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PM CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING PROPAGATION OF SCIENTIFIC TEMPER

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has called for strengthening propagation of scientific temper and enlightened understanding of meaning of freedom of expression. He was speaking at a function after formally declared open the Centenary Year of Indian Science Congress in Kolkata on Saturday. Dr. Manmohan Singh took over as the General President of Science Congress which is a rare honour for a Prime Minister since Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Prime Minister expressed fear that growing culture of narrow mindness might affect the creative, innovative and imaginative instincts of youth. He also added the public debate is often hostage to sensationalism. Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed concern about losing the ability to engage in a rational discourse where different points of view are expressed. He urged the scientific community to speak out and make more effective contribution to an informed and reasoned debate. Prime Minister said that the government extends full support and commitment to Indian Science. He added that the government has invested in science like never before.



PM lays foundation of unified campus of Bose Institute

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister laid the foundation of the unified campus of the Bose Institute in Salt Lake. The new campus will bring all departments and research activities of the Institute, founded by celebrated scientist Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose, under one roof. The unified campus of the Institute is likely to be fully operational within next two years, Institute sources said. The Prime minister left the venue shortly after laying the foundation without making any speech.



PM voices concern over growing intolerance

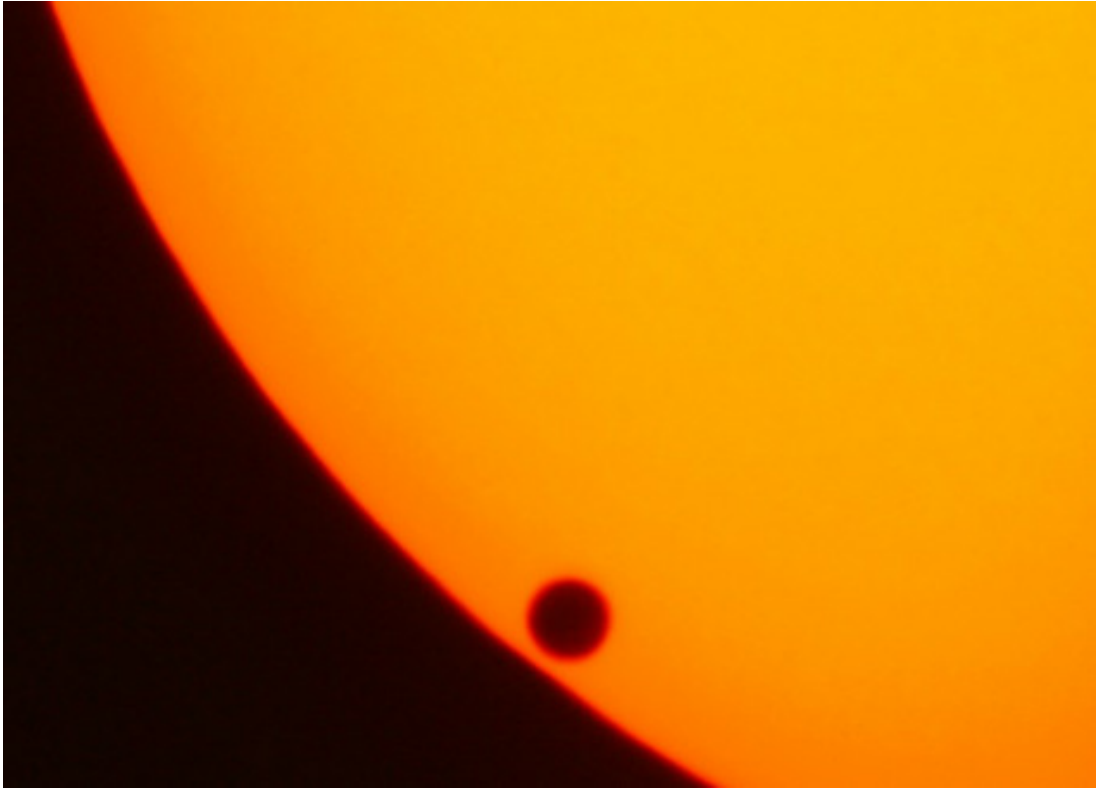
Expressing concern over growing intolerance among people of dissent, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday favoured a rational discourse because narrow mindedness might affect creative instincts. The Prime Minister noted that people are losing the ability to engage in rational discourse where different points of views are expressed. "Public debate was often hostage to sensationalism. I sometimes fear that a growing culture of narrow mindedness may affect the creative, innovative and imaginative instincts of the country's youth," he said. "I have been observing a growing intolerance among our people of dissent and opinions that contradict the prevailing orthodoxy. We seem to be losing the ability to engage in a rational discourse where different points of views are expressed," Dr. Singh noted. He said Indian civilization has a rich tradition of preserving social harmony and promoting conciliation by accommodating different viewpoints, identities and cultural differences. "We should strengthen these impulses through the propagation of a scientific temper and an enlightened understanding of the meaning of freedom of expression," Dr. Singh said. Speaking at the inception ceremony as a general president of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) on the occasion of its centenary, he said the theme for Congress in the city next year would be 'Science for Shaping Future of India'. "It is a theme that might have resonated just as well a 100 years ago when the association came into being," Dr. Singh said. "I would signal the full support and commitment of the government to Indian science as it passed through a critical decade of innovation," he said at the function held at the Calcutta University. "Our problems are overwhelming and need scientific solutions," he said. "We have to use our abundant intellectual resources to find new pathways of development that use our scarce natural resources judiciously." The prime minister said, "We did not use science and technology in our development processes as much as we should have. We did not build local capacities that could meaningfully address problems of development in a decentralised manner using this knowledge."

RARE TRANSIT OF VENUS UNFOLDS IN MORNING SKY

A rare celestial spectacle, Transit of Venus, the last for this century, unfolded in the morning sky all across the country on Wednesday, enthralling the astro enthusiasts. Scientists and amateur astronomers alike celebrated the arrival of the Transit of Venus, peering up to the skies to watch a dark black spot slide over the surface of the Sun. The awesome spectacle was visible all over the country, including the national capital.

However, a cloudy sky restricted its visibility from Delhi and some other parts of northern India. "This was the century's last Venus Transit," says N. Rathnasree, Director, Nehru Planetarium. The event was visible at around 7 am. Large projectors, pin hole cameras and telescopes were set up to help people see the celestial event unfold at the Planetarium, where a large number of people had gathered to see the rare event.

The next Venus transit will happen after 105.5 years in 2117, making this a lifetime's event, says C B Devgun, Director, Science Popularisation Association of Communicators and Educators (SPACE). From the Earth, this phenomenon is seen when the Venus passes between the Sun and the Earth. It occurs in intervals of 8, 121, 8 and 105 years, Devgun said. **The last Transit of Venus occurred on June 8, 2004** and was visible across India.



3rd Meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Textiles Held India-Kazakhstan Sign MoU on Cooperation in Textiles Sector

The Third meeting of the India- Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Textiles took place on the 7-8th June, 2012 at Gurgaon. The Indian side was headed by Shri V Srinivas, Joint Secretary (Exports), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. The Kazakhstan side was headed by Ms. Natalia Komogortseva, Head of light Industries Division, Committee of Industry, Ministry of Industry and New Technology of Kazakhstan. The two parties reviewed programme of action charted out in the 1st meeting.

The JWC in its 3rd Session considered the issues at length like: incentives available for Textiles and Clothing sector for investment; development of textiles sphere of cotton and MMF blends, particularly through setting up of JVs in the SEZ "Ontustyk", profile of Kazakhstan imports of textiles and clothing and its major source of such imports along with the investment opportunities in SEZ "Ontustyk". The issue of training to Kazakhstan nationals in various levels of textiles and clothing manufacturing traders was discussed in details. The JWC also discussed the training facilities available in the Kazakhstan and the bilateral exchange programmes that it has currently with other countries in the field of textiles and training.

As a result of the discussion both side agreed for cooperation in wool and cotton sector including the technology exchanges. Kazakhstan will consider enhancing their imports of apparel and clothing from India and also source other textiles products from India. Indian side agreed to provide training facilities in the textiles sector. The next JWC meeting will be held in Shymkent in 2013.

After JWG meeting, Kazakhstan side met Apparel Export Promotion Council. For this meeting, Shri H K L Magu, Vice Chairman (NR) was the Head of the Delegation from AEPC.

An MoU between State Authority "Directorate of SEZ "Ontustyk" Mr.B. R Maulenov and Apparel Export Promotion Council represented by Mr. H K L Magu was also signed. MoU is focused on the exchange of information and knowledge and to promote development in the field of the domestic and international textiles, in particular manufacturing of the readymade garments. Both parties agreed to send their representatives in seminars, conferences, business forums and other events. Dr. A sakhivel Chariman AEPC congratulated both sides on the signing of MoU, in his statement he remarked, " The purpose of the MoU is expression of desire for the furthering mutual trust and cooperation so that both sides benefits from each other and simultaneously grow."

SCIENCE EXPRESS- BIODIVERSITY SPECIAL TRAIN

Today is World Environment Day. This is a day to be cautioned about threats to environment. It is also a day to celebrate biological diversity. The Ministry of Environment & Forest in collaboration with Department of Science & Technology has started a train the Science Express – Biodiversity Special which is an interesting and educative exhibition on wheels. The Minister of Environment & Forests, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan along with Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit flagged off the train from New Delhi today. The Science Express will culminate in Gandhinagar on 22 December this year. Speaking on the occasion Smt. Natarajan said that this earth is not inherited to us from our ancestors but it is loaned to us by our children. She said that the Science Express train is an endeavour to generate awareness about environment protection and sustainable development. She said that nature protects us if she is protected by us. Chief Minister of Delhi Smt Sheila Dikshit complemented the Ministry of Environment & Forest for bringing out such a wonderful train which is scheduled to cover more than 100 stations across the country. She also narrated the efforts by Delhi Government for environmental protection. During the program Indira Gandhi Parayavaran Puruskar were given to two institutions and two individuals. The 2009 awards have gone in favour of Prof. C.R. Babu, Professor of Delhi University and Shri Vijay Jardhari, Environmental activist from Uttarakhand. The institutes which got the award are Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Tamil Nadu and Care Earth, Chennai. The Safdarjung Railway Station in the national capital was upbeat during the program when a skit on environment awareness was performed by school children.

Current Events

AI mgt has to decide how long to keep striking pilots: Govt

With Air India considering further crackdown on the striking pilots, the government has said it is for airlines management to decide for how long to keep them on their payroll when they are not working. It "is for the Air India management to take action now. These pilots have not come to work for more than 30 days....It is an illegal strike.. They have defied the High Court," Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh said in New Delhi on Monday. "We have requested them again and again to come back to work. So, it is for the management to decide for how long can they keep them on their payroll when they are not working. And they have no intention of coming back," he told reporters. Around 400 Air India pilots owing allegiance to Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) have been on strike since 7th May and the services of 101 pilots have already been terminated. Sources in the state-owned airline have said tough action would be taken against the remaining 300-odd pilots and have given indications that they could be sacked.

Centre moves SC against Andhra Pradesh HC order on minority quota

The Centre govt on Saturday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the 4.5 pc reservation for minorities within the 27 pc OBC quota in the central educational institutions such as IITs. The apex court will hear the government plea on Monday. A bench of justices K S Radhakrishnan and J S Khehar is to examine the Centre's appeal, which has contended that the high court had taken an erroneous view in striking down the provision despite the decision to provide the quota was done after an extensive survey. The high court on 28th May had held that the Centre acted in a "casual manner" in granting the 4.5 percent sub-quota to minorities, carving it out of 27 percent OBC reservation. It had said the Office Memorandum (OM) creating the sub-quota was based on religious grounds and not on any other intelligible consideration. The December 22nd, 2011 OM for a 4.5 per cent subquota for socially and educationally backward classes of citizens belonging to minority communities out of the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in central educational institutions and jobs was announced by the Centre ahead of the Assembly elections in five states including Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The very use of the words "belonging to minorities" or "for minorities" indicates that the sub-quota has been carved out only on religious lines and not on any other intelligible basis, the

bench observed while setting aside the sub-quota. "No evidence has been shown to us by the learned Assistant Solicitor General to justify the classification of these religious minorities as a homogeneous group or as more backward classes deserving some special treatment. "We must therefore, hold that Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) do not form a homogeneous group but a heterogeneous group," it had observed.

Assam CM assures security to NHPC

Assam CM Tarun Gogoi has assured 'total security' for National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) workers engaged in the construction of Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric project (LSHP) and said an expert committee will be formed soon to study its downstream impact. Work on the project has come to a halt since December following vehement protests by anti-dam agitators and NHPC Executive Director Rakesh has urged Assam and Arunachal Pradesh governments to provide security. "Our job is to provide security which we will do. If there is any defect in the dam construction which could lead to disaster that can be looked after," Gogoi told reporters in Guwahati.

"We will form an expert committee comprising specialists from abroad, including US, Portugal and France to study the impact of construction of big dams," he said. On the protest by various local organisation including the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS), the chief minister said "protests are a part of democracy". Work at the 2000 MW project being set up at Gerukamukh bordering Assam and Arunachal Pradesh has been halted by anti-dam protests launched by KMSS and other organisations which contend that it would cause large-scale downstream damage in Assam. Rakesh had yesterday said the company is losing an estimated Rs four to Rs five crore daily since December due to protests and this has escalated the project cost to Rs 10,799.63 crore from the earlier estimates of Rs 6,285.33 crore. Contractor labourers have left the site as there is no work and NHPC is spending considerable money on corporate social responsibility as per norms, he said. The two-member Thatte committee, set up by the Planning Commission, is probing the downstream impact of the project and is expected to submit its report by the month end.

Stop charging prepayment penalty on home loans: RBI to banks

In a relief to borrowers, the RBI on Tuesday asked banks to immediately stop charging penalty on pre-payment of home loans taken on floating interest rates. "It has...been decided that banks will not be permitted to charge foreclosure charges/pre-payment penalties on home loans on floating interest rate

basis, with immediate effect," the Reserve Bank said in a communication to banks. The RBI noted that the Damodaran Committee had observed that foreclosure charges levied by banks on prepayment of home loans were resented by home loan borrowers. This is particularly so considering that banks were found to be hesitant in passing on the benefits of lower interest rates to the existing borrowers in a falling interest rate scenario, it added. "As such, foreclosure charges are seen as a restrictive practice deterring the borrowers from switching over to cheaper available source," the RBI said. The removal of the charges or penalty, the RBI said, will lead to reduction in the discrimination between existing and new borrowers and competition among banks will result in finer pricing of the floating rate home loans. "Though many banks have in the recent past voluntarily abolished pre-payment penalties on floating rate home loans, there is a need to ensure uniformity across the banking system," it added.

