(d) Google India

Answer: (a)

5. James Murdoch, who on 29 February 2012 stepped down as Executive Chairman of News International is son of

- (a) Rupert Grint
(b) Steve Murdoch
(c) Mark Rupert
(d) Rupert Murdoch

Answer: (d)

6. Consider the following statements using the code given below identify the personality with whom these statements are associated

- He has recently been appointed as the Chairman of Mindtree Limited
 - He is also the co-founder of Mindtree limited
 - He has replaced Ashok Soota as the Chairman of Mindtree Limited
 - He has also served as the Vice Chairman of Mindtree
- (a) Subroto Bagchi
(b) Vivek Hooda
(c) Ashok Malik
(d) Pradeep Rungta

Answer: (a)

7. Which one of the following statements is wrong

- (a) Varun Berry resigned from the Pepsi Co India on 29 February 2012
(b) He was the Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo India Food
(c) He joined the company in 2006
(d) As the CEO of PepsiCo India Foods, he promoted brands like Lay's, Quaker, Kurkure and Lehar

Answer: (c)

8. Who has been appointed the new Managing Director of Hyundai India?

- (a) Bo Shin Seo
(b) Andrew Mark
(c) Anil Aggarwal
(d) Anand Mahindra

Answer: (a)

9. Company Law Board on 1 March 2012, returned the petitions of

- (a) Telenor and Unitech
(b) Reliance Telecom
(c) Etisalat DB
(d) STel

Answer: (a)

10. Which of the following public sector bank has appointed Madhukant Girdharlal Sanghvi as its new Chairman

- (a) Bank of Baroda
(b) Allahabad Bank
(c) State Bank of Maharashtra
(d) Syndicate Bank

Answer: (d)

11. Consider the following statements and using the code given below identify the personality with whom these statements are associated

- He is the CEO of Mahindra Satyam
 - He is to be appointed as the CEO of Mahindra Satyam-Tech Mahindra
 - He was instrumental in recreating the image of fraud-hit-firm and giving it a new lease of life Satyam
 - In 2007, he was nominated for the Entrepreneur of the Year Award bestowed by Ernst & Young.
- (a) AM Naik
(b) CP Gurnani
(c) Shiv Nadar
(d) Anand Mahindra

Answer: (c)

12. Which of the following car company on 23 March 2012 hiked the price of its cars by 2.2 – 5.1 per cent

- (a) Skoda India
(b) Volkswagen India
(c) Tata Motores
(d) Hyundai

Answer: (a)

13. Indigo Manza is the car manufactured by – – – – –

- (a) Tata Motors
(b) Honda Motors
(c) Hyundai Motors
(d) Nissan Motors

Answer: (a)

14. Which of the following banks on 20 March 2012, launched its new card product named Sapphire

- (a) HDFC
(b) State Bank of India
(c) Kotak Mahindra
(d) ICICI

Answer: (a)

15. Which of the following companies on 12 March 2012 unveiled India's first CDMA network technology driven tablet computers

- (a) Airtel
(b) Dell
(c) Reliance Communications
(d) Idea Cellular

Answer: (c)

16. Consider the following statements using the code given below identify the personality with whom these statements are associated

- He won Malaysian Grand Prix on 25 March 2012
 - He is the Ferrari driver
 - He is a Spanish national
 - On 25 September 2005, he won the Formula One World Driver's Championship title at the age of 24 years
- (a) Lewis Hamilton
(b) Fernando Alonso
(c) Sergio Perez
(d) Sebastian Vettel

Answer: (b)

17. Which one of the following statements is wrong

- (a) Lewis Hamilton is Formula One player
(b) He is a British national
(c) He is the Red Bull's driver
(d) He finished third in the Malaysian Grand Prix 2012

Answer: (c)

18. Who among the following tennis players won Qnet ITF Women's Tennis Championship Title?

- (a) Donna Vekic
(b) Andrea Koch-Benvenuto
(c) Martina Navratilova
(d) Serena Williams

Answer: (a)

19. Which of the following state won the National Inter-State Tennis Championship?

- (a) Maharashtra
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Tamil Nadu
(d) Karnataka

Answer: (c)

20. Virat Kohli has been slated the vice captain of Indian cricket team, he represents which of the following states?

- (a) Delhi
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Gujarat
(d) Rajasthan

Answer: (a)

21. Marathi poet and Sahitya Akademi awardwinner, Manik Godghate passed away in Pune on 26 March 2012 after battling liver cancer for a year. For which of his work did he receive the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2012?

