

## COLOMBIA-US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT COMES INTO FORC

The long-delayed free trade agreement between the US and Colombia has come into effect, more than five years after being signed. At the stroke of midnight, a planeload of flowers - an important export for Colombia - left Bogota to become the first shipment under the deal. The pact was held up in the US Congress amid concern over Colombia's record of violence against trade union leaders. It finally passed last October, after pressure from the Obama White House. Later on Tuesday, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle was set to be unveiled as one the first US exports to Colombia as part of the agreement. Both countries hope the deal will boost mutual exports and investments, as well as underpin the two countries' close political ties. Colombia has long been seen as one of the United States' staunchest allies in the region.

The pact means a wide variety of goods, including machinery, raw materials and agricultural products, can be traded without import tariffs needing to be paid.

The US International Trade Commission estimates that the value of US exports to Colombia could rise by \$1.1bn (£680m), while Colombian exports the other way could grow by \$487m.

The accord, signed during President George W Bush's administration, was opposed by US labour groups, who feared job losses. Many Democratic members of Congress argued that it should not be approved until they were satisfied Colombia had done enough to stop violence against union organisers. There was also opposition from Colombian trade unions, who expressed concern about whether the country was developed enough to compete. Urging Congress to ratify the deal, the Obama administration warned that further delay would cost the US jobs and the chance to boost exports.

### Colombia's President Santos hails US trade deal vote

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has hailed a "historic day" after the US Congress passed a long-delayed free trade agreement with Colombia. Both houses of Congress voted in quick succession to approve the deal, as well as pacts with Panama and South Korea. President Barack Obama said the deals were "a major win for American workers and businesses". But the accords, signed several years ago, were controversial both in the US and in the respective countries. President Santos said the vote was hugely significant for his country. "Today is a historic day for relations between Colombia and the United States," he said. "The free trade agreement ends the uncertainty that has been discouraging long-term investment and it now guarantees to all investors stability in the rules of the game." But the head of Colombian trade union federation, the CUT, said the economy was not ready to compete. "Our country isn't developed, it does not have the expertise much less the requirements for trade at this level," Tarsicio Mora told the Associated Press news agency.

All three accords were signed during President George W Bush's administration. But concerns over tariffs, overseas labour practices and the effect of increased competition on US jobs meant the deals languished for several years before being put to a vote. The deal with South Korea was the biggest US trade pact since it signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) with Mexico and Canada in 1994. Panama's government said their deal was a key for their economic policies which seek to increase foreign investment. "We Panamanians have to be ready to take advantage of the benefits of this agreement," President Ricardo Martinelli said in a statement. The Obama administration says the deals will increase US exports by \$13bn (£8bn) a year.

## IRAN EXECUTES MOSSAD ASSASSIN OF TOP NUCLEAR SCIENTIST

Majid Jamali Fashi, convicted of killing Iranian quantum field theorist and elementary-particle physicist Masoud Alimohammadi, is executed.

The man convicted of espionage for the Israeli spy agency, Mossad, and assassinating a top Iranian nuclear physicist has been executed in Tehran's Evin Prison. Majid Jamali Fashi, who assassinated Massoud Ali-Mohammadi in January 2011, was brought to justice under the Iranian judicial system on Tuesday.

Jamali Fashi was also found guilty of receiving training from Mossad inside Israel as well as \$120,000 to assassinate the Iranian scientist.

The Mossad assassin had also confessed to having received forged documents in Azerbaijan's Heydar Aliyev Airport to travel to Tel Aviv. He also pleaded guilty to charges of damaging residential structures in Iran following the terrorist act as well as keeping drugs at home.

He was sentenced to death after being convicted in a trial last August.

Professor Ali-Mohammadi, a lecturer at Tehran University, was killed when an explosive-laden motorbike was blown up with a remote-controlled device near the professor's home in the Qeytariyeh neighborhood of northern Tehran on January 12, 2010.

Quantum field theory (QFT) provides a theoretical framework for constructing quantum mechanical models of systems classically parametrized (represented) by an infinite number of degrees of freedom, that is, fields and (in a condensed matter context) many-body systems. It is the natural and quantitative language of particle physics and condensed matter physics. Most theories in modern particle physics, including the Standard Model of elementary particles and their interactions, are formulated as relativistic quantum field theories. Quantum field theories are used in many contexts, and are especially vital in elementary particle physics, where the particle count/number may change over the course of a reaction. They are also used in the description of critical phenomena and quantum phase transitions, such as in the BCS theory of superconductivity.

## FARC

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC is a Marxist–Leninist revolutionary guerrilla organization based in Colombia, involved in the ongoing Colombian armed conflict. It is a peasant army with a proclaimed agrarian, anti-imperialist platform of Bolivarian inspiration. It claims to represent the rural poor in a struggle against Colombia's wealthier classes, and opposes United States influence in Colombia (e.g. Plan Colombia), neo-imperialism, monopolization of natural resources by multinational corporations, and paramilitary and government violence. It is funded principally through ransom kidnappings, gold mining and the production and distribution of illegal drugs. Estimates of FARC's membership vary. The Colombian military has placed their number at 18,000 in 2010, of whom half were guerillas. FARC itself claimed in 2007 to have a military force of 18,000. According to Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos, speaking in 2011, FARC may have fewer than 8,000 members.

From 1999 to 2008 FARC, together with the ELN guerrilla group, was estimated to control between 30 to 35% of the territory in Colombia. The largest concentrations of FARC guerrillas are believed to be located throughout the southeastern parts of Colombia's 500,000 square kilometers (190,000 sq mi) of jungle and in the plains at the base of the Andean mountains. FARC was established as a military wing of the Colombian Communist Party after government military forces attacked rural communist enclaves during the aftermath of La Violencia in 1964. FARC is a violent non-state actor (VNSA), described as a terrorist group by the governments of Colombia, the United States, Canada, Chile and New Zealand, as well as by the European Union. The governments of Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Nicaragua do not classify FARC as a "terrorist organization". Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez rejected their classification as "terrorists" in January 2008, considering them to be "real armies", and called on the Colombian and other governments to recognize the guerrillas as a "belligerent force", arguing that this would then oblige them to renounce kidnappings and terrorism, and respect the Geneva Conventions.

Communists were active throughout rural and urban Colombia in the period immediately following World War I. The Colombian Communist Party (Partido Comunista Colombiano, PCC) was formally accredited by the Comintern in 1930. The PCC began establishing "peasant leagues" in rural areas and "popular fronts" in urban areas, calling for improved living and working conditions, education, and rights for the working class. These groups began networking together to present a defensive front against the state-supported violence of large landholders. Members organized strikes, protests, seizures of land, and organized communist-controlled "self-defense communities" in southern Colombia that were able to resist state military forces, while providing for the subsistence needs of the populace. Many of the PCC's attempts at organizing peasants, were met with violent repression by the Colombian government, and landowning class. U.S. military intelligence estimated that in 1962, the size of the PCC had grown to 8,000 to 10,000 active members, and an additional 28,000 supporters. In 1961, a guerrilla leader and long-time PCC organizer named Manuel Marulanda Vélez declared an independent "Republic of Marquetalia". The Lleras government attempted unsuccessfully to attack the communities to drive out the guerrillas, due to fears that "a Cuban-style revolutionary situation might develop". After the failed attacks, several army outposts were set up in the area.



## INDIA'S RANKING ON UNIDO COMPETITIVENESS INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE INDEX IMPROVES

The Competitiveness Industrial Performance (CIP) index assesses industrial performance using indicators of an economy's ability to produce and export manufactured goods competitively. The CIP index comprises eight indicators which include industrial capacity, manufacturing export capacity, economy's share in world's manufacturing value added, economy's share in world's manufactured exports, industrialization, intensity and export quality. Though India's ranking remained unchanged at 42nd out of 118 countries, the Competitiveness Industrial Performance index for India has improved from 0.190 in 2005 to 0.206 in 2009 showing an improvement in the performance of manufacturing sector.

The CIP index is based on criteria developed by 'United Nation's Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). As such, there are no specific comments to offer on comparison of India's performance with countries like Thailand, Mexico and the Philippines.

The Government announced the National Manufacturing Policy in November, 2011 with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) within a decade. The Government has also been taking various steps to improve competitiveness of the manufacturing in the country, which, inter-alia, include promotion and facilitation of foreign direct investment by rationalizing and liberalizing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, initiatives such as 'Invest India' and 'e-biz' project under the 'Scheme for Investment Promotion'; undertaking industrial and other infrastructure development through public private initiatives, and incentivizing research and development and promoting industry related skills.

## INDIA-CHINA COOPERATION IN CIVIL SERVICES, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

India and China today held discussions and shared their experiences in the areas of civil services, capacity building, health care of Central Government employees, public service delivery, pension benefits and public sector reforms. Both the sides also adopted the Plan of Action for exchange of cooperation. A five member Chinese delegation headed by Mr Yin Weimin, Minister of Human Resources and Social Security met the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Shri V.Narayanassamy and exchanged the views on relevant subjects.

Earlier, both India and China had signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Civil Services, Personnel Management and Public Administration on 27th May,2010. Under the MoU, the following areas of interest have been identified for cooperation like capacity building and skills upgradation, Improved systems of Public Service Delivery, Human Resource Development-civil services, Human Resource Management in Public Sector and Public Sector reform. An Indian delegation headed by Joint Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances visited China in February this year to discuss implementation of the MoU. The Chinese side invited Shri Narayanassamy to visit China in the latter half of this year to carry forward the areas of cooperation.

## GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The Geneva Conventions comprise four treaties, and three additional protocols, that establish the standards of international law for the humanitarian treatment of the victims of war. The singular term Geneva Convention denotes the agreements of 1949, negotiated in the aftermath of the Second World War (1939–45), which updated the terms of the first three treaties (1864, 1906, 1929), and added a fourth treaty. The articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) extensively defined the basic rights of prisoners (civil and military) during war; established protections for the wounded; and established protections for the civilians in and around a war zone. The treaties of 1949 were ratified, in whole or with reservations, by 194 countries. The Geneva Convention also defines the rights and protections of non-combatants.

Because the Geneva Conventions are about people in war, the articles do not address warfare proper—the use of weapons of war—which is the subject of the Hague Conventions (First Hague Conference, 1899; Second Hague Conference 1907), and the bio-chemical warfare Geneva Protocol (Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, 1929).



# Current Events

## National Co-op Dev Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2012 tabled in Lok Sabha

The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2012 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. It aimed at empowering the National Cooperative Development Corporation to extend loans to companies run by farmers. The bill, introduced by Minister of State for Agriculture Harish Rawat, also provides entities run by farmers to sell or market their agricultural and related products. Producer companies can play a major role in improving the livelihood of primary producers and boosting growth of rural economy. At present, the corporation can extend loans and grant subsidies to state governments to fund co-operative societies. The proposed amendment will enable the corporation to plan, promote and finance programmes for the benefit of the producers through co-operative societies including producer companies.

## India as Top Importer of Weapons

Authoritative information regarding import of weapons by China is not available. However, as per report published in March 2012 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has become the largest importer of arms during 2007-11 and accounted for 10% of the global arms imports as compared to China's share of 5%. Procurement of arms and equipment for the Armed Forces is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges and available resources. The process is based on a 15 year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP), five year Services Capital Acquisition Plan (SCAP) and Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP). Shortage of any weapons, is adequately addressed through indigenous production and import.

## Agreements with Foreign Countries in S&T

The Ministry of Science and Technology, during the last three years, has signed Inter-Governmental Science and Technology (S&T) Agreements with 4 countries namely, Kuwait, Georgia, Singapore and Saudi Arabia for undertaking joint research and development programmes. This information was disclosed in Rajya Sabha recently by Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State in the Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr Ashwani Kumar. The Minister assured the house that the Government has taken a number of steps to accelerate the development

and promotion of research and development in the country and to speed up the pace of development in S&T. These measures include setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, induction of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for Research and Development (R&D), encouraging public-private R&D partnerships etc. There are some indicative evidences for enhanced pace of development in S&T in the country such as bring out 36000 scientific communications and filing of about 3000 patents in the year 2010. The Planning Commission has constituted a Steering Committee for planning the accelerated development of S&T.

## National Heritage Commission

The Minister for Culture and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation Kumari Selja has said that the National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 inter-alia provides for establishment of a National Commission for Heritage Sites (NCHS). The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in February 2009 and was referred to Standing Parliamentary Committee which submitted its Report to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha in November 2009. The comments/suggestions/recommendations made by the Standing Parliamentary Committee have been examined in consultation with various concerned Ministries and other stake-holders such as the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Archaeological Survey of India, the Indian National Trust of Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and experts from the civil society. The official amendments to the NCHS Bill 2009 are being finalized.

## Mega Cultural Multiplexes

The Minister for Culture and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation Kumari Selja has said that the Working Group on Culture set up by the Planning Commission for formulation of 12th Plan has recommended setting up of National Centre for Performing Arts at Delhi and similar cultural complexes at Kolkata and Chennai at a total cost of Rs. 900 crore. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha today she said, however, the Planning Commission is yet to convey the final outlay for the 12th Plan for the Ministry of Culture. Accordingly, only a token provision of Rs. 1 crore has been kept for NCPA Delhi and Rs. 0.50 crore for Centres at Kolkata and Chennai for the year 2012-13.

## Negotiations on Climate Change

International negotiations on Climate Change under the aegis of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are aimed at advancing global actions to stabilise climate and address the urgent mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries including those from Asia and Africa. Parties to the UNFCCC are obliged to take adaptation and mitigation of climate change on the basis of the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibility

(CBDR). In furtherance of this principle, the recently held Climate Change Talks in Durban in December 2011 have helped operationalise the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Mechanism which would facilitate support to developing countries in terms of finance and technology for effective mitigation and adaptation actions. The Minister further stated that during his inaugural address at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Afro-Asian Rural Development Programme held in Delhi on March 5, 2012, the Prime Minister urged Asian and African countries to work jointly to build a favourable international regime that enables access to funds and green technologies for rural growth. He stressed on the need to enhance international cooperation with a view to secure best outcomes at the climate change negotiations and the forthcoming Rio+20 Conference. Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan stated that India's approach to Rio+20 Conference is guided by the Rio Principles, in particular the principles of equity and CBDR. India also coordinates its approach on the relevant issues with the like minded developing country members from Group of 77 and China including those from Asia and Africa.

## External Debt Position of the Country

At end-December 2011, India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 334.9 billion recording an increase of 9.4 per cent over the level of US\$ 306.1 billion at end-March 2011. The rise in external debt is largely attributed to higher commercial borrowings and short term debt. India's external debt has remained within manageable limits due to prudent debt management policy that emphasizes raising sovereign loans on concessional terms with longer maturities, regulating external commercial borrowings through end-use and all-in-cost restrictions, rationalizing interest rates on Non Resident Indian (NRI) deposits and monitoring long as well as short-term debt.