Some banks were charging pre-payment penalty of 1-2 per cent of the outstanding loans. With an aim to ensure uniformity across the banking system in home loan segment, the RBI in the annual monetary policy for 2012-13 had proposed "not to permit" banks to levy the charges. It had said that detailed guidelines in this regard would be issued separately. Last year, a consensus was reached at the Banking Ombudsmen Conference that banks should not impose pre-payment charges on loans with a floating rate of interest. Earlier, housing finance regulator National Housing Bank (NHB) had directed all housing finance companies to desist from imposing a pre-payment penalty.

Ashok Leyland supplies 100 buses to Ghana for \$7.6 million

Hinduja Group flagship firm Ashok Leyland on Monday said it has supplied 100 'Falcon' buses to Ghana for USD 7.6 million (about Rs 42 crore). "Ashok Leyland has supplied 100 Falcon buses to Ghana worth USD 7.6 million," the commercial vehicle maker said in a filing to the BSE. The vehicles were inducted to the fleet of a transport company Metro Mass Transit Ltd, in which the Government of Ghana has 45 per cent stake, it added. The buses will ply on 360 routes throughout Ghana both inter and intra-city. "Africa has been one of our key focus markets and presents some very unique opportunities for a commercial vehicle manufacturer like us," Ashok Leyland Managing Director Vinod K Dasari said. The company had earlier supplied buses to Nigeria and those hold a premium status in Lagos' bus rapid system, which is the only such model in the sub-Saharan Africa, he added. All the 100 buses supplied to Ghana are left-hand drive and were specially customised into 57-seater buses. "Ashok Leyland also becomes the first commercial vehicle manufacturer to introduce a mechanical inline fuel injection with an Euro 3 engine and

electronic destination board in Ghana," the statement said. This is the second such major order from Ghana after the induction of 160 waste management trucks last year, it further added.

SBI cuts fixed deposit rates by 0.25 pc

Ahead of RBI's mid-quarter review of the monetary policy later this month, country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday slashed fixed deposit rates by 0.25 per cent across select maturities. The bank has decided to revise its retail term deposit interest rates with a reduction by 0.25 per cent in tenors up to 240 days, SBI said in a statement. The new rates would be effective from 8th June this year. RBI is scheduled to announce mid-quarter review of monetary policy on 18th June. It is expected that the central bank may cut policy rate by 0.25 per cent to spur growth. Even RBI Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn had said that there is a room to ease policy stance in the light of moderating growth and falling crude oil prices. With the revision, the interest rate on 7-179 days fixed deposit would come down to 7 per cent from the existing 7.25 per cent. Even for 180 days term deposit, the interest rate would be 7 per cent, down 0.25 per cent. The base rate or minimum lending rate of SBI stands at 10 per cent. Base rate is the benchmark rate below which a bank cannot lend. The bank last revised its fixed deposit rates in April. It slashed interest rates on fixed deposits by up to 1 per cent across various maturities. The decision had come following the RBI's decision to cut key interest rate by 0.5 per cent to 8 per cent in its annual credit policy during April.

Eurozone break-up could hit us in face: Kaushik Basu

Chief economic advisor Kaushik Basu has warned that if the Eurozone breaks up finally, it will be more disastrous than the 2008 global financial crisis triggered by the fall of the Wall Street banks, from which the global economy is yet to recover.



"If Europe does slip into a crisis, it is going to be a very difficult time. There is no escaping from that. Though we (government and the Reserve Bank) have a team that is working on different scenarios, to see how we will react, it will be a lie to say that we have the strength to weather that. It will hit us in the face," Basu told an Exim Bank organised here over the weekend. Stating that a deeper European crisis was not impossible, he said there would be a jolt and it could spin Europe into a big crisis. "It is going to be a difficult one or two years for the world for sure." However, he said on the positive side, "Thankfully, Europe is no longer our biggest export destination, to the Middle East we probably export more today." But he warned that the impact on us will be indirect. "Europe being a major driver of growth and if it slows down, even if we don't get a direct hit, the US is going to get hit immediately; China is going to get hit immediately. So the impact on us will come to us through our trading partners." Citing how the Lehman fall engulfed the whole world in 2008, Basu said, the 2008 crisis made it clear it is not just from the goods directly being sold, but the crisis in the financing sector that the world got engulfed. Explaining the rationale for his fear on

Hamilton wins Canadian Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton and his McLaren team had the best strategy despite another hiccup as the Briton stormed to victory in the Canadian Formula One Grand Prix on Sunday to become the seventh winner in as many season races.

Although the second pit stop was not perfect, Hamilton roared past world champion Sebastian Vettel and Fernando Alonso in the closing stages for his first 2012 win on the course where got his first career success in 2007. Romain Grosjean placed second for Lotus and Sergio Perez third for Sauber as Alonso and Vettel were slowed down by worn tyres as a gamble with a one-stop strategy cost them the podium.

Vettel at least partly made amends, went to the pits straight after being overtaken by Hamilton with eight laps left and was awarded by snatching fourth place from Alonso shortly before the end. Hamilton also stole first place from Alonso in the standings with 88 points from seven races. Alonso has 86 and Vettel 85 as the record of different winners was stretched to seven.

Vettel handily won the start from his 32nd career pole ahead of Hamilton and Alonso and opened up a small gap in a first lap with no major incidents. The order at the top didn't change but Felipe Massa spun in the fifth lap and dropped from fifth to outside the top 10 in another setback for the beleaguered Brazilian Ferrari driver.

Jenson Button pitted first in the 16th despite normally longer lasting hard tyres at the start and was back in for another set of softs as early as the 34th as the 2009 world champion was never in contention as last year, when he won the rain-interrupted race from last place at the halfway mark.

Up front, the shake-up came during the first round of pit stops. Vettel came in first in the 17th, Hamilton in the 18th and Alonso in the 19th.

The Spaniard came out in first place, but Hamilton -- who had moved ahead of Vettel with a fast stop -- had more grip from a lap on the new tyres and with the help of the DRS system took the lead in the 20th lap ahead of Alonso and Vettel. But there was concern when McLaren didn't get it right again at Hamilton's second stop in the 50th lap, losing around two precious seconds when the right rear tyre could not be instantly fitted.

The worries in the McLaren camp grew when Alonso and Vettel didn't follow into the pits and it became obvious that both aimed to complete the race with one stop.

But Hamilton made the most of the fresh tyres, stormed past Vettel with eight laps left and was back in front six laps from the end for victory in 1 hour 32 minutes 29.586 seconds, 2.5 seconds from Grosjean and 5.2 seconds ahead of Perez.

Michael Schumacher had to swallow yet another setback as the DRS rear wing flap jammed and remained open, forcing the record world champion and seven-times Canada GP winner to retire his Mercedes in the 45th lap in yet another zero-points showing.

the global front, he said the problem will arise in 2014, when the LTRO (long term refinancing operations of the European Central Bank or ECB) payback comes in December 2014 and February 2015, when as much \$1.3 trillion need to be paid by 800 banks to the ECB. This will sap the entire banking system, he warned.

However, Basu expressed hope that by 2015, the world economy, especially the emerging economies, will be better off by that time, saying "the emerging economies are in a position to build strength (during this interval) so when we come out of this tunnel, we will be at the top of it. We will come out on top of growth drivers by 2015."

The over two-year old Eurozone crisis, triggered by the sovereign debt crisis of Greece, is yet to be resolved and more and more countries are looking for bailout. The latest to join the bailout club is Spain.

On the impact of a possible Greek exit from the Euro, which looks more likely now (which will be clear after the crucial June 17 relections) on the domestic economy, Basu said, "We are not out of the woods. There is indeed some risk that this is going to last a while. It will affect us."

Record-breaker Best enjoys his Windies 'rebirth'

Tino Best said he hoped his record-breaking 95 for the West Indies against England on the fourth day of the third Test marked his "rebirth" as an international cricketer. Best's stunning innings at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Sunday was the highest score ever by a Test match No 11 batsman, exceeding the 75 made by India's Zaheer Khan against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 2004. Best, who faced just 112 balls with a six and 14 fours, helped West Indies to 426 in their first innings after rain had washed out the first two days. Together with wicket-keeper Denesh Ramdin, who made 107 not out, Best shared a partnership of 143 -- the third highest 10th wicket stand in Test history and a West Indies record. As if that wasn't enough, the 30-year-



old Barbados fast bowler, topping the 90mph mark, followed up with two wickets for 37 runs in 12 overs as England, an unbeatable 2-0 up in the three-match series, closed on 221 for five -- a deficit of 205.



"To be able to showcase my talent to the world really felt good," said Best, unable to attend a news conference while he warmed down, in a statement issued by a team spokesman.

"I'm looking at this as my 'rebirth' to international cricket and I want to make sure that I allow people to remember me for the right reasons," explained Best, who fell short of what would have been a breathtaking century when he skyed Graham Onions to England captain Andrew Strauss back-peddalling at first slip.

Ramdin was 63 not out, with no realistic hope of a hundred, when Best -- in his first Test for nearly three years -- walked out to bat.

"When I arrived at the crease, Denesh just told me to just back myself," said Best, whose previous highest Test score was just 27.

"He told me not to get bogged down, if the ball is in my arc lick it away, and we focused on building 10-run partnerships," added Best, whose uncle Carlisle scored a Test hundred against England in Barbados in 1990.

"It turned out to be a record partnership and I am very grateful to be part of such a special moment, and batting to allow Denesh to get his hundred."

Best made his West Indies debut eight years ago but is now appearing in just his 15th Test.

He was called up late to the tour in place of injured fellow paceman Shan-non Gabriel and then filling the spot vacated when fast bowler Kemar Roach was ruled out with a shin injury. "This opportunity was a blessing and I just hope the people around me continue to encourage me," said Best, who made England pay for their controver-

No Indian in ICC panel of umpires for 2012-13 season

No Indian will feature in the International Cricket Council's umpires' panel for the 2012-13 season in which England's Nigel Llong was on Monday named as the replacement for the recently-retired Billy Doctrove. Meanwhile, Australian Bruce Oxenford was named in 13-umpire team for the September Twenty20 World Championships in Sri Lanka. Llong replaces Doctrove who announced his retirement from the elite panel last week. Llong has already umpired in 12 Tests, 55 ODIs and 16 T20Is. He was appointed to the ICC Emirates Panel of International Umpires in 2002. The following summer in a match between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's, Llong stood in his first ODI. His first Test was two years later in Dunedin in the match between New Zealand and Bangladesh, the ICC said. During his playing days as a left-handed batsman and an off-spinner for Kent from 1990-1998, Llong played in 68 first-class matches in which he scored 3,024 runs and took 35 wickets. Meanwhile, the 12 Elite Panelists - Billy Bowden, Aleem Dar, Steve Davis, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Ian Gould, Tony Hill, Richard Kettleborough, Nigel Llong, Asad Rauf, Simon Taufel and Rod Tucker - will be joined for the ICC World Twenty20 Sri Lanka by Oxenford. The 52-year-old Oxenford has so far officiated in eight Tests, 34 ODIs and 11 T20Is. He was one of the six umpires who had been named to stand alongside the elite panelists in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 after being identified as an emerging and talented match official. The match referees for the event will be Ranjan Madugalle and Jeff Crowe, while Graeme La Brooy will be the match referee to the women's part of the event. The committee, which finalised the umpires' panels for the 2012-13 season and the World Twenty20 consisted of David Richardson (ICC General Manager Cricket), Ranjan Madugalle (ICC Chief Match Referee), David Lloyd (former player, coach, umpire and now television commentator) and S Venkataraghavan (former elite panel umpire).

sial decision to rest strike bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad. "People like West Indies coach Ottis Gibson with my bowling and assistant coach Toby Radford with my batting. It is not a case of me not believing in myself, but it is about executing properly -- and that's what it is all about."

Iphone App sends meddler’s pic to phone user

A Chinese woman, who lost her iPhone in a taxi in Beijing, was surprised when a photograph of the taxi driver popped up on her email, thanks to the new App which takes snaps of people who meddle with the phone to unlock it. Xie Danhong, 33 dropped her phone in the taxi while on a business trip to Beijing, last week and lost hope to track it. She was distressed because the phone had her personal photographs and video clips. Within six hours after she lost the phone Xie was surprised to receive a mail from her Iphone showing the picture of the taxi driver, who tried to meddle with it. The facility was provided by the App called 'iGotYa', which snaps anyone who tries to unlock the phone using the incorrect password and then automatically emails it to the rightful owner of the phone. "I immediately recognised the guy in the picture as he was the taxi driver," Xie who works in Guangzhou told China Daily. She immediately put the picture on her microblog and flashed it around and also reported the case to police. She is yet to track the driver but is hopeful of getting her personal photos and videos. "If the thief wants the phone he can have it but the contacts and pictures are important to me, I have no back up," she said. The '*iGotYa*' requires people to "jail-break" their iPhones, which means they are released from Apple's strict download restrictions. The daily has reported about some successful cases in which people actually got back their phones thanks to the App. Some have also warned iPhone users

not make allegations as soon as they receive the pictures of someone holding their phone as it could lead to defamation cases.

Air Force version of 'Akash' missiles successfully test fired

India successfully test fired its two indigenously-developed surface-to-air 'Akash' missiles of Air Force version with a strike range of 25 km from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore,Odisha on Friday. "Two Air Force version of Akash missiles were test-fired from the ITR in quick succession. Both the trials were successful and met all the mission objectives." ITR Director, M V K V Prasad said. The development of Akash missile took place during 1990s under the country's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) and after many trials, it was inducted into the armed forces.



The anti-aircraft missiles, with a strike range of 25 km and capable of carrying warhead of 60 kgs, were test fired from a mobile launcher at launch complex-III of the ITR. The trial, which formed part of the country's routine air defence exercises, was conducted at around noon, said an official of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) associated with the Akash missile project. To re-validate the technology and operational efficacy of the missile, defence forces conducted the trial with logistic support provided by the ITR, the official said. The Akash weapon system, which has its Army version too,

was inducted into the armed forces in 2008. Frday's test-fire came after similar trials conducted from the same test range on May 24, 26 and 28. "During the trial, the sophisticated missiles were aimed at intercepting floating object supported by a pilotless target aircraft at a definite altitude over the sea," sources said. Akash, an anti-aircraft defence system, can simultaneously engage several targets with 'Rajendra' radar developed by the Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), a DRDO laboratory in Bangalore. 'Rajendra' does the surveillance, tracks the target, acquires it and guides the missile towards it. The DRDO has developed both the Air Force and Army versions of the Akash missile. Rajendra is'passive phased array radar'. It is multifunction radar, capable of tracking as many as 64 targets and controlling up to 12 missiles simultaneously. Defence experts have often compared Akash missile system with the American MIM-104 Patriot surface-to-air missile system. They claim that similar to the MIM-104, the Akash is capable of neutralising aerial targets such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles.