- a. Waryane Halte Raan
b. Sandhyakalchya Kavita
c. Chandramadhavichya Pradeshat
d. Sandhyaparvatil Vaishnavi

Answer: (a)

22. Name the Tamil author who was announced the winner of the Saraswati Samman 2011 by K K Birla Foundation announced on 22 March 2012 for his book Irama Kathaiyum Iramayakalum.

- a. Dhanushkodi Ramasamy
b. Jeyamohan
c. Sundara Ramasami
d. A A Manavalan

Answer: (d)

23. Which legendary versatile Bengali actor was on 21 March 2012 selected for India's highest film honour - the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2012?

- a. Prasanjeet Chatterjee
b. Soumitra Chatterjee
c. Ranjit Mallick
d. Suwendu Chakraborty

Answer: (b)

24. Name the Union Minister who on 20 March 2012 was sworn in as the Union Railway Minister by President Pratibha Patil in New Delhi following the resignation of Dinesh Trivedi.

- a. Mukul Roy
b. Subodh Kant Sahay
c. M.K. Alagiri
d. Kishore Chandra Deo

Answer: (a)

25. Matanhy Saldanha, the tourism minister of Goa died of a heart attack on 21 March 2012. He also held the portfolio of – – – – –

- a. Health
b. Finance
c. Science and Environment
d. Home

Answer: (c)

26. Report of the probe by the income-tax department into the allegations that relatives of former chief justice had amassed huge wealth during his tenure was submitted on 12 March 2012 to the Supreme Court. Identify the CJI in question.

- a. KG Balakrishnan
b. R.C. Lahoti
c. G.B Pattanaik
d. B.N. Kripal

Answer: (a)

27. Union Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh during his tour of Maharashtra's Satara district announced on 11 March 2012 a national award for sanitation and water in the name of which of the following Maharashtrian saints?

- a. Bhaktha Pundarikar
b. Sant Gadge Baba
c. Sant Yoga Paramanandar
d. Bhaktha Goma Bai

Answer: (b)

28. The Chief Election Commissioner of India, on 17 march 2012 lead a delegation to Amman in response to an invitation by the Prime Minister of Jordan, to explore modalities of supporting Jordan's electoral process against the backdrop of political reforms. Who is the Chief Election Commissioner of India?

- a. Montek Singh Ahluwalia
b. S M Krishna
c. Dr. S. Y. Quraishi
d. Dr. Manmohan Singh

Answer: (c)

29. Defence Minister AK Antony inaugurated the 36th DRDO Directors' Conference on 19 March 2012. What was the theme of the conference?

- a. Self-Reliance Strategy in Globalised World
b. World Disarmament Strategy
c. Emerging War Scenarios and Strategies
d. Information Warfare / Electronic Warfare

Answer: (a)

30. Akali Dal chief Parkash Singh Badal, sworn in as the chief minister of Punjab on 14 March 2012. Badal became the chief minister of the state for – – – – –

- a. Fourth time
b. Second time
c. Third time
d. Fifth time

Answer: (d)

31. According to data released by the government on 19 March 2012, retail inflation stood at what per cent in February 2012 as a result of higher prices of protein based items, edible oil products and manufactured goods?

- a. 8.83%
b. 8%
c. 7.79%
d. 7%

Answer: (a)

32. Finance ministry concerned over the steep rise in bad loans, set up a committee to suggest sector-specific mechanisms to address rising issue. With respect to the statement which of the following statement is not true?

- The ministry decided to set up the committee after rating agency Moody's downgraded the Union Bank of India one notch on 19 March 2012 due to its high level of troubled assets and low provisions for coverage
- The committee will have representation from the finance ministry, the Reserve Bank of India and some banks.
- Finance Minister in Budget 2012-13 allowed \$1-billion external commercial borrowing (ECB) for the airline industry for one year, and allowed foreign debt to part-finance rupee debt taken by power companies and also for affordable housing.
- Rise in bad loans affected farm sector lending as well. In November 2010, the share of farm loans was 13.10%, and dropped to 9.18% in November 2011

- a. 1 & 3
b. Only 3
c. Only 4
d. Only 1

Answer: (c)

33. Union Railway Minister Mukul Roy rolled back the railway fare hike as proposed by Dinesh Trivedi in the first Union Rail Budget 2012-13 presented on 14 March 2012. Which of the following statement is not true with respect to the roll back?

