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## INDIA, PAKISTAN TALKS **ON SIACHEN BEGIN AT** RAWALPINDI

The Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan on Monday began talks on the military standoff on Siachen against the backdrop of calls from Islamabad to demilitarise the Himalayan glacier in the wake of an avalanche that killed 139 people at a Pakistan Army camp.

India and Pakistan talks on Siachen began on Monday at Rawalpindi. The two-day talks on the issue are part of the resumed dialogue process between India and Pakistan. The Indian delegation is led by Defence Secretary Shashikant Sharma while the Pakistani side is headed by his counterpart Nargis Sethi. Ahead of the talks, Defence Minister A K Antony cautioned against expecting any breakthrough at the meeting of the Defence Secretar-

2 He said that India has a clear-cut position on the Siachen issue which the Defence Secretary will explain to the Pakistani side during the talks.

India has called on Pakistan to authenticate and demarcate the 110-kilometre Actual Ground Position Line on the Siachen glacier. Pakistan wants India to pull back troops to the positions in 1984. Cabinet Committee on Security discussed the Siachen issue at a meeting last Thursday. Officials said in Rawalpindi that Sharma will also hold talks with Pakistan's Defence Minister Naveed Qamar, who recently took over the portfolio



The two-day talks on the Siachen issue, part of the resumed dialogue process between India and Pakistan, will begin at the Defence Ministry in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on Monday. The Pakistani side will be led by Defence Secretary Nargis Sethi, a close confidant of Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

Officials said Sharma will also hold talks with Pakistan's Defence Minister Naveed Qamar, who recently took over the portfolio as part of a minor reshuffle.

Despite Pakistan Army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayanis call for the resolution of issues like Siachen after an avalanche buried 139 people at a high-altitude army camp on 7th April, analysts believe the two sides are unlikely to make progress in the talks on ending the standoff that began in 1984.

Ahead of the talks, Indian Defence Minister A K Antony cautioned against expecting any breakthrough at the meeting of the Defence Secretaries.

"Do not expect any dramatic announcement or decision on an issue which is very important for us, especially in the context of national security....You cannot expect a dramatic announcement from one discussion," he told reporters in New Delhi.

### announces 1 Olympic hockey squad

India on June 11, 2012 named a 16-member hockey squad, to be led by goalkeeper Bharat Chetri, for next month's London Olympics, ending days of speculation but as expected without any major surprises.

Only two changes were made from the squad that finished third in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament in Malaysia with striker Yuvraj Walmiki and Rupinderpal Singh being left out, preferring veteran Ignace Tirkey and Gurwinder Singh Chandi in their place.

Walmiki and Rupinderpal's axing was on expected lines as the duo had been struggling of late. Walmiki has also not fully recovered from the injury he sustained during the Olympic qualifying event in February though

he played in Malaysia. The squad was picked after a two-day selection trials at the Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune on June 6 and 7. Star mid-

fielder Sardar Singh will be the vice-captain of the team. The selectors decided to go in with two goalkeepers in captain Chetri and PR Sreejesh for the quadrennial sporting extravaganza to be held in London from July 27 to

August 12. According to the squad announced by Hockey India, Sarwanjeet Singh and Kothajit Singh would travel with the team to London as standbys. The duo can only be included in the main team in case of any serious injury to the first 16 players.

Veteran Tirkey will marshall the three-man Indian defence along with dragflick duo of Sandeep Singh and V R Raghunath.

Talismanic Sardar will lead the mid-field, India's strongest area, in company of Manpreet Singh, Birendra Lakra and Gurbaj Singh. Striker Gurwinder Singh Chandi made a return to the squad after recovering from his hamstring injury sustained during the Olympic test event in London last month. Shivendra Singh, Danish Mujtaba, Tushar Khandker, S V Sunil, Dharamvir Singh and S K Uthappa complete the forward line-up.



#### SAINA CLINCHES 3RD STRAIGHT INDONESIA **OPEN TROPHY**

Olympic-bound Indian badminton ace Saina Nehwal displayed nerves of steel to clinch her third successive Indonesia Open Super Series title after beating China's Xuerui Li in a see-saw summit clash in Jakarta on Sunday. The fifth-seeded defending champion, who had won the Thailand Open last week, defeated Li 13-21 22-20 21-19 in an hour and four minutes to lift her third title of the year. "It was a really, really tough and I love the crowd here. It's really nice

here. Whenever I enter the court, I feel like a champion here," said the world number five 22-year-old. It was a battle of attrition for Saina against an opponent to whom she had lost four times and won just once -- that too way back in 2010 -- previously.

The start was ominous for Saina as she conceded four successive points. The two players seemed engaged in a battle of smashes and were at par with each other when it came to baseline rallies. But it was the netplay in which Li enjoyed the Saina found hard to counter in the upperhand with her delicate winners that

opening game. Li took an 11-6 lead with her seventh Saina with a lot of catching up to do. The Chinese girl's strategy was to enrallies before forcing her to commit er-The exhaustion of a couple of hardalso showed on Saina's on-court move-The Indian could not breach the lead that although the Chinese floundered a bit in capitalise and lost the opener in 15 minwinners against Saina's eight. Li's supeher while Saina settled for just four in the



smash winner of the game leaving

gage Saina in aggressive baseline rors from close range. fought matches in the previous rounds ment and her returns seemed sluggish. Li had taken at the very start and the middle of the game, Saina failed to utes. In all, Li sent down 13 smash rior netplay clinched seven points for opening game. In the second game, into the lead at 7-4 after a couple of

Saina staged a recovery and finally got miscued shots by the fourth seeded Li at the far court. Fortunes fluctuated sharply in the exhausting second game. An erratic Saina, who led 11-7 and 18-14 at one stage, lost her way for a while before saving a championship point at 18-20 and going on to win the game and stay afloat in the match. Saina played to her strength, smashing 16 winners as Li's baseline game became erratic even though she kept breathing

down the Indian's neck all through. Statistically, there was hardly anything to separate the two players, but a few errors in judgement by Li proved decisive. Pumped up after equalising, Saina started off dominantly in the decisive third game and took a 5-2 lead. But after that it became a see-saw battle with Saina trailing 10-11 at break. But the Indian managed to nose ahead, grabbing a 19-16 lead. However, Saina let slip a championship point before clinching the game, match and the trophy when Li smashed a backhand stroke into the net.

**DEVELOP INDIA** 

**English Weekly Newspaper** 

#### **SC** refuses to stay HC order quashing 4.5 per cent subquota for minorities

The Supreme court on Monday directed the Centre to produce documents supporting the subquota of 4.5 per cent for minorities in central government jobs and educational institutions.

The apex court asked Attorney General G.E. Vahanvati to submit the documents on Tuesday and posted the case for hearing on Wednesday. But no notice was issued to the Centre by the apex court.

The Court refused to stay the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the 4.5 percent subquota. A bench comprising Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan and Justice J.S.Khehar wanted the government to clarify on what basis the subquota for minorities was arrived at.

The Centre had moved the apex court challenging the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the 4.5 per cent reservation for minorities within the 27 percent OBC quota.

#### **Tendulkar gets Wisden India Outstanding Achievement award**

Senior Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was presented the Wisden India Outstanding Achievement award for completing a century of 100 international hundreds in Dubai.

Tendulkar had achieved the milestone while playing against Bangladesh in the Asia Cup in March.

The event was organised by FidelisWorld and the iconic batsman was presented with a trophy. Made from crystal, it features a cricket ball resting on the open pages of a book. The 49 one-day international centuries that Tendulkar has made are listed on one side, and his 51 Test

hundreds on the other. Tendulkar spoke on various aspects

of his career at the function such as his favourite innings - the match-winning fourth-innings hundred against England at Chennai in December 2008 - balancing play and personal life, and the influence that his late father had in shaping

#### Mahindra, Mulally to receive **USIBC** leadership award

Noted Indian industrialist Anand Mahindra would receive the leadership award of the India-US bilateral trade promotion organisation USIBC, along with Ford Motor's, Alan Mulally.

The prestigious award would be conferred to the two noted industrialists from India and the US on June 12, at the 37th annual gala of the US India Business Council, the largest bilateral trade organisation based in Washington and the premier business advocacy organisation advancing the US-India commercial and trade ties.

Felicitation of Mahindra and Mulally underscores USIBC's appreciation of the importance of deepening manufacturing collaboration between the world's largest free-market democracies, the council said in a statement ahead of its

External Affairs Minister S M Krishna, who is leading a high-powered Indian delegation to the third India-US Strategic Dialogue on June 13, would address the USIBC's annual event on June 12.

This year, two-way trade between the United States and India will surpass the USD 100 billion mark. Indian companies are investing in the US at unprecedented rates, and American companies continue to commit long-term capital to India. Also the outgoing USIBC Chair, Harold "Terry" McGraw III, Chairman, president, & CEO of The McGraw-Hill Companies, will formally pass the leadership mantle to his successor, MasterCard Worldwide president & CEO Ajay Banga, who will lead the organisation through this next complex phase of US-India relations.

Indian Ambassador to US, Nirupama Rao, and US Ambassador to India, Nancy J Powell, would also address the meetings. Kicking off the "India Week" programme, USIBC will host a gala reception on June 11, featuring Senator Mark Warner, co-chair of the Senate India Caucus on Capitol Hill, and Sam Pitroda, advisor to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

#### Arunachal gets country's fourth Buddhist centre

Arunachal Pradesh, where around 13 per cent of the population follows Buddhism, has got its first full-fledged Buddhist centre after Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Insti-

tute of Himalayan Culture Studies at Dahung in West Kameng district, where a majority of the people follow Tibetan Buddhism, is now a full-fledged central institute, according to its founder Tsona Gontse Rinpoche.