Bigger is better: brain size affects intelligence

"Size does matter" could be true for human brains as well; as a new study shows that brain size can have an effect not only on people's thoughts and behavior, but intelligence also. A largest global study on human brain, involving over 200 scientists worldwide, has found genes that affect brain size and which may play a part in intelligence and memory function, a media report said. Margie Wright of Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR), which contributed to the study, said brain size can also have an effect on intelligence apart from behavior and thoughts. The study was put together by combining brain scans and genetic data from 21,000 people worldwide. Wright said that one gene showed a strong correlation with overall brain size while another influenced the size of the brain's hippocampus, which is involved with memory. The gene involved with the hippocampus influences the rate at which this part of the brain shrinks with age, she said.

People with dementia often show pronounced shrinkage in the hippocampus, so further investigation to see if there are genetic links to dementia will be worthwhile, she added. The hippocampus is also reduced in people with schizophrenia and major depression.

A separate study at QIMR showed that those with larger brains scored slightly higher on a standardised IQ test. Wright said the global brain study, which has created the world's largest database of brain imaging results, could be a stepping stone for more work into the brain's genetics and disorders. "The effects of the two genes on brain size are very small and the links to cognitive function are subtle," Wright said, adding, "However, as we can lose up to 10 per cent of our brain volume in later life, these results are quite significant in people with the genetic variant that increases shrinkage. "These individuals could be more vulnerable to factors such as poor diet, excessive alcohol consumption, or little exercise, she said.

Planning Comm allocates Rs 36,000 crore for sanitation

Seeking to give a big boost to sanitation in rural areas, Planning Commission has allocated a Rs 3,6000 crores for the 12th Five Year Plan, up from Rs 7800 Crore in the previous Plan. Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh, who is also in-charge of the Ministry for Drinking Water and Sanitation, said the Planning Commission's decision "reflects the priority UPA government places on sanitation in rural India". Noting that 60 percent of open defeca-

tion in the world are in India and "it is a matter of continuing anguish, shame for all citizens", Ramesh said government has vowed to achieve total sanitation in the country in the next 10 years.

He was briefing the media after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Thursday gave the nod for more than doubling the amount for construction of individual household latrines from existing Rs 4600 to nearly 10,000 rupees and also scrapped the distinction of BPL/APL families to achieve total sanitation target in 10 years. The total sanitation campaign will now be known as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, Ramesh said. Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab have demanded fair allocation for achieving the sanitation goals, Ramesh said. At present, out of Rs 3400 allocated for individual toilets, the Centre gives Rs 2100, each state's share is Rs 1000 and Rs 300 comes from the beneficiaries, while Rs 1200 is leveraged through MGNREGA works as was approved last year.

But after the cabinet approval today, the Centre has to dole out Rs 3200, the state Rs 1400 and families have to provide Rs 900 while MGNREGA funds will be to the tune of Rs 4500. Ramesh said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid stress on linking sanitation programme in 200 such districts where the problem of malnutrition is acute saying there is a close link between lack of hygiene and malnutrition. The cabinet also made toilet construction mandatory for availing funds for Indira Aawas Yojana henceforth. The Minister added that allocation for IAY will also be raised from existing Rs 45,000 to Rs 75,000 by end of July.

"I hope there will be a new impetus to sanitation. The Prime Minister has made one point....he underscored the importance of evaluating how these programmes are actually doing on the ground," Ramesh said. He said that for the first time solid and liquid waste management has been approved for villages on the model of towns and cities and gram panchayats will get from Rs 7 lakhto Rs 20 lakh for the same depending on the size of the population. Noting that Sikkim has become the first Nirmal Rajya (that is 100 percent open defecation free), Ramesh said this year Kerala and Himachal Pradesh will also follow suit. While Haryana has resolved to achieve the target in next two years, Punjab in next five years, and the rest of the states in 10 years time, he added.

Increasing of sea level threatens India's coastal areas

The tranquil stretches of emerald green backwaters in Mumbai and Kerala are among several locales in the western and eastern coasts facing threat from the rising sea level due to climate change. Deltas of the Ganga, Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery and Mahanadi on the east coast may also be threatened along with irrigated land and adjoining settlements, according to a Government report. "It is estimated that sea level rise by 3.5 to 34.6 inches between 1990 and 2100 would result in saline coastal groundwater, endangering wetlands and inundating valuable land and coastal communities. The most vulnerable stretches along the western Indian coast are Khambat and Kutch in Gujarat, Mumbai and parts of the Konkan coast and south Kerala," says the report submitted to the UN. The report -- India's Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change-- was prepared by multi-disciplinary teams and other stakeholders comprising more than 220 scientists belonging to over 120 institutions. "The loss of these important economic and cultural regions could have a considerable impact in some states," it says. The experts who prepared the report visited some vulnerable areas, including the 2004 tsunami-hit Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, backwaters surrounding Kochi in Kerala and Paradip in Odisha, in order to make a detailed impact study of the rise in sea level. The study, using digital elevation

Malinga named Event Ambassador for World Twenty20

The International Cricket Council has chosen Sri Lanka's star pacer Lasith Malinga as the official Event Ambassador for the World Twenty20 Championships to be held in the island nation from 18th September to 7th October. "Malinga, was selected as the Event Ambassador in recognition of his skills as a role model both on and off the field of play," the ICC said in a statement. His "explosive bowling action" propelled Malinga to global fame and his distinct, stylish and colourful personality is synonymous with the intensity of T20 cricket, the world body added. ICC CEO Haroon Lorgat said Malinga's popularity transcends Sri Lanka and he is ideal choice for the role. "It is wonderful to have Lasith Malinga as the tournament ambassador for the ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Sri Lanka. Lasith is a special player and one of the most recognisable cricketers in the world." "Whenever he runs in to bowl with his distinctive action there is a thrill in the game. I am sure he will add to the buzz that has already surfaced and crowds will flock to see players like Lasith represent their country in the ICC World Twenty20," he said. Malinga will be the face of the event's advertising campaign in the host nation and will promote it globally as well. "I am honoured to play a part in the first ICC World Twenty20 tournament to be hosted in Asia. As an ambassador, I hope to take the T20 message to all communities and passionate fans across the world," Malinga said. "I sincerely thank the ICC for giving Sri Lanka the opportunity to host an event of this magnitude and I invite all cricket fans to show their support and unite in the spirit of the game," he added.

model data (90m resolution), digital image processing and GIS software, showed that estimated inundation areas are 4.2 sq km and 42.5 sq km in case where the sea level rise is 1.0 m and 2.0 m respectively in the region surrounding Nagapattinam. "But for the same sea level conditions, 169 sq km and 599 sq km will be inundated in the coastal region surrounding Kochi," says the report. Kochi region is directly connected to the backwaters; a lot of inland areas are far from the coast, but adjacent to the tidal creeks, backwaters and lakes. "This causes considerable increase in the total area of inundation," the report says. In Paradip, the variations in topography are not smooth and low-lying areas are large and connected to tidal creeks and river inlets. According to the report, this area seems to be the most vulnerable as about 1128 sq km falls under inundation zones for a 2 m rise in sea level. Also, 478 sq km may be inundated in Paradip coastal region for a 1 m sea level rise. All the creeks, estuaries and low lands adjacent to the shoreline increase the risk of inundation and the extent of probable inundation zone goes up to approximately 40 km landward. Thus, Kochi region is vulnerable even in the interior land areas. The study also showed that all the three regions considered for impact studies are highly vulnerable to sea level rise. The impact assessment will provide useful information for different sectors such as ports and infrastructure development near the coast and for planners and policy-makers to develop long-term adaptation measures.



Internal mechanism that kills malaria in mosquitoes found

For the first time, scientists of Washington have identified a series of proteins in mosquitoes that transduce a signal enabling the insects to fight off infection from the parasite that causes malaria in humans, a finding they say could lead to new treatments for the killer disease. The findings could lead to an effective invention towards controlling malaria which kills over 800,000 people, mostly children, each year around the world, the researchers said. According to Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute in the US, these proteins are known as immune deficiency (Imd) pathway signal transducing factors, are analogous to an electrical circuit. As each factor is switched on or off, it triggers or inhibits the next, finally leading to the launch of an immune response against the malaria parasite, they found. The new study, published in the journal PLoS Pathogens on Friday, builds upon earlier work of the research team, in which they found that silencing one gene of this circuit, called Caspar, activated Rel2, an Imd pathway transcription factor of the Anopheles gambiae mosquito. The activation of Rel2 turns on the effectors known as TEP1, APL1 and

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FBN9 that kill malaria-causing parasites in the mosquito's gut. More significantly, this study discovered the lmd pathway signal transducing factors and effectors that will mediate a successful reduction of parasite infection at their early ookinete stage, as well as in the later oocyst stage when the levels of infection were similar to those found in nature. "Identifying and understanding how all of the players work is crucial for manipulating the lmd pathway as an invention to control malaria. We now know which genes can be manipulated through genetic engineering to create a malaria resistant mosquito," said study author George Dimopoulos of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

For the study, the researchers used a RNA interference method to "knock down" the genes of the lmd pathway. As the components were inactivated, the researchers could observe how the mosquito's resistance to parasite infection would change.

"Imagine a string of Christmas lights or other circuit that will not work when parts aren't aligned in the right sequence. That is how we are working with the mosquito's immune system," explained Dimopoulos.

"We manipulate the molecular components of the mosquito's immune system to identify the parts necessary to kill the malaria parasites," he added.

Sowing of Kharif oilseeds begins

over 84,000 hectares covered so far Preliminary reports received from fields suggest that sowing of Kharif oilseeds has commenced. Oilseeds have been sown in over 84,000 hectares so far. Groundnut has been cultivated in 24,200 hectares and Sesamum in 38,600 hectares. Karnataka has reported sowing of groundnut in 14,000 hectares and Tamil Nadu in 10,200 hectares. In Karnataka, 25,000 hectares have been reported under Sesamum cultivation. Sowing of pulses is also in progress. Pulses have been sown in 15.11 lakh hectares so far in the current sowing season as against target of 17.49 lakh hectares.

Sugarcane has been planted in 50.57 lakh hectares and jute in 7.98 lakh hectares so far.

Central Assistance of Rs. 7764.45 Lakh Sanctioned to States under PYKKA

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has sanctioned Central Assistance of Rs. 7764.45 lakh to 26 States for conducting the annual sports competitions during 2012-13 under Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) scheme.

Funds will be released on fulfillment of required conditions by respective State Governments.

Under the 'Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) scheme, which was introduced in 2008-09, playfields are developed and maintained in villages and block panchayats across the country in a phased manner and competitions are conducted annually at block, district, state and national level. 51,759 village panchayats and 1,538 block panchayats have been covered under the PYKKA Scheme, during the last four years (2008-09 to 2011-12) for development and maintenance of playfields.

Air Cargo Policy to be Reviewed on Continuous Basis

Need for Meeting Increased Demand for Air Cargo Transportation and Rapid Delivery of Goods Underlined Shri Ajit Singh forms an Inter-Ministerial Air Cargo Logistic Promotion Board The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India has formed an Inter-Ministerial Air Cargo Logistic Board headed by Secretary, Ministry of Civil

Aviation. The Board will lay down the policy guidelines for setting up of air cargo facilities at airports and will also set performance standards relating to the quality of service in the air cargo logistic supply chain. The Civil Aviation Minister, Shri Ajit Singh has set up the Board with an objectives to resolve inter-ministerial issues that affects the air cargo operations in the country. The Board will review, on a continuous basis, the general and sectoral policy regime governing air cargo logistic operations and remove the bottlenecks to efficiency. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has earlier constituted a working group on air cargo and service industry to set priority of issues and recommend policy initiatives on air cargo express service industry recognizing its vital role in the economic development of the nation. The Inter-Ministerial Board has been constituted on the recommendation of this working group in keeping with the need to handle increased demand for air cargo transportation and ensure rapid delivery of goods. The 17-member Board with representatives of the level of Joint Secretary and above from various Central Ministries and Departments will have the following broad framework of functions:

- To resolve Inter-Ministerial issues that affect the air cargo logistics operations in the country and to achieve better efficiency.
- To review, on a continuous basis the general and sectoral policy regimes governing Air Cargo Logistics operations with a view to remove bottlenecks to efficiency.
- To review and monitor the functioning of Cargo Facilitation Committee that are headed by Airport Directors of AAI and other private/JV airports with a view to review the effectiveness of these bodies.
- To lay down policy guidelines for setting up of Air Cargo facilities at airports, air freight stations/cargo villages including guidelines for Public Private Partnership model of development of these facilities.
- To act as a coordinating agency to ensure expeditious clearance of the proposals for setting up of air cargo facilities at airports, air freight stations/cargo villages in the country subject to fulfillment of all statutory requirements.
- To lay down performance standards relating to quality of service in the air cargo logistics supply chain to be monitored by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) for implementation.
- To review the progress on development of major gateway airports as cargo hubs through facilitating transshipment and
- To review periodically implementation of the proposals cleared by the Board.

Representatives of the Ministries of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Shipping, Planning Commission, and Representatives of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Commerce, Department of Revenue, Central Board of Excise and Customs, Container Corporation of India Ltd, Joint Secretary dealing with Airport Infrastructure, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Commissioner of Security, Board of Civil Aviation Security, Airports Authority of India and Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation as Member Secretary will comprise the 17-member Board which may co-opt representatives of any other Ministry/Department of Government of India, State Governments, Financial Institutions and professional experts and representatives of the Industry as and when necessary.

Employment Guarantee Scheme for Urban Areas

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation has comprehensively revamped the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) with effect from 2009-2010. The revamped SJSRY scheme is aimed at providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under-employed poor, through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures by the urban poor living below the poverty line, skills training and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. As per the Estimates of Poverty re-

leased by the Planning Commission, the estimated number of urban people living below poverty line in the year 2004-2005 was 807.96 lakhs. A Statement showing State-wise number of persons below poverty line in urban areas is at Annexure-I. With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under-employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures by the urban poor living below the poverty line, skills training and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The Statement showing State-wise budget allocation made under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during the past three years is at Annexure-II.

Appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner

The President has appointed the senior-most Election Commissioner, Shri V.S. Sampath as the Chief Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India. Shri Sampath will assume the charge of the post of Chief Election Commissioner with effect from 11th June, 2012 consequent upon demitting the Office of the Chief Election Commissioner by Dr. Shahabuddin Yaqoob Quraishi on a attaining the age of sixty-five years on 10th June, 2012.

CIL Targets 615 million tonnes Coal Production by 2016-17

Coal India Limited (CIL) has identified 56 spill over projects of 11th Plan and 69 new projects for increasing the coal production during the 12th Plan period. The coal production target set by CIL for the terminal year of the 12th Plan i.e. 2016-17 is 615 Million Tonnes, with the assumption that requisite clearances viz., environmental and forest clearances, land acquisition, law & order issues and evacuation problems are addressed in a time bound manner with the cooperation of the Central and State agencies. This contribution of production has been planned from existing and completed group of projects, ongoing group of projects and future group of projects.