- Roy withdrew the hike for second class suburban and non-suburban, and sleeper class travel fare by 2 paise, 3 paise and 5 paise per km
- All railway reform measures suggested by Trivedi such as setting up of an independent tariff regulator, restructuring of Railway Board on professional lines, and creation of posts of Member PPP and Member Safety was also ignored
- Roy's budget paved the way for the cash-strapped railways to earn a mere Rs 450 crore from increased passenger fares instead of Rs 1000 crore that Trivedi budgeted for
- Following the rollback proposed by Roy the railways can now generate only Rs 1000 crore more.

- a. 2 & 4
b. Only 3
c. 1 & 4
d. Only 4

Answer: (b)

34. According to comptroller and auditor general's draft report titled 'Performance Audit Of Coal Block Allocations', the government lost what amount of money by not auctioning coal blocks between

2004 and 2009?

- a. Rs 10 lakh crore
b. Rs 8.7 lakh crore
c. Rs 7.75 lakh crore
d. Rs 10.67 lakh crore

Answer: (d)

35. Union government raised interest rates on post office-operated small savings like Monthly Income Scheme (MIS) and Public Provident Fund (PPF) by what per cent in March 2012?

- a. 0.5%
b. 1.1%
c. 0.75%
d. 1.75%

Answer: (a)

Science Questions

1. Which instrument is used to measure pressure?

- a. Saccharimeter
b. Ammeter
c. Manometer
d. Lactometer

2. What does Angstrom measure?

- a. Quantity of liquid
b. Length of light waves
c. Length of cables
d. Speed of ships

3. Light year is related to

- a. Energy
b. Speed
c. Distance
d. Intensity

4. Match the following columns

Column 1	Column 2
A. Relative	1. Pyrometer humidity
B. Anemometer	2. High temperature
C. Navigation	3. Hygrometer
D. Direction of wind	4. Chronometer
1. 2	3. 4
a. B	D. A
b. D	B. A
c. A	D. B
d. C	A. D

5. Which of the following instruments is used to measure pressure of gases?

- a. Barometer
b. Manometer
c. Ammeter
d. None of these

6. Joule is the unit of

- a. Temperature pressure
b. Energy
c. Heat
d. Work

7. How many Dynes are there in one gram weight?

- a. 900
b. 375
c. 981
d. 250

8. How many Ergs are these in 1 Joule?

- a. 102
b. 104
c. 106
d. 107

9. The unit of current is

- a. Ohm
b. Watt
c. Ampere
d. None of these

10. The unit of energy in MKS system is

- a. Volt
b. Erg
c. Ohm
d. Joule

11. The intensity of an earthquake is measured with a

- a. Barometer
b. Hydrometer
c. Polygraph
d. Seismograph

12. Centigrade & Fahrenheit scales give same reading at

- a. -40°
b. -32°
c. -273°
d. -100°

13. Match the following columns

Column 1	Column 2
A. Anemometer	1. To measure underwater depth using sound
B. Aneroid barometer	2. To measure very small distances
C. Micrometer	3. Find out wind speed
D. Fathometer	4. Find out direction of wind
	5. Measure atmospheric pressure

- a. A4 B5 C3 D1
b. A3 B5 C2 D1
c. A5 B1 C3 D4
d. A3 B1 C5 D2

14. Who among the following described protoplasm as the physical basis of life?

- a. T. H. Huxley
b. Leeuwenhoek
c. Rudolf Virchow
d. J. C. Bose

15. The scientist who first discovered that the earth revolves round the sun was

- a. Newton
b. Dalton
c. Copernicus
d. Einstein

16. Alexander Fleming discovered

- a. Penicillin
b. X-ray
c. Streptomycin
d. Telephone

17. Who among following invented the steam engine?

- a. Marconi
b. James Watt
c. Thomas Savery
d. Wright Brothers

18. Who invented typewriter?

- a. Shockley
b. Pascal
c. Sholes
d. Waterman

19. Match the following columns:

Column 1	Column 2
A. Proton	1. Chadwick
B. Neutron	2. Millikan
C. Charged Electron	3. Goldstein
D. Shelled nature of atom	4. Rutherford
	5. Madam Curie