## National Food Processing Mission in 12th Plan

The Working Group constituted on Food Processing Sector for Ministry of Food Processing Industries for 12th Five Year Plan has recommended the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme- "National Mission on Food Processing" (NMFPP) from 2012-13. Government has approved a proposal for State Government to start preparatory activities for this scheme and has approved release of Rs. 51 crores for this purpose. The Government has taken up a number of schemes including setting up of Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure, setting up/ Modernization of Abattoirs, Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Skill Development etc. to catalyze growth in the food processing sector. A National Mission on Food Processing has been launched as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 2012-13 to give further impetus to this sector through decentralization and better reach.

## Naxal Affected Districts

On the basis of violence profile, the Central Government has, inter alia, included thirteen Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of Chhattisgarh viz. Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada, Jashpur, Kanker, Korea (Baikunthpur), Narayanpur, Rajnandgaon, Sarguja, Dhamtari, Mahasamund, Gariyaband and Balod, under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme for the purpose of reimbursing expenditure incurred by the State Government of Chhattisgarh on Anti-naxal operations. The Central Government has received a proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh to include 04 (four) more newly created districts of the State, namely, Sukma, Kondagaon, Surajpur and Balrampur under the SRE Scheme.

## National Rural Health Mission (2005-2012)

Recognizing the importance of Health in the process of economic and social development and improving the quality of life of our citizens, the Government of India has resolved to launch the National Rural Health Mission to carry out necessary architectural correction in the basic health care delivery system. The Mission adopts a synergistic approach by relating health to determinants of good health viz. segments of nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and safe drinking water. It also aims at mainstreaming the Indian systems of medicine to facilitate health care. The Plan of Action includes increasing public expenditure on health, reducing regional imbalance in health infrastructure, pooling resources, integration of organizational structures, optimization of health manpower, decentralization and district management of health programmes, community participation and ownership of assets, induction of management and financial personnel into district health system, and operationalizing community health centers into functional hospitals meeting Indian Public Health Standards in each Block of the Country. The Goal of the Mission is to improve the availability of and access to quality health care by people, especially for those residing in rural areas, the poor, women and children.

- 1. STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
  - Public health expenditure in India has declined from 1.3% of GDP in 1990 to 0.9% of GDP in 1999. The Union Budgetary allocation for health is 1.3% while the State's Budgetary allocation is 5.5%.
  - Union Government contribution to public health expenditure is 15% while States contribution about 85%
  - Vertical Health and Family Welfare Programmes have limited synergisation at operational levels.
  - Lack of community ownership of public health programmes impacts levels of efficiency, accountability and effectiveness.
  - Lack of integration of sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and drinking water issues.
  - There are striking regional inequalities.
  - Population Stabilization is still a challenge, especially in States with weak demographic indicators.
  - Curative services favour the non-poor: for every Re.1 spent on the poorest 20% population, Rs.3 is spent on the richest quintile.
  - Only 10% Indians have some form of health insurance, mostly inadequate
  - Hospitalized Indians spend on an average 58% of their total annual expenditure
  - Over 40% of hospitalized Indians borrow heavily or sell assets to cover expenses
  - Over 25% of hospitalized Indians fall below poverty line because of hospital expenses
- 2. NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION - THE VISION**
  - The National Rural Health Mission (2005-12) seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 states, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure.

## Cabinet approves proposal to permit GAIL to sign agreement on TAPI Gas pipe line project

Nod for signing pact for gas from Turkmenistan via Pak, Afghan  
The govt on May 17, 2012 approved signing of an agreement to buy natural gas from Turkmenistan through a USD 7.6-billion pipeline passing through Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Union Cabinet approved India signing of the Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) for natural gas through the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline, officials said  
Oil Minister S Jaipal Reddy is likely to visit Turkmenistan on 23rd to 24th May for the signing of GSPA. The official said India will pay a price linked to fuel oil for the natural gas, which at current oil prices translates into a rate of USD 8-10 per million British thermal unit. Besides, it will also pay USD 0.50 per mmBtu in transit fee to Afghanistan and Pakistan for allowing passage of the gas through their territory. Apart from these, India would also pay a transportation charge for wheeling of natural gas from 1,735-km long pipeline, which is likely to be operational by 2016. The delivered price of gas on the Indian border works out to USD 10-12 per mmBtu as compared to USD 4.20 per mmBtu price of domestic gas and USD 16 per mmBtu rate of gas imported in ships in its liquid form (LNG). The pipeline would carry 90 million standard cubic meters per day of gas, of which 14 mmscmd would be bought by Afghanistan. 38 mmscmd would each be for India and Pakistan. The 1,735-km-long pipeline will run from Turkmenistan's Yoloten-Osman gas field to Herat and Kandahar province of Afghanistan, before entering Pakistan. In Pakistan, it will reach Multan via Quetta before ending at Fazilka (Punjab) in India.  
**TAPI Gas Pipeline**  
*The TAPI Gas Pipeline is envisaged to be 1680 Km in length (144 Km in Turkmenistan, 735 Km in Afghanistan & 800 Km in Pakistan) with a capacity of 90 MMSCMD of gas, with 38 MMSCMD each for India and Pakistan and the remaining 14 MMSCMD for Afghanistan. The Pipeline is expected to be operational in 2018 and supply gas over a 30 years period. The source of the gas is the South Yoyotan Osman field, recently renamed Galkynysh, which has been certified by a reputed international consultant to be holding proven recoverable gas reserves of 16 trillion cubic metres. The provisions of the GSPA have been structured to protect India's commercial interests as India is at the tail end of the pipeline. Afghanistan and Pakistan have committed to the safety and security of the pipeline through the Inter-Governmental Agreement and the Gas Purchase Framework Agreement signed among the four countries in December, 2010.*

- These 18 States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.
  - The Mission is an articulation of the commitment of the Government to raise public spending on Health from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP.
  - It aims to undertake architectural correction of the health system to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations as promised under the National Common Minimum Programme and promote policies that strengthen public health management and service delivery in the country.
  - It has as its key components provision of a female health activist in each village; a village health plan prepared through a local team headed by the Health & Sanitation Committee of the Panchayat; strengthening of the rural hospital for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS); and integration of vertical Health & Family Welfare Programmes and Funds for optimal utilization of funds and infrastructure and strengthening delivery of primary healthcare.
  - It seeks to revitalize local health traditions and mainstream AYUSH into the public health system.
  - It aims at effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation & hygiene, nutrition, and safe drinking water through a District Plan for Health.
  - It seeks decentralization of programmes for district management of health.
  - It seeks to address the inter-State and inter-district disparities, especially among the 18 high focus States, including unmet needs for public health infrastructure.
  - It shall define time-bound goals and report publicly on their progress.
  - o It seeks to improve access of rural people, especially poor women and children, to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary healthcare.
- 3. GOALS**
    - Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)
    - Universal access to public health services such as Women's health, child health, water, sanitation & hygiene, immunization, and Nutrition.
    - Prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including locally endemic diseases

- Access to integrated comprehensive primary healthcare
  - Population stabilization, gender and demographic balance.
  - Revitalize local health traditions and mainstream AYUSH
  - Promotion of healthy life styles
- 4. STRATEGIES**
    - (a) Core Strategies:**
      - Train and enhance capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to own, control and manage public health services.
      - Promote access to improved healthcare at household level through the female health activist (ASHA).
      - Health Plan for each village through Village Health Committee of the Panchayat.
      - Strengthening sub-centre through an untied fund to enable local planning and action and more Multi Purpose Workers (MPWs).
      - Strengthening existing PHCs and CHCs, and provision of 30-50 bedded CHC per lakh population for improved curative care to a normative standard (Indian Public Health Standards defining personnel, equipment and management standards).
      - Preparation and Implementation of an inter-sectoral District Health Plan prepared by the District Health Mission, including drinking water, sanitation & hygiene and nutrition.
      - Integrating vertical Health and Family Welfare programmes at National, State, Block, and District levels.
      - Technical Support to National, State and District Health Missions, for Public Health Management.
      - Strengthening capacities for data collection, assessment and review for evidence based planning, monitoring and supervision.
      - Formulation of transparent policies for deployment and career development of Human Resources for health.
      - Developing capacities for preventive health care at all levels for promoting healthy life styles, reduction in consumption of tobacco and alcohol etc.
      - Promoting non-profit sector particularly in under served areas.
    - (b) Supplementary Strategies:**
      - Regulation of Private Sector including the informal rural practitioners to ensure availability of quality service to citizens at reasonable cost.
      - Promotion of Public Private Partnerships for achieving public health goals.
      - Mainstreaming AYUSH - revitalizing local health traditions.
      - Reorienting medical education to support rural health issues including regulation of Medical care and Medical Ethics.o Effective and viable risk pooling and social health insurance to provide health security to the poor by ensuring accessible, affordable, ac-

## Sunny Varkey named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Education

One of the leading NRIs and Private education providers, Sunny Varkey has been conferred the title of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Education Partnerships. The Founder and Chairman of GEMS Education Group of institutions in the gulf region, Sunny Varkey is the second Indian to become a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. The Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova lauded his contribution in innovative public-private partnerships to ensure that underprivileged children across the world receive a good quality education, especially in Africa. Sunny Varkey began the Varkey Group in 1980 with 'Our Own English High School'. Since 1980, the organisation has since evolved to include a number of schools internationally. The Varkey group has also grown to include separate divisions in healthcare and construction in addition to their large role in education under the title GEMS Education. In 1998 Mr. Varkey extended the activities of the Varkey Group to the field in healthcare. The Varkey Group also has a construction branch that operates under the name 'Chicago Maintenance Company', though it is expected that this name will be changed to SAMMON VG. This branch of the organisation is said to provide construction services and facilities management.





countable and good quality hospital care.

**5. PLAN OF ACTION**

**COMPONENT (A): ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS**

- Every village/large habitat will have a female Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) - chosen by and accountable to the panchayat- to act as the interface between the community and the public health system.
- States to choose State specific models.
- ASHA would act as a bridge between the ANM and the village and be accountable to the Panchayat.
- She will be an honorary volunteer, receiving performance-based compensation for promoting universal immunization, referral and escort services for RCH, construction of household toilets, and other healthcare delivery programmes.
- She will be trained on a pedagogy of public health developed and mentored through a Standing Mentoring Group at National level incorporating best practices and implemented through active involvement of community health resource organizations.
- She will facilitate preparation and implementation of the Village Health Plan along with Anganwadi worker, ANM, functionaries of other Departments, and Self Help Group members, under the leadership of the Village Health Committee of the Panchayat.
- She will be promoted all over the country, with special emphasis on the 18 high focus States. The Government of India will bear the cost of training, incentives and medical kits. The remaining components will be funded under Financial Envelope given to the States under the programme.
- She will be given a Drug Kit containing generic AYUSH and allopathic formulations for common ailments. The drug kit would be replenished from time to time.
- Induction training of ASHA to be of 23 days in all, spread over 12 months. On the job training would continue throughout the year.
- Prototype training material to be developed at National level subject to State level modifications.
- Cascade model of training proposed through Training of Trainers including contract plus distance learning modelo Training would require partnership with NGOs/ICDS Training Centres and State Health Institutes.

**COMPONENT (B): STRENGTHENING SUB-CENTRES**

- Each sub-centre will have an Untied Fund for local action @ Rs. 10,000 per annum. This Fund will be deposited in a joint Bank Account of the ANM & Sarpanch and operated by the ANM, in consultation with the Village Health Committee.
- Supply of essential drugs, both allopathic and AYUSH, to the Sub-centres.
- In case of additional Outlays, Multipurpose Workers (Male)/Additional ANMs wherever needed, sanction of new Sub-centres as per 2001population norm, and upgrading existing Sub-centres, including buildings for Sub-centres functioning in rented premises will be considered.

**COMPONENT (C): STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES**

Mission aims at Strengthening PHC for quality preventive, promotive,curative, supervisory and Outreach services, through:

- Adequate and regular supply of essential quality drugs and equipment (including Supply of Auto Disabled Syringes for immunization) to PHCs
- Provision of 24 hour service in 50% PHCs by addressing shortage of doctors, especially in high focus States, through mainstreaming AYUSH manpower.
- Observance of Standard treatment guidelines & protocols.
- In case of additional Outlays, intensification of ongoing communicable disease control programmes, new rogrammes for control of noncommunicable diseases, upgradation of 100% PHCs for 24 hours referral service, and provision of 2nd doctor at PHC level (1 male, 1 female) would be undertaken on the basis of felt need.

**COMPONENT (D): STRENGTHENING CHCs FOR FIRST REFERRAL ARE**

A key strategy of the Mission is:

- Operationalizing 3222 existing Community Health Centres (30-50 beds) as 24 Hour First Referral Units, including posting of anaesthetists.
- Codification of new Indian Public Health Standards, setting norms for infrastructure, staff, equipment, management etc. for CHCs.
- Promotion of Stakeholder Committees (Rogi Kalyan Samitis) for hospital management.
- Developing standards of services and costs in hospital care.o Develop, display and ensure compliance to Citizen's Charter at CHC/PHC level.
- In case of additional Outlays, creation of new Community Health Centres (30-50 beds) to meet the population norm as per Census 2001, and bearing their recurring costs for the Mission period could be considered.

**COMPONENT (E): DISTRICT HEALTH PLAN**

- District Health Plan would be an amalgamation of field responses through Village Health Plans, State and National priorities for Health, Water Supply, Sanitation and Nutrition.
- Health Plans would form the core unit of action proposed in areas like water supply, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. Implementing Departments would integrate into District Health Mission for monitoring.
- District becomes core unit of planning, budgeting and implementation.
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes could be rationalized/modified accordingly in consultation with States.
- Concept of "funneling" funds to district for effective integration of programmes
- All vertical Health and Family Welfare Programmes at District and state level merge into one common "District Health Mission" at the District level and the "State Health Mission" at the state level
- Provision of Project Management Unit for all districts, through contractual

engagement of MBA, Inter Charter/ Inter Cost and Data Entry Operator, for improved programme management

**COMPONENT (F): CONVERGING SANITATION AND HYGIENE UNDER NRHM**

- Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is presently implemented in 350 districts, and is proposed to cover all districts in 10th Plan.
- Components of TSC include IEC activities, rural sanitary marts, individual household toilets, women sanitary complex, and School Sanitation Programme.
- Similar to the DHM, the TSC is also implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- The District Health Mission would therefore guide activities of sanitation at district level, and promote joint IEC for public health, sanitation and hygiene, through Village Health & Sanitation Committee, and promote household toilets and School Sanitation Programme. ASHA would be incentivized for promoting household toilets by the Mission.