India and US Hold Defence Talks Asia-Pacific Countries Should Settle Bilateral Disputes as Per International Law: Antony

The US Secretary of Defence Mr. Leon Panetta met the Defence Minister Mr. AK Antony here today. Mr. Panetta was accompanied by a ten member delegation, including the US Ambassador to India and other senior officers from the US Department of Defence. The Indian delegation included the Defence Secretary Mr. Shashikant Sharma, Secretary (Defence Production) Mr. Shekhar Agarwal and the Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister, Dr. VK Saraswat. During the delegation level talks which lasted about an hour, both sides took note of the ongoing bilateral cooperation between India and the US in the area of defence. They agreed that there were opportunities for enhancing bilateral ties in area of mutual interest and concern. During the discussion of the defence trade, Mr. Antony emphasized that the priority for India is to move beyond the

buyer-seller transactions and to focus on transfer of technologies and partnerships to build indigenous capabilities. The US Secretary of Defence assured the Indian side that the US Government will initiate measures to facilitate technology access and sharing. Both sides also exchanged views on the security situation in South Asia, West Asia and the Asia-Pacific and on various global security challenges, including in the area of cyber security. With regard to the security concerns the Asia-Pacific, Mr. Antony conveyed that India supports unhindered freedom of navigation in international waters for all. At the same time, with regard to bilateral issues between countries, he stressed that it is desirable that the parties concerned themselves should settle contentious matters in accordance with the international law. Mr. Antony emphasized the need to strengthen the multilateral security architecture in the Asia-Pacific and to move at a pace comfortable to all countries concerned. Earlier on his arrival at South Block, Mr. Panetta was accorded a traditional Tri-Service Guard of Honour and laid wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate.

India and Japan to Conduct First Ever Naval Exercise

The Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force will conduct their first ever bilateral exercise during the visit of four Indian Navy ships to Japan from 5-9 June, 2012 as part of the scheduled Overseas Fleet Deployment. The exercise will be conducted off the coast of Japan on 09-10 June, 2012. The conduct of bilateral naval exercises between both countries was decided during the visit of the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony to Japan in November, 2011. Both Navies will also conduct routine passage exercises (PASSEX) during the visit of Japanese ships to Indian ports this year. The engagement between the Navies of India and Japan is part of the overall defence cooperation between both countries. Defence exchanges between India and Japan presently comprise annual Defence Minister level meetings, Defence Policy dialogue at Defence Secretary level and Army and Naval Staff Talks.

China Boosts Crude Imports to Record High

China, the world's second-biggest oil consumer, increased crude imports in May to a record high as refineries raised processing rates and oil prices declined. The country bought a net 25.3 million metric tons, or 5.98 million barrels a day, more than it exported last month, according to data published today on the website of the Beijing-based General Administration of Customs. That compares with the previous high of 5.87 million barrels a day in February. The jump in oil purchases helped spur a 12.7 percent gain for the nation's imports last month, exceeding economists' estimates. Refineries boosted processing rates last month as some facilities resumed operations after scheduled maintenance while Brent oil in London entered a so-called bear market on June 1 after sliding more than 20 percent from this year's peak. "International crude oil prices have been falling in the past two months, so more crude was probably shipped in to fill commercial and state emergency stockpiles" as prices could rise again, Gong Jinshuang, a Beijing-based senior engineer at China National Petroleum Corp., the nation's biggest oil company, said by telephone. Purchases cost an average \$120 a barrel, compared with about \$123 in April, Bloomberg calculations from the customs data showed. China's imports of crude were 25.48 million tons in May, while exports were 180,000 tons. Utilization rates at the nation's biggest refineries rebounded to the highest level in 16 weeks at 86.3 percent of capacity as of May 24, according to Oilchem.net, a Shandong-based industry website. China's net fuel imports including

First Bilateral Maritime Exercise between India and Japan 'Jimex 12' to Commence on 09 Jun 12

The first Bi-lateral maritime exercise between India and Japan 'JIMEX 12' (Japan India Maritime Exercise) will commence tomorrow, 09 June, off Tokyo. Units of the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) participating are two destroyers; one maritime patrol aircraft and a helicopter. Indian Naval units participating are INS Rana, INS Shivalik, INS Karmukh and INS Shakti. The four ships entered Tokyo on 05 Jun 12 after visiting Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines and Republic of Korea enroute. The three day stay in Tokyo coincides with commemoration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.

The four ships of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy, under the command of Rear Admiral P Ajit Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet are on a sustained operational deployment to the South China Sea and North West Pacific. The two month long deployment which commenced in end May 2012 enables Navy to Navy cooperation with the numerous navies across the region as well as demonstrates the Indian Navy's operational reach. On completion of the exercise, the ships will be visiting Beijing, China and Port Kelang, Malaysia in mid-June 12.

During the deployment the ships participate in passage exercises with the respective Navies of countries visited. The focus of 'Passage Exercises' is primarily in the sphere of Maritime Security Cooperation. These include Humanitarian Aid & Disaster Relief (HADR) operations and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) drills, which form a part of Anti-Piracy operations. Exercises of these nature enhance inter-operability thereby enabling the two navies to smoothly function together in the sphere of maritime security / HADR operations, should the need arise.

In addition, during the port visits, the Fleet Commander along with the Commanding Officers of the ships, meet high-ranking officials of the Navy, state administration, port management, coastal security organization, police, and other stakeholders of maritime security in the countries visited in order to share professional experiences and exchange best practices in areas of mutual interest.

Vice Admiral Anil Chopra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command is also visiting Tokyo to witness the first JIMEX. The government has been deploying ships of the Indian Navy on Eastbound long range deployments in keeping with India's 'Look East' policy, to strengthen military ties with the countries of this strategically important region.

gasoline and diesel were 1.39 million tons in May, compared with 1.36 million in April, today's data also showed. The country bought 3.47 million tons and exported 2.08 million.

Feng Shanshan first Chinese to win golf major at LPGA

Golfer Feng Shanshan becomes the first player from China to win a major event after winning the LPGA Championship. The 22-year-old took the title in Pittsford, New York after carding a final round of 5-under-par 67. She finished at six-under 282, two shots ahead of Japan's Mika Miyazato. Feng, who began playing golf at age 10, said that she did not think she would win, even though she knew she had a chance to, starting the final day three strokes off the lead. "I was focusing on every shot. If I win, I win. If I don't, I don't," she said. "It just worked out." Her goal for the year, she added, was to win on the LPGA Tour and have a top-10 position at a major event. "I did them both together," she said. There has been a rise in the number of young golfers in China in recent years, with the take-up of the game soaring along with the economy. China expects a boom in the numbers taking up the game from a few million now to 20 million players by 2020. In April, Guan Tianlang, a Chinese amateur, became the youngest player on the European Tour at age 13. Feng, who is from Beijing, went to the US in her teens before joining the LPGA in 2008. She achieved her first career LPGA win that year. "I think I'm just lucky, you know?" Feng was quoted as saying by ESPN. "There are good players from China now. I became the first one [to win], but I'm sure there will be more people winning in the states and in the majors."

Kenyan helicopter crash kills security minister

A helicopter crash at the edge of Nairobi, Kenya has killed six. Amongst the dead is internal security minister George Saitoti, a candidate in next year's presidential election. Saitoti, 66, played a major role in Kenya opting to send troops into Somalia last year in a bid to combat al-Shabaab. His deputy Joshua Orwa Ojonde is also dead, alongside both pilots and two bodyguards.

The aircraft had not long departed Wilson Airport when it went down into a Kibuku District forest. One witness saw the helicopter "flying very low. It came down suddenly and we heard a loud explosion, and then it burst into flames." Another said it "hovered up there and looked like it was turning back" before crashing. The accident occurred at around 8:30 this morning, local time.

Current President Mwai Kibaki decried "a devastating loss to our country." He called Saitoti "a hardworking and determined public servant who dedicated his time to the service of the Kenyan people". Prime Minister Raila Odinga, speaking at the scene, promised "a thorough probe" into the accident. He described a "great tragedy that has befallen our country". Saitoti, who personally told the public of the invasion of Somalia two days after sending in thousands of soldiers, had been faced with numerous bombings and kidnaps. He routinely made assurances on national TV in the aftermath of attacks, and recently vowed "terrorists" would not have an impact on government. With qualifications in accountancy and mathematics acquired in the US, Saitoti was a former Kenyan finance minister. A prominent figure in national politics, he also served as vice president under Daniel Arap Moi in 1989-1997 and 1999-2002. There is no immediate word on possible causes for the accident. Police have sealed off the scene and begun an investigation.

Spanish banks to get up to 100bn euros in rescue loans

Spain is to get up to 100bn euros (\$125bn; £80bn) in loans from eurozone funds to try to help shore up its struggling banks. The move was agreed during emergency talks with eurozone finance ministers. Spain's Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said his country would shortly make a formal request for assistance. He emphasised that the help would be for the financial system, not the economy as a whole. "This is not a rescue," he said. "This is a loan which is given in very favourable conditions, which will be determined in the next few days. But they are very favourable - much more favourable than the market ones," Mr de Guindos told a news conference. The Spanish government had been reluctant to ask for a bailout like the one given to Greece, Ireland and Portugal, as these rescue packages came with demands for tax rises and stringent spending cuts. The exact amount that Spain will

OPINION - EDITORIALS

WORLD

ENVIRONMENT DAY

C.S. Rajput

Following is the address by Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Environment & Forests, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan on World Environment Day Celebration on June 5.

The Minister alongwith Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit flagged off Science Express – Biodiversity Special train at Safdarjang Railway Station in New Delhi

"This is indeed a very important day to celebrate in recognition of the value of the environment around us and its significance for our lives. The World Environment Day is celebrated every year, to not only create awareness but also to reaffirm our commitment to protect and safeguard the environment for us and our future generations. It's a call for a positive environmental action to save our planet from further degradation. As so rightly said: "Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."(American Indian proverb) Our own scriptures are replete with conservation ethos: Rising or sitting, standing or walking, May we, either with our right foot or our left, Never totter on the earth. (hymn to Earth :Atarva- veda)

World Environment Day celebration that began in 1972, is now a global movement that has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political & social attention and action. It enables enable everyone to realize that not only it is their responsibility but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development. India is blessed with rich natural resources, from the mighty Himalayas to the Gangetic plains to the Deccan; from the deserts to the lush greens in the North east; the Western Ghats, the coasts and the islands. No wonder our country is one of the 12 mega-diverse countries in the world, rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge. It is not just about the tigers and the elephants, but it is also about the algae and the fungi, and the microbes that build up our systems. This biodiversity can only be protected for future use through informed and responsible decision making and by

sustainable use by the communities. This requires understanding the value of the ecosystems to the benefit of the communities. Being aware of the biodiversity is the key to protecting the fragile ecosystem and threatened species. One of the example is that the tiger. The tiger population estimates, through sustained interventions, has increased in numbers from 1411 in 2006 to 1706 (about 20% increase). The mosaic of environment conservation is interwoven with sustainable livelihoods through implementation of programmes at the local level, creating awareness and fostering partnerships. To fight degradation of the ecosystem and biodiversity, the policies of the Ministry aim at a convergence between sustainable natural resources management and livelihood enhancement programmes. These innovative approaches are aimed to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water while providing sustainable livelihoods.

The current decade (2010-2020) has been declared as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification. With India is hosting the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), from 8- 19 October 2012 in Hyderabad. This CBD COP 11 assumes immense importance considering that it is being held in the 40th anniversary year of Stockholm Conference held in 1972, 20th anniversary year of Rio Earth Summit held in 1992, and 10th anniversary year of World Sustainable Summit held in 2002. This would also be the first CoP in the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020. About 10,000 delegates and participants from 192 countries are expected to participate in the event, making in one of the largest global event.

In an effort to highlight the multifaceted dimension of biodiversity, the Ministry of Environment & Forests is flagging off the "Science Express- Biodiversity Special" - a collaborative initiative between the Ministry and the Department of Science & Technology. The train "Science Express" with the theme on Biodiversity, very clearly enunciates our commitment to the creating awareness on the diverse



ecosystems that sustains us and way and means to conserve the same. The Science Express- Biodiversity Special- "Biodiversity on Wheels" is an exhibition - an expression of our existence! Why the train? One would ask. The Ministry chose the Science Express train as a medium to reach out to the far flung areas through its extensive networks that will enable reaching out to the masses and create widespread awareness on the rich biodiversity of our country and the issues associated thereof. The Science Express- Biodiversity Special will be traversing across the country over two years, halting at more than 100 plus stations. Between 5 June 2012 & 22 Dec 2012, the train will travel almost 18,000 km, halting for 3-4 days at each of the 52 locations. It is expected that the train will be visited by a wide range of people, especially school & college students, directly engaging more than 15 lakh visitors and engaging over 50 lakhs people indirectly. Platform and outreach activities are being planned

at each halt and will actively engage Ministry's National Environment Awareness Programme (NEAC) and National Green Corps (NGC). The train's 8 coaches devoted to showcase the biodiversity of the country through different lens and include exhibits on bio-culture heritage, biodiversity-livelihoods linkages, and the also domestic biodiversity. The train also has four other coaches dedicated to climate change, biodiversity & water and energy conservation, supported by other agencies, like HSBC, PCRA and the Swiss Embassy & Nestle. One coach is dedicated to the Joy of Science Lab which throws open the door of scientific experimentation to students specially school children. The exquisiteness of the train is the collaborative effort between multiple stakeholders, including government ministries, scientific organizations, the civil society organizations and the corporate in bringing together the significance of biodiversity in our lives.

SAARC Countries Sign Colombo Declaration

S.S. Rajput

The SAARC countries reaffirmed their determination and renewed their commitment to end violence against children in all forms and all settings at the meet of the member countries at Colombo. They countries unanimously adopted the South Asia Call for Action on Ending Violence against Children. Representatives from SAARC countries were meeting as follow up on regional consultation on the UN study on violence against children, which was held at Colombo between 26-31 May, 2012.

The Colombo declaration signed by the member countries take stock of progress made since the Regional Consultation on Violence Against Children in South Asia, Islamabad, Pakistan, 19-21 May 2005 and the endorsement of the UN Study on Violence against Children by the General Assembly in 2006, in order to strengthen measures and processes aimed at ending violence against all children in all settings. Held under the aegis of SAIIEVAC, the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children, an apex body of SAARC, the regional follow up reaffirmed their commitment made by Governments to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the SAARC Social Charter, the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare, the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the SAARC Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS, the SAARC Development Goals (SDGs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They also renewed the com-

mitment made by the Ministers in the Rawalpindi Resolution on Children of South Asia (1996) and the Colombo Statement on Children of South Asia (2009), and the recommendations endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting of SAIIEVAC in June 2010 in Kathmandu. The countries also recalled recommendations from the Regional Consultation on Violence Against Children in South Asia (2005) and the subsequent Recommendations from the UN Study on Violence against Children; the South Asia Forum (SAF) Regional Preparatory Consultation for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2008), the Kathmandu Commitment to Action for Ending Violence against Children (2010); the Technical Consultations on Legal Reform and Corporal Punishment (2010) and Child-friendly Services and Care Standards (2011) including those made by children; the Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region (2010) and the Assessment of Progress in the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child (2001-2010) presented at the 17th SAARC Summit in Addu City (2011). There was unanimous recognition of the fact that despite the progress made across South Asia to address violence against children, children continue to experience serious forms of violence and child protection challenges, including child labour, corporal punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation, child trafficking, migration and displacement, imprisonment, discrimination related to HIV/AIDS, disability, minorities, orphans, street children and children in need of care and protection, as well as various forms of harmful practices such as child marriage.