The institute, conceived by Rinpoche in 2000, had received the nod of the Union Cabinet on May 26, 2010 with a project cost estimated at Rs 9 crore and recurring annual cost of Rs 124.86 lakh.

Rinpoche said 30 acres of land was provided by the Bugun community free of cost for the institute which has been running on an ad-hoc basis for over a decade and henceforth would be completely funded by the MoC. The Buddhist population of the state resides in the region's Tawang. West

Kameng, remote regions which are close to Tibet and near the Myanmar border. Tibetan Buddhism is practised in the first three regions while Therevada Buddhism reigns supreme in the lives of people living near the Myanmarese border. Rimpoche earnestly believes that the institute will soon turn into a deemed university.

## **Current Events**

#### **Brotherhood's Muhammad Mursi claims** victory in Prez polls

Egypt's moderate Islamist force Muslim Brotherhood claimed victory in the presidential poll on Monday and promised to build a modern democratic state, but the landmark election stood overshadowed by uncertainty as the ruling military took over legislative powers.



Hours after voting closed in Egypt's presidential run off, the Muslim Brotherhood man Muhammad Mursi declared victory over Ahmed Shafiq, an air force man and Hosni Mubarak's last prime minister.

At a press conference held at the Brotherhood headquarters Mursi paid homage to the martyrs of the revolution that ousted Mubarak, and promised that there would be no settling of accounts.

"I will be a brother and servant to all Egyptians," said Mursi, flanked by the Freedom and Justice Party chief Essam El-Erian, former parliamentary speaker Saad El-Katatni and FJP MP Saad El-Husseini.

He vowed to establish a just civilian country and saluted "the revolution's 'martyrs', the revolutionaries and those who said 'Yes' to me as well as those who said 'No' to me."

"We promise to build a democratic and modern state with a constitution," he said as supporters broke out singing the national anthem.

The rival camp of Shafiq immediately contradicted Mursi's claims and criticised the Brotherhood for declaring premature victory.

The spokesperson for Shafiq's campaign, Yasser Makarim accused the Brotherhood of hijacking the results, and said around 11 per cent of the votes were yet to be counted. He even claimed that it was Shafig who was leading 51 to 49 though the Brotherhood's claims appeared to be closer to other unofficial tallies from local and international media.

The official results will be announced only by later this week.

Another spokesperson for Shafiq, told private ONTV that their campaign does not recognise any results announced by Mursi's campaign, describing their actions as 'absurd' and 'pathetic media manipulation.'

While the candidates matched claims with counter claims, Egyptians were more concerned over parallel developments that the ruling Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) consolidate its hold on power.

Powered by a recent court order that dissolved an elected parliament, the ruling military moved to take much of the country's control, including legisla-

tive powers, in its hands. Adding to the confusion and uncertainty, the SCAF released a "constitutional annex", a decree outlining the

powers of the new president on Sunday night.

"The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces shall exercise the powers referred to under the first clause of article 56 (the article on legislative power)... until the election of a new People's Assembly," the decree stated. The Supreme Court earlier this week declared the recently held parliamentary election, that were won by the Muslim Brotherhood's FJP, as unconstitutional on certain grounds. According to a report in Al Jazeera, the powers outlined for the president in the

decree were quite limited. "He may declare war, for example, only after seeking SCAF's approval. The decree also reminds the president that he can call on the military to quell 'unrest' inside the country," the report

The interim constitutional document, however, promised fresh parliamentary elections, but not until a new constitution has been drafted.

The parliament-appointed 100-member assembly to draft the constitution will be allowed to continue its work, though if it runs into "obstacles", SCAF will appoint a replacement, said the document. The Muslim Brotherhood was quick to call the decree "null and unconstitutional".

#### **BCCI** chief N **Srinivasan** appears before CBI in Jagan case

BCCI chief and India Cements Managing Director N Srinivasan on Monday appeared before CBI in connection with the disproportionate assets cases against YSR Congress chief Jaganmohan Reddy.

After being asked by the central probe agency, Srinivasan appeared before CBI at the Dilkusha Guest House in Hyderabad on Monday. The agency sleuths are currently questioning him, sources said.

CBI is probing the alleged investments made by Srinivasan's company India Cements in the firms promoted by the Kadapa MP during the tenure of his father Y S Rajasekhara Reddy as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, the sources said.

Some other cement companies are also likely to be asked about water and limestone allocations made to them during Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure. The CBI, in its three charge-sheets filed against Jagan and others, has alleged that he and his father hatched a conspiracy to defraud the government, and the state government granted some favours to certain firms, which made investments in Jagan's businesses as a quid pro quo. Jagan is currently in judicial custody till 25th June and has been questioned by the CBI.

#### Ali Ardashir Larijani

Ali Larijani is sworn in as Chairman of the Parliament of Iran for another term. Ali Ardashir Larijani is an Iranian philosopher, politician and the current chairman of the Parliament of Iran. Larijani was the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council from August 15, 2005 to October 20, 2007, appointed to the position by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, replacing Hassan Rowhani. Acceptance of Larijani's resignation from the secretary position was announced on October 20, 2007 by Gholamhossein Elham, the Iranian government's spokesman, mentioning that his previous resignations were turned down by President Ahmadinejad. Larijani is one of the two representa-

tives of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to the council, the other being Hassan Rowhani. In his post as secretary he effectively functioned as the top negotiator on issues of national security, including Iran's nuclear program.

#### **Martin McGuinness** to resign as

Martin McGuinness is to resign his Wesminster seat as Sinn Féin seeks to end "double jobbing". McGuinness will step down as MP for

Mid Ulster in order to continue as Northern Ireland's deputy first minister. He will continue as the assembly member for the mainly rural constituency.



The former chief negotiator for the republican movement during the peace process has also cast doubt on whether he will meet the Queen during her visit to Northern Ireland later this

McGuinness admitted that it would be

a "huge ask" for him to shake hands with the Queen when she visited the Stormont parliament on 27 June as part of her diamond jubilee celebra-

In recent weeks he had indicated he was open to the idea of meeting the Queen, but appears to have had a change of heart now. "As we speak, we do not have a doable proposition in relaton to this," he said.

There was anger over the weekend within Sinn Féin over a planned jubilee party for the Queen on the Stormont estate. The party's culture minister in the Northern Ireland power-sharing government, Carál Ní Chuilín, said she had not been consulted about the event and she would not be attending the function.

Sinn Féin confirmed McGuinness would be standing down as MP for Mid Ulster as the party's president, Gerry Adams, said its other MPs in Northern Ireland would resign their seats in the Stormont assembly.

"Over the past number of years Sinn Féin have been addressing the issue of elected representatives who hold multiple mandates. Our party policy has been to phase out this practice entirely." Adams said.

"We have recently completed this with MLAs [members of the legislative assembly] who also held positions at local council level, and are now moving on to address the issue of MPs who also sit in the assembly in a decisive way.

"Martin will resign as MP for Mid Ulster to concentrate on his work in the assembly and as deputy first minister. This will obviously necessitate a byelection for Westminster," Adams

The byelection will put pressue on the two main unionist parties to find a common unity candidate to win back the seat from the republicans. Sinn Féin, however, would remain favourite to retain the seat McGuinness won during the peace process.

The cross-community Alliance party said Sinn Fein MPs' policy of boycotting Westminster had left their constituents voiceless.

The Alliance's Craigavon councillor, Conrad Dixon, said: "While I welcome any other party ending double jobbing between the assembly and Westminster, the fact is they [Sinn Féin MPs] do not take their seats so there is not much for them to concentrate on." "It is good to see that they are belatedly following my Alliance colleague Naomi Long's lead in ending double jobbing, even though she was two years ahead of them.

"While MPs such as Naomi Long have represented Northern Ireland in the House of Commons on issues such as air passenger duty, welfare reform, taxation and international issues that the assembly has no responsibility for, Sinn Féin have been voiceless by refusing to take their seats."

#### **David Cameron's** daughter **Nancy left** behind at pub

David Cameron and his wife, Samantha, left their eight-year-old daughter, Nancy, in a pub after having Sunday lunch, Downing Street has confirmed.

It's a heart-stopping moment - one that my family experienced not that long



How easy is it to forget your children? She is reported to have spent a quarter of an hour at the Plough Inn at Cadsden, in Buckinghamshire, before Mr Cameron returned to collect her. Number 10 said the couple had been "distraught" when they realised Nancy was not with them.

It said the incident had happened "a couple of months ago".

The Camerons were at the pub, near the prime minister's country residence, Chequers, with Nancy and their other children Arthur, six, and 22-month-old

Florence, as well as two other families. After leaving, Mr Cameron went home in one car with his bodyguards and thought Nancy was with his wife and their other children in another car. Mrs Cameron had assumed her elder daughter was with her father. The mistake was discovered when they got

When the prime minister returned to collect Nancy he found her helping staff.

10 Downing Street said no protection officers would face disciplinary action over the incident, adding that security arrangements were constantly under

A spokesman said: "The prime minister and Samantha were distraught when they realised Nancy wasn't with them. "Thankfully when they phoned the pub she was there safe and well. The prime minister went down straight away to get her."