**COMPONENT (G): STRENGTHENING DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMMES**

- National Disease Control Programmes for Malaria, TB, Kala Azar, Filaria, Blindness & Iodine Deficiency and Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme shall be integrated under the Mission, for improved programme delivery.
- New Initiatives would be launched for control of Non Communicable Diseases.
- Disease surveillance system at village level would be strengthened.
- Supply of generic drugs (both AYUSH & Allopathic) for common ailments at village, SC, PHC/CHC level.
- Provision of a mobile medical unit at District level for improved Outreach services.

**COMPONENT (H): PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS, INCLUDING REGULATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR**

- Since almost 75% of health services are being currently provided by the private sector, there is a need to refine regulation
- Regulation to be transparent and accountable
- Reform of regulatory bodies/creation where necessary
- District Institutional Mechanism for Mission must have representation of private sector
- Need to develop guidelines for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in health sector. Identifying areas of partnership, which are need based, thematic and geographic.
- Public sector to play the lead role in defining the framework and sustaining the partnership
- Management plan for PPP initiatives: at District/State and National levels

**COMPONENT (I): NEW HEALTH FINANCING MECHANISMS**

A Task Group to examine new health financing mechanisms, including Risk Pooling for Hospital Care as follows:

- Progressively the District Health Missions to move towards paying hospitals for services by way of reimbursement, on the principle of "money follows the patient."
- Standardization of services - outpatient, in-patient, laboratory, surgical interventions- and costs will be done periodically by a committee of experts in each state.
- A National Expert Group to monitor these standards and give suitable advice and guidance on protocols and cost comparisons. o All existing CHCs to have wage component paid on monthly basis. Other recurrent costs may be reimbursed for services rendered from District Health Fund. Over the Mission period, the CHC may move towards all costs, including wages reimbursed for services rendered.
- A district health accounting system, and an ombudsman to be created to monitor the District Health Fund Management , and take corrective action.
- Adequate technical managerial and accounting support to be provided to DHM in managing risk-pooling and health security.
- Where credible Community Based Health Insurance Schemes (CBHI) exist/are launched, they will be encouraged as part of the Mission.
- The Central government will provide subsidies to cover a part of the premiums for the poor, and monitor the schemes.
- The IRDA will be approached to promote such CBHIs, which will be periodically evaluated for effective delivery.

**COMPONENT (J): REORIENTING HEALTH/MEDICAL EDUCATION TO SUPPORT RURAL HEALTH ISSUES**

- While district and tertiary hospitals are necessarily located in urban centres, they form an integral part of the referral care chain serving the needs of the rural people.
- Medical and para-medical education facilities need to be created in states, based on need assessment.
- Suggestion for Commission for Excellence in Health Care (Medical Grants Commission), National Institution for Public Health Management etc.
- Task Group to improve guidelines/ details.

**6. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS**

- Village Health & Sanitation Samiti (at village level consisting of Panchayat Representative/s, ANM/MPW, Anganwadi worker, teacher, ASHA, community health volunteers
- Rogi Kalyan Samiti (or equivalent) for community management of public hospitals.
- District Health Mission, under the leadership of Zila Parishad with District Health Head as Convener and all relevant departments, NGOs, private professionals etc represented on it
- State Health Mission, Chaired by Chief Minister and co-chaired by Health Minister and with the State Health Secretary as Convener- representation of related departments, NGOs, private professionals etco Integration of Departments of Health and Family Welfare, at National and State level.
- National Mission Steering Group chaired by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare with Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Ministers of Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Human Resource Development and public health professionals as members, to provide policy support and guidance to the Mission
- Empowered Programme Committee chaired by Secretary HFW, to be the Executive Body of the Mission o Standing Mentoring Group shall guide and oversee the implementation of ASHA initiative
- Task Groups for Selected Tasks (time-bound)

**7. TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

- To be effective the Mission needs a strong component of Technical Support
- This would include reorientation into public health management
- Reposition existing health resource institutions, like Population Research Centre (PRC), Regional Resource Centre (RRC), State Institute of Health & Family Welfare (SIHFW) Involve NGOs as resource organisations.
- Improved Health Information System
- Support required at all levels: National, State, District and sub-district.
- Mission would require two distinct support mechanisms - Program Management Support Centre and Health Trust of India.

**(A) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT CENTRE**

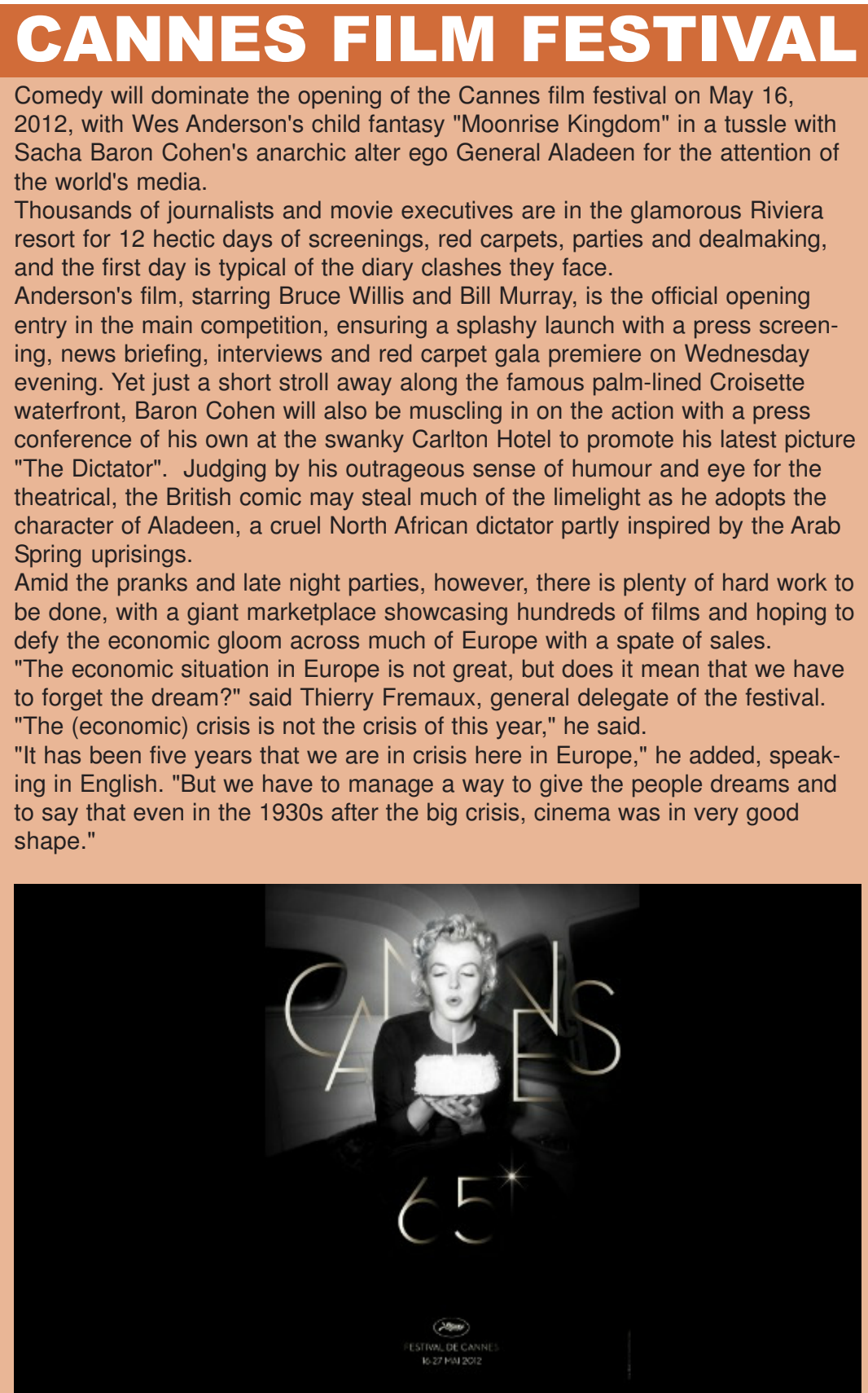
- For Strengthening Management Systems-basic program management, financial systems, infrastructure maintenance, procurement & logistics systems, Monitoring & Information System (MIS), non-lapsable health pool etc.
- For Developing Manpower Systems - recruitment (induction of MBAs/CAs /MCAs), training & curriculum development (revitalization of existing institutions & partnerships with NGO & private sector. Sector institutions), motivation & performance appraisal etc.
- For Improved Governance - decentralization & empowerment of communities, induction of IT based systems like e-banking, social audit and right to information.

**(B) HEALTH TRUST OF INDIA**

- Proposed as a knowledge institution, to be the repository of innovation - research & documentation, health information system, planning, monitoring & evaluation etc.
- For establishing Public Accountability Systems - external evaluations, community based feedback mechanisms, participation of PRIs /NGOs etc.
- For developing a Framework for pro-poor Innovations
- For reviewing Health Legislations.
- A base for encouraging experimentation and action research.
- For inter & intra Sector Networking with National and International Organizations.
- Think Tank for developing a long-term vision of the Sector & for building planning capacities of PRIs, Districts etc.

**8. ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENTS UNDER NRHM**

- The Mission covers the entire coun-




**RIISING STARS IN SPOTLIGHT**

Along the Croisette, last-minute preparations were underway on Tuesday as beach pavilions stocked up with champagne and lobster, promotional posters went up and stages were erected. Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Sean Penn and Nicole Kidman are among established Hollywood names expected to grace the red carpet, where they will be joined by a long list of rising stars hoping to make their mark. Cannes, as the world's biggest and most glamorous film festival, is an ideal platform for a movie and its cast. Silent hit "The Artist", which went on to sweep the Oscars, launched here last year. But notoriously picky critics can also make life awkward for directors and actors, as with the 2006 world premiere of "The Da Vinci Code" which received poor reviews. While grumpy cinephiles is an integral part of Cannes, organisers will be keen to avoid a repeat of last year when maverick director Lars Von Trier was controversially expelled for making jokes about Nazis at a press conference. This year, the festival has come under fire for not including a single female director in its main competition lineup after four were selected in 2011. It has defended its decision, saying it would not impose a "quota policy". Despite the row, media reaction to this year's lineup has been generally positive. In the main competition of 22 films, Brazilian director Walter Salles' adaptation of Jack Kerouac's novel "On the Road" has generated plenty of buzz, not least because "Twilight" actress Kristen Stewart takes on a leading role. Best known as Bella Swan from the vampire blockbusters, the 22-year-old American will be joined on the sun-kissed French Riviera by Twilight co-star Robert Pattinson. The British actor appears in another competition movie "Cosmopolis", directed by Canada's David Cronenberg, a topical tale of corporate greed that follows a successful New York financier whose world disintegrates around him. John Hillcoat's movie "Lawless", a Depression-era gangster tale, features Tom Hardy, Jessica Chastain, Shia LaBeouf and Mia Wasikowska among others, underlining the importance of fresh acting talent at this year's festival. Previous winners of the coveted Palme d'Or prize for best film who are in contention again are Austria's Michael Haneke with "Amour" (Love), Iran's Abbas Kiarostami ("Like Someone In Love"), Briton Ken Loach ("The Angels' Share") and Romanian Cristian Mungiu ("Beyond the Hills"). Zac Efron, Matthew McConaughey and Kidman all star in Lee Daniels' "The Paperboy" and Pitt appears in Andrew Dominik's "Killing Them Softly". Hot topics on the big screen include the Arab uprisings, with Egyptian director Yousry Nasrallah's "After the Battle" in competition, and the pitfalls of celebrity culture in "Antiviral", the debut feature from Cronenberg's son Brandon.

## PARL PANEL ASKS GOVT NOT TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR PRIVATE BUSINESSES

A Parliamentary panel on Thursday said the government should not acquire land for private businesses and stressed on a clearer definition of public purpose in this regard. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, headed by BJP leader Sumitra Mahajan, in its report on the Bill said public purpose in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill should be limited to linear infrastructure and irrigation, including multipurpose dams and social sector infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and drinking water or sanitation projects constructed at state expense. All cases of land acquisition must entail obligations for adequate compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement to all land losers and other affected persons.



The report was tabled in Parliament has suggested that land acquisition for any purpose should be brought under the purview of this legislation. On the issue of fixing compensation for land acquisition, the Committee suggested that the government constitute a multi-member land pricing commission to finalise the cost of acquisition of land. It also recommended that land should be returned after five years from date of possession if it is not used for the purpose for which it was acquired.

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try. The 18 high focus States are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Gol would provide funding for key components in these 18 high focus States. Other States would fund interventions like ASHA, Programme Management Unit (PMU), and upgradation of SC/PHC/CHC through Integrated Financial Envelope. ● NRHM provides broad conceptual framework. States would project operational modalities in their State Action Plans, to be decided in consultation with the Mission Steering Group. ● NRHM would prioritize funding for addressing inter-state and intradistrict disparities in terms of health infrastructure and indicators. ● States would sign Memorandum of Understanding with Government of India, indicating their commitment to increase contribution to Public Health Budget (preferably by 10% each year), increased devolution to Panchayati Raj Institutions as per 73rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, and performance benchmarks for release of funds.

9. FOCUS ON THE NORTH EASTERN STATES

● All 8 North East States, including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, are among the States selected under the Mission, for special focus. ● Empowerment to the Mission would mean greater flexibilities for the 10% committed Outlay of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, for North East States. ● States shall be supported for creation/upgradation of health infrastructure, increased mobility, contractual engagement, and technical support under the Mission. ● Regional Resource Centre is being supported under NRHM for the North Eastern States. ● Funding would be available to address local health issues in a comprehensive manner, through State specific schemes and initiatives.