Working towards a vision of a region

free from all violence against children in all forms, the representatives from SAARC countries therefore collectively deliberated, along with civil society organizations, experts on child rights and violence against children, professionals, and academicians, and called for the following actions-

1. Develop and strengthen equitable national and local child protection systems including laws, policies and standards; that prevent, mitigate and respond timely and appropriately to all forms of violence and to ensure that mechanisms and services are accessible to all children.
2. Develop and implement laws and policies that focus on safeguarding children from potential harm and that ban all forms of violence against children in all settings, including home and family, schools and educational settings, care and justice systems, work settings and the community;
3. Address social norms and practices that are harmful to children by promoting social change to end violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect of children;
4. Consolidate and validate a national system for disaggregated data collection, analysis, dissemination, and a systematic research agenda to inform policy development and resource mobilisation to protect children from violence;
5. Review/adopt and implement a national plan of action to integrate the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children and SAIIEVAC work plan and develop a baseline to be able to measure progress;
6. Invest in and evolve policies and processes to strengthen the participation of children in decisions, through supporting and strengthening child-led

organizations/forums;

7. Cooperate through structure, processes and resources in the best interest of children to address cross-border issues, such as trafficking, missing children, HIV and AIDS and drug abuse and repatriation;
8. Develop mechanisms to address the safety of children with reference to the use and engagement with digital technologies;
9. Share lessons and good practices and explore new opportunities for Cooperation to advance the protection of children through establishing a SAIIEVAC centre of excellence on violence against children;
10. Strengthen regional and country-level cooperation and coordination between governments, NGOs, CSOs, children and young people, academia, independent human/child rights institutions, Parliamentarians, religious leaders, media, private sector as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies including UN agencies/INGOs;
11. Expedite the establishment of National SAIIEVAC Chapters to accelerate existing efforts to end violence against children; and
12. Contribute to the establishment and implementation of an operational framework/ mechanism for monitoring and accountability at all levels to stimulate and accelerate effective realisation of the above mentioned actions.

Dr. Vivek Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, head of the delegation made presentation on the legislative steps taken by the Government of India to eliminate violence against children, the programs and schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development towards this aim. He also made a special presentation on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Bill, 2012.

EDITORIAL
DEVELOP INDIA

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‘World IPv6 Launch Day’
and IPv6
Implementation in India

Today, the traditional communication networks are undergoing a big change and are converging into packet based Next Generation Networks (NGN) which run on Internet Protocol (IP). The Internet Protocol is basically a communications protocol used for relaying packets of data across a network. The current version of the Internet Protocol IPv4 is about 27 year old having many limitations. It is to be replaced by Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) to overcome the limitations.

On the occasion of the 'World IPv6 Launch Day' tomorrow (on 6th June 2012), major Internet Service Providers, networking equipment manufacturers and web companies around the world are coming together to permanently enable IPv6 for their products and services. This day, being organized by Internet Society, represents a major milestone in the global deployment of IPv6. It builds on the successful one-day 'World IPv6 Day' event held last year on 8 June wherein, top websites and Internet Service Providers around the world, joined together for a successful 24-hour global-scale trial of the new Internet Protocol, IPv6.

As a result of the initiatives undertaken by Department of Telecommunication (DoT), majority of the major service providers in India are ready to handle traffic & offer IPv6 services at present. Despite the readiness of the major service providers, there are issues to be addressed so as to ensure that the complete ecosystem migrates to IPv6. The service providers have mainly three challenges i.e. readiness of the content providers, equipment vendors and end user devices. To tackle the above challenges, a lead has been taken by DoT and the respective stakeholders are being pursued with by DoT through extensive discussions and meetings.

India has at present 35 million IPv4 addresses against a user base of about 360 million data users. In addition, Government is planning to have a target of 160 million and 600 million broadband customers by the year 2017 and 2020 respectively. Moreover, there is a strong security requirement to provide unique IP address to each individual data user. As IPv6 is not backward compatible with IPv4, the transition to IPv6 is likely to be a complex, mammoth and long term exercise during which both IPv4 and IPv6 will co-exist. In order to facilitate the widespread introduction of IPv6 in India, a policy document titled 'National IPv6 Deployment Roadmap' was released by the DoT in July 2010. The first initiative of its kind by a Government anywhere in the world, the roadmap's main focus was to educate/ sensitise the Indian ecosystem about the issues related to IPv6 and enable it to take the first step in the transition towards IPv6. Accordingly, following policy decisions were taken:

- i) All major Service Providers will target to handle IPv6 traffic and offer IPv6 services by December-2011
- ii) All Central and State government ministries and departments, including its PSUs, shall start using IPv6 services by March-2012.
- iii) Formation of IPv6 Task Force

An India IPv6 Task Force Task Force headed by Secretary (T) was formed and has a 3-tier structure consisting of Oversight Committee, Steering Committee and 10 Working Groups. Each tier has members from different organizations / stakeholders in PPP mode.

The current version of the Internet Protocol IPv4 has many limitations. The biggest limitation is its 32-bit addressing space resulting in about 4.3 billion IP addresses. The rapid growth of internet, wireless subscribers and deployment of NGN technology has accelerated consumption of IP addresses with the result that IPv4 addresses are almost exhausted today. To overcome this problem of shortage, Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) was developed by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) way back in early 1990s. The IPv6 improves on the addressing capacities of IPv4 by using 128 bits addressing instead of 32 bits, thereby practically making available an almost infinite pool of IP addresses. Besides, it also offers several other advantages over IPv4. IPv6 has been designed with many new features which make it possible to develop entirely new applications which are not possible in the IPv4 protocol, supports end-to-end security, autoconfiguration simplifies network configuration and IP Host Mobility etc. There was a need to have IPv6 test bed in India so that the vendors and stakeholders can test their equipments for IPv6 compatibility and readiness. Accordingly, a IPv6 test bed has been installed by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), a technical wing of DoT, to foster explicit IPv6 harmonisation across the entire ecosystem.

To address the various problems being faced by the stakeholders regarding IP address allocation from APNIC, the National Internet Registry (NIR) has been approved by APNIC in India for allocation of IPv6 address in a systematic manner with a big pool to cater to all future requirements and will start functioning shortly.

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receive will be decided after the completion of two audits of its banks, due to be completed by the end of the month.

A team comprising staff from the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund will head to Madrid to assess the needs of the Spanish banking sector.

The money will bolster the finances of Spain's weakest banks, which have been left with billions of euros worth of bad loans because of the collapse of the country's property boom and the recession that followed.

Some of them borrowed large amounts on the international markets to lend to developers and homebuyers, a riskier strategy than funding it with deposits from savings.

When the credit crunch hit, Spain's financial sector was plunged into what the IMF has described as an "unprecedented" crisis.

Banks need to offload some 200,000 repossessed properties at a time when house prices have fallen by 25% on average.

The government has already put 34bn euros into the banking system to try to strengthen it, according to the IMF. In addition, it has recently nationalised Bankia, its fourth largest bank, which last month requested 19bn euros.

Spain was keen to ensure that any external assistance went directly to its banks, rather than to the central government.

As a result, the loans will go to its bank restructuring agency, called Frob. But this would still be considered state debt, Mr de Guindos said.

The Eurogroup said "the Fund for Orderly Bank Restructuring, Frob, acting as agent of the Spanish government, could receive the funds and channel them to the financial institutions concerned. The Spanish government will retain the full responsibility of the financial assistance".

The money will come from two funds created to help eurozone members in financial distress. They are the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), which enters into force next month.

The European Commission welcomed the move.

"With this thorough restructuring of the banking sector, together with the ongoing determined implementation of structural reforms and fiscal consolidation, we are certain that Spain can gradually regain the confidence of investors and market participants," Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Vice President Oli Rehn said in a statement.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner described the developments as "important for the health of Spain's economy and as concrete steps on the path to financial union, which is vital to the resilience of the euro area".

Eurozone crisis explained

Economic instability in the eurozone has affected the lives of millions of people on the continent. As uncertainty continues, and the wounds threaten to get deeper for the single currency, the pain will be felt in the UK too.

How will that affect you? What does it mean for your chances of getting a job, a mortgage or a decent pension? Experts are agreed that there is a degree of guesswork over the ultimate outcome. Yet experience and existing regulations provide both concern and comfort for UK residents.

More upheaval in the eurozone would mean banks were likely to take a more cautious approach to lending money, in part because they would not have as much to hand out.

That could mean even tougher conditions for first-time buyers, who will again require a large deposit to secure a mortgage - perhaps about 20% of the value of the home they want to buy.

Some may not want to buy anyway at a time when their jobs could be at risk. Fewer first-time buyers mean more tenants - and rising rents.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders says more eurozone uncertainty is "not a particularly comforting backdrop" for the UK's housing and mortgage markets. More bad eurozone news could affect mortgage costs, availability and activity.

Choosy lenders will continue to make home loan offers only to those whom they trust totally to make repayments, which spells difficulty for the self-

employed or those who have missed payments on loans or credit cards in the past or who are not on the voters' register.

These mortgages may also go up. Andrew Montlake, of mortgage broker Coreco, says a eurozone storm has been brewing for some time, so banks and building societies are preparing for it.

A Greek exit from the single currency would be less of shock than the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008 and the subsequent banking crisis.

That means the knock-on effects on householders in the UK will be less pronounced, he says.

Investors from Greece and Italy have already shown interest in buying homes in the UK because they think that it is a safe haven for their money. These sales have made the London market operate on a different level from the rest of the country, with prices going up in the capital but falling - sometimes sharply - elsewhere.

Prices rose by 5.1% in London in the year to the end of April, Land Registry figures show.

That compares with a fall of 1% across the whole of England and Wales.

Trouble in the eurozone means trouble for the banks. But whatever happens, there is protection for savers who have deposits in those which are regulated in the UK.

The first £85,000, even if that bank, building society or credit union goes bust. For a joint account, the protection doubles to £170,000.

This is overseen by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). It is funded by the industry, but the government already stands behind it.

People can call the FSCS or visit the Financial Services Authority website to check whether their bank is regulated in the UK.

"If savers have more than £85,000 in a bank account, then they should think very carefully about spreading their money across a number of banks and building societies," says Mark Neale, chief executive of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Some European banks, such as Santander, have UK subsidiaries. They are covered by the UK compensation scheme.

However, other European banks are covered by compensation schemes in their own countries.

In the eurozone, this offers deposit protection of 100,000 euros.

However, this would not protect the overall value of savers' money in a country that exits the euro and devalues its currency.

Faced with a "slow and silent run on banks in Italy, Spain and Greece", there has been an acceleration in attempts to create a eurozone-wide deposit protection scheme.

When Icelandic banks failed in 2008, the UK government stepped in to protect UK savers with Icelandic bank accounts, but there is no explicit promise to do this again if another country's banks fail.

The interest paid by banks to savers has been at record low levels. Any further eurozone trouble means those rates would rise later rather than sooner.

As with housing, pensions would be affected by the UK being seen as a safe haven amid eurozone turmoil.

Pension funds are big investors in UK government bonds.

If the cost of buying them rises, and the return on holding them falls, pension funds would not be in such a healthy position.

That might mean more businesses closing their final-salary pensions - the most generous workplace pension schemes - to new or existing staff.

Joanne Segars, chief executive of the National Association of Pension Funds, says a flight to safety by investors to UK government bonds is likely to push private-sector final-salary pension schemes further into the red.

People who have been putting money away into a personal pension use those savings to buy an annuity - an annual retirement income for the rest of their lives - when they retire.

Insurance companies invest this money into government bonds. So, when they sell these annuities, the income pensioners will be able to buy is likely to be lower than before the eurozone crisis.

Those with 20 years or more to wait until retirement should not panic, says Malcolm McLean, a consultant for Barnett Waddingham.

Those who are about to buy an annuity should seek advice on when to buy, which type of annuity to choose, and how to shop around.

The eurozone is the UK's biggest trading partner.

Official statistics show that nearly 47% of UK exports went to the eurozone in 2011, while nearly 43% of UK imports came from the eurozone.

A long-term spiral of decline in the economies of Europe would mean less demand for UK good and services, and that could mean job cuts, especially in manufacturing.

Governments have been pushing for a growth agenda, but eurozone uncertainty leads to a lack of confidence among businesses. That means a pause in new investment and new jobs, most notably for younger workers.

"The honest answer is that no-one really knows how bad it would get. We have never been in this position before," says Ian Brinkley, director of the Work Foundation think tank.

"The one thing that is certain is that a worsening crisis across the eurozone would be bad for jobs in the UK."

A euro-wide banking crisis would squeeze the amount of credit available to firms to expand and create new job opportunities. Small businesses could be hardest hit.

If the eurozone survives the crisis, austerity measures are still likely to affect employment, especially in the public sector.

If the single currency falls apart, this would be many times worse.

When recent unemployment figures were published, Employment Minister Chris Grayling said that the UK faced "significant international uncertainty" that could affect jobs.

Investors are often faced with confusing jargon.

For some, the value of their pension is their only exposure to the success or failure of investments.

Others have money put into a stocks-and-shares Isa, or invest directly in the stock market.

Investments in shares have been volatile as a result of eurozone troubles, which can be seen in the performance of the FTSE index of 100 leading shares.

However, taking a more conservative approach by investing in bonds has been expensive.

Forecasting what happens to the value of investments if the eurozone crisis escalates is extremely difficult.

Investments can always go down as well as up, so timing is the key to making a profit.

Anna Sofat, of financial services company Addidi, says splitting money into different investment pots and taking a long-term view may be the safest approach for investors amid volatility in the markets.

UK holidaymakers are finding that their pound is buying more euros than at any time in the past three years.

Worries about the eurozone have weakened Europe's single currency.

Meanwhile, the pound is recovering value that it lost in a market rout during the 2008 financial crisis.

Pensioners from the UK who live in Europe during the winter will see increased spending power in their UK pension, which is paid in sterling.

A number of currency experts have predicted that the pound may continue strengthening against the euro, meaning UK travellers' holiday money could go even further this summer.

The question has been asked for many months whether Greece will leave the euro.

Elections and negotiations will provide the answer relatively soon.