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, who is promoting a scheme to give English councils a financial incentive to deal with "troubled families", was asked on BBC Radio 5 live if he drew parallels between them and parents who inadvertently left their children in a

"We're definitely not talking about that mainly for my job security," he replied.

#### Burma clashes could put transition to democracy at risk, president says

Sectarian violence could put Burma's transition to democracy at risk, President Thein Sein has warned, as the government declared a state of emergency in the country's west after clashes between Buddhists and Muslims left at least eight people dead and 17 wounded.



Earlier on Sunday, authorities imposed a curfew on four towns in Arakan state, where tensions have been steadily growing since the killing of 10 Muslims on a bus in early June.

In a televised addressed, Thein Sein said the violence had been fanned by hatred and the desire for revenge. "If we put racial and religious issues at the forefront, if we put the neverending hatred, desire for revenge and anarchic actions at the forefront, and if we continue to retaliate and terrorise and kill each other, there's a danger that [the troubles] could multiply and move beyond Arakan," he said. "If this happens, the general public should be aware that the country's stability and peace, democratisation process and development ... could be severely affected and much would be lost."

It is the first time since he took office last year that the president has imposed a state of emergency, which allows the army to take administrative control. The order will remain until further notice, he said.

A 12-year-old girl identified as Razen Bibi became the eighth person to die in the unrest after reportedly being shot on Sunday by riot police outside her home in the town of Maungdaw. Foreigners are barred from entering Maungdaw, but local staff working undercover for the Arakan Project, an international NGO monitoring Burma's westernmost state, said they saw the body being taken away by police. Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, due to visit Europe this week, appealed for calm amid the rioting. It was not yet clear if the state of emergency would affect her travel plans, but the violence could take the shine off her tour, billed as a sign of progress in her

The unrest appears to have its roots in an incident on 3 June in which a group of Muslim pilgrims were beaten to death by Buddhists from Arakan, allegedly in response to the gang rape

#### **Govt lifts ban on export of** skimmed milk powder

The government has lifted ban on export of skimmed milk powder, SMP, to improve finances of dairy firms and help milk producers. Earlier this month, the government had decided to lift export ban on SMP amid surplus availability of



Directorate General of Foreign Trade, DGFT, said in a notification that the classifications of export and import items has been bifurcated and export of new entry namely skimmed milk powder has been made free. The notification, however, said, exports of milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, including whole milk powder, dairy whitener and infant milk foods are still prohibited. AIR correspondent reports, the government had banned SMP exports in Febru-

ary 2011 to contain rise in domestic milk prices. The dairy industry has been facing liquidity crunch as it could not make profit through sale of skimmed milk powder due to steep fall in domestic prices

following surplus supplies. Domestic prices of SMP have declined to 150 rupees per kg now against 190-

200 rupees per kg in the same period last year. Milk production in India, the world's biggest producer, is estimated at over 120 million tonnes in 2011.

and murder of a 26-year-old woman by three Muslim men in late May. Racial and religious tension is not new in Arakan, which sits on the border with Bangladesh and has Burma's highest concentration of Muslims. But the current violence is the worst in a decade and state media warned of anarchy unless calm prevails. Maung Zarni, a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics, said the situation was all the more tragic considering both sides of the conflict have experienced persecution by the Burmese authorities. He added that the nominally civilian government could benefit from the unrest. He said it diverted attention from the military's continued attacks on other ethnic groups.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). a religious freedom campaign group, deplored the "rising racism [and] intolerance" in Burma, which it said "follows a steady increase in racist propaganda against Muslims generally". Several Facebook groups have been set up since the 3 June lynching, including one called Kalar beheading gang. Kalar is a pejorative slur popularly employed by Burmese to refer to Muslims of south Asian descent.

The CSW statement said the Rohingya, a Muslim minority group denied citizenship by the government, was subject to particularly inhumane treatment. Up to 300,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh to escape state-sanctioned abuse and discrimination by Arakanese locals.

They are the only ethnic group in Burma subjected to a two-child policy and severe travel limitations, while Rohingya babies born out of wedlock are denied entry to school and forbidden to marry.

Chris Lewa of the Arakan Project told the Guardian that contrary to some media reports claiming calm has been restored, the situation was getting worse, particularly in Maungdaw, where hundreds more soldiers have been deployed. Several parts of Sittwe, the state capital, have been set ablaze and Lewa said that with an equal ratio of Muslims to Buddhists in Sittwe, turmoil there could dramatically escalate.

Various overseas Rohingya groups have blamed Arakanese locals for the deaths at the weekend, although Lewa said it was largely troops who had attacked Muslims. That was echoed by Tun Khin, head of the Burma Rohingya Organisation UK, who said Friday's unrest was triggered by troops firing at a crowd leaving a prayer ceremony and killing two.

Animosity has been stoked even by prominent members of Burma's prodemocracy movement. Ko Ko Gyi, a former political prisoner and leader of

the 1988 student uprising, this week referred to the Rohingya as terrorists, adding: "We want to say clearly that Rohingya are not one of the Myanmar [Burma] ethnic nationalities." Benedict Rogers of CSW said: "The exact history of the Rohingya can be discussed and debated among scholars in a civilised way, but no one can dispute that they have lived in Burma for generations and as such should be recognised as citizens of the country." The rioting could potentially destabilise Burma's fragile reform process. The military-drafted, vaguely worded constitution allows for the army chief to retake power in a national emergency.

#### **Govt taking** steps to achieve targeted GDP growth

The government is taking all necessary steps to ensure achieving the targeted GDP growth. Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Monday said, despite global economic challenges, the growth rate during fiscal year 2012-13 is expected to be around 7 per cent. Inaugurating the annual conference of the Chief Commissioners and Directors General of Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax in New Delhi, Mr Mukherjee dismissed concerns that India's growth rate may drop below 6.5 per cent. He expressed confidence that year 2012-13 would be the turnaround year for the economy. He said, factors like the reversal of interest rate cycle, turning around of mining sector growth and quarterly investment growth rate would help in achieving the target. The Minister expressed hope that prediction of normal south-west monsoon and a rapid decline in international oil prices in recent weeks, will further help in the growth of the GDP. In the Budget 2012-13, the govern-

ment had pegged 2012-13 GDP growth at 7.6 per cent plus- minus 0.25 per cent. Mr Mukherjee expressed concern over decline in tax-GDP ratio and asked the officials to reverse the trend. The tax-GDP ratio has dropped to 10.5 per cent in 2011-12, from 12 per cent in 2007-08.

The Minister said that government has taken several measures to curb the menace of black money. It has constituted a Committee to consult all stakeholders to strengthen existing laws relating to black money. The report is being examined by the government and it would help in identifying the gaps in present legislative and administrative framework.

**DEVELOP INDIA** http://www.developindiagroup.co.in/ **English Weekly Newspaper**  Mr. Mukherjee informed that another important step taken by the government to curb the generation and channelization of black money, is the introduction of Benami Transactions Prohibition Bill 2011 in Parliament. He said, this will help in reducing the menace of black money as it contains elaborate provisions dealing with the definition of Benami transaction and Benami property.

Mr. Mukherjee expressed confidence that the Direct Tax Code, DTC Bill will be implemented from 1st of April next year as an amended Bill will be introduced in the Monsoon session of Parliament. He informed that Parliamentary Standing Committee has already submitted its report.

#### Govt **examines** panel's report to curb black money menace: **Pranab**

Government says it is examining the report of the committee to effectively deal with the menace of black money. The committee was constituted to look into the gaps in the legislative and administrative framework.

Addressing Chief Commissioners and Directors General of Central Board of Direct Taxes he asserted that several measures are already in place to curb the menace of black money, he said, the introduction of Benami transactions prohibition bill, 2011 will also help in dealing with the menace. Dismissing reports that growth rate will go below 6.5 per cent this fiscal, he

clock around 7 per cent growth. Mr. Mukherjee said, factors like reversal of interest rate cycle, turning around of mining sector growth and quarterly investment growth rate would help in achieving the target. He said, prediction of a normal monsoon and decline in international oil prices will also help growth.

**OBAMA NOMINATES** 

INDIAN-AMERICAN ON

US President Barack Obama has nominated Indian-American, Srikanth

Srinivasan to a key judiciary position and termed him as a trailblazer.

District of Columbia Circuit along with Caitlin Halligan.

for the District of Columbia Circuit," Obama said.

Deputy Solicitor General of the US.

said.

**US COURT OF APPEALS** 

Srinivasan has been nominated to serve on the US Court of Appeals for the

"Caitlin Halligan and Sri Srinivasan are dedicated public servants who will bring

their tremendous experience, intellect, and integrity to the US Court of Appeals

"This important court is often called the Nation's second-highest court, and it

stands more than a quarter vacant. Srinivasan will be a trailblazer and, like

Born in Chandigarh and brought up in Kansas, Srinivasan is the Principal

Halligan, will serve the court with distinction and excellence," Obama added.

"He is a highly-respected appellate advocate who has spent a distinguished

career litigating before the US Supreme Court and the US Courts of Appeals,

both on behalf of the United States and in private practice," the White House

Srinivasan began his legal career by serving as a law clerk for Judge J Harvie

He then spent a year as a Bristow Fellow in the Office of the Solicitor General

before clerking for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor during the Supreme Court's

He was an associate at the law firm of OMelveny & Myers LLP in Washington,

DC, from 1998 until 2002. In 2002, he returned to the Solicitor General's Office

In 2007, Srinivasan became a partner with OMelveny & Myers LLP. In 2011, he

was named the Chair of the firms Appellate Practice Group. He was named as

as an Assistant, representing the US in litigation before the Supreme Court.

the Principal Deputy Solicitor General in August 2011.