10. ROLE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

The Mission envisages the following roles for PRIs: ● States to indicate in their MoUs the commitment for devolution of funds, functionaries and programmes for health, to PRIs. ● The District Health Mission to be led by the Zila Parishad. The DHM will control, guide and manage all public health institutions in the district, Sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs. ● ASHAs would be selected by and be accountable to the Village Panchayat. ● The Village Health Committee of the Panchayat would prepare the Village Health Plan, and promote intersectoral integration ● Each sub-centre will have an Untied Fund for local action @ Rs. 10,000 per annum. This Fund will be deposited in a joint Bank Account of the ANM & Sarpanch and operated by the ANM, in consultation with the Village Health Committee. ● PRI involvement in Rogi Kalyan Samitis for good hospital management. ● Provision of training to members of PRIs.· Making available health related databases to all stakeholders, including Panchayats at all levels. 11. ROLE OF NGOS IN THE MISSION ● Included in institutional arrangement at National, State and District levels, including Standing Mentoring Group for ASHA ● Member of Task Groups ● Provision of Training, BCC and Technical Support for ASHAs/DHM ● Health Resource Organizations ● Service delivery for identified population groups on select themes ● For monitoring, evaluation and social audit 12. MAINSTREAMING AYUSH ● The Mission seeks to revitalize local health traditions and mainstream AYUSH infrastructure, including manpower, and drugs, to strengthen the public health system at all levels. ● AYUSH medications shall be included in the Drug Kit provided at village levels to ASHA. ● The additional supply of generic drugs for common ailments at Subcentre/PHC/CHC levels under the Mission shall also include AYUSH formulations. ● At the CHC level, two rooms shall be provided for AYUSH practitioner and pharmacist under the Indian Public

Health System (IPHS) model. · Single doctor PHCs shall be upgraded to two doctor PHCs by mainstreaming AYUSH practitioner at that level. 13. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS · The Mission is conceived as an umbrella programme subsuming the existing programmes of health and family welfare, including the RCHII, National Disease Control Programmes for Malaria, TB, Kala Azar, Filariasis, Blindness & Iodine Deficiency and Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. · The Budget Head For NRHM shall be created in B.E. 2006-07 at National and State levels. Initially, the vertical health and family welfare programmes shall retain their Sub-Budget Head under the NRHM. · The Outlay of the NRHM for 2005-06 is in the range of Rs.6700 crores. · The Mission envisages an additionality of 30% over existing Annual Budgetary Outlays, every year, to fulfill the mandate of the National Common Minimum Programme to raise the Outlays for Public Health from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP · The Outlay for NRHM shall accordingly be determined in the Annual Budgetary exercise. · The States are expected to raise their contributions to Public Health Budget by minimum 10% p.a. to support the Mission activities. · Funds shall be released to States through SCOVA, largely in the form of Financial Envelopes, with weightage to 18 high focus States.

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), is a United States national laboratory located in Upton, New York on Long Island, and was formally established in 1947 at the site of Camp Upton, a former U.S. Army base. Its name stems from its location in the greater area of the Town of Brookhaven. Brookhaven, which originally was owned by the Atomic Energy Commission, is now owned by the Commission's successor, the United States Department of Energy, which subcontracts the actual research and operation to universities and research organizations. It is currently operated by Brookhaven Science Associates LLC, which is an equal partnership of Stony Brook University and Battelle Memorial Institute. It was operated by Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI), from 1947 until 1998 when Associated lost the contract in the wake of a scandal when tritium leaked into the Long Island Central Pine Barrens groundwater on which it sits. Co-located with the laboratory is the Upton, New York forecast office of the National Weather Service. BNL is staffed by approximately 3,000 scientists, engineers, technicians, and support personnel, and hosts 4,000 guest investigators every year. Discoveries made at the lab have won seven Nobel Prizes. The laboratory has its own police station, fire department, and postal code (11973). In total, the lab spans a 5,265-acre (21 km2) area. BNL is served by a rail spur operated as-needed by the New York and Atlantic Railway. Although originally conceived as a nuclear research facility, its mission has greatly expanded. Its foci are now: " Nuclear and high-energy physics " Physics and chemistry of materials " Environmental and energy research " Nonproliferation " Neurosciences and medical imaging " Structural biology Major facilities " Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), which was designed to research quark-gluon plasma.[Until 2008 it was the world's most powerful particle accelerator. " Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN), it is used for the study of nanoscale materials. " National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS), the lab's most popular machine which is said to have attracted more researchers in the world than any other facility. It was involved in the work that won the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. " Alternating Gradient Synchrotron, a particle accelerator that was used in three of the lab's Nobel prizes. " Accelerator Test Facility, generates, accelerates and monitors particle beams. " Tandem Van de Graaff, once the world's largest electrostatic accelerator. " New York Blue Gene supercomputer, an 18 rack Blue Gene/L and a 2 rack Blue Gene/P massively

parallel supercomputer that involves a cooperative effort between Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stony Brook University. It is the world's 5th fastest supercomputer and the world's 2nd most powerful for open access research as of 2008. New synchrotron The lab is building NSLS-II, which in 2015 will replace the NSLS after more than 30 years of operation. Off site contributions It is a contributing partner to ATLAS experiment, one of the four detectors to be located at a new powerful particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). It is currently operating near Geneva, Switzerland. Brookhaven is also responsible for the design of the SNS accumulator ring in partnership with Spallation Neutron Source in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Public access The lab is open to the public on Sundays during the summer for tours and special programs. The public access program is referred to as 'Summer Sundays' and takes place from mid-July to mid-August, and features a science show and a tour of the facilities. The laboratory also hosts science fairs, science bowls, and robotics competitions for local schools. The Lab estimates that each year it enhances the science education of roughly 24,000 kindergarten to 12th grade LI students, more than 100 undergraduates, and 550 teachers from across the United States.

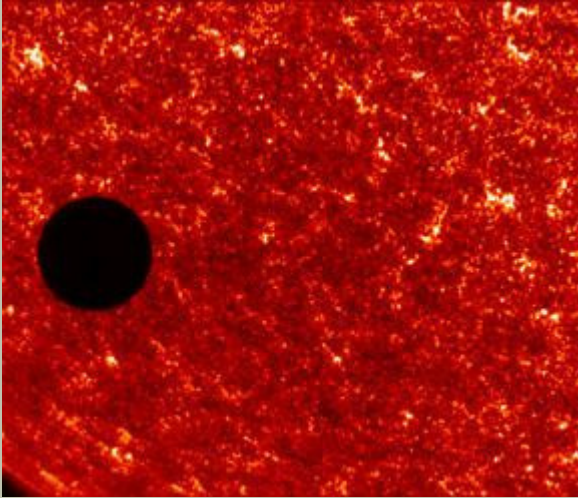
Summary of Recommendations Finances of Union and 13th Commission of India

1. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) should ensure that the finance accounts fully reflect the collections under cesses and surcharges as per the relevant heads, so that there are no inconsistencies between the amounts released to states in any year and the respective percentage shares in net central taxes recommended by the Finance Commission for that year. (Para 4.33) 2. The states need to address the problem of losses in the power sector in a time-bound manner. (Para 4.38) 3. Initiatives should be taken to reduce the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and to restore the predominance of formula-based plan transfers. (Para 4.56) 4. A calibrated exit strategy from the expansionary fiscal stance of 2008-09 and 2009-10 should be the main agenda of the Centre. (Para 4.62) Goods and Services Tax 5. Both the Centre and the states should conclude a 'Grand Bargain' to implement the Model GST. The Grand Bargain comprises six elements: i) The design of the Model GST is suggested in paras 5.25 to 5.35. ii) The operational modalities are outlined in paras 5.36 to 5.41. iii) The proposed agreement between the Centre and states, with contingencies for changes, is in paras 5.49 to 5.51. iv) The disincentives for non-compliance are described in Para 5.52. v) The implementation schedule is described in paras 5.57 to 5.59. vi) The procedure for claiming compensation is in Para 5.60. (Para 5.48) 6. Any GST model adopted must be consistent with all the elements of the Grand Bargain. To incentivise implementation of the Grand Bargain, this Commission recommends sanction of a grant of Rs. 50,000 crore. The grant would be used to meet the compensation claims of State Governments for revenue losses on account of implementation of GST between 2010-11 and 2014-15, consistent with the Grand Bargain. Unspent balances in this pool would be distributed amongst all the states, as per the devolution formula, on 1 January 2015. (paras 5.54 and 5.55) 7. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) should be transformed into a statutory council. The compensation should be disbursed in quarterly instalments on the basis of the recommendations by a three-member Compensation Committee comprising of the Secretary, Department of 2 Thirteenth Fi-

nance Commission Revenue, Government of India; Secretary to the EC and chaired by an eminent person with experience in public finance. (Para 5.60) 8. In the unlikely event that a consensus with regard to implementing all the elements of the Grand Bargain cannot be achieved and the GST mechanism finally adopted is different from the Model GST suggested by us, this Commission recommends that this amount of Rs. 50,000 crore shall not be disbursed. (Para 5.62) 9. The states should take steps to reduce the transit time of cargo vehicles crossing their borders by combining chekpos with adjoining states and adopting user-friendly options like electronically issued passes for transit traffic. (Para 5.47) Union Finances 10. The policy regarding use of proceeds from disinvestment needs to be liberalised to also include capital expenditure on critical infrastructure and the environment. (Para 6.46) 11. Records of landholdings of PSUs need to be properly maintained to ensure that this scarce resource is put to productive use, or made available for other public projects, or else, sold. (Para 6.48) State Finances 12. The practice of diverting plan assistance to meet non-plan needs of special category states should be discontinued. (Para 7.79) 13. With reference to public sector undertakings: i) All states should endeavour to ensure clearance of the accounts of all their Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). (Para 7.95) ii) The states should use the flexibility provided by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) to clear the backlog of PSU accounts. (Para 7.95) iii) All states need to draw up a roadmap for closure of non-working PSUs by March 2011. Divestment and privatisation of PSUs should be considered and actively pursued. (paras 7.95 and 7.97) iv) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs should closely monitor the compliance of state and central PSUs with their statutory obligations. (Para 7.95) v) A task force may be constituted to design a suitable strategy for disinvestment/privatisation and oversee the process. A Standing Committee on restructuring may be constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to operationalise the recommendations of the task force. An independent technical secretariat may be set up to advise the finance departments in states on restructuring/disinvestment proposals. (Para 7.98) 14. With reference to the power sector: i) Reduction of Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses should be attempted through metering, feeder separation, introduction of High Voltage Distribution Systems (HVDS), metering of distribution transformers and strict anti-theft measures. Distribution franchising and Electricity Services Company (ESCO) - based structures should be considered for efficiency improvement. (Para 7.114) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NLRM) The Ministry of Rural Development has decided to re-design and re-structure the on-going Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) into National Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The idea has been conceived as a cornerstone of national poverty reduction strategy. The objective of the Mission is to reduce poverty among rural BPL by promoting diversified and gainful self-employment and wage employment opportunities which would lead to an appreciable increase in income on a sustainable basis. In the long run, it will ensure broad-based inclusive growth and reduce disparities by spreading out the benefits from the islands of growth across the regions, sectors and communities. The Rural Livelihoods Mission is proposed to have a three-tier interdependent structure. At the apex of the structure will be the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, under the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. Of India. At the State level, there will be an umbrella organization under the State Department of Rural Development/Department which is responsible for implementing self-employment/rural livelihoods promotion programs. The State level Mission with dedicated

THE TRANSIT OF VENUS JUNE 6, 2012, OVER THE DISC OF THE SUN

A Transit of Venus over the disc of the Sun will occur in the morning of Wednesday June 6, 2012 AD. This transit phenomenon will be visible from India. The transit of Venus is a phenomenon when the Venus will be seen as a black spot traveling from one limb of the solar disc to the other. From the Earth this phenomenon is seen when the Venus passes between the Sun and Earth and the planet gets aligned with the Sun. This is an extremely rare event, occurs in pair with a gap of 8 years, at intervals of 8, 121½, 8, 105½ and 8 years. The Venus appears as a dot on the solar disc because its angular size is very small compared to that of the Sun as seen from the Earth. The transit of Venus begins with contact-I, the instant when the disc of the planet Venus is externally tangent with the Sun (Ingress exterior) followed by contact II when the Venus is internally tangent with the Sun (Ingress interior). The Venus will be seen as a black spot, travelling several hours over the face of the disc, will reach the opposite limb of the Sun at contact III, when the disc of the planet Venus is internally tangent with the Sun (Egress interior). Finally the transit ends at contact-IV when the disc of the planet Venus is externally tangent with the Sun (Egress exterior).



General Visibility The entire transit event (all four contacts) will be visible from north western North America, the western Pacific, northern Asia, Japan, Korea, eastern China, Philippines, eastern Australia and New Zealand. The beginning of the transit when the Sun sets while the transit is in progress, will be seen from most of the North America and north west South America. Similarly observer in ntral Asia, the Middle East, Europe and eastern Africa will see the end of the event since the transit will already be in progress at sunrise from those locations. Visibility in India The beginning of the event comprising of Ingress exterior (Contact I) and Ingress interior (Contact II) will not be visible from any place in India as the event will be in progress before sunrise. The observers in India will see the event after sunrise for a duration varying from about 5 hours 30 minutes for the observers located in the east of the country to about 4 hours 30 minutes for the observers located in the west of the country. The last transit of Venus occurred on June 8, 2004 when the entire event was visible from all parts of India. The next pair of transit of Venus will occur after a century on Dec 11, 2117 and Dec 8, 2125.

professionals and domain experts under the State department of Rural Department will be guided financially, technically and supported by the NRLM on need basis. The National and the State Mission will have a symbiotic relationship. They will have mutual access to the knowledge and services in the area of rural livelihoods. The NRLM will be set up in the Rural Development Ministry under the overall supervision of Joint Secretary in-charge of existing SGSY Division. It is proposed to have a Governing Council (GC) and an Executive Committee (EC). A GC will be constituted under the chairmanship of the Minister for Rural Development, GOI. The Minister and Secretary of Agriculture, Women and Child Development, Labour, State Minister of Rural Development (4 on rotation basis), Adviser (RD), Planning, Land Resources (LR), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation (DW&S), Tribal Affairs Commission, DG Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), CMD NABARD, Financial Service, DG National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and DG (CAPART), Representative of Self Help Group (SHG) Federation, (3) Experts (RD)/NGOs (5) will be the member of the Governing Council of the Mission while Secretary (RD) will be the Convener and the Mission Director (JS) will be the Co-Convener of GC. The Governing Council will be the policy making body setting overall vision and direction to the Mission, consistent with the national objectives. It will lay down priorities and review overall progress and development of the Mission. The GC will be empowered to lay down and amend operational guidelines. However, the subsidy norms of the NRLM as approved by the Government shall in no circumstances be changed or exceeded for any of the Mission components. It will meet at least twice a year. The NRLM has been envisaged to perform the following functions: (i) facilitate establishment of state level umbrella agencies by the state governments for providing institutional support for poverty elimination programs; (ii) support state level umbrella organizations in the design and implementation of pro-poor programs; (iii) provide professional and technical support and guidance to the state agencies by seeking out and disseminating pro-poor technologies and institutional innovations through research and development and forging linkages between the state agencies and the

national centers of excellence; (iv) liaise with other Missions/departments to explore areas for convergent action and facilitate such convergence to enhance the capabilities and facilitate access to other entitlements such as wage employment, food security, education, health, etc and; (v) explore and facilitate partnerships between National/State Rural Livelihood Missions and public, private, NGO and Co-operative sector partners, for diversifying and sustaining the livelihoods of the poor; (vi) undertake/commission studies to assess emerging self-employment/skill based employment opportunities and disseminate the information to the State agencies; (vii) study best practices in self-employment/ micro enterprise activities across the country and support their replication in other parts of the country through workshops, cross-learning visits and exchange programs; (viii) develop capacity building and training modules for functionaries of the peoples institutions as well as the state agencies and district units, and other stakeholders participating in the poverty elimination programs; (ix) facilitate analysis and dissemination of the impact of changing economic policies on the poor and play policy advocacy role; (x) act as information warehouse on rural poverty statistics by accessing information from multiple sources; (xi) identify shortcomings in program design and implementation and facilitate debates/discussions thereof by experts for finding innovative & workable solutions and their dissemination to the state agencies. (xii) promote institution of comprehensive monitoring and learning systems at the state agencies and district units, including web-enabled MIS and community monitoring systems; and (xiii) identify high quality institutions in livelihoods education and training and facilitate linkage of the state organizations with missions with such institutions for capacity building of professionals. The need for restructuring the SGSY has arisen on account of feedback provided and recommendations made by various studies including those conducted by National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, Centre for Management Development, Thiruvananthapuram etc. and reports of the Steering Committee constituted by the Planning Commission for the 11th Plan Further, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI) has accepted the recom-