- a. A1 B2 C3 D5
b. A2 B1 C4 D3
c. A2 B3 C1 D4
d. A4 B2 C3 D1

20. Who discovered circulation of blood in human body?

- a. Edward Jenner
b. Joseph Lister
c. William Harvey
d. Jonon Esals

21. The first attempt in printing was made in England by

- a. James Arkwright
b. James Watt
c. William Caxton
d. Isaac Newton

22. Who was the surgeon who pioneered antiseptic surgery in 1865?

- a. Edward Jenner
b. Joseph Lister
c. Henry William
d. John Sleeman

23. The credit of inventing the television goes to

- a. Faraday
b. Baird
c. Edison
d. Marconi

24. The credit of developing the polio vaccine goes to

- a. Jonas Salk
b. Alb E. Sabin
c. Selman Waksman
d. None of these

25. Mark the wrong combination

- a. James Watt: Steam Engine
b. A.G. Bell: Telephone
c. J. L. Baird: Television
d. J. Perkins: Penicillin

26. Choose the correct combination

- a. Typewriter: Remington
b. Dynamite: Dunlop
c. Evolution: Darwin
d. Aeroplane: Harway

27. Who invented the ball point pen?

- a. Waterman
b. Oscar
c. Wilson
d. Lazlo Biro

28. Blaze Pascal is associated with

- a. Calculating machine
b. Computer
c. Cinema
d. None of these

29. Wright Brothers are regarded inventors of the

- a. Balloon
b. Bicycle
c. Aeroplane
d. None of these

30. Which of the following pairs is incorrect?

- a. Roentgen: X-ray
b. Newton: Law of gravitation
c. Faraday: Diffusion of gases
d. Pasteur: Bacteriology

31. Philology is the

- a. Study of bones
b. Study of muscles
c. Study of architecture
d. Study of languages

32. Anatomy is the branch of science which deals with

- a. Structure of animals and plants
b. Functioning of body organs
c. Animal behavior
d. Cells and tissues

33. Study of earthquakes is known as

- a. Ecology
b. Seismology
c. Numismatics
d. None of these

34. Ecology deals with

- a. Birds
b. Cell formation
c. Relation between Organisms and their environment
d. Tissues

35. Meteorology is the science of

- a. Weather
b. Meteors
c. Metals
d. Earthquakes

36. Oncology is the study of

- a. Birds
b. Cancer
c. Mammals
d. Soil

37. Study of life in outer space is known

as

- a. Endobiology
b. Exobiology
c. Enterobiology
d. Neobiology

38. Numismatics is the study of

- a. Coins
b. Numbers
c. Stamps
d. Space

39. Eugenics is the study of

- a. Altering humans beings by changing their genetic componens
b. People of European origin
c. Different races of mankind
d. Genetics of plants

40. Ornithology is the

- a. Study of bones
b. Study of birds
c. Study of smells
d. None of these

41. Who invented the Doctor's thermometer?

- a. Fahrenheit
b. Edison
c. Galileo
d. None of these

42. The velocity of light was first measured by

- a. Einstein
b. Newton
c. Romer
d. Galileo

43. Who proposed the chemical evolution of life?

- a. Darwin
b. Lammarck
c. Oparin
d. Haechel

44. The telephone was invented by

- a. John Logie Baird
b. Alexander Graham Bell
c. Thomas Elva Edison
d. James Watt

45. Who among the following evolved the concept of relationship between mass and energy?

- a. Einstein
b. Planck
c. Dalton
d. Rutherford

46. Match the following columns:

Column 1	Column 2
A. Radioactivity	1. Planck
B. Periodic Table	2. Thomson
C. Quantum Theory	3. Rutherford
D. X-Rays	4. Mendeleev
	5. Roentgen
	6. Becquerel

- a. A1 B3 C5 D2
b. A6 B5 C3 D5
c. A3 B2 C1 D5
d. A6 B4 C1 D5