Wilkinson on the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit from 1995 to 1996.

expressed hope that the economy will

#### DA case: Jagan's judicial custody extended for two more weeks

A CBI court on Monday extended the judicial custody of Y.S.R.Congress Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy for two more weeks. He was arrested in a disproportionate assets case on 27th of last month.

The investigation agency had sought permission to carry out a lie detection test on him. The CBI Superintendent of Police H. Venkatesh said that the agency seeks indulgence of allowing the agency for using scientific way for deriving information from Jagan and Vijaysai Reddy.

The court order comes a day before the crucial bypoll to the 18 assembly seats and one Lok Sabha constituency in Andhra Pradesh.

#### **UN relocates** its nonessential staff in Myanmar's restive state **Rakhine**

The United Nations has decided to temporarily relocate non-essential staff in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where tension remains high amid unrest that has killed seven.

A UN statement said it has decided to temporarily relocate, on a voluntary basis, non-essential international and national UN staff, affiliated organisations and their families. It said serious disturbances and the imposition of a state of emergency prompted the move, which is being implemented on a voluntary basis. Violence flared in Rakhine state after the murder of a Buddhist woman last month, followed by an attack on a bus carrying Muslims.

#### Rakhine state is named after the ethnic Rakhine Buddhist majority, but also has a sizeable Muslim population, including the Rohingya minority.

**Companies bill** 2011 to be tabled in monsoon session of **Parliament:** Govt

The government has said that the it will introduce Companies bill 2011 in forthcoming monsoon session of Parliament.

After releasing a book on Innovative March to New Horizon of Corporate Growth in New Delhi on Monday, Corporate Affairs Minister M. Veerappa Moily told reporters that the Bill as introduced in the Lok Sabha in a revised form in late 2011 is still with the Parliamentary Committee on Finance. Apparently the Committee was not able to finaliased their recommendations in time and government hope that it will table at the very beginning of the Monsoon session.

Giving the details of his ministry's achievement, Mr. Moily said that his ministry was seeking approval of the Cabinet to introduce Competition (Amendment) Bill 2012. The Cabinet has decided to refer the pertinent issues for consideration by Group of Ministers. He said the Ministry has constituted a Committee to draft the National Competition Policy. After detailed deliberations, the draft is ready and necessary steps are afoot for submission of note to cabinet. The minister said that a committee appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. Adi Godrej to formulate the National Policy Guidelines on Corporate Governance is making good progress and it should be possible to have the draft policy framework ready for public discussion and debate by the end of next month or early August this year. Corporate Ministry has planned number of steps to try and develop Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR as an important tool for nation building. In the new economic environment, private sector must collaborate with the government in dealing with welfare of the weaker section of society.

#### **R.P.Singh** appointed **Chairman of NHAI**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Rajinder Pal Singh as Chairman of National Highways Authority of India. Shri Singh, an IAS officer of 1976 batch of Andhra Pradesh Cadre (Retired) will hold the office for a period of three years with effect from the date of assumption of charge or till the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

#### Oil price rises on Spain bank bailout

Oil rose the most in more than five months in New York, on speculation that fuel demand will increase, after Spain requested a European bailout to shore up its banks and China's imports of crude climbed to a record.

Crude for July delivery increased 2.54 dollars, to 86.64 dollars a barrel on the NYMEX. Prices have fallen 14 percent this year.

Brent for July settlement climbed 1.05 dollars, to 100.52 dollars a barrel on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange. China imported a net 25.3 million metric tons of crude in May, up 10 percent from April, the customs data showed on June 11, 2012.

#### **BEML** chief suspended by **Def Min, CBI** gets sanction to probe

The chief of state-owned BEML V R S Natarajan was on Monday suspended by Defence Ministry as part of investigations into alleged irregularities in the Tatra truck deal with the Army and his "individual" role will be probed by CBI with the agency getting Centre's

investigation came a few days after the Defence Ministry issued a show cause notice to the Chairman and Managing Director of the defence and engineering firm for slapping a defamation notice against former Army Chief Gen V K Singh without its permission. "The Government has put the CMD of BEML V R S Natarajan under suspension following a recommendation by the CBI that he should be kept away from the post to ensure fair investigation. The CBI is currently investigating into various charges against Natarajan," Defence Ministry spokesperson Sitanshu Kar said in New Delhi. "The charge of CMD has been given to P Dwarkanath, the senior most functional Director in BEML," he said.

The move to suspend Natarajan on a

CBI recommendation to ensure fair

sanction.

The CBI had sought the permission of the Defence Ministry under section 6A of The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act which mandates permission of the central government before initiating proceedings against an official above the rank of Joint Secre-

CBI officials received the sanction from the Defence Ministry clearing the deck for probing his alleged "individual" role in the irregularities into the deal. CBI has come across prima facie material which indicates his alleged culpability in the case and the agency will soon call him for questioning him on the basis of those documents and records.

They have come across several instances where Natarajan allegedly bypassed norms and interacted directly with the supplying firms on crucial negotions without taking into confidence the Defence Ministry. In Bangalore, Natarajan, who has headed the defence PSU for 12 years, said he will "come out clean" in the cases against him.

"I respect the Government decision and I will come out clean in this process," he said.

Gen V K Singh, who retired on 31st May after holding the post of the Army chief for over two years, had alleged in March that he was offered Rs 14 crore bribe by Lt Gen (retd) Tejinder Singh to clear supply of a tranche of 600 "substandard" Tatra trucks from BEML.

#### **Balochistan** unrest: Pak Army chief will be summoned: CJ

Pakistan's Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry on Monday expressed displeasure at a top general's remarks on the law and order problems in Balochistan province and cautioned that the army chief could be summoned to the court.



A three-judge bench headed by the Chief Justice was conducting a hearing on the law and order situation in Balochistan, particularly the issue of "missing persons" or those detained without charge by security agencies, when Chaudhry made the remarks. He expressed his displeasure at a news conference held in Quetta on June 2 by the Inspector General of the Frontier Corps, Maj Gen Obaidullah Khan Khattak, and said it was not the business of an uniformed official to hold press conferences. He further said the news conference

violated the court's orders. The Chief Justice said the court wanted to know what the role of the constitutional government was and that the time had come to summon "someone with authority".

Chaudhry cautioned that the apex court would call army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and ask him how the country should be run and what he (the army chief) could do.

During the news conference, Maj Gen Khattak had claimed that Baloch nationalists were running training camps and backing a campaign to defame state institutions.

#### **S&P** warns India could lose investment-grade rating

Citing economic slowdown and political roadblocks to policy-making, rating agency S&P on Monday warned India could become the first BRIC nation to lose investment-grade rating.

Standard & Poor's (S&P), which had cut its outlook on the country's sovereign rating of `BBB-' to negative from stable in April, on Monday released a report

titled 'Will India Be The First BRIC Fallen Angel?' "Setbacks or reversals in India's path toward a more liberal economy could hurt its long-term growth prospects and, therefore, its credit quality," S&P's credit analyst Joydeep Mukerji said in the report.

S&P had upgraded India to investment grade BBB rating in January 2007, after four years of above nine per cent growth.

BRIC refers to the high-growth economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China. The other three BRIC members enjoy a higher rating or outlook than India's at present, S&P said.

The report comes at a time when some commentators are wondering if the `l' in BRIC now stands for Indonesia, which has been delivering good growth in

The economic growth fell to nine-year low of 5.3 per cent for the three months ended March 2012, while the overall growth for FY12 stood at 6.5 per cent, lower than the 6.7 per cent clocked during the peak of the credit crisis in the Western world.

"Failure to advance with more liberalisation might reduce India's long-term growth potential and thus hurt sovereign rating," the S&P report said, wondering if "there is a risk that economic liberalisation may not just stall, but could even recede?".

However, on the brighter side, the S&P report negates the anxiety expressed in some quarters that the country may face a 1991-like crisis, saying the country is better placed to see the current times through.

"Despite its recent problems, the Indian economy remains in much better shape to muddle through the current period of heightened global uncertainty than it was earlier, especially in the early 1990s, when it suffered a balance-ofpayments crisis," it says.

It points out over USD 250 billion in forex reserves and a floating exchange rate that give a scope for adjusting to global shocks.

Many policy-makers, including Planning Commission deputy chief Montek Singh Ahluwalia, have said the country will not drop from the trend and growth will continue to be in 6-7 per cent range and will eventually regain 8-9 per cent

However, the agency also points to a "remote" scenario of the growth falling to the 4-5 per cent levels if the weak economic management coincides with a bad external shock or with bad luck, such as a poor monsoon.

"The crux of the current political problem for economic liberalisation is, in our view, the nature of leadership within the central government, not obstreperous allies or an unhelpful opposition," the S&P report says, contrary to the view that it is the allies that are blocking the reforms.

In sync with stock markets, the rupee on Monday surrendered its earlier gains and closed 32 paise down at 55.74 against the US currency as dollar demand from banks and corporates emerged at fag-end after S&P warned that it could lower India's sovereign rating.

Forex dealers said rupee weakened as investors fear the rating downgrade could hike international dollar lending rates for Indian corporates.