However, a return to a drachma would create many more questions, not least because there is simply no mechanism set up for a country to leave the euro.

About 5% of the 36 million holidays taken by the British abroad are to Greece and its islands.

If Greece adopted the drachma again, it is likely that visitors on holiday will see their money go much further because the process of leaving the currency will almost certainly involve a simultaneous devaluation of the new currency against the pound.

For Greece to leave the euro would be a huge administrative task, so "it is highly unlikely holidaymakers will be left stranded in Greece with unusable euros," says James Hickman, managing director of currency firm Caxton FX.

Holiday-home owners in Greece will see the value of this property fall if it leaves the single currency.

If they rented it out and charged in euros, it would be more expensive than other holiday homes and they might struggle to find tenants.

But if they charged in drachmas, they might find this earns them very little once converted back to sterling or euros.

Amnesty Int'l: Israel guilty of torture, unfairly detains Palestinians

Amnesty International says Israel is guilty of torture and human rights violations. The nongovernmental organization's report, "Starved of justice: Palestinians detained without trial by Israel," states that Israel must end its policy of detaining Palestinian prisoners without charge or trial.

The report said that the Israeli Prison Services punished Palestinian hunger strikers by placing them in solitary confinement, claiming that holding the action was against prison regulations, Haaretz reported.

Israel denied the charges and said torture is forbidden in Israel. Spokeman Mark Regev also said administrative detention is used only to hold those who present an immediate security threat. "If we get information from someone whose neighbor is making explosives for suicide bombers and that evidence is presented in court, then terror groups will take violent action against him and his family," Regev said, according to The Associated Press.

He also said that international law allows for administrative detention, and that Israel detains suspected Jewish extremists as well.

NGO Monitor, meanwhile, has accused Amnesty International of hiring a researcher with an "extensive background in anti-Israel activism," the London Jewish Chronicle reported.

NGO Monitor says Deborah Hyams previously had volunteered as a human shield in Palestinian villages. She also had written that Israel was a "terrorist state" guilty of "ethnic cleansing" before she began working for the charity in 2010.

"When you hire someone like Deborah Hyams there's no leg to stand on in claiming to have no bias," NGO Monitor President Gerald Steinberg said, according to the Chronicle.

""NGO Monitor repeatedly attacks A.I. and other organizations that report on Israel. We do not give any credence to their comments," Amnesty International said in a statement.

Spanish banks deal: Market concerns remain

Concern remains about eurozone debt, despite the 100bn-euro (\$125bn; £80bn) bailout of Spain's banks, as borrowing costs for Italy and Spain both rose.

Ten-year Italian bond yields rose from 5.758% to close at 6.032%. Spanish bond yields were also up, to almost 6.5%.

Meanwhile, ratings agency Fitch downgraded two Spanish banks, Santander and BBVA, two notches from A to BBB+.

Stock markets worldwide had opened higher after the Spanish deal but their initial enthusiasm later faded.

New York's Dow Jones, up 0.7% on opening, was negative by mid-afternoon. London's FTSE 100 started strongly but closed down 2.7 points.

The French and German indexes were little changed.

The Nikkei in Tokyo closed up 2.0%. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong closed up 2.4%.

"Markets have found it very difficult to hang on to anything close to the bulk of their gains with sentiment tempered by the realisation that, after looking beyond the headline bailout figure to ask what has really changed beyond that number," said Michael Hewson from CMC Markets.

The rise in Italian and Spanish bond yields is an indication that investors are still worried about the countries' finances.

Fitch said its ratings action on Santander and BBVA was linked to its downgrading of Spain's sovereign credit rating last week.

In particular it cited the forecast that Spain will "remain in recession through the remainder of this year and 2013 compared to the previous expectation that the economy would benefit from a mild recovery in 2013 which directly affects the banks' volumes of activities in Spain".

India and Turkey signed an MoU for Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Sports and Youth Activities

India and Turkey has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for further developing relations in the field of sports and youth activities in order to promote and strengthen existing friendly relations and cooperation in the field of sports.

The MoU was signed by Shri Ajay Maken, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports on behalf of Government of India and by Mr. Suat Kilic, Turkish Minister for Youth & Sports, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Turkey in Ankara (Turkey) today. Sh. Maken is currently on 3 days official visit to Turkey.

The MoU provides the framework for advancement of linkages and cooperation through sports and youth agencies of the respective Governments. The MoU also states that the Parties shall encourage and support exchanges of programmes, experiences, skills, techniques, information and knowledge in the several areas of cooperation in sports and youth activities, namely, training and competition of athletes and teams, training and technical assistance for coaches, exchange programmes and visits of sports leader, sports administrators, professional, technicians and sports support personnel and experts in the field of youth and sports, fostering youth tourism, organizing joint youth camps and friendly sports events and training, exchange and assistance programmes for sports sciences personnel and development of sports science.

The MoU further states that the cooperation under this shall be through exchange of sports experts, government officials, coaches and athletes and students in field of sports, exchange of teaching and curriculum materials on sports, collaboration on curriculum development, joint development and publication of materials and exchange of youth delegations to get acquainted with youth organizations and youth development programmes.

While speaking on the occasion, Sh. Maken expressed his hope that this MoU will pave the way for further enhancing traditional ties between both the countries especially among youth populations. Sh. Maken also congratulated Turkey on the Istanbul being shortlisted for Olympics 2020.

Spain's weakest banks were left with billions of euros of bad loans following the collapse of a property boom and the subsequent recession.

Madrid resident: "If we go to hell, we all go together"

The exact amount of emergency funding that Spain will receive will be decided after two audits of its banks are completed within the next few days.

Speaking at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the EU's economic and monetary affairs commissioner Oli Rehn re-iterated that Spain would not have to implement any new austerity measures in return for receiving financial aid.

"Policy conditionality will focus on the financial and banking sector," Mr Rehn said.

"There will be no new conditions on fiscal policy and structural reforms because these issues are dealt with under the reinforced economic governance and there, the normal policy conditionality applies."

Spain is in its second recession in three years and the economy is expected to shrink by 1.7% this year. The longer the downturn lasts, the harder it will be to repair the banks' and country's finances.

"The Spanish announcement is not a solution to the eurozone's ongoing woes, but it is a statement of intent," said Richard Hunter from Hargreaves Lansdown stockbrokers.

"Some much-needed time has now been bought in Spain, which will allow the market an at least temporary sigh of relief."

"Now the controversy is actually whether we should be happy or humiliated about this."

The government has been keen to stress that it is the banks that have been bailed out, not the country. But in an interview on Monday, EU competition commissioner Joaquin Almunia said there would be a troika of authorities to oversee the financial assistance, just as happened with Greece, Portugal and the Republic of Ireland.

The troika will be made up of the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the Eurogroup of eurozone finance ministers. With loans to the banks set to add to government debt, the agreement reached on Saturday has done little to ease concerns about the country's debt burden.

The Spanish government said in a statement late on Sunday that it was committed to its programme of economic reforms.

The Treasury said it would continue to borrow money commercially and confirmed it would continue with its planned programme of bond auctions. But with the terms of the bank deal still unclear, investors appear to be still wary of lending to Spain, as indicated by the higher bond yields.

The next bond auctions scheduled are short-term sales on 19 and 21 June, after the Greek elections on 17 June, which will be the next key test for the eurozone.

The rise in Italian bond yields suggests that investors are concerned about whether Italy will be the next country to

get into difficulties. But Italy's economic development minister, Corrado Passera, has said that his country has already taken the necessary measures.

"This great discipline that we have imposed on ourselves in terms of public finances makes us one of the countries best equipped to confront the financial turbulence that Europe finds itself in today," he said.

Official figures on Monday confirmed that the Italian economy had contracted by 0.8% in the first three months of 2012.

Bonds, project bonds and eurobonds

The idea of eurozone economies clubbing together to issue bonds representing all 17 member nations has been gathering momentum.

And it has some pretty influential backers, including new French President Francois Hollande, Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, and the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso. But those that really matter are less keen.

The German government has said eurobonds "don't make sense" right now, given that individual member states conduct their own economic policies. It is also concerned the introduction of such bonds could reduce the resolve of highly-indebted governments to balance their budgets.

There does, however, appear to be a compromise in the works. The Germans seem open to the idea of "project bonds" that can be used to finance infrastructure investment across Europe. But what are eurobonds and project bonds (neither of which actually exists yet), and what are the government bonds on which they are based?

What is a government bond?

Governments borrow money by selling bonds to investors. A bond is an IOU. In return for the investor's cash, the government promises to pay a fixed rate of interest over a specific period - say 4% every year for 10 years. At the end of the period, the investor is repaid the cash they originally paid, cancelling that particular bit of government debt.

Government bonds have traditionally been seen as ultra-safe long-term investments and are held by pension funds, insurance companies and banks, as well as private investors. They are a vital way for countries to raise funds.

What is a bond market?

Once a bond has been issued - and the government has the cash - the investor can hold the bond and collect the interest every year until it is repaid. But investors can also buy and sell bonds that have already been issued on the financial markets - just like buying and selling shares on the stock market.

The price of the bond will fluctuate as the outlook for interest rates changes. So, for example, if the markets think that interest rates are going to rise sharply, then the value of a bond paying a fixed rate of 4% for the next 10 years will fall. Bond prices will also fall if investors think that there is a risk

of the government that issued the bond not being able to make the annual interest payment or repay it in full on maturity - and these are the fears which have been pushing down Spanish bond prices.

What is a bond yield?

The bond yield tells the investor what the return on their investment is, and can be calculated based on the current price of the bond in the market. If a 100-euro bond is paying 4% fixed interest - in other words, 4 euros per year - and the bond can be bought for 100 euros, then the yield is 4%. If the bond price falls to 90 euros, then the yield will rise. That's because the investor is still getting paid 4 euros every year, and 100 euros at maturity, which is a much bigger return compared with the 90 euros they must put down to buy the bond.

Why do bond markets matter?

Because they determine what it costs a government to borrow. When a government wants to raise new money, it issues new bonds, and has to pay an interest rate on those bonds that is acceptable to the market. The yield at which the market is buying and selling a government's existing bonds gives a good indication of how much interest the government would have to pay if it wanted to issue new bonds. So, for example, Spanish 10-year bond yields have risen above 6% in recent years. That means that if the Spanish government wants to borrow new money from the bond market for 10 years, it would have to pay an interest rate on the new bond of more than 6%.

So what is a eurobond?

A eurobond would operate in exactly the same way as a government bond, except that all 17 member states of the eurozone would collectively guarantee the debt rather than a single government.

There are, however, many important questions about how a eurobond might work that remain to be answered. For example, if one government could not pay its share of the bond payments, would the other 16 governments step in and make the payments on its behalf? Would the government that got into trouble be required to prioritise its eurobond payments over its other debts? Would government bonds of the individual member governments continue to exist alongside the eurobonds? Who would decide how to spend the money raised via eurobonds? If individual governments could spend the money, then how much would each government be allowed to borrow using eurobonds and under what conditions?

How might a eurobond solve the crisis?

During the financial crisis, investors have been much less willing to buy the bonds of troubled southern European countries, and much more willing to buy the bonds of Germany and some other financially stronger countries. That has made it much cheaper for Germany to borrow, and prohibitively expensive for Greece, the Irish Republic and Portugal to borrow. The worry is that Spain and Italy may also find it too expensive to borrow. Introducing eurobonds would level the playing field - all governments would be able to borrow at the same interest rate.

Why does Germany object to eurobonds?

Germany has three basic objections. First of all, the Germans do not see why they should be on the hook for all of the debts racked up by their southern neighbours, which is what a eurobond would entail. Secondly, it may make it more expensive for Germany to borrow, because markets may consider the eurozone as a whole to be a more risky borrower than the financial strong Germans on their own. Thirdly, and most importantly, the German government is afraid that if they guarantee the debts of their eurozone neighbours, that will simply encourage the southern Europeans to borrow and spend more freely, making their debts even bigger and more unsustainable.

What about these "project bonds"? The details are unclear, but it seems these would be issued by the European Commission. The borrowed money would be spent by the Commission on infrastructure and other growth-enhancing investments, and would ultimately be responsible for repaying the project bonds.

They would be similar to eurobonds to the extent that the EU governments are collectively bound to support the Commission and make sure that it can repay the debts. However, the amount of money involved in the project bonds would be far smaller than what is envisioned by the advocates of

eurobonds. The Commission's entire budget is equivalent to about 1% of the EU's GDP, whereas most EU government budgets are equivalent to about 50% of their respective GDPs. Nor would project bonds do anything to reduce the borrowing cost of the southern European governments, although it might help indirectly if markets think that the infrastructure spending by the Commission will significantly help the southern European economies to grow.

IAEA ends Iran talks with no progress

New talks between Iran and the UN's atomic watchdog agency have failed to result in a deal allowing greater access to Iran's contested nuclear programme. The meeting between Iran's representatives and the International Atomic Energy Agency comes ahead of negotiations between Iran and the so-called P5+1 group of nations scheduled to take place in Moscow on June 18 and 19.

"There has been no progress," IAEA chief inspector Herman Nackaerts told journalists after a day of talks with Iran's envoy, Ali Asghar Soltanieh. "Iran raised issues that we have already discussed and added new ones. This is disappointing."

Soltanieh insisted that Tehran was dedicated to alleviating fears about its nuclear programme, which the government says is for civilian purposes but is highly secret and not completely accessible to international monitors. The United States and other nations suspect Iran is enriching uranium in order to build a nuclear warhead. "We are ready to remove all ambiguities and prove to the world that our activities are exclusively for peaceful purposes and none of these allegations (of seeking a bomb) are true," Soltanieh told the media.

According to recent letters exchanged between Iran and representatives from the UN Security Council and China - the members of the P5+1 group - the two sides have not resolved differences that scuttled previous rounds. One letter, shared with the Associated Press on Friday, showed Iran seeking an expert-level meeting ahead of the Moscow negotiations to "prepare the necessary ground for the Moscow talks".

In response, a senior European Union representative speaking for the six powers suggested there was no need for such preliminary talks because the six remain committed to their "straight-forward proposal" presented at the last meeting in Baghdad.

The IAEA has been seeking a deal with Iran that would allow greater access to sites, people and documents tied to Tehran's nuclear programme. This includes access to the Parchin military base near Tehran, where the IAEA believes suspicious explosives testing was carried out before 2003 and possibly after that.

Soltanieh however dismissed the recent focus on Parchin as politisation by Western countries.

"Whoever raises the issue of Parchin or other sites which is going to be dealt with in this framework ... is just creating a negative environment and this is not advisable and this is not conducive," he complained to journalists.

The investigation has been stalled for nearly five years by Iran's insistence that it does not need to co-operate because the allegations are based on forged US and Israeli intelligence. Iran says it needs to continue higher-grade enrichment to 20 per cent to power a research reactor and to make medical isotopes.