OPINION - EDITORIAL

# NASA CHIEF HAILS NEW ERA IN SPACE

D.S. Rajput

The head of Nasa has hailed a "new era" in exploration after the launch of the first cargo delivery to the space station by a private company. The Falcon rocket, topped by an unmanned Dragon freight capsule, lifted clear of its Florida pad at 03:44 EDT (07:44 GMT; 08:44 BST). The launch system has been built by California-based firm SpaceX. The initial climb to an altitude some 340km above the Earth lasted a little under 10 minutes. Within moments of being ejected, Dragon opened its solar panels. It also unpacked its navigation equipment. Nasa's administrator Charles Bolden said: "Today marks the beginning of a new era in exploration... The significance of this day cannot be overstated; a private company has launched a spacecraft to the International Space Station that will attempt to

If those practice proximity manoeuvres go well, Dragon will be allowed to drive to within 10m of the station on Friday. Astronauts inside the platform will then grab the ship with a robotic arm and berth it to the 400km-high structure. They will empty Dragon of its 500kg of food, water and equipment, before releasing it for a return to Earth at the end of the month. For Elon Musk, the CEO and chief designer at SpaceX, Tuesday's lift-off was a special moment. "Every bit of adrenalin in my body released at that point," he told reporters. "There's so much hope riding on that rocket, so when it worked, and Dragon worked and the solar arrays deployed, [company employees] saw their handiwork in space and operating as it should - it was tremendous elation. It's like winning the Superbowl." The mission has major significance

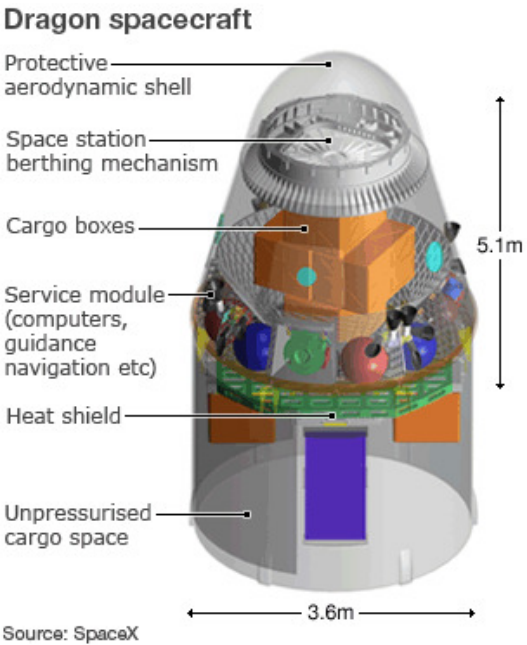


dock there for the first time. "And while there is a lot of work ahead to successfully complete this mission, we are certainly off to good start." It will take a couple of days to reach the station. The plan currently is for the vessel to demonstrate its guidance, control and communications systems on Thursday, at a distance of 2.5km from the International Space Station (ISS).

because it marks a big change in the way the US wants to conduct its space operations. Nasa is attempting to offload routine human spaceflight operations in low-Earth orbit to commercial industry in a way similar to how some large organisations contract out their IT or payroll. The carriage of freight will be the first service to be bought in from external



suppliers; the transport of astronauts to and from the station will be the second, later this decade. The US space agency hopes these changes will save it money that can then be invested in exploration missions far beyond Earth, at destinations such as asteroids and Mars. SpaceX mission control celebrates a successful ascent to orbit for Falcon and Dragon SpaceX has many new systems it has to demonstrate in the coming days, and has tried to lower expectations ahead of the mission, repeating often that its aim is to learn things it did not previously know. Nasa has set the California company a series of development milestones. Only when those have been met fully will a \$1.6bn ISS re-supply contract kick in. The agency is also looking to engage a second cargo partner. Orbital Sciences Corporation of Virginia is slightly behind SpaceX in its development schedule, although it started work on its Antares rocket and Cygnus capsule system later. Orbital expects to fly a first mission to the vicinity of the ISS later this year or early in 2013. "We're really at the dawn of a new era in space exploration, and one where there's a much bigger role for commercial space companies," Mr Musk said. "I think perhaps there's some parallels to the internet in the mid-90s where the



internet was created as a government endeavour but then the introduction of commercial companies really accelerated the growth of the internet." Tuesday's Falcon launch was also notable for the small and rather unusual payload that piggy-backed the ride to orbit. This was a container holding the cremated remains of more than 300 space enthusiasts, among them the late Star Trek actor James "Scotty" Doohan. The ashes had been placed in the Falcon's discarded second stage. They will continue to circle the planet for about a year before falling back to Earth and vaporizing.

# Tuareg Separatist

The Tuareg rebellion of 2012 is a separatist insurgency against the Malian government in the Sahara desert region of the Azawad. It is led by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) in the most recent incarnation of a series of insurgencies by formerly nomadic Tuareg populations which date back at least to 1916. MNLA has been formed by former insurgents and a significant number of returning and heavily armed Tuareg fighters who fought for either the National Transitional Council or the Libyan army during the Libyan civil war. On 22 March, President Amadou Toumani Touré was ousted in a coup d'état over his handling of the crisis, a month before a presidential election was to have taken place. Mutineering soldiers, under the banner of the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State, (CNRDR) suspended the constitution of Mali; although the reversal of that move was announced on 1 April. The Islamist group Ansar Dine were later a part of the rebellion, claiming control of vast swathes of territory, though this control was disputed by the MNLA. As a consequence of the instability following the coup, Mali's three largest northern cities—Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu—were overrun by the rebels on three consecutive days. On 5 April, after the capture of Douentza, the MNLA said that it had accomplished its goals and called off its offensive. The following day, it proclaimed Azawad's independence from Mali. The MNLA is an offshoot of a political movement known as the National

Movement for Azawad (MNA) prior to the insurgency. Some of the movement's members had previously been jailed. After the end of the Libyan civil war, an influx of weaponry led to the arming of the Tuareg in their demand for independence for the Azawad. Many of the returnees from Libya were said to have come back for financial reasons such as losing their savings, as well as due to the alleged racism of the NTC's fighters and militias. The strength of this uprising and the use of heavy weapons, which were not present in the previous conflicts, were said to have "surprised" Malian officials and observers. Though dominated by Tuaregs, the MNLA claims to represent other ethnic groups as well, and has reportedly been joined by some Arab leaders. The MNLA's leader Bilal Ag Acherif said that the onus was on Mali to either give the Saharan peoples their self-determination or they would take it themselves. Another Tuareg-dominated group, the Islamist Ansar Dine (Defenders of Faith), is also fighting against the government. However, according to the BBC, unlike the MNLA it does not seek independence but rather the imposition of sharia across Mali. This group, however, seeks to impose sharia law throughout the territory, according to its spokesman Ag Aoussa. He is in turn closely aligned with the movement's leader Iyad Ag Ghaly, who was part of the early 1990s rebellion and is believed to be linked to an offshoot of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) that is led by his cousin Hamada Ag Hama, by Mauritania and Mali. Iyad Ag

Ghaly was also said to have been affiliated with Algeria's Département du Renseignement et de la Sécurité (DRS) since 2003. There were also reports of an Algerian military presence in the area on 20 December 2011. Though Mali said they were in coordination against AQIM, there were no reported attacks in the region at the time; the MNLA even complained that the Malian government had not done enough to fight AQIM. Locals believed that the presence was due to the MNLA's promise to root out AQIM which was involved in drug trafficking allegedly with the connivance of high-ranking officers and threatened to turn Mali into a narcostate. By March, the MNLA was rumoured to have factionalised, according to the sources in the Malian government, with Ansar Dine claiming control of the region after the capture of several cities, previously attributed to the MNLA. **Reactions** ECOWAS warned the rebels and asked its member states to send logistical support to Mali, while also trying to negotiate a ceasefire. Mauritania denied working with Mali to quell the uprising; however President Abdel Aziz, along with Malian officials, claimed the MNLA worked with AQIM by citing the alleged massacre of soldiers. Algeria withdrew military advisors and suspended military aid to Mali at the end of January to increase pressure on the government as it also tried to mediate a resolution to the conflict. On a 26 February visit to Bamako,

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé suggested the government of Mali negotiate with the MNLA; however, he was criticised for trying to legitimise a rebellion seen in the south as run by sectarian opportunists. During a meeting in Brussels, Belgium in late March the Political Affairs Committee of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, its co-presidents issued a statement condemning the violence and correlating the events with the aftermath of the Libyan civil war. In reaction to the rebellion and the coup, Siaka Diakite, the secretary-general of UNTM, said that "everywhere it is burning. Mali cannot fight on all fronts at the same time...Let us put our personal quarrels aside" and called on Sanogo to adhere to an ECOWAS imposed deadline to return power to civilian rule. His statement was backed by the political parties that opposed the coup. After the coup and the advances by the rebels, the United States followed a warning that the region was becoming an Al Qaeda base with its support of ECOWAS' efforts as it was further worried by the rebel advances. In early April, the AU said it imposed targeted sanctions on the leaders of the rebel groups. On 4 April, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said that in addition to the roughly 200,000 displaced persons, up to 400 people a day were crossing the borders into Burkina Faso and Mauritania. The United Nations Security Council held an emergency session over the dual crisis on 4 April after France called for the meeting.

# EDITORIAL

## DEVELOP INDIA

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## 38TH G8 SUMMIT

The 38th G8 summit was held in Camp David, Maryland, United States, on 18–19 May 2012. It is the annual meeting of the G8. The event occurred just before the year's NATO summit. The G8 summit was moved from Chicago, where it was going to be held back-to-back with the NATO summit, possibly due to fears of a large convergence of protestors. This is the first G8 summit which the Russian head of state Vladimir Putin did not attend. Dmitry Medvedev, the Prime Minister of Russia attended instead. The Group of Six (G6) was an unofficial forum which brought together the heads of the richest industrialized countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. This select few became the Group of Seven (G7) starting in 1976 when Canada joined. The Group of Eight was formed with the addition of Russia in 1997. In addition, the President of the European Commission has been formally included in summits since 1981. The summits were not meant to be linked formally with wider international institutions; and in fact, a mild rebellion against the stiff formality of other international meetings was a part of the genesis of cooperation between France's President Giscard d'Estaing and West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt as they conceived the initial summit of the Group of Six in 1975.

The G8 summits during the 21st century have inspired widespread debates, protests and demonstrations; and the two- or three-day event becomes more than the sum of its parts, elevating the participants, the issues and the venue as focal points for activist pressure.

The current form of the G8 is being evaluated. Some reports attribute resistance to the relatively smaller powers such as Canada and Japan, who are said to perceive a dilution of their global stature. Alternately, a larger forum for global governance may be more reflective of the present multipolar world. The forum is in a process of transformation by expanded membership and by other changes.

The attendees include the eight core participants who make up the G8, as well as the European Union which is represented within the G8 but cannot host or chair summits. A number of other national leaders are also traditionally invited to attend the summit and to participate in some G8 summit activities, but none were invited this year.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that he would not be attending the summit because he was "busy," amid concerns about the discord between Russia–United States relations. However, according to his economic aide Arkady Dvorkovich, Russia's participation would be "absolutely full-fledged" due to Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's "huge experience working" at such events. Media speculation also arose that Putin was timing his first foreign visit since being re-elected for a visit to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

A tentative agenda for the 38th G8 summit included some issues which remain unresolved from previous summits. For example, leaders at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila supported post-2012 plans for accelerating emissions reductions in aviation. Other issues were the effort to tackle a global hunger crisis and the European sovereign debt crisis, particularly following the fall of talks to form a Greek government following an election.

In 2010, strategic plans for lobbying summit organizers were tentatively in place. The United States was challenged to deliver a "workmanlike summits that include China, India and other emerging powers as full partners.

The main topic of the G8 summit was the European sovereign debt crisis, particularly following the fall of talks to form a Greek government following an election. President Obama told the press: "There is now an emerging consensus that more must be done to promote growth and job creation right now in the context of these fiscal and structural reforms." In its declaration the G8 agreed "that all of our governments need to take actions to boost confidence and nurture recovery including reforms to raise productivity, growth and demand within a sustainable, credible and non-inflationary macroeconomic framework. We commit to fiscal responsibility and, in this context, we support sound and sustainable fiscal consolidation policies that take into account countries' evolving economic conditions and underpin confidence and economic recovery." The G8 leaders also stated in the declaration that they agreed on the importance of a strong and cohesive eurozone for global stability and recovery, and affirmed their interest in Greece remaining in the eurozone while respecting its commitments. However disagreement over economic growth favored by France's President François Hollande and fiscal responsibility favored by Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel is also reflected in the G8 summit declaration where the G8 members stated "The global economic recovery shows signs of promise, but significant headwinds persist. Against this background, we commit to take all necessary steps to strengthen and reinvigorate our economies and combat financial stresses, recognizing that the right measures are not the same for each of us."

During their first meeting the G8 leaders discussed the nuclear program of Iran, North Korea's nuclear ambitions and the violent internal conflict in Syria. They agreed that Iran must prove that its nuclear programme is peaceful and that North Korea will be further isolated, if it "continues down the path of provocation". There were consensus among the G8 that the Kofi Annan peace plan for Syria must be fully implementend. The G8 also discussed the political transition in Burma. In this context President Obama said: "On a brighter note, we had the opportunity to discuss Burma, and all of us are hopeful that the political process and transition and transformation that is beginning to take place there takes root."