The rupee resumed higher at 55.10 per dollar compared to last week's close of 55.42 at the Interbank Foreign Exchange (Forex) Market as banks and corporates sold dollars in view of fresh capital inflows coupled with firm opening in stocks.

However, the rupee failed to maintain its opening gains and dropped to 55.82 before settling at 55.74 after stocks declined. This represented a loss of 32 paise or 0.58 per cent from its last close. Flls bought stocks worth Rs 130 crore on June 11, 2012.

Khattak blamed "foreign agencies" for the unrest in Balochistan. However, the Chief Justice remarked that the situation in Balochistan was alarming and unstable.

#### MoU signed between India & Canada

Dr. C.P. Joshi addresses First Plenary Session of 15th Annual Conference of Indo-Canada Business Council A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and Canada today during the visit of Dr. C.P. Joshi, the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways to Canada on the invitation from Mr. Denis Label,

Minister of Transport, Infrastructure & Communication, Government of Canada from 10-13 June, 2012. The MoU will facilitate sharing and exchange of knowledge and technical expertise in the areas of infrastructure development, operation and maintenance of roads, Intelligent Transport System etc. India has shifted focus towards the Private-Public-Partnership Mode for undertaking development and up-gradation of national highways network across the country as also development of express-ways which are going to be access-controlled with all modern construction technology, Information Technology, including Electronic Toll Collection System. It is expected that there would be an increase in involvement and participa-

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tion from the Canadian industry in India's ambitious National Highways and the Expressways Development Project. It is sealing a long-standing bilateral relationship and providing for cooperation between the two countries in the roads and road transportation sector.

Dr. C.P. Joshi also addressed the "First Plenary Session of the 15th Annual Conference organised by the ITS -Canada and the Indo-Canada Business Council". The theme of the Conference was 'Transportation in Transition towards a new Digital Economy'. He highlighted the plans of India for development and modernisation of national highways and expressways requiring an investment of approx. more than US \$ One Trillion, for financing the intended infrastructure and informed that India is looking forward for extensive use of information technology and such modern technology to adopt the Intelligent Transport System across the country. Acknowledging that India has to travel a long distance before coming up with a full Intelligent Transport System, the Minister emphasized that Canadian expertise in these areas will enable us to achieve the goal through enhanced cooperation, technology transfer and capacity building programmes under the MoU signed between India and Canada. The Minister informed that the objectives of India's plans for adopting the Intelligent Transport System are manifold which include collation, development and management of a huge networked and compatible database on various aspects of transport, road infrastructure and regulatory aspects of transport logistics like national register for standardised database of all registered vehicles, data on driving licenses and permits issued, road safety related data etc. with intelligent and dynamic user interface with various agencies including enforcement agencies. The programme envisages real-time logistic, dynamic mobility applications in respect of road condition, traffic congestion, vehicle movements, tracking vehicles and watching and containing accidents along the highways and expressways, especially at black spots by extensive use of GIS-based applications. Environment-friendly logistics and capturing of the relevant data on pollution, impact on environment by the road development, road conditions, weather etc. are also on the agenda included in the Intelligent Transport and green transport logistics in India. The Conference was attended by Ministers of various Governments, industry representatives, non-government organisations and academic institutions and had extensive discussions on understanding the options and best practices, advanced technical approaches for adopting Intelligent Transport System as a tool in the tough economic times. The focus was on promoting efficient, environmentally responsible transport, driving using a real-time onboard vehicle evaluation system, application-enabled devices,

# Car exports rise 34 pc on demand from non-European nations

applications for managing city logistics,

traffic management etc.

Passenger car exports from India increased 34.16 per cent in May, riding on the back of robust overseas sales by Hyundai Motor, Nissan Motor and Toyota Kirloskar in non-European countries.

According to figures released by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), India exported 45,036 cars in the last month compared to 33,570 units in the year-ago period. "Europe still continues to be a worry, but the growth that we have seen is mainly on account of new markets that the companies have developed," SIAM Director General Vishnu Mathur told agency.

Car sales grow slowest in 7 mths during May at 2.78 pc

Car sales in India grew at the slowest pace in seven months during May with industry body SIAM reporting 2.78 percent growth as high interest rates and petrol prices continue to hit the

According to figures released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Monday, domestic car sales in May stood at 1,63,229 units as against 1,58,809 units in the same

month last year.
"This is the slowest growth since

witnessed a decline of 23.77 per cent," SIAM Director General Vishnu Mathur told reporters in New Delhi on Monday. "The softening of interest rates, which was expected to happen has not materialised and continues to be high. Moreover, the high prices of petrol have also affected sales and the overall sentiment in the market is very negative," he added.

Increase in prices of vehicles following the excise duty hike in the Budget has also had a major impact, Mathur said, adding that even diesel vehicles which used to have a lot of demand had tapered off.

"In the premium and executive segment, which are generally considered to be not price sensitive, the demand for diesel vehicles has slowed down," Mathur said.

At such a time, he added, "if the government goes ahead and decides to tax diesel vehicles more, the overall demand will suffer all the more". In the passenger car segment, market leader Maruti Suzuki's sales dipped by 5.94 percent to 72,309 units. However, rival Hyundai Motor India's sales increased by 3.03 percent to 31,939 units. Homegrown auto major Tata Motors' car sales were up by 6.70 percent at 17,371 units.

In May, total sales of vehicles across categories registered an increase of 10.52 percent to 15,13,032 units as against 13,69,070 units in the same month last year.

Total two-wheeler sales last month increased by 11.40 percent to 11,92,688 units from 10,70,603 units in May 2011.



According to the SIAM data, motor-cycle sales in the country grew 7.24 percent during the month to 8,87,634 units from 8,27,746 units in the same month last year.

In this segment, market leader Hero MotoCorp posted 10.68 percent jump in sales to 5,02,676 units in May. However, rival Bajaj Auto's sales went down by 5.30 percent to 2,06,751 units during the month.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) posted a 45.45 percent increase in sales to 88,334 units, while TVS Motor moved 47,175 units, 14.47 percent less than the corresponding month of the previous year.

The scooter segment's overall sales grew 34.40 percent to 2,35,185 units from 1,74,985 units.

HMSI's scooter sales grew by 65.47 percent to 1,24,123 units in May, while Hero MotoCorp sold 36,312 units, up 24 percent. TVS Motor's sales saw decline of 2.42 during the month to

34,936 units.
Commercial vehicles sales grew by
9.12 percent to 62,025 units during the
month, from 56,841 units in the yearago period, SIAM said.

Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle sales declined 10.58 percent to 22,227 units during the month compared to 24,858 units in May last year. According to SIAM, light commercial vehicle sales grew 24.43 percent to 39,798 units in May 2012 from 31,983 units in May 2011.

In the three-wheeler category, sales fell by 3.32 percent to 37,184 units from 35,988 units in the same month last year

#### safe landing of Alliance India flight ATR 42 aircraft VT ABD

Thanked them for averting Major Accident and Saving Passengers' Life Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ajit Singh today personally called up Captain Urmila Yadav, Co pilot Yashoo Pereira and Guwahati airport Director Manvinder Singh and thanked them for ensuring the safe landing of Alliance India flight ATR 42 aircraft VT ABD while operating from Silchar to Guwahati and saving precious life of the passengers. The Minister in particular appreciated the courage and grit of Captain Urmila and her Co-pilot Yashoo with which they acted in the hour of crisis and ensured safety of all 48 passengers on board without letting the panic take its grip.



The aircraft had separation of nose landing gear after take off from Silchar. Shri Singh's personal call came not only as an appreciation of an isolated incident but as a strong message that the services of staff and employees of the Company, be it small or big, will not go unnoticed and unrecognised by the Minister and the Government.

#### BPCL, Videocon Mozambique gas discoveries hold huge reserves

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Videocon Industries' Mozambique gas discoveries may hold up to 100 trillion cubic feet of in-place reserves, the block operator said on Monday.

US energy major Anadarko Petroleum Corp said the total estimated recoverable natural gas resource in Offshore Area 1 was between "30 and 60 Tcf, and the current upside for total gas in place for the discovered reservoirs on the block is approaching 100 Tcf". Bharat PetroResources Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of BPCL, and Videocon Hydrocarbon Holdings Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Videocon Industries, hold 10 per cent stake each in Area1.

Anadarko, which holds 36.5 per cent interest in the block, plans to put up plants to liquefy the gas (liquefied natural gas or LNG) so that it can be shipped to consumption centres in cyrogenic ships.

The two LNG trains will have the capacity to produce 5 million tonnes of liquid fuel each.

First gas exports from an initial train is expected in 2018 and the second train in 2010. A final investment decision is scheduled for late 2013, it said. Anadarko said in a statement that its

"Atum exploration well discovered another significant natural gas accumulation within the Offshore Area 1". The Atum discovery well, which encountered more than 300 net feet (92 meters) of natural gas pay, is connected to the recent Golfinho discovery located approximately 16.5-km to the northwest in the Offshore Area 1.

"We estimate this new complex, which is located entirely within the Offshore Area 1 block, holds 10 to 30-plus Tcf of incremental recoverable natural gas resources," said Bob Daniels, Senior Vice President at Worldwide Exploration."



"We plan to immediately commence a four-well appraisal programme of this complex, which has the potential to underpin a large LNG development, he added."

The reserves are more than the 11 Tcf of resources in Reliance Industries' eastern offshore KGD6 fields. RIL had in 2010 produced over 61 million standard cubic metres per day of gas from its KGD6 gas discoveries before technical problems led to a drop in output.