Iran denies any interest in nuclear weapons and wants the international community to ease sanctions before it makes a move, something Western nations among the six powers are unwilling to do. Instead, they are offering spare parts for Iran's aging commercial airline fleet and other goods restricted by sanctions. But the letters show little progress in bridging differences less than two weeks before the Moscow talks and before sanctions are tightened still further on Iran's oil. The United States already has started to enforce penalties against countries importing Iranian crude, and the 27-nation European Union, which recently accounted for 18 percent of Iran's oil shipments, plans to begin an oil boycott on July 1.

Dated on Monday, the Iranian letter is signed by Ali Bagheri, his country's number two nuclear negotiator. It complains of a lack "of any oral or written response" to Tehran's request

for a preliminary meeting ahead of the Moscow talks.

Timeline: The unfolding eurozone crisis

The euro, the dream of many a politician in the years following World War II, was established in Maastricht by the European Union (EU) in 1992.

To join the currency, member states had to qualify by meeting the terms of the treaty in terms of budget deficits, inflation, interest rates and other monetary requirements. Of EU members at the time, the UK, Sweden and Denmark declined to join the currency.

Since then, there have been many twists and turns for the countries that use the single currency.

1999

On 1 January, the currency officially comes into existence.

2001

Greece joins the euro.

2002

On 1 January, notes and coins are introduced.

2008

Malta and Cyprus join the euro, following Slovenia the previous year.

In December, EU leaders agree on a 200bn-euro stimulus plan to help boost European growth following the global financial crisis.

2009

Slovakia joins the euro. Estonia, Denmark, Latvia and Lithuania join the Exchange Rate Mechanism to bring their currencies and monetary policy into line with the euro in preparation for joining.

In April, the EU orders France, Spain, the Irish Republic and Greece to reduce their budget deficits - the difference between their spending and tax receipts.

In October, amid much anger towards the previous government over corruption and spending, George Papandreou's Socialists win an emphatic snap general election victory in Greece.

In November, concerns about some EU member states' debts start to grow following the Dubai sovereign debt crisis.

In December, Greece admits that its debts have reached 300bn euros - the highest in modern history.

Greece is burdened with debt amounting to 113% of GDP - nearly double the eurozone limit of 60%. Ratings agencies start to downgrade Greek bank and government debt.

Mr Papandreou insists that his country is "not about to default on its debts".

2010

In January, an EU report condemns "severe irregularities" in Greek accounting procedures. Greece's budget deficit in 2009 is revised upwards to 12.7%, from 3.7%, and more than four times the maximum allowed by EU rules.

The European Central Bank dismisses speculation that Greece will have to leave the EU.

In February, Greece unveils a series of austerity measures aimed at curbing the deficit.

Concern starts to build about all the heavily indebted countries in Europe - Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain. On 11 February, the EU promises to act over Greek debts and tells Greece to make further spending cuts. The austerity plans spark strikes and riots in the streets.

In March, Mr Papandreou continues to insist that no bailout is needed. The euro continues to fall against the dollar and the pound.

The eurozone and IMF agree a safety net of 22bn euros to help Greece - but no loans.

In April, following worsening financial markets and more protests, eurozone countries agree to provide up to 30bn euros in emergency loans.

Greek borrowing costs reach yet further record highs. The EU announces that the Greek deficit is even worse than thought after reviewing its accounts - 13.6% of GDP, not 12.7%. Finally, on 2 May, the eurozone members and the IMF agree a 110bn-euro bailout package to rescue Greece.

The euro continues to fall and other EU member state debt starts to come under scrutiny, starting with the Republic of Ireland.

In November, the EU and IMF agree to a bailout package to the Irish Republic totalling 85bn euros. The Irish Republic soon passes the toughest budget in the country's history.

Amid growing speculation, the EU

denies that Portugal will be next for a bailout.

2011

On 1 January, Estonia joins the euro, taking the number of countries with the single currency to 17.

In February, eurozone finance ministers set up a permanent bailout fund, called the European Stability Mechanism, worth about 500bn euros.

In April, Portugal admits it cannot deal with its finances itself and asks the EU for help.

In May, the eurozone and the IMF approve a 78bn-euro bailout for Portugal.

In June, eurozone ministers say Greece must impose new austerity measures before it gets the next tranche of its loan, without which the country will probably default on its enormous debts.

Talk abounds that Greece will be forced to become the first country to leave the eurozone.

In July, the Greek parliament votes in favour of a fresh round of drastic austerity measures, the EU approves the latest tranche of the Greek loan, worth 12bn euros.

A second bailout for Greece is agreed. The eurozone agrees a comprehensive 109bn-euro (\$155bn; £96.3bn) package designed to resolve the Greek crisis and prevent contagion among other European economies.

In August, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso warns that the sovereign debt crisis is spreading beyond the periphery of the eurozone.

The yields on government bonds from Spain and Italy rise sharply - and Germany's falls to record lows - as investors demand huge returns to borrow.

On 7 August, the European Central Bank says it will buy Italian and Spanish government bonds to try to bring down their borrowing costs, as concern grows that the debt crisis may spread to the larger economies of Italy and Spain.

The G7 group of countries also says it is "determined to react in a co-ordinated manner," in an attempt to reassure investors in the wake of massive falls on global stock markets. During September, Spain passes a constitutional amendment to add in a "golden rule," keeping future budget deficits to a strict limit.

Italy passes a 50bn-euro austerity budget to balance the budget by 2013 after weeks of haggling in parliament. There is fierce public opposition to the measures - and several key measures were watered down.

The European Commission predicts that economic growth in the eurozone will come "to a virtual standstill" in the second half of 2011, growing just 0.2% and putting more pressure on countries' budgets.

Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos says his country has been "blackmailed and humiliated" and a "scapegoat" for the EU's incompetence.

On 19 September, Greece holds "productive and substantive" talks with its international supporters, the European Central Bank, European Commission and IMF.

The following day, Italy has its debt rating cut by Standard & Poor's, to A from A+. Italy says the move was influenced by "political considerations". That same day, in its World Economic Outlook, the IMF cuts growth forecasts and warns that countries are entering a 'dangerous new phase'.

The gloomy mood continues on 22 September, with data showing that growth in the eurozone's private sector shrank for the first time in two years. The sense of urgency is heightened on 23 October, when IMF head Christine Lagarde urges countries to "act now and act together" to keep the path to economic recovery on track.

On the same day, UK Prime Minister David Cameron calls for swift action on the debt crisis.

The next day US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner tells Europe to create a "firewall" around its problems to stop the crisis spreading. A meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in Washington on 24 September leads to more calls for urgent action, but a lack of concrete proposals sparks further falls in share markets.

After days of intense speculation that Greece will fail to meet its budget cut targets, there are signs of a eurozone rescue plan emerging to write down Greek debt and increase the size of the bloc's bailout fund.

But when, on 28 September, European Union head Jose Manuel Barroso warns that the EU "faces its greatest

Six-year Google Books spat ends with publisher agreement

Google has reached a deal with a publishing group to allow the scanning and publishing of books online - ending a six-year legal battle.

A court ruled in 2009 that the search company was in breach of copyright infringement after it digitised a number of French books.

But now an agreement has been made to allow publishers to opt in to being digitised by Google.

Publishers' group SNE said the deal respected the "rights of the author". "This announcement marks a positive advance for updating France's print heritage under copyright and contributes to expanding the availability of digital books," it said in a statement.

A Paris court had ordered Google to pay 300,000 euros (£240,000) to three French publishers.

Google had appealed against the decision - but has now struck a deal. "The authors will be able to say yes or no to the indexing of their works," SNE president Antoine Gallimard said.

"It is now up to each publishing house to decide if it wants to sign a framework accord with Google on authorship rights or not."

'French culture'

The SGDL, which represents French authors, said the agreement would protect their rights on the internet.

As part of the deal, Google will give money to a scheme helping primary school children learn to read.

Google Books France director Philippe Colombet said: "All conditions are now in place for Google to participate in developing digital books in France and contribute to spreading French culture."

The legal battle was just one of the tussles Google has faced over its books project.

The company has said it wants to digitise every book in the world by the end of the decade. So far, it has managed 20 million.

Last year, a deal between Google and US publishers to allow publication of books online was quashed by the US courts.

A judge said Google would gain a significant competitive advantage for "engaging in wholesale copying of copyrighted works without permission".

challenge", there is a widespread view that the latest efforts to thrash out a deal have failed.

The sense that events are spinning out of control are underlined by Foreign Secretary William Hague, who calls the euro a "burning building with no exits". On 4 October, Eurozone finance ministers delay a decision on giving Greece its next instalment of bailout cash, sending European shares down sharply.

Speculation intensifies that European leaders are working on plans to recapitalise the banking system. On 6 October the Bank of England injects a further £75bn into the UK economy through quantitative easing, while the European Central Bank unveils emergency loans measures to help banks.

Financial markets are bolstered by news on 8 October that the leaders of Germany and France have reached an accord on measures to help resolve the debt crisis. But without publication of any details, nervousness remains. Relief in the markets that the authorities will help the banking sector grows on 10 October, when struggling Franco-Belgian bank Dexia receives a huge bailout.

On 10 October, an EU summit on the debt crisis is delayed by a week so that ministers can finalise plans that would allow Greece its next bailout money and bolster debt-laden banks. On 14 October G20 finance ministers meet in Paris to continue efforts to find a solution to the debt crisis in the eurozone.

On 21 October eurozone finance ministers approve the next, 8bn euro (\$11bn; £7bn), tranche of Greek bailout loans, potentially saving the country from default.

On 26 October European leaders reach a "three-pronged" agreement described as vital to solve the region's huge debt crisis.

After marathon talks in Brussels, the leaders say some private banks holding Greek debt have accepted a loss of 50%. Banks must also raise more capital to protect them against losses resulting from any future government defaults.

On 9 December, after another round of talks in Brussels going through much of the night, French President Nicolas Sarkozy announces that eurozone countries and others will press ahead with an inter-governmental treaty enshrining new budgetary rules to tackle the crisis.

Attempts to get all 27 EU countries to agree to treaty changes fail due to the objections of the UK and Hungary. The new accord is to be agreed by March 2012, Mr Sarkozy says.

2012

On 13 January, credit rating agency Standard & Poor's downgrades France and eight other eurozone countries, blaming the failure of eurozone leaders to deal with the debt crisis. Three days later, the agency also

downgrades the EU bailout fund, the European Financial Stability Facility. Also on 13 January, talks between Greece and its private creditors over a debt write-off deal stall. The deal is necessary if Greece is to receive the bailout funds it needs to repay billions of euros of debt in March. The talks resume on 18 January.

The "fiscal pact" agreed by the EU in December is signed at the end of January. The UK abstains, as does the Czech Republic, but the other 25 members sign up to new rules that make it harder to break budget deficits. Weeks of negotiations ensue between Greece, private lenders and the "troika" of the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the IMF, as Greece tries to get a debt write-off and make even more spending cuts to get its second bailout.

On 10 February, Greece's coalition government finally agrees to pass the demands made of it by international lenders. This leads to a new round of protests. But the eurozone effectively casts doubt on the Greeks' figures, saying Athens must find a further 325m euros in budget cuts to get the aid.

On 12 February, Greece passes the unpopular austerity bill in parliament - two months before a general election. Coalition parties expelled more than 40 deputies for failing to back the bill.

On February 22, a Markit survey reports that the eurozone service sector has shrunk unexpectedly, raising fears of a recession.

The next day the European Commission predicts that the eurozone economy will contract by 0.3% in 2012. March begins with the news that the eurozone jobless rate has hit a new high.

However, the economic news takes a turn for the better just days later with official figures showing that the eurozone's retail sales increased unexpectedly in January by 0.3%, and the OECD reports its view that the region is showing tentative signs of recovery.

On 13 March, the eurozone finally backs a second Greek bailout of 130bn euros. IMF backing was also required and was later given.

The month ends with a call from the OECD for the eurozone rescue fund to be doubled to 1tn euros. The German chancellor, Angela Merkel says she would favour only a temporary boost to its firepower.

On 12 April, Italian borrowing costs increase in a sign of fresh concerns among investors about the country's ability to reduce its high levels of debt. In an auction of three-year bonds, Italy pays an interest rate of 3.89%, up from 2.76% in a sale of similar bonds the previous month. Attention shifted to Spain the next day, with shares hit by worries over the

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT 2012-13 TO FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2009 -14