The G8 states committed themselves to a New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition with African leaders and the private sector whose target it is to lift 50 million people from poverty within from 10 years. By this alliance the G8 together with wanted to "accelerate the flow of private capital to African agriculture, take to scale new technologies and other innovations that can increase sustainable agricultural productivity, and reduce the risk borne by vulnerable economies and communities." The G8 leaders also discussed a broad release of national oil reserves to steady shaky energy markets when sanctions against Iran begin on 28 July 2012 respectively when an oil embargo against Iran by the European Union goes into on 1 July 2012. U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron was scheduled to meet with new French President François Hollande on the sidelines of the summit. President Obama held bilateral meetings with U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.



mentation of the Committee on Credit Related Issues under SGSY (Prof.Radhakrishna Committee) to create a National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) to provide greater focus and momentum for poverty reduction to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) by 2015 through rapid increase in the coverage of rural poor households under self-employment.

In addition to provide self employment to the rural folks, the Mission will also help in enhancing their capabilities and facilitate access to other entitlements such as wage employment and food security and benefits of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), drinking water, land improvement, education, and health and risk mitigation through convergence and coordination mechanism. The decision follows three major developments that have taken place in the recent years and had major impact on the rural economy especially the rural poor i.e (i) the economy experienced a robust growth (ii) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) emerged as a major program to provide additional income to the rural poor and (iii) various initiatives taken under the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).Taking these developments into account and in order to achieve the objective of the 11th Plan of broad based inclusive growth in this perspective, the strategy paper of Ministry envisages a four pronged strategy to attack rural poverty comprising (i) generation of self employment in credit linked micro enterprises and salaried employment through demand driven skill development (ii) wage employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (iii) payment of pension to elderly and vulnerable sections under National Social Assistance Program (iv) income generation and social security programs of other Ministries of Government of India.

NRLM programs is proposed to be implemented in all rural districts of different states excludingthe districts in Delhi and Chandigarh. However, the Governing Council of the Mission based on the latest available data is empowered to include or exclude the districts for the implementation of various components of the Mission. It is envisaged that the State Governments will transit into the NRLM mode only in a phased manner. Till such time the States do not transit into NRLM mode, the SGSY activities will continue to be implemented as per current guidelines/norms and fund releases will be made to DRDAs as per existing procedures. The revised norms of SGSY will be applicable to the States having the commitment to fulfill the following within the stipulated time period:

- i. State level agencies and the district level units are set up
  - ii. Full complement of professional staff has been trained and placed
  - iii. State level poverty reduction strategy has been formulated
- Funds for implementing the Mission's programs are proposed to be directly released separately to the state level agency and the DRDAs on the basis of the detailed district wise annual action plans submitted by the state agencies and approved by the EC of the National Mission, but within the overall allocation indicated for each state on the basis of the poverty ratio. The funds to state level agencies will be transferred to meet expenditure on:

- (i) establishing and running the dedicated state /district/sub-district level agency;
  - (ii) organizing state level skill development and placement services (covering more than one district); and
  - (iii) other activities such as technical services, concurrent evaluation and such other activities.
- The funds to DRDAs will be transferred to the meet expenditures on: (i) subsidy to SHGs; (ii) infrastructure and marketing (district level and sub-district level); (iii) corpus for federations; (iv) interest subsidy; (v) training and capacity building of all stakeholders and (vi) engagement of NGO facilitators. The funds to district units will be released where full complement of professional staff has been placed and district poverty reduction plans have been formulated. In other case the exiting procedure of fund release will be followed.

Funds will be released in two installments based on the progress report and submission of utilization certificates by the district units under intimation to the state level agency. The State level agency will compile and consolidate expenditure details, physical progress and other details and submit to National Mission periodically.

MoRD will release 75% of the approved amount to the State Government/DRDA and the State government will release the balance amount of 25%. In respect of north-eastern states, J&K, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand, the GOI and state share will be in the proportion of 90:10, respectively.

As far as possible, e-banking will be used for transfer of funds to the state level agencies and to the districts. The state level agency will maintain a separate budget and prescribed accounting system for the Mission activities both at the state and district level. The district units will adhere to the accounting system and financial guidelines prescribed by the state agencies. The block units will be directed by the district units to follow similar systems and guidelines to ensure transparency and accountability. The National Livelihood Mission will have a strong mechanism of Monitoring and Evaluation with the involvement of the state level agency and dedicated district level units. The Monitoring and Learning (M&L) specialists at the Mission and state agency levels will coordinate concurrent monitoring of the Mission activities. At the district level, the Monitoring and Learning specialist will undertake monitoring of the physical and financial targets of various Mission interventions, adopting the formats designed by the National Mission for this purpose. In addition, the district level M&L specialist will be responsible for instituting community monitoring systems including a system of self monitoring by the SHGs and their federations.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) will be actively involved in the following activities of the Mission:

- (i) identification and mobilization of BPL households into SHGs, with priority being given to the SC and ST households especially primitive tribal groups, poorest of the poor households, women headed households and households engaged in declining occupations;
- (ii) facilitating federation of SHGs at the village/gram panchay at level/ block level and providing basic facilities for the effective functioning of such federations in terms of providing accommodation for federation office and such other basic facilities;
- (iii) giving priority to the demands of the SHGs and their federations in the annual plans/activities of the PRIs by making suitable financial allocations;
- (iv) entrusting execution of panchayat activities including civil works to SHGs and their federations on a priority basis;
- (v) leasing out panchayat resources such as fishing ponds/tanks, common property resources, market yards, buildings and other properties to the SHGs and their federations for proper management and maintenance;
- (vi) entrusting responsibility for collection of panchayat revenues including house property tax to the SHGs for a small fee; and
- (vii) entrusting management and maintenance of select civic amenities to the SHGs.

(viii) any other activity which could be taken up by the members of the SHGs or their federations. NRLM will have multi pronged approach to strengthen livelihoods of the rural poor by promoting SHGs, improving existing occupations, providing skill development & placement and other activities thereof.. The training and capacity building, deployment of multidisciplinary experts and other initiatives will enhance the credit worthiness of the rural poor. The services of craft persons, community resource persons etc will be utilized as TOT to for capacity building and training under NRLM. The periodic interaction of Mission with Public Sector Banks and other financial institutions to enhance the reach of rural poor to the un-banked areas will ensure their financial inclusion. Further, poor have multiple livelihoods and they need multi pronged approach to strengthen it. The existing strategy of social mobilization of poor, their organization into SHGs, training & capacity building, credit linkage for micro enterprise for self employment will continued to be one of the main components of NRLM. Emphasis will be on convergence with various schemes of Rural Development along with other line departments/ ministries to strengthen the exiting occupations of the rural poor, ensure their participation as beneficiary of emerging opportunities as a result of various schemes for sustainable livelihood and also introducing newer technologies in their enterprises. The multidisciplinary domain experts at

various levels will coordinate with all the stakeholders for benefiting the poor in risk mitigation, food security, training and capacity building, micro financing, infrastructure development and better marketing linkages for getting appropriate prices for their products. People owned & people centered organization by federating SHGs will act as facilitators for strengthening the SHGs and thereby benefiting the rural poor. In addition skill development & placement will be the subset of the redesigned program for deploying the rural BPL poor in the sun-rising sectors of the economy. The Mission will make concerted efforts to train rural BPL to provide last tier implementation personnel as service providers, lok sevaks, etc to local bodies to implement to programs efficiently and effectively.

## Delimitation Commission of India

Delimitation commission or Boundary commission of India is a Commission established by Government of India under the provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act. The main task of the commission is to redraw the boundaries of the various assemblyand Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census. The representation from each state is not changed during this exercise. However, the number of SC and ST seats in a state are changed in accordance with the census.

The Commission is a powerful body whose orders cannot be challenged in a court of law. The orders are laid before the Lok Sabha and the respective State Legislative Assemblies. However, modifications are not permitted.

Delimitation commissions have been set up four times in the past - In 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under Delimitation Commission acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.

The government had suspended delimitation in 1976 until after the 2001 census so that states' family planning programmes would not affect their political representation in the Lok Sabha. This had led to wide discrepancies in the size of constituencies, with the largest having over three million electors, and the smallest less than 50,000.

The recent delimitation commission was set up on 12 July 2002 after the 2001 census with Justice Kuldeep Singh, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India as its Chairperson. The Commission has submitted its recommendations. On December 2007, the Supreme Court of India on a petition issued notice to the central government for non implementation. On 4 January 2008, the CCPA decided to implement the order from the Delimitation commission. The recommendations of the delimitation commission was approved by thePresident, Pratibha Patil on 19 February 2008. This means that all future elections in India for states covered by the commission will be held under the newly formed consistencies.

The assembly elections in Karnataka which were conducted in three phases in May 2008 is the first one to use the new boundaries as drawn by the 2002 delimitation commission.

## Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is an authority, established by the Constitution of India under Chapter V, who audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government. The CAG is also the external auditor of government-owned companies. The reports of the CAG are taken into consideration by the Public Accounts Committees, which are special committees in the Parliament of India and the state legislatures. The CAG of India is also the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, which has over 58,000 employees across the country. The current CAG of India is Vinod Rai, who was appointed on 7 January 2008. He is the 11th CAG of India. Appointment The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India following a recommendation by the Prime Minister. On appointment,

he/she has to make an oath of affirmation before the President of India.

Oath of affirmation

I, ..... having been appointed Comptroller and Auditor-General of India do swear in the name of God/solemnly affirm that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India, that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws.

### Third Schedule, Part IV

The salary and other conditions of service of the CAG are determined by the Parliament of India. Neither his salary nor rights in respect of leave of absence, pension or age of retirement can be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. The CAG is not eligible for further office either under the Government of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office. These provisions are in order to ensure the independence of CAG.

The CAG cannot be removed from office other than through a procedure of impeachment similar to what is applicable to a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The Constitution of India [Article 148] provides for an independent office to the CAG of India. He/she is the head of Indian Audit and Accounts Department. His/her duty is to uphold the constitution of India and laws of the Parliament in the field of financial administration.

Audit of government accounts (including the accounts of the state governments) in India is entrusted to the CAG of India who is empowered to audit all expenditure from the revenues of the union or state governments, whether incurred within India or outside. Specifically, audits include:

- Transactions relating to debt, deposits, remittances, Trading, and manufacturing
- Profit and loss accounts and balance sheets kept under the order of the President or Governors
- Receipts and stock accounts.CAG also audits the books of accounts of the government companies as per companies act.

In addition, the CAG also executes performance and compliance audits of various functions and departments of the government.

Recently Vinod Rai, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has been appointed as external auditor of two major UN organisations, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai has been elected the Chairman of the United Nations' panel of external auditors.

### List of Comptrollers and Auditors General of India

No.	Comptroller and Auditor General of India	Year tenure began	Year tenure ended
1	V. Narahari Rao	1948	1954
2	A. K. Chanda	1954	1960
3	A. K. Roy	1960	1966
4	S. Ranganathan	1966	1972
5	A. Bakshi	1972	1978
6	Gian Prakash	1978	1984
7	T. N. Chaturvedi	1984	1990
8	C. G. Somiah	1990	1996
9	V. K. Shunglu	1996	2002
10	V. N. Kaul	2002	2008
11	Vinod Rai	2008	present

## Who was Arsala Rahmani

A senior Afghan peace negotiator has been shot dead in Kabul, officials say. Arsala Rahmani was a key member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, which leads Afghan efforts to make peace with the Taliban.

His death is a major blow to President Hamid Karzai as Mr Rahmani was key in reaching out to Taliban commanders. It also emerged Afghan forces could soon be in charge of security in areas home to 75% of the population. Mr Karzai said Afghan National Security Forces will soon take lead responsibility for security in a further 122 areas of the country - a move described as a "significant development" by UK Foreign Secretary William Hague.

It is expected that all of the country will be under the control of Afghan forces by the end of 2014 when NATO's combat mission will end.

Police say that Mr Rahmani was shot

dead on Sunday morning by an unidentified gunman while on his way to work in western Kabul, in what was described as a carefully planned attack.

There had been threats against his life in the past and questions will be raised as to why he was travelling without an armed bodyguard, our correspondent says.

Last year the chief of Afghanistan's peace council was killed in a suicide attack.

Burhannudin Rabbani was killed by a bomb hidden in the turban of a suicide attacker posing as a Taliban peace envoy last September.

His US-educated son, Salahuddin Rabbani, was appointed to replace him last month.

The Taliban have denied involvement in the killing of Mr Rahmani.

An Isaf statement condemned the killing and paid tribute to Mr Rahmani: "His decision to help make the future brighter for Afghans serves as an inspiration to us all and his contributions will be missed".

Mr Rahmani was one of the first senior Taliban members to join the peace process and his death will be of concern to other Taliban officials considering engaging with the government, a senior presidential aide told our correspondent.

He was a critical figure in President Karzai's plans to reach out to Taliban commanders, although it is unclear how many senior leaders he managed to bring into the fold.

Nevertheless the president frequently consulted him to gain insight into the inner workings and the thinking of the Taliban leadership.

Mr Rahmani was responsible for the committee within the peace council that considers the release of Taliban prisoners from Bagram and other Afghan prisons.

He served as minister of higher education in the Taliban administration that ruled Afghanistan for five years until the US drove them from power in 2001. But he had been politically active long before the birth of the Taliban movement, holding political office in Afghan administrations during the 1990s. And he was one of several former Taliban officials removed from a UN blacklist last July as a signal of support for Afghan peace efforts, which meant that a travel ban and assets freeze were lifted. Afghanistan's 70-member peace council was set up two years ago by President Karzai to open negotiations with insurgents.

The council was credited with reconciling hundreds of Taliban field commanders, but had failed to woo any senior figures away from the insurgency.

Although the Taliban denied sanctioning last year's killing of Mr Rabbani, they view the Western-backed Karzai government as illegitimate. And in March the militants suspended parallel preliminary peace negotiations with the United States, saying US efforts to involve the Afghan authorities were a key stumbling block.

### Arsalan Rahmani Daulat

Arsalan Rahmani Daulat (died 13 May 2012) was selected to serve in the Meshrano Jirga, the upper house of Afghanistan's national assembly, in 2005 and 2010. He was appointed a Deputy Minister for Higher Education under the Taliban, in 1998. The United Nations Security Council issued Security Council Resolution 1267 in 1999, which listed senior Taliban members. The United Nations requested member states to freeze the financial assets of those individuals. He was one of the individuals sanctioned. He was one of the four former Taliban leaders that accepted the reconciliation offer from the Afghan government. He was also named deputy leader of Khuddamul Furqan for political affairs.