The output is enough to produce about 15 million tonnes of LNG per annum. Anadarko estimates that there is sufficient gas in place in Area-1 for up to 10 LNG trains for a total of 50 million tons ayear of LNG capacity. Cove Energy Mozambique Rovuma Offshore Ltd holds 8.5 per cent interest in the block and Mitsui E&P Miozambique another 20 per cent. The balance 15 per cent is with Empressa Nacional de

## company of Mozambique. MoD Suspends BEML

Hidrocarbonetos (EIH), the national oil

## **Chairman VRS Natarajan**

The Government has put the CMD of BEML Shri VRS Natarajan under suspension following a recommendation by the CBI that he should be kept away from the post to ensure fair investigation. The charge of CMD has been given to Shri P Dwarkanath, the senior most functional Director in BEML. The CBI is currently investigating into various charges against Shri Natarajan.

#### Sania slips to 12th spot, depends on wild card for Olympics

Sania Mirza on Monday slipped to 12th spot in the doubles list of the WTA charts, thus failing to secure the top-10 ranking that was needed to book a berth at the London Olympics.

Sania would now have to depend on a wild card to get an entry into the

Games.
The top-10 rankings in doubles in both the men and women categories are eligible for direct qualification for the quadrennial event.

On Monday was the cut-off date set by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for direct qualification on the basis of the rankings.

Only Leander Paes, among the Indians, could get a direct entry at the London Games as he has managed to retain his seventh position in the ATP doubles rankings. But who between Rohan Bopanna (12th ranking) and Mahesh Bhupathi (13th ranking) would partner Paes or whether India would field two teams during the Olympics, will be decided by the All India Tennis Association (AITA) selection committee, which is scheduled to meet on Friday.

The ITF, on its part, has set June 21 as the deadline to confirm the entry of eligible players for the Olympics. AITA will try to get a wild card for Sania as she has failed to make it to the mega event on merit.

Paraguay's Veronica Cepede Royg and Liechenstein's Stephanie Vogt have already been offered two of the four wild cards.

Meanwhile, even as Sania and Bhupathi's victory at the French Open mixed doubles event has made them the favourite pair to be fielded in London, Paes could still be chosen to team up with the Hyderabadi girl.

#### Situation being Reviewed to Ensure Safety of Amarnath Pilgrims

The Government is aware of the concerns of pilgrims for the timely commencement of the annual pilgrimage to the Shri Amarnath Shrine and is reviewing the situation keeping in mind the safety of the pilgrims. All necessary steps are being taken in this regard. Special Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs had made an aerial visit by helicopter on June 4 and 5, 2012 of the pilgrimage route. At that point the route was covered in snow in a number of places

of places.
The Hon'ble Governor of J&K Shri N N Vohra is visiting Pahalgam today and Baltal tomorrow to review the situation personally. The Governor had earlier reviewed the situation on 9th June, 2012 and directed the authorities to take necessary steps to ensure that the Yatra commenced on time. He had also earlier reviewed the other arrangements for the Yatra.

# Prez poll: UPA will build 'maximum' consensus among allies

Union Minister Salman Khurshid said that the UPA leadership will build "maximum" consensus among its allies in selecting its Presidential nominee. He said that the UPA not only will have an outstanding candidate but also the maximum amount of consensus from UPA allies.

#### **Lorenzo wins British GP**

Yamaha rider Jorge Lorenzo extended his lead in the MotoGP standings by securing a convincing victory in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on Sunday.

Starting fourth on the grid, Lorenzo moved through the field to win his fourth race in six this season and third in a row.

The Spaniard now has a 25-point lead in the overall standings over Australia's Casey Stoner, who finished second more than three seconds behind Lorenzo.

Lorenzo, who this week signed a new two-year contract with Yamaha, says "This season is just perfect."

Lorenzo dropped to sixth after a poor start but went in front for the first time at the halfway point. The lead changed hands five times in half a lap before Lorenzo pulled away decisively.

"We are in the process. You will get a very good candidate. Our senior leadership is looking at the names and the leadership is in touch with all alliance partners," Khurshid told reporters in Chennai on Sunday.
"I am sure that not only we will have an outstanding candidate but also the maximum amount of consensus(from UPA allies) that can be built around the candidate will be done," he said. He also said that the President of India must be a person who carries the conviction and support of as many political parties as possible. He hoped

to the country.

The principal opposition party BJP, meanwhile, said it would disclose its strategy on the Presidential elections only after the ruling UPA coalition announces its candidate.

that UPA will present such a candidate

BJP spokesperson Shahnawaz
Hussain said that until the ruling Congress party does not announce the name of its candidate for the
President's post the party would keep its cards close to its chest.

## Normal life disrupted in Kashmir due to strike

Normal life in Kashmir was disrupted on Monday due to a strike called by hardline Hurriyat Conference to commemorate those killed in the summer agitation of 2010.

Shops and business establishments in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk and adjoining areas remained closed while schools across the valley remained shut on account of the strike, official sources said.

The sources said work in offices was affected as employees could not make it to their offices due to lack of adequate transport facilities.

However, many shops in civil lines area and suburbs of the city were open, ignoring the strike call given by the separatists, they added.

Hardline Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani has asked people to observe the second death anniversary of Tufail Ahmad Mattoo who was killed in police action on this day in 2010 triggering the summer agitation that year.

# Govt says no to Team Anna's demand for SIT

The Govt on Saturday rejected demands of Team Anna to set up a SIT to probe allegations of corruption against cabinet ministers and establishing fasttrack courts to hear charges against them, saying present system was sufficient to deal with such issues. Responding to a letter by Anna Hazare to the Prime Minister last month, the PMO said the activist has "not submitted any proof regarding the (corruption) charges" against Manmohan Singh in coal block allocation. "You have not submitted any proof regarding the charges, instead you have said it is not you who is levelling the charges," Minister of State in the PMO, V Narayanasamy, said in the

letter to Hazare.
Hazare and his close aides had sought setting up of an independent SIT comprising three retired judges to probe the graft charges.
In the letter, they had demanded that the SIT should investigate charges against the 15 "corrupt" ministers.
Maintaining that the UPA government has "not at all" interfered with functioning of agencies like Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Comptroller

and Auditor General (CAG), the PMO said Hazare's impression about CBI and its functioning is wrong. "The CAG's report (on coal block allocation) has not been placed before Parliament. When the report is tabled, the government will present its response before the PAC (on the subject) as per the Constitutional process," Narayanasamy said, adding that CVC has already directed the CBI to hold preliminary inquiry based on a complaint lodged by an MP in this regard. The PMO also rejected Hazare's contention that the Supreme Court, High Courts and CAG had on several occasions have charged the ministers with wrong doings.

"It is not only unclear but unacceptable," Narayanasamy said in his response.

He said in a bid to bring more integrity in government functioning, the government has incorporated suggestions received from various sections of the society.

"The government is committed to reduce corruption and bring more transparency. The government is also committed to ensure that such a situation does not arise when civil servants refuse to take decisions fearing baseless allegations. It will slow down the pace of development," the letter said.

Referring to Hazare's allegations that the government has scuttled CBI probe against SP president Mulayam Singh Yadav, Narayanasamy said it is not only unfair to make such charges against the government, CBI and Yadav, but also an "insult" to the justice delivery system.

## India, Botswana sign two pacts

Indian and Botswana on Saturday signed two agreements after Vice-President Hamid Ansari arrived on a three-day visit here and held "warm" and friendly" talks with his counterpart Lt General Mompati Merafhe. Ministry of External Affair's Secretary (west) Vivek Katju said the bilateral discussions were held on a range of issues, including India's ongoing "training of the defence forces of Botswana" and assistance in vocational training by experts from India. The two leaders also discussed United Nations reform and the need for "differentiated responsibilities for developing countries" in tackling climate change. While the first agreement was on "cooperation in agricultural research, machinery, livestock, crops, and horticulture", the second was on cooperation in education. Katju said the talks did not cover trade

in diamonds. Ansari had earlier stated that he wished to discuss sourcing of uncut diamonds directly from Botswana, instead of having to buy these at prices set by the diamond "monopoly". The South African conglomerate De Beers dominates mining and trade in diamonds, and is often accused of monopolistic practices. The Vice-President is scheduled to visit the Diamond Trading Corporation, owned by De Beers. The economy of Botswana, widely considered one of Africa's success stories, is heavily dependent on the production of diamonds. The Indian

The economy of Botswana, widely considered one of Africa's success stories, is heavily dependent on the production of diamonds. The Indian diamond industry is the world's largest net importer of uncut diamonds, and the fall in global demand has badly affected the Surat-based business. Botswana is the final leg of the Vice-President's tri-nation tour of southern Africa. He had previously visited Zambia and Malawi where the Indian government agreed to loan \$50 and 55 million respectively. Ansari's trip is part of India's renewed focus on Africa.