- 2 % INTEREST SUBVENTION SCHEME: Continuation and Expansion**
- Two per cent Interest Subvention Scheme was available only to Handlooms, Handicrafts, Carpets and SMEs till 31st March 2012. Now this would be continued till 31st March 2013. It is also being extended to labour intensive sectors, namely, Toys, Sports Goods, Processed Agricultural Products and Ready-Made Garments, in addition to four sectors benefitting from the scheme earlier.
Technological Upgradation / EPCG Scheme
 - Zero Duty EPCG Scheme had come to an end on 31st of March 2012. For continued technological up-gradation of export sectors, this Scheme has now been extended up to 31st March 2013. There is no change in the coverage of the sectors benefitting from this scheme.
 - Though the coverage of the sectors remains unchanged, scope of Zero Duty EPCG Scheme has been enlarged. At present, Zero Duty EPCG Scheme is not available to units that are availing the benefits of Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). Henceforth, even if the benefit of TUFS has been availed, additionally the Zero Duty EPCG Authorisation can be availed for another line of business by the same applicant. Further, if it is the same line of business, Zero Duty EPCG Scheme could still be availed if the benefits of TUFS already availed are surrendered/refunded with applicable interest.
 - Upto 31st March 2012, the benefit of Zero Duty EPCG Scheme was not available to such applicants who would have availed benefit of Status Holder Incentive Scrip (SHIS). It is now decided that if such SHIS benefit already availed is surrendered subsequently with applicable interest to the concerned RA, and then the benefit of Zero Duty EPCG Scheme would be extended.
 - Introduction of A new Post-Export EPCG Scheme: Exporters if they choose to, may import Capital Goods on payment of duty in cash and subsequently receive duty credit scrip on completion of export obligation. Thus there would be no duty remission / duty exemption at the time of import of the Capital Good (CG). Applicant will have to inform the Regional Office of DGFT (RA) about the import of CG and based on which RA will fix export obligation. Since the duties have been paid upfront at the time of import of CG, the EO would be 85 % of normal EO. On the basis of export performance, a Duty Credit Scrip will be issued subsequently, by RA, in proportion to export obligation so fixed. This would obviate the monitoring and reporting requirements, as the scheme would be self-monitored. Reduced transaction cost coupled with comparatively reduced EO would make this scheme attractive.
 - Under the EPCG Scheme, at present, the condition of maintenance of average level of exports is not applicable to some sectors, namely, Handicrafts, Handlooms, Cottage Sector, Tiny Sector, Agriculture, Aquaculture (including fisheries), Horticulture, Pisciculture, Viticulture, Poultry and Sericulture. Three new sectors are being added to this list, namely, Carpet, Coir and Jute. This would provide substantial relief to these labour intensive industries, which find it difficult to maintain the average export obligation.
 - Presently under EPCG scheme, catalysts are allowed only once for the initial charge. It has been decided to permit a second charge of the catalysts.
 - To facilitate setting up of Common Service Centres located in the town of export excellence (TEE), a Common Service Provider (CSP) under EPCG Scheme will henceforth be permitted to give a single Bank Guarantee (BG). The quantum of BG will be equivalent to the amount of duty foregone. It is open to CSP to provide the BG for full amount by himself or on a sharing basis along with the users of the common service.
Support for export of products from North EastERN REGION.
 - To promote manufacturing activity and employment in the North Eastern Region of the country, export obligation under the EPCG Scheme shall be 25% of the normal export obligation. This would be applicable to the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim.
 - Export of specified products through notified Land Customs Stations of North Eastern Region shall be provided additional incentive to the extent of 1% of FOB value of exports. This benefit shall be in addition to any other benefit that may be available under Foreign Trade Policy in respect of these exports.
- SUPPORT FOR EXPORT OF GREEN TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS**
- To promote exports of 16 identified green technology products, export obligation for manufacturing of these products, under the EPCG Scheme, is being reduced to 75% of the normal export obligation.
 - The 16 products are: Equipment for Solar Energy decentralized and grid connected products, Bio-Mass Gassifier, Bio-Mass / Waste Boiler, Vapour Absorption Chillers, Waste Heat Boiler, Waste Heat Recovery Units, Unfired Heat Recovery Steam Generators, Wind Turbine, Solar Cells, Solar Collector and Parts thereof, Water Treatment Plants, Wind Mill, Wind Turbine/Engine, Other Generating Sets; wind powered, Electrically Operated Vehicles – Motor Cars, Electrically Operated Vehicles – Lorries and Trucks, Electrically Operated Vehicles – Motor Cycles / Mopeds.
- SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR**
- Status holders exporting products under ITC (HS) Chapter 1 to Chapter 24 (both inclusive) are provided Duty Credit Scrip equivalent to 10% of FOB value of agricultural products so exported. These scrips are issued for import of Capital Goods and equipments for Cold Storage Units, Pack-houses etc. Now these scrips will be eligible for import of 14 specified equipments for setting up of Pack-houses.
 - The 14 equipments are: Packing grading equipments for fruits and vegetables, Equipments for ripening of fruits including ethylene generator, Adiabatic humidifiers for cold rooms, Gas sensor and controlled system covering CO₂, ethylene and oxygen levels, ethylene scrubbers, CO₂ Scrubbers, Blast freezers for IQF plants, Doors for gastight rooms, applications like CA, Banana/fruit ripening, Nitrogen generators, Gas controlling systems for CA stores, Bulk bins for CA stores, Reach stakers for cold stores and warehouses, Belt driven conveyors for bulk handling of cargo, Gantry cranes, unloading, mechanized loaders for bulk and break bulk cargo.
- INCENTIVES FOR PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN LABOUR INTENSIVE SECTORS**
- Status holders are issued Status Holders Incentive Scrip (SHIS) to import Capital Goods for promoting investment in up-gradation of technology of some specified labour intensive sectors like Leather, Textile & Jute, Handicrafts, Engineering, Plastics and Basic Chemicals. It is now decided that up to 10% of the value of these scrips will be allowed to be utilized to import components and spares of capital goods imported earlier. Such a dispensation was not available earlier.
 - At present these scrips are subject to Actual User Condition and are not transferable. Since a status holder may or may not have manufacturing facility, it is now decided to allow limited transferability of SHIS scrip. However, such Transferees shall have to (a) be a status holder and (b) have manufacturing facility.
- ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN DOMESTIC MARKET**
- The present Policy allows scrips under different schemes of Chapter 3 of Foreign Trade Policy, namely, Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Focus Market Scheme (FMS), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) Scheme, Status Holder Incentive Scrip (SHIS) Scheme, Market Linked Focused Product (MLFPS) Scheme, Served From India Scheme (SFIS) and Agri. Infrastructure Incentive Scrip (AIIS) Scheme, for import of goods as per conditions of these Schemes. Now these scrips shall be permitted to be utilized for payment of Excise Duty for domestic procurement. Earlier only scrips under SFIS were so permitted for procurement of goods from domestic market. Now all scrips would be permitted to source from domestic market so as to encourage manufacturing, value addition and employment. This will be an important measure for import substitution and will help in saving of foreign exchange in addition to creating additional employment.
- USE OF “DELIVERY AGAINST ACCEPTANCE (DA)” TERMS NOT TO BE ENCOURAGED FOR EXPORT OF CARPETS / HANDICRAFTS.**
- Export of Handicraft items and export of Hand-Made Woollen Carpets including other floor coverings like Woollen Durries, Druggets, Gabbas, Namdhas and Shaggy shall not be allowed on the basis of “Delivery against Acceptance (DA)” terms, unless they are covered by Bank Guarantee or ECGC guarantee. This would significantly protect the business and financial interests of small exporters.
- SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES**
- Import under Advance Authorisation (AA) will henceforth be permitted at any of the EDI ports, irrespective of EDI port in which the AA has been registered. There would be no requirement of Transfer Release Advice (TRA). This would facilitate imports under AA and would significantly bring down transaction costs of the exporters.
 - Exports shipments from Delhi & Mumbai through Post, through Courier or through e-Commerce shall be entitled for export benefits under FTP. An Inter-Ministerial Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Finance would expeditiously look into various aspects to the feasibility of enabling shipments through all postal locations.
 - Exporters will be henceforth permitted to give single revolving Bank Guarantee for different transactions.
- VISAKHAPATNAM AIRPORT RECOGNISED UNDER EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES**
- Visakhapatnam Airport has been identified as a new Port for the purpose of benefits under Export Promotion Schemes.
- DUTY FREE IMPORT OF EMBELLISHMENTS FOR EXPORTS OF SYNTHETIC MADE-UPS**
- At present duty free import of embellishments is allowed against exports of Handloom made-ups, Cotton made-ups and Polyester made-ups. This facility will now be extended to the export of Synthetic made-ups.
- NEW “e-BRC” INITIATIVE: A MAJOR EDI INITIATIVE**
- An extremely challenging and significant EDI initiative, “e-BRC” has been launched by DGFT. “e-BRC” would herald electronic transmission of Foreign Exchange Realization from the respective Banks to the DGFT’s server on a daily basis. Exporter will not be required to make any request to bank for issuance of Bank Export and Realization Certificate (BRC). This will establish a seamless EDI connectivity amongst DGFT, Banks and Exporters. “e-BRC” would facilitate early settlement and release of FTP incentives / entitlements. This is a significant step to reduce transaction cost to the exporters.
- SEARCH BASED “ITC (HS)” ON DGFT WEBSITE**
- DGFT has published a new, updated, ITC (HS) classification of Export and Import items. On the DGFT website (<http://dgft.gov.in>), a facility has been provided to search / enquire about the current Import Policy of an item by entering either ITC (HS) Code of that item or brief description of that item. This would be of major help to trade and industry as well to academicians and researchers.
- RE-WRITING OF FTP/HBP TO MAKE IT MORE USER-FRIENDLY**
- DGFT has undertaken a through revision of Foreign Trade Policy / Handbook of Procedures, Vol.1 to make it more user friendly. Substantial efforts have been made to remove ambiguities in language, delete repetitions and harmonise the text with amendments to policy and new policy announcements.
- MARKET & PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION**
- 7 new markets are being added to Focus Market Scheme (FMS). These countries are Algeria, Aruba, Austria, Cambodia, Myanmar, Netherland Antilles, and Ukraine
 - 7 new markets are being added to the Special Focus Market Scheme (Special FMS). These countries are Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Morocco, and Uruguay.
 - 46 new items are being added to Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS). This would have the effect of including 12 new markets for the first time.
 - MLFPS is being extended till 31st March 2013 for export to USA and EU in respect of items falling in Chapter 61 and Chapter 62.
 - 110 new items are being added to the Focus Product Scheme (FPS) list.
 - 2 new items are being added to VKGUY. These are roasted cashew kernel, and protein concentrates & textured protein substances.
- TOWNS OF EXPORT EXCELLENCE**
- 3 new towns are being declared as Towns of Export Excellence (TEE). These are Ahmedabad (Textiles), Kolhapur (Textiles), and Shaharanpur (Handicrafts)

country's economy and the Spanish government's 10-year cost of borrowing rose back towards 6% - a sign of fear over the country's creditworthiness.

On 18 April, the Italian government cut its growth forecast for the economy in 2012. It was previously predicting that the economy would shrink by 0.4%, but is now forecasting a 1.2% contraction. On 19 April, there was some relief for Spain after it saw strong demand at an auction of its debt, even though some borrowing costs rose.

The 10-year bonds were sold at a yield of 5.743%, up from 5.403% when the bonds were last sold in February.

Kosmala's 2012 Games inclusion highlights Australian Paralympians' longevity

Libby Kosmala's selection in the Australian shooting team for the 2012 London Paralympics highlights age is

not a barrier in the Paralympics. Celebrating her seventieth birthday in early July, expected to set a record for most appearances at her eleventh Games, Kosmala is likely to be the oldest athlete in attendance.

Her first Games were the 1972 Heidelberg Games competing in swimming and athletics events and winning a bronze medal in the mixed medley relay. Kosmala then switched to shooting and between 1976–1988 won nine gold and three silver medals.

At the 2008 Beijing Games she narrowly missed a medal, coming fourth in the Women's Air Rifle Standing SH1. In 2011 at the IPC Shooting World Cup,

her level of competitiveness was highlighted by finishing fifth in the final of the Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1. Kosmala is looking forward to the London Games saying: "It's very exciting. I'm looking forward to it. In over ten Paralympic Games, my greatest success was at Stoke Mandeville in 1984, so I'm looking forward to competing in London again for Australia". Kosmala loves beating athletes half her age: "Competition brings out the best in you. I'm old enough to be their grandmother for a lot of the players, but they really are lovely". Kosmala's training involves physical training, three shooting sessions per week and

mental relaxation training. The London Games will be her swansong but she will still keep shooting. She puts her longevity down to steadiness and a keen eye. Ashley Adams is to join her on the shooting team, attending his fourth Games, as will newcomers Luke Cain, Jason Maroney and Bradley Mark.

Russell Short, a vision-impaired thrower and the Australian Institute of Sport's first athlete with a disability scholarship, in 1988, has been selected for his seventh Games. Another athlete likely to attend his seventh Games is Kieran Modra, a vision impaired cyclist. Selections for the cycling team are yet to be confirmed. Two athletes who extended their Paralympic careers by changing sports have been selected; Greg Smith, who previously took part in track and field events, will be competing in wheelchair rugby. This is to be his fifth Games. Liesl Tesch, a former Australian wheelchair basketball player and captain, will be competing in sailing for her sixth Games.

Contrasting Australian Paralympians with their Olympian counterparts, the Australian Olympic Committee recently selected sporting shooters Russell Mark and Michael Diamond for the London Games; this to be their sixth Olympics and equalling the participation records of rower James Tomkins, sailor Colin Beashel, and equestrian Andrew Hoy.

Commonwealth Writers prizes

The Commonwealth Writers prizes are handed out at Hay: Shehan Karunatilaka from Sri Lanka wins the £10,000 Commonwealth Book Prize for his debut novel Chinaman: The Legend of Pradeep Mathew, while Emma Martin from New Zealand wins the £5,000 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for "Two Girls in a Boat"



Writers from Sri Lanka and New Zealand have won the Commonwealth Foundation's literary prizes for 2012. Shehan Karunatilaka from Sri Lanka picked up the £10,000 Commonwealth Book Prize for his debut novel Chinaman: The Legend of Pradeep Mathew. The Commonwealth Short Story Prize, worth £5,000, was won by New Zealand's Emma Martin for Two Girls in a Boat.



The awards, which were presented at the Hay Festival, aim to showcase new literary talent in the Commonwealth. Karunatilaka said: "It's a privilege to be part of a global prize that has recognised so many great writers over the years. I feel deeply honoured." His book tells the story of a retired hard-drinking sports journalist who tries to track down the elusive Pradeep Mathew - who he considers the greatest cricketer of all time.

The chair of the Commonwealth Book Prize, Margaret Busby, described Karunatilaka's novel as a "fabulously enjoyable read".

Emma Martin, from Wellington, said winning the short story prize was "a wonderful and unexpected honour". "Writing can be a solitary business, so to receive any award is immensely encouraging," she added.

Bernardine Evaristo, chair of the short story prize, said: "Two Girls in a Boat

fulfilled the judges' brief that the winning entry have linguistic flair, originality, depth and daring."

The awards were handed over at the Hay Festival by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who won the Orange Prize in 2007.

Aminatta Forna wins Commonwealth Writers' honour

British author Aminatta Forna's novel The Memory of Love has won best book at the Commonwealth Writers' Prize ceremony in Sydney.

Forna, who was born in Glasgow and spent some of her childhood in Sierra Leone, was praised for "risk-taking, elegance and breadth" in her work. Her book, which is shortlisted for the Orange Prize, is about friendship and war in the troubled West African state.

Forna won a prize of £10,000 for the award, now in its 25th year.

New Zealand writer Craig Cliffe won best first book for A Man Melting, a collection of short stories.

The judges remarked that Cliffe is "a talent to watch and set to take the literary world by storm".

They added of Forna's novel that it was "bold, deeply moving and accomplished, which confirms her place among the most talented writers in literature today".

The writer previously worked as a radio and television reporter at the BBC from 1989-99.



Previous winners of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize have gone on to become major figures in the world of literature, including Louis de Bernieres, Zadie Smith and Ian McEwan.

Jamaica drug kingpin 'Dudus' Coke jailed for 23 years

Notorious Jamaican drug lord Christopher "Dudus" Coke has been sentenced to 23 years in a US prison, the maximum sentenced he faced.

Coke, 43, pleaded guilty to drug and gun-trafficking charges in August 2011. A five-week operation to capture him in 2010 saw clashes in Jamaica's capital, Kingston, in which scores died.

His Kingston-based criminal organisation trafficked marijuana, cocaine and firearms and enjoyed protection from Jamaica's ruling party.

When Coke was first indicted in the US in 2009, Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding initially fought his extradition, arguing that it was based on flawed evidence.

Mr Golding's parliamentary constituency is in West Kingston's Tivoli Gardens, the district Coke's Shower Posse and the Presidential Click had controlled.

Jamaica divided on role of 'Dudus' Coke But after months of delays and amid growing local and international criticism, Mr Golding agreed to extradite Coke and signed an arrest warrant. Coke was handed 20 years on the trafficking charge and three for conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon.

Coke had written a letter to the judge ask for leniency, describing good deeds he said he did for slum-dwellers in Tivoli Gardens.

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