## What is Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and why is in the news

The founder of conservation group Sea Shepherd, which annually disrupts Japan's whale hunt, has been arrested in Frankfurt for extradition to Costa Rica, the organisation said today. Paul Watson is in a German jail after being detained yesterday on charges stemming from a high seas confrontation over shark finning in 2002.

A media report in Australia, citing Costa

Rican reports, said he also faced an outstanding warrant for attempted murder during the same incident.

"The German police have said that the warrant for Captain Watson's arrest is in response to an alleged violation of ships traffic in Costa Rica, which occurred during the filming of 'Sharkwater' in 2002," Sea Shepherd said.

The specific "violation of ships traffic" incident took place in Guatemalan waters when Sea Shepherd encountered an illegal shark finning operation, run by a Costa Rican ship called the Varadero, it added.

"On order of the Guatemalan authorities, Sea Shepherd instructed the crew of the Varadero to cease their shark finning activities and head back to port to be prosecuted," the group said. It claimed that while escorting the Varadero back to port, the tables were turned and a Guatemalan gunboat was dispatched to intercept the Sea Shepherd crew.

"The crew of the Varadero accused the Sea Shepherds of trying to kill them, while the video evidence proves this to be a fallacy," said the group, which was set up in 1977 to campaign against the slaughter of ocean wildlife.

"To avoid the Guatemalan gunboat, Sea Shepherd then set sail for Costa Rica, where they uncovered even more illegal shark finning activities in the form of dried shark fins by the thousands on the roofs of industrial buildings."

Watson was being assisted while in prison by European parliamentarians Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Jose Bove, Sea Shepherd added.

### Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) is a non-profit, marine conservation organization based in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, Washington in the United States. The group uses direct action tactics to protect sealife. Sea Shepherd currently operates the vessels MY Steve Irwin, the MY Bob Barker, and the MV Brigitte Bardot, and most of the group's recent activities take place in international waters. The group has a strong focus on public relations to spread their message via the media.

The organization was founded in 1977 under the name Earth Force Society by Paul Watson, a former member of Greenpeace, after a dispute with that organization over what Watson saw as its lack of more aggressive intervention. Watson purports to be a co-founder of Greenpeace, a claim vehemently denied by that organization.

Sea Shepherd has received support for its tactics against fishing, whaling, and seal hunting from quarters such as media personalities, while critics have called the direct action violent. Operations have included scuttling and disabling whaling vessels at harbor, intervening in Canadian and Namibian seal hunts, shining laser light into the eyes of whalers, throwing bottles of foul-smelling butyric acid onto vessels at sea, boarding of whaling vessels while at sea, and seizure and destruction of drift nets at sea. Sea Shepherd claims that their aggressive actions are necessary as the international community has shown itself unwilling or unable to stop species-endangering whaling and fishing practices. The American, Canadian, and Japanese governments, as well as the Institute of Cetacean Research of Japan, have referred to them as terrorists.

## Study links biodiversity and language loss

The decline of linguistic and cultural diversity is linked to the loss of biodiversity, a study has suggested. The authors said that 70% of the world's languages were found within the planet's biodiversity hotspots. Data showed that as these important environmental areas were degraded over time, cultures and languages in the area were also being lost. The results of the study have been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). "Biologists estimate annual loss of species at 1,000 times or more greater than historic rates, and linguists predict that 50-90% of the world's languages will disappear by the end of the century," the researchers wrote. Lead author Larry Gorenflo from Penn State University, in the US, said previous studies had identified a geographical connection between the two, but did not offer the level of detail required.



In their paper, the researchers pointed out that, out of the 6,900 or more languages spoken on Earth, more than 4,800 occurred in regions containing high biodiversity. Dr Gorenflo described these locations as "very important landscapes" which were "getting fewer and fewer" but added that the study's data could help provide long-term security. "It provides a wonderful opportunity to integrate conservation efforts - you can have people who can get funding for biological conservation, and they can collaborate with people who can get funding for linguistic or cultural conservation," he suggested. "In the past, it was hard to get biologists to look at people. "That has really changed dramatically in the past few years. One thing that a lot of biologists and ecologists are now seeing is that people are part of these ecosystems."

## Lee makes 1st visit by South Korean leader to Myanmar since 1983 assassination attempt

Myanmar tightened security for a visit by President Lee Myung-bak on Monday, the first by a South Korean leader since an assassination attempt by North Korean commandos nearly 30 years ago.

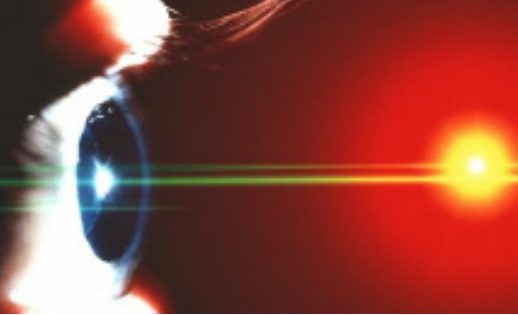


Lee flew to the capital Naypyitaw to meet with Myanmar President Thein Sein as part of a two-day visit that is expected to strengthen ties between the Asian countries, a statement from Lee's office said.

## Light-powered bionic eye invented to help restore sight

A retinal implant - or bionic eye - which is powered by light has been invented by scientists at Stanford University in California. Implants currently used in patients need to be powered by a battery. The new device, described in the journal Nature Photonics, uses a special pair of glasses to beam near infrared light into the eye. This powers the implant and sends the information which could help a patient see.

Diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and retinal pigmentosa result in the death of cells which can detect light in the eye. Retinal implants stimulate the nerves in the back of the eye, which has helped some patients to see. Early results of a trial in the UK mean two men have gone from being totally blind to being able to perceive light and even some shapes. However, as well as a fitting a chip behind the retina, a battery needs to be fitted behind the ear and a cable needs to join the two together. The Stanford researchers say their method could be a step forward by "eliminating the need for complex electronics and wiring". A retinal implant, which works in a similar way to a solar panel, is fitted in the back of the eye. A pair of glasses fitted with a video camera records what is happening before a patient's eyes and fires beams of near infrared light on to the retinal chip.



This creates an electrical signal which

is passed on to nerves. Natural light is 1,000 times too weak to power the implant. The researchers said: "Because the photovoltaic implant is thin and wire-less, the surgical procedure is much simpler than in other retinal prosthetic approaches. "Such a fully integrated wireless implant promises the restoration of useful vision to patients blinded by degenerative retinal diseases." The implant has not been tested in people, but has been shown to work in rats. Dr Keith Mathieson, now at the Institute of Photonics at the University of Strathclyde, was one of the lead researchers on the project. He said: "Age-related macular degeneration is a huge medical challenge and, with an aging population, is continuing to grow. "This means that innovative, practical solutions are essential if sight is to be restored to people around the world with the condition. A visual prosthesis, often referred to as a bionic eye, is an experimental visual device intended to restore functional vision in those suffering from partial or total blindness. Many devices have been developed, usually modeled on the cochlear implant or bionic ear devices, a type of neural prosthesis in use since the mid 1980s.

## Mexican author Carlos Fuentes dead at 83

Fuentes was one of the most prolific Latin American writers known equally for his fiction and his essays on politics and culture. His most famous works were The Death of Artemio Cruz and The Old Gringo. He was associated with the Latin American Boom - a literary movement made up of mainly young authors whose politically critical works broke with established traditions. He died in a hospital in Mexico City. Hospital sources did not comment on his cause of death. Mr Fuentes wrote a wealth of novels, plays and essays and regularly commented on political events in Spanish newspaper El Pais. Born in Panama in 1928, he did not move to Mexico until he was 16. The son of a diplomat, Mr Fuentes spent much of his childhood moving around the Western Hemisphere. He said it was this which allowed him to view Latin America from a distance, giving him a critical edge. His narrative, like that of his contemporaries of the Latin American Boom, was rarely linear, instead relying on flashbacks and changing perspectives. Among English-language readers he is arguably best known for his novel The Old Gringo, which was made into a film starring Gregory Peck in 1989. The novel was inspired by the real-life disappearance of American journalist Ambrose Bierce during the 1910-1920 Mexican Revolution.



He was also outspoken in his political views, and was a vocal critic of US administrations, including Washington's policies on immigration and the war on terror. Fuentes was also highly critical of Mexican politics, and in a recent interview with the BBC World Service, he called for a different approach to the war on drugs. He also described the three main candidates in the Mexican presidential election as "mediocre". Cultural and political figures around the world expressed their grief at the news of his death. The front-runner in July's election, Enrique Pena Nieto, said he had not always agreed with Fuentes on political matters but that he recognised his "extraordinary work". Nobel Prize-winning Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa told Spanish daily

newspaper El Pais that "with him, we lose a writer whose work and whose presence left a deep imprint". Mexican novelist Jose Agustin told that Carlos Fuentes "became an essential protagonist in Mexican political and cultural life. He had an immense value, from his first launch in the 1950s he never once backed down for anybody". Chilean-American writer Ariel Dorfman said Fuentes had an amazing generosity of spirit. "He was constantly, constantly championing the younger people. I never heard him say anything nasty about anybody. Mr Fuentes had often been mentioned as a candidate for the Nobel Prize but never won. Among the many major literary awards he did win was the Cervantes Prize in 1987. He continued to write until the end, with an essay on the recent change of power in France published in Mexican newspaper Reforma on Tuesday, the same day the Angeles del Pedregal hospital announced his death.

## Viruses used to power tiny device

Scientists in the US have developed a way to generate electricity using viruses. The researchers built a generator with a postage stamp-sized electrode and based on a small film of specially engineered viruses. When a finger tapped the electrode, the viruses converted the mechanical energy into electricity. The research by a team in California has been published in the journal Nature Nanotechnology. Materials that can convert mechanical energy into electricity are known as "piezoelectric". "More research is needed, but our work is a promising first step toward the development of personal power generators, actuators for use in nano-devices, and other devices based on viral electronics," said Dr Seung-Wuk Lee at the University of California, Berkeley. The virus used in the research was an M13 bacteriophage, which attacks bacteria but is benign to humans. The Berkeley team used genetic engineering techniques to add four negatively charged molecules to one end of the corkscrew-shaped proteins that coat the virus. These additional molecules increased the charge difference between the proteins' positive and negative ends, boosting the voltage of the virus. Another advantage of using viruses for such tasks is that they arrange themselves into an orderly film that enables the generator to work. This attribute, known as "self-assembly" is much sought after in the field of nanotechnology. The scientists enhanced the system by stacking films composed of single layers of the virus on top of each other. They found that a stack about 20 layers thick exhibited the strongest piezoelectric effect. For the demonstration, they took a multilayered film of viruses measuring 1 sq cm and sandwiched it between two gold-plated electrodes. These were connected by wires to a liquid-crystal display. When pressure was applied to the generator, it was able to produce up to a quarter of the voltage of a common battery. This was enough current to flash the number "1" on the display. This isn't much, but Dr Lee said he was hopeful of improving on the "proof-of-principle" device. The researchers claim their advance could help lead to tiny devices that harvest electrical energy from the vibrations of everyday tasks such as shutting a door or climbing stairs.

## France's new prime minister takes office

France's new prime minister, a moderate Socialist with an affinity for Germany who will no doubt be quickly pressed into service to tend to the nation's all-important relationship with Berlin, took office Wednesday. Jean-Marc Ayrault was welcomed at the 18th century mansion in central Paris that serves as the prime minister's office, by his predecessor Francois Fillon. The two men chatted for half an hour before emerging. Fillon, a conservative and staunch ally of former President Nicolas Sarkozy, was driven away to applause by on-

lookers gathered in the building's courtyard. Ayrault waved his predecessor off and then it was time to get to work. The 62-year-old has led the country's Socialists in the lower house of Parliament for more than a decade, but it is his knowledge of Germany and Germany that has attracted the most attention to Ayrault.



All eyes are trained on how President Francois Hollande, who was sworn in Tuesday, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel will get along, since that relationship is at the core of how Europe tackles its debt crisis. Sarkozy and Merkel were said to be so close they were sometimes referred to as one person, Merkozy. Franco-German proposals usually carry the day in Brussels as European leaders try to contain a debt crisis that has dragged several countries into recession and ensure that it never happens again. Just hours after being sworn in, Hollande flew to Berlin to meet Merkel. The German chancellor said their differences had been overstated, and the two committed Tuesday to finding ways to encourage growth in a continent where many countries are beset by recession. But observers wonder how they'll reconcile the French leader's insistence that growth measures be added to a European treaty aimed at limiting overspending, and the German leader's demand for budget discipline. The conservative Merkel has balked at reopening negotiations of the fiscal compact that brought at least an uneasy calm to markets when it was signed earlier this year. Hollande says imposing drastic cuts on countries that aren't growing is counterproductive and will only further impair their ability to pay off debts.

## Stocks Log Worst Week in 2012; FB Closes Flat

Stocks closed near session lows Friday, with all three major averages posting their worst weekly drop this year, as investors were cautious ahead of the weekend amid fears over the euro zone and euphoria over Facebook's trading debut fizzled. Facebook [FB 31.2575 -2.7725 (-8.15%)] eked out a tiny gain after fighting to stay in positive territory in the final hour of trading. The stock surged more than 10 percent out of the gate after pricing at \$38 a share, becoming the largest Internet IPO in history. Over 578 million Facebook shares exchanged hands during the regular trading session, easily surpassing GM's [GM 21.6311 0.0911 (+0.42%)] first-day record trading volume of 458 million shares by 3pm ET. Facebook's trading action accounted for almost 22 percent of the Nasdaq's volume. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 73.11 points, or 0.59 percent, to close at 12,369.38, logging its 12th down day in the last 13 sessions for the first time since October 1974.