#### **OPINION - EDITORIALS**

## ELECTORAL REFORMS TOP PRIORITY AREA: SH SAMPATH

C S Poinut

Shri Veeravalli Sundaram Sampath has assumed charge as the 18th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) succeeding Dr. S.Y. Quarishi here today. Dr. Quaraishi laid off his office yesterday after completing his tenure. Prior to this, Shri Sampath has served as Election Commissioner for 3 years since 21st April, 2009. Belonging to the 1973 batch (AP Cadre) of Indian Administrative Service, Shri Sampath served as Secretary in Ministry of Power and Secretary, Chemicals and Petrochemicals. During his long distinguished career spanning about 40 years, he held several key positions in the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Elucidating his priorities, Sh. Sampath said that first and foremost a clean electoral roll and hassle free registration are among our highest priorities. To achieve this, "We will engage all outreach methods, voters' education and technology to achieve these objectives", said Sh. Sampath. Speaking on other priority areas of Electoral reforms, the new CEC said that the "Commission will strive for the early implementation of electoral reforms which are key for putting an end to criminalization of politics and undue influence of money power in electoral arena". On tackling the use of money power in elections Sh. Sampath said "Our objectives will be two fold to ensure legal expenses like rally, poster, banner, vehicles etc are kept within the ceiling limits, while simultaneously ensuring that illegal expenses like bribing the voters with cash or kind is effectively prevented". Regarding Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections Sh. Sampath said "All preparatory works are in full swing and an announcement regarding election schedule is due shortly". The full text of Sh. Sampath Statement on assumption of charge is as follows

"I feel honoured that I have been given this responsibility to lead one of the finest institutions that the Indian Constitution has provided – a glorious institution that reinforces Indian democracy. I am privileged to have been a part of this Commission for over three years. I am conscious of the onerous task on hand. In 1952, Independent India conducted its first elections. On the over of the

In 1952, Independent India conducted its first elections. On the eve of the polls, Mr. Sukumar Sen, the first CEC of India, had the task of preparing voter lists for 173 million voters for the very first time. Party symbols, ballot papers and ballot boxes were designed again for the first time. Polling stations

had to be built and honest and efficient polling officers had to be recruited. On the eve of the elections, Mr. Sukumar Sen is said to have remarked that this was [I quote] "the biggest experiment in democracy in human history" [unquote]. There were several sceptics at that point. A veteran editor at that time commented [I quote] "a very large majority (will) exercise votes for the first time: not many know what the vote is, why they should vote, and whom they should vote for; no wonder the whole adventure is rated as the biggest gamble in history" [unquote]. As I stand before you today as the 18th Chief Election Commissioner of India, I note with great pride that we have conducted 15 general elections to the Lok Sabha, including the last

have conducted 15 general elections to the Lok Sabha, including the last one in 2009, during which period I had joined the commission. The Commission has also conducted about 340 general elections to state assemblies, thus cementing the democratic fabric across the federal structure. We have come a long way from a 173 million electorate in the first national election, to 714 million in 2009, which is larger than both the European Union and the United States combined.

Hence, I can say with no doubt in my mind that the experiment has succeeded, the gamble has paid off, and India stands in the forefront of democracy with the other great nations of the world.

Two years ago, on our Diamond jubilee, we laid a simple vision: 'Elections that are completely free of crime and abuse of money, based on a perfect electoral roll and with full participation of voters'. As you know, we have continuously set high bench marks for ourselves. We would strive to deliver Elections which are free, fair, peaceful, transparent and highly participative every time.

Before I go further, I would like to say that today the Commission can see much farther and clearer, since we stand on the shoulders of giants. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of my illustrious predecessors, each one of them having contributed to embellished election management, notably my immediate predecessor. Dr SY Quraishi, for his untiring commitment to the cause of electoral reforms and innovation. Under his leadership, the Commission has taken several measures for voter education and increased voter awareness, which resulted in unprecedented increase in voting percentages in the recent state



elections. I wish Dr Quraishi all the very best in all his future endeavours. I would like to share some of my priorities on this occasion.

#### 1. Electoral Roll

First and foremost, a clean electoral roll and hassle free registration are among our highest priorities. Every eligible person shall be on the roll and name of every ineligible person shall be removed. There shall be 100% photos on the roll and every voter shall be given an EPIC with correct details. We will engage all outreach methods, voters' education and technology to achieve these objectives.

2. Electoral Reforms

Next, all of us know electoral reforms are long overdue. There have been a number of consultations between the Commission, Government, political parties and public at large. The reform proposals are at last mile stage. The commission will strive for the early implementation of electoral reforms which are key for putting an end to criminalization of politics and undue influence of money power in electoral

#### 3. Money Power

arena.

Use of money power in elections disturbs the level playing field and vitiates the purity of elections. Our objectives will be two fold – to ensure legal expenses like rally, poster, banner, vehicles etc are kept within the ceiling limits, while simultaneously ensuring that illegal expenses like bribing the voters with cash or kind is effectively prevented.

4.Training

Going forward, training will continue to get a very high focus, if we have to ensure a cent percent error-free election. Our Institute, IIIDEM is about a year old now and has rolled out 45

courses so far. This has immensely helped in recent elections. A comprehensive cascade of training courses will now be built into every general election starting from the training of master trainers and DEOs at IIIDEM, going right up to the field level functionaries in the interest of better election management. IIIDEM will be made stronger and its doors will be wide open to all countries wanting to avail its

#### 5. Forthcoming elections

The immediate task on hand is the conduct and completion of the elections to the high offices of the President (25.7.2012) & Vice-President of India (11.8.2012). An orientation workshop for the returning officer, Assistant returning officers & presiding officers for the presidential poll was held last month. All preparatory works are in full swing and an announcement regarding election schedule is due shortly. We are already engaged in preparation for the forthcoming elections in the states of Gujarat (17.01.2013), Himachal Pradesh (10.01.2013), Nagaland (26.03.2013), Tripura (16.03.2013) and Meghalaya (10.03.2013). Systematic training of personnel has already commenced. Work relating to electoral roll and polling station rationalisation has already been taken up. The Commission will start visiting these States

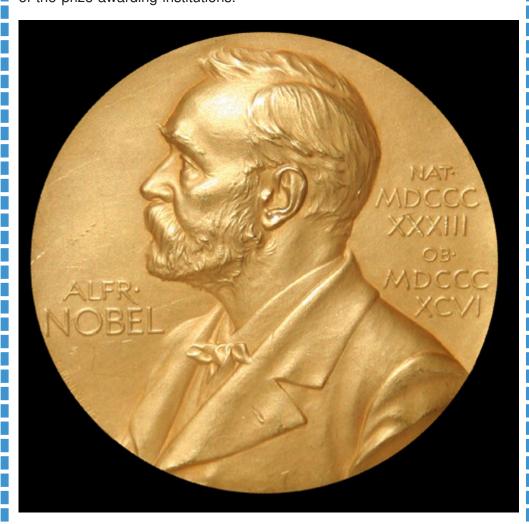
It has often been said, "Information is the currency of democracy". The media has played, and continues to play a key role in providing the Commission with timely and accurate information and constructive criticism of our actions. I look forward to your continued support in the days to come".

## 

English Weekly Newspaper Year 4, Nol. 1, Issue 201, 10 -17 June, 2012

# THE SIZE OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IS BEING REDUCED TO SAFEGUARD LONG-TERM CAPITAL

The size of the Nobel Prize is being reduced by 20% in order to avoid an undermining of its capital in a long-term perspective. At its meeting on June 11, 2012, the Board of Directors of the Nobel Foundation set the amount of the 2012 Nobel Prizes at SEK 8.0 million per prize, at today's exchange rate equivalent to USD 1.1 million. This implies a lowering of the prize sum by 20 per cent. The Nobel Foundation regards this as a necessary measure in order to avoid an undermining of its capital in a long-term perspective. One of the most important tasks of the Nobel Foundation is to safeguard the economic base of the Nobel Prize. The capital left behind by Alfred Nobel must therefore be managed in such a way that it will be possible to award the Nobel Prize in perpetuity, while guaranteeing the independence of the prize-awarding institutions.



The decision to lower the prize sum, from SEK 10.0 to 8.0 million, is related to the assessment that the Board of Directors makes today of the potential for achieving a good inflation-adjusted return on the Nobel Foundation's capital during the next several years. Another part of the picture is that during the past decade, the average return on the Foundation's capital has fallen short of the overall sum of all Nobel Prizes and operating expenses. The costs of the Nobel Foundation's central administration and the Nobel festivities are therefore being reviewed.

"The Nobel Foundation is responsible for ensuring that the prize sum can be maintained at a high level in the long term. We have made the assessment that it is important to implement necessary measures in good time," says Lars Heikensten, Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation. The various organisations in the Nobel sphere also jointly manage large assets connected to the Nobel Prize as a trademark. This includes not only the Nobel Foundation and the prize-awarding institutions, but also the organisations that disseminate information about the Nobel Prize and the achievements of the Laureates, such as Nobel Media and the Nobel Museum in Stockholm and the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo. Since the Nobel Foundation's capital must be used primarily to pay for the work of the Nobel committees and the prize sum itself, these information activities are essentially externally financed, for example via grants from central or local government authorities, corporate sponsors, private donors, foundations or philanthropic entities.

The same is true of the investment in a Nobel Prize Center on the Blasieholmen peninsula in central Stockholm which was announced earlier. The equity of the Nobel Foundation will not be used either for the building or for the operation of a future Center.

"The Nobel Prize Center will become an important base in our long-term efforts to preserve the stature of the Nobel Prize and disseminate the message of the Nobel Prize to a global audience," says Lars Heikensten, Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation.

**Nobel Prize** Swedish definite form, singular: Nobelpriset, Norwegian: Nobelprisen) is a set of annual international awards bestowed in a number of categories by Scandinavian committees in recognition of cultural and scientific advances. The will of the Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, established the prizes in 1895. The prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace were first awarded in 1901.

#### CHINA ACHIEVES FIRST MANNED SPACE DOCKING

S.S. Rajput

China completed its first manned space docking on Monday, as a spacecraft carrying three astronauts including the country's first spacewoman, successfully coupled with an orbiting module, in a major milestone for its ambitious space programme. The three astronauts on board Shenzhou-9 (Divine Grace) will now enter the orbiting space lab Tiangong-1 or 'Heavenly Palace', that will give another boost to China's goal of completing a space station by 2020. The procedure began as Shenzhou-9, in which the astronauts had traveled for two days ago, first moved to a location 52 km from Tiangong-1 at noon, the Beijing Aerospace Control Center said. The spacecraft then slowly drifted towards Tiangong-1, which is orbiting on its own since last year, and made contact with the module at 2:07 pm, China time.

The docking was completed in less than eight minutes, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

During the process of automated docking, the astronauts namely Jing Haipeng, Liu Wang and the woman astronaut Liu Yang were calm and in good condition, reporting the status of Shenzhou-9 to the ground frequently, the Center said. They will enter the Tiangong-1 lab module later in the day and use it to conduct scientific experiments and technical tests.

It was an automated procedure conducted by computers and not the not by the crew. They were expected to be de-linked shortly and conduct a manual docking, the main task of the present crew. The three are scheduled to stay in space for about 13 days. In today's

docking, a suite of radar, laser and optical sensors aligned Shenzhou with Tiangong. The capsule's thrusters then drove it into the space lab's docking ring.

China's political leadership has heavily promoted the mission as proof of the country's growing clout. Additionally, the Shenzhou-9 mission reinforced China's long-term aspirations for a manned space presence just as the U.S. has significantly drawn down its own manned space program and retired its aging fleet of space shuttles. The Shenzhou-9 mission is the first time China has sent a person into space since 2008. It follows China's first unmanned space docking last November and is the latest step in a 30-year plan to assemble a space station by around 2020, part of an effort known as Project 921.

When Chinese leaders approved a plan for a space station in 1992, "Chinese space professionals believed they would be latecomers to an expanding human presence in low Earth orbit," said Gregory Kulacki, a senior analyst for the Union of Concerned Scientists, in a recent research note. "Ironically, by the time they finish their space station in the early 2020s, the Chinese might be the only people left up there."

Washington's decision to end the shuttle program left Russia with a virtual monopoly over manned space-flight. China's space program, while decades behind the achievements of the U.S. and Russia, has made steady progress in recent years. Its planned space station is expected to come online around 2020, just as the \$100 billion International Space Station is expected to cease operation. The U.S..



meanwhile, is hoping the private sector can pick up where the shuttle program left off.

Now that docking technology has been achieved, analysts say, other significant hurdles to establishing a space station include the logistics of keeping humans alive in space for extended periods. A Chinese space station's launch will also rely in part on the successful development of the Long March-5 rocket, which officials have said will make its maiden flight in 2014. Unlike in the U.S., where civilian and military space programs are by and large kept separate, China's space program is run by the People's Liberation Army. U.S. defense officials and analysts have expressed concern about a lack of transparency, and the potential for China's space program to contribute to the country's growing military capabilities.

"The space program, including ostensible civil projects, supports China's growing ability to deny or degrade the space assets of potential adversaries and enhances China's conventional military capabilities," said Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess Jr., director of the Defense Intelligence Agency during a Senate testimony in February. In particular, according to the Pentagon, Beijing continues to develop antisatellite capabilities, which first received international attention after a 2007 missile test in which China shot down one of its own weather satellites. Additionally, according to defense analysts, China is developing the highresolution optical imaging and nearreal-time data-communication systems that will allow it to monitor U.S. naval activity in the Asian-Pacific region. Beijing also is seeking to cut its reliance on the U.S. Global Positioning System, which the U.S. could in theory deny access to in the event of a conflict. China's indigenous Beidou positioning system, which began offering initial services to China and surrounding areas late last year, is expected to have dual military and civilian usages.

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### Civil Services Main Exam 2011

## General Studies Paper – I Solved

## 1. Answer any three of the following in about 250 words each:20x3=60

(a) 'Essentially all that is contained in part IV- A of the Constitution is just a codification of tasks integral to Indian way of life.' Critically examine the statement.

**Answer:** Article 51A of the part IV-A of the Indian Constitution lists the fundamental duties of the citizens which were added to the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act. Fundamental duties are restrictions on the citizens, but they are not enforceable in a court of law. They act more like a lighthouse to guide citizens' conduct and bring it in conformity with the Indian way of life. They include abiding the constitution and respecting its ideals and institutions such as the National Flag and the National Anthem. Fundamental Duties also include cherishing and following the noble ideals that inspired our freedom struggle, upholding the sovereignty and integrity of the nation, rendering national services, promoting harmony and brotherhood, renouncing practices derogatory to the dignity of women, safeguarding public property, developing scientific temper etc. Incidents like destruction of public property by violent mobs and protestors, delivering of hate speeches to cause disharmony and rift among communities, mounting corruption,

declining child sex ratio, reports of practices like sati which still is continuing in some parts of the country point towards the fact that the republic has not succeeded completely in instilling the values contained in part IV-A, in the hearts and minds of the Indian citizens. These values should be taught from the early childhood through a free, fair, secular, and non-discriminatory education system. The society also needs role models from all walks of life such as politics, business, administration, judiciary, academia etc. so that national identity becomes paramount and the values are most cherished. (b) 'The exercise of executive clemency is not a privilege but is based on

India.

Answer: Article 72 of the Indian Constitution empowers the president to pardon, remit, commute, respite and reprieves a person of any offence.

Supreme Court has held that pardoning power of the President is subject to judicial review and it should not be handled dishonestly in the public

interest.

several principles, and discretion has

to be exercised in public consideration.'

Analyse this statement in the context of

judicial powers of the President of

The question of executive clemency has come into focus due to the recent decision of the President's rejecting the mercy plea of those, convicted in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and Tamil Nadu assembly's passage of a resolution over it. The Afzal Guru case has also not yet been resolved which also is giving political colour to the whole issue.

Supreme Court in its 1989 judgement laid down several principles or 'do's' and 'don'ts' with respect to the executive clemency. The apex court observed that the delay in making a decision on the death penalty leads to adverse psychological impact on the convicted and it amounts to the court's inhuman and brutal treatment. Thus inordinate delay can form the basis for clemency. It also observed that the nature of crime needs to be taken into consideration before granting executive clemency. The conduct of the

convicted cannot form the basis for granting clemency and the time calculated should be from the date the final verdict was given on the case if it needs to form the ground for clemency. Constitution should be amended to provide the time limits within which mercy petition are to be decided. Importantly, the political parties should restrain from politicising the power of the President which is supposed to be used in the public consideration. (c) Discuss the extent, causes, and implications of 'nutrition transition' said to be underway in India. **Answer:** Nutrition Transition can be

referred to as the increased consumption of unhealthy foods compounded with increased prevalence of overweight in middle-to-low-income countries. It has serious implications in terms of public health outcomes, risk factors, economic growth and international nutrition policy.

Extent: As developing societies like India industrialise and urbanise, and as standards of living continue to rise, weight gain and obesity are beginning to pose a growing threat to the health of the citizens. Repeated episodes of malnutrition, followed by nutritional rehabilitation, are known to alter body composition and increase the risk of obesity. Food balance data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) show that the change in energy intake in Asian countries has been small, but there have been large changes in consumption of animal products, sugars and fats in countries like India. There is a progressive increase in the intake of protein, and probably fats. The increase in the intake of protein and fats is due to the phenomenal increase in the consumption of milk and milk products and an increase in the intake of animal products. On the other hand consumption of pulses and legumes has fallen drastically in India.

Causes: In India, the demographic and epidemiological transition, the forces of internal migration and urbanisation, the changes in food consumption patterns and low physical activity patterns to an epidemic of obesity and other NCDs (Non-communicable Diseases). There is also a decrease in the energy expenditure in occupational activities, increased urbanisation, universal use of motor cars, mechanisation of most manual jobs outside the occupational sphere and increasing leisure time have aggravated this trend in India. Implications: There is a large increase in the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the developing countries specially the countries under transition like India. Approximately 40% of the deaths in the developing countries take place due to NCDs. (d) Bring out the salient features of the

PCPNDT Act, 1994, and the implication of its amendment in 2003.

Answer: Pre Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique Act, 1994 was enacted to arrest the declining sex ration. It is a subject of discussion now because; an all-time low child sex ratio of 914 was reported in the 2011 provisional census data.

The main purpose of enacting the act is to ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception and prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic technique for sex selective absorption.

Offences under this act include conducting or helping in the conduct of prenatal diagnostic technique in the unregistered units, sex selection on a man or woman, conducting PND test for any purpose other than the one

mentioned in the act, sale, distribution, supply, renting etc. of any ultra sound machine or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus. The act was amended in 2003 to improve the regulation of the technology used in sex selection.

Implications of PCPNDT Act, 1994 amendment:

- 1. Amendment of the act mainly covered bringing the technique of pre conception sex selection within the ambit of the act
- 2. Bringing ultrasound within its ambit3. Empowering the central supervisory board, constitution of state level supervisory board
- 4. Provision for more stringent punishments
- 5. Empowering appropriate authorities with the power of civil court for search, seizure and sealing the machines and equipments of