The S&P 500 dropped 9.64 points, or 0.74 percent, to end at 1,295.22, slumping below the key 1,300 level for the first time since mid-January. The Nasdaq erased 34.90 points, or 1.24 percent, to finish at 2,779.79. The CBOE Volatility Index, widely considered the best gauge of fear in the market, closed above 25. For the week, the Dow tumbled 3.52 percent, the S&P 500 declined 4.30 percent, and the Nasdaq plunged 5.28 percent. JPMorgan [JPM 34.1414 1.6314 (+5.02%)] was the biggest laggard on the Dow for the week, while Wal-Mart [WMT 63.665 0.625 (+0.99%)] rallied. All 10 S&P sectors finished in negative territory for the week, led by financials and materials. "Facebook has a long way to go in terms of creating value," said Manual

# US sets 2025 goal to tame Alzheimer's

The US says it will seek an effective treatment for Alzheimer's by 2025, as it faces an ageing population and spiralling health costs. Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the goal as part of the first National Alzheimer's Plan. An additional \$50m will be added to research funding during 2012. About 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's or related dementias, a number expected to reach 16 million by 2050, at a cost of \$1tn (£625m). In addition, the plan calls for better training of doctors in a bid to better recognise the symptoms of the disease, increased support for care-givers and public awareness of the disease, as well as better data tracking. President Barack Obama has earmarked an additional \$80m in his 2013 budget plan for Alzheimer's research in what was described as an effort to "jumpstart" efforts to reach the 2025 goal. One trial tests the use of a drug that attacks amyloid - a protein thought to be a cause of Alzheimer's. The trial will involve 300 patients from an extended family who show no symptoms but are genetically likely to have the disease earlier in life. The trial will be funded through the National Institutes of Health as well as the Banner Alzheimer's Institute in Phoenix, but with most of the funding from Genetech, the drug's US manufacturer. The second trial will test an insulin nasal spray's ability to restore memory for those with the disease. Previous research has linked Alzheimer's to diabetes, especially to the adult-onset form of the disease. The plan comes as the US moves to implement its healthcare reform law, which currently faces scrutiny and possible repeal by the Supreme Court. Research and advocacy group the Alzheimer's Association estimates that treating the disease would carry a \$200bn price tag in 2012 and a cost of \$1tn by 2050, including \$140 billion in costs to government healthcare programmes Medicare and Medicaid.

Henriquez, CEO of Hercules Technology Growth Capital. "Facebook's in a process of monetizing those mobile users, something that hasn't really happened yet in the industry, and it's a revolutionary thing they're about to do so there's a really good future there for the valuation for that company to run further."

### What is Dow Jones

Dow Jones, the Dow 30, or simply the Dow, is a stock market index, and one of several indices created by Wall Street Journal editor and Dow Jones & Company co-founder Charles Dow. It was founded on May 26, 1896, and is now owned by Dow Jones Indexes, which is majority owned by the CME Group. The average is named after Dow and one of his business associates, statistician Edward Jones. It is an index that shows how 30 large, publicly owned companies based in the United States have traded during a standard trading session in the stock market. It is the second oldest U.S. market index after the Dow Jones Transportation Average, which was also created by Dow. The Industrial portion of the name is largely historical, as many of the modern 30 components have little or nothing to do with traditional heavy industry. The average is price-weighted, and to compensate for the effects of stock splits and other adjustments, it is currently a scaled average. The value of the Dow is not the actual average of the prices of its component stocks, but rather the sum of the component prices divided by a divisor, which changes whenever one of the component stocks has a stock split or stock dividend, so as to generate a consistent value for the index. Along with the NASDAQ Composite, the S&P 500 Index, and the Russell 2000 Index, the Dow is among the most closely watched U.S. benchmark indices tracking targeted stock market activity. Although Dow compiled the index to gauge the performance of the industrial sector within the American economy, the index's performance continues to be influenced by not only corporate and economic reports, but also by domestic and foreign political events such as war and terrorism, as well as by natural disasters that could potentially lead to economic harm. Components of the Dow trade on both the NASDAQ OMX and the NYSE Euronext, two of the largest stock market companies. Derivatives of the Dow trade on the Chicago Board Options Exchange and through the CME Group, the world's largest futures exchange company, which owns 90% of the indexing business founded by Dow Jones, including the Industrial Average.

### What is NASDAQ

The NASDAQ Stock Market, also known as simply the NASDAQ, is an American stock exchange. "NASDAQ" originally stood for "National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations". It is the second-largest stock exchange by market capitalization in the world, after the New York Stock Exchange. As of January 25, 2011, there are 2,711 listings, with a total capitalization of over \$4.5 trillion. The NASDAQ has more trading volume than any other electronic stock exchange in the world. The exchange

is owned by NASDAQ OMX Group, which also owns the OMX stock exchange network. **What is S&P 500**  
The S&P 500 stands for Standard & Poor 500 and is a free-float capitalization-weighted index published since 1957 of the prices of 500 large-cap common stocks actively traded in the United States. The stocks included in the S&P 500 are those of large publicly held companies that trade on either of the two largest American stock market exchanges: the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ. The index focus is U.S.-based companies although there are a few companies with headquarters in and/or incorporated in other countries. After the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500 is one of the most commonly followed equity indices, is considered a bellwether for the American economy, and is included in the Index of Leading Indicators. Many mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and other funds such as pension funds, are designed to track the performance of the S&P 500 index. Hundreds of billions of US dollars have been invested in this fashion.

## Group of Eight

Group of Eight (G8) is a forum for the governments of eight large economies. (It excludes some members of the actual eight largest, such as China, Brazil and India). The forum originated with a 1975 summit hosted by France that brought together representatives of six governments: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, thus leading to the name Group of Six or G6. The summit became known as the Group of Seven or G7 the following year with the addition of Canada. In 1997, Russia was added to group which then became known as the G8. The European Union is represented within the G8 but cannot host or chair summits. "G8" can refer to the member states in aggregate or to the annual summit meeting of the G8 heads of government. The former term, G6, is now frequently applied to the six most populous countries within the European Union. G8 ministers also meet throughout the year, such as the G7/8 finance ministers (who meet four times a year), G8 foreign ministers, or G8 environment ministers. Collectively, the G8 nations comprise 51.0% of 2011 global nominal GDP and 42.5% of global GDP (PPP). Each calendar year, the responsibility of hosting the G8 rotates through the member states in the following order: France, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada. The holder of the presidency sets the agenda, hosts the summit for that year, and determines which ministerial meetings will take place. Lately, both France and the United Kingdom have expressed a desire to expand the group to include five developing countries, referred to as the **Outreach Five** (O5) or the Plus Five: Brazil, People's Republic of China, India, Mexico, and South Africa. These countries have participated as guests in previous meetings, which are sometimes called **G8+5**. With the G-20 major economies growing in stature since the 2008 Washington summit, world leaders from the group announced at their Pittsburgh summit on September 25, 2009, that the group will replace the G8 as the



# UPSC Prelims 2012 Answer Key

UPSC 2012 Prelims

Paper I

Answer Key

Series A

1.	d
2.	a
3.	d
4.	a
5.	b
6.	d
7.	d
8.	c
9.	b
10.	c
11.	c
12.	b
13.	c
14.	d
15.	b
16.	d
17.	a
18.	b
19.	d
20.	a
21.	a
22.	b
23.	c
24.	a
25.	b
26.	d
27.	a
28.	d
29.	a
30.	b
31.	b
32.	d
33.	c
34.	b
35.	c
36.	d
37.	c
38.	a
39.	c
40.	a
41.	c
42.	c
43.	b
44.	a
45.	a
46.	c
47.	b
48.	c
49.	c
50.	d
51.	d
52.	c
53.	b
54.	b
55.	b
56.	a
57.	a
58.	*
59.	d
60.	a
61.	c
62.	b
63.	c
64.	c
65.	c
66.	c
67.	c
68.	a
69.	a
70.	b
71.	a
72.	*
73.	d
74.	c
75.	a
76.	*
77.	a
78.	a
79.	c
80.	a
81.	c
82.	a
83.	b
84.	c
85.	a
86.	d
87.	d
88.	b
89.	b
90.	c
91.	a
92.	b
93.	*
94.	d
95.	b
96.	a
97.	d
98.	c
99.	b
100.	d

Series B

1.	b
2.	c
3.	d
4.	b
5.	c
6.	d
7.	*
8.	c
9.	b
10.	c
11.	c
12.	b
13.	c
14.	d
15.	b
16.	d
17.	a
18.	b
19.	d
20.	a
21.	a
22.	b
23.	c
24.	a
25.	b
26.	d
27.	a
28.	d
29.	a
30.	b
31.	b
32.	d
33.	c
34.	b
35.	c
36.	d
37.	c
38.	a
39.	c
40.	a
41.	c
42.	c
43.	b
44.	a
45.	a
46.	c
47.	b
48.	c
49.	c
50.	d
51.	d
52.	c
53.	b
54.	b
55.	b
56.	a
57.	a
58.	*
59.	d
60.	a
61.	c
62.	b
63.	c
64.	c
65.	c
66.	c
67.	c
68.	a
69.	a
70.	b
71.	a
72.	*
73.	d
74.	c
75.	a
76.	*
77.	a
78.	a
79.	c
80.	a
81.	c
82.	a
83.	b
84.	c
85.	a
86.	d
87.	d
88.	b
89.	b
90.	c
91.	a
92.	b
93.	*
94.	d
95.	b
96.	a
97.	d
98.	c
99.	b
100.	d

Series C

1.	c
2.	a
3.	a
4.	c
5.	a
6.	c
7.	a
8.	b
9.	c
10.	a
11.	d
12.	d
13.	b
14.	b
15.	c
16.	a
17.	b
18.	a
19.	d
20.	b
21.	a
22.	d
23.	c
24.	b
25.	d
26.	b
27.	c
28.	d
29.	b
30.	c
31.	d
32.	c
33.	c
34.	b
35.	c
36.	c
37.	b
38.	c
39.	d
40.	b
41.	d
42.	a
43.	b
44.	d
45.	a
46.	a
47.	b
48.	c
49.	a
50.	b
51.	d
52.	a
53.	d
54.	a
55.	b
56.	b
57.	d
58.	c
59.	b
60.	c
61.	d
62.	c
63.	a
64.	c
65.	c
66.	c
67.	b
68.	b
69.	a
70.	a
71.	c
72.	b
73.	c
74.	c
75.	d
76.	d
77.	c
78.	b
79.	b
80.	b
81.	a
82.	a
83.	*
84.	d
85.	a
86.	c
87.	b
88.	c
89.	c
90.	c
91.	c
92.	c
93.	a
94.	a
95.	b
96.	a
97.	*
98.	d
99.	c
100.	a

Series D

1.	d
2.	c
3.	b
4.	b
5.	b
6.	a
7.	a
8.	*
9.	d
10.	a
11.	c
12.	b
13.	c
14.	c
15.	c
16.	c
17.	c
18.	a
19.	a
20.	b
21.	a
22.	*
23.	d
24.	c
25.	a
26.	c
27.	a
28.	a
29.	c
30.	a
31.	c
32.	a
33.	b
34.	c
35.	a
36.	d
37.	d
38.	b
39.	b
40.	c
41.	a
42.	b
43.	a
44.	d
45.	b
46.	a
47.	d
48.	c
49.	b
50.	d
51.	b
52.	c
53.	d
54.	b
55.	c
56.	d
57.	c
58.	c
59.	b
60.	c
61.	c
62.	b
63.	c
64.	d
65.	b
66.	d
67.	a
68.	b
69.	d
70.	a
71.	a
72.	b
73.	c
74.	a
75.	b
76.	d
77.	a
78.	d
79.	a
80.	b
81.	b
82.	d
83.	c
84.	b
85.	c
86.	d
87.	c
88.	a
89.	c
90.	a
91.	c
92.	c
93.	b
94.	a
95.	a
96.	c
97.	b
98.	c
99.	c
100.	d

UPSC 2012 Prelims

Paper II

Answer Key

Series A

1.	a
2.	c
3.	c
4.	d
5.	b
6.	d
7.	a
8.	c
9.	b
10.	a
11.	d
12.	b
13.	a
14.	a
15.	b
16.	b
17.	d
18.	b
19.	d
20.	b
21.	c
22.	c
23.	d
24.	b
25.	a
26.	a
27.	d
28.	d
29.	b
30.	b
31.	a
32.	c
33.	b
34.	d
35.	c
36.	a
37.	b
38.	c
39.	d
40.	b
41.	b
42.	c
43.	b
44.	a
45.	d
46.	b
47.	c
48.	a
49.	a
50.	d
51.	b
52.	d
53.	b
54.	c
55.	a
56.	c
57.	d
58.	b
59.	c
60.	c
61.	a
62.	d
63.	d
64.	d
65.	d
66.	d
67.	c
68.	a
69.	b
70.	b
71.	a
72.	b
73.	d
74.	c
75.	a
76.	b
77.	b
78.	d
79.	d
80.	d

Civil war in Ingushetia

The civil war in Ingushetia began in 2007 as an escalation of an insurgency in Ingushetia connected to the separatist conflict in Chechnya. The conflict has been described as a civil war by local human rights activists and opposition politicians; others have referred to it as an uprising. By mid-2009 Ingushetia had surpassed Chechnya as the most violent of the North Caucasus republics.

In 2008 Magomed Yevloyev, owner of the highly critical opposition website Ingushetia.ru, was killed while in police custody. The aftermath of the killing was marked by an upsurge in separatist activity and animosity towards Russia and Russians among the Ingush population. At the center of this controversy was the deeply unpopular President Murat Zyazikov, a former KGB general who was criticized both by human rights groups and by some in the Russian government. The Ingush Interior Minister Musa Medov was targeted by a suicide bomber in October 2008. Eventually, Zyazikov was asked to resign. On 30 October 2008 Russian president Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree to remove Zyazikov from office and replace him with Lieutenant Colonel Yunus-bek Yevkurov. This was hailed by the Ingush opposition as a victory. However, the violence did not end. According to police sources, nearly 50 people (including 27 rebels, 18 policemen and two civilians) died in the almost daily clashes in this small republic (less than 500,000 inhabitants) in the first three months of 2009. Assassinations and attempted assassinations of high-profile figures continued.

Kurdish–Turkish conflict

The Kurdish–Turkish conflict is an armed conflict between the Republic of Turkey and various Kurdish insurgent groups, which have demanded separation from Turkey to create an independent Kurdistan, or to have autonomy and greater political and cultural rights for Kurds inside the Republic of Turkey. The main rebel group is the Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK (Kurdish: Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan), which is considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. Although insurgents have carried out attacks in Western-Turkey, the insurgency is mainly in South-Eastern Turkey. The PKK's military presence in Iraq's Kurdistan Region, which it uses as launchpad for attacks on Turkey, has resulted in the Turkish military carrying out frequent ground incursions and air and artillery strikes in the region, as the Kurdistan Regional Government claimed they do not have sufficient military forces to prevent the PKK from operating. The conflict has particularly affected Turkey's tourism industry.

Since the PKK was founded on November 27, 1978, it has been involved in armed clashes with Turkish security forces. The full-scale insurgency however, did not being until August 15, 1984 when the PKK announced a Kurdish uprising. The first insurgency lasted until September 1, 1999 when the PKK declared a unilateral cease-fire. The armed conflict was later resumed on June 1, 2004, when the PKK declared an end to its cease-fire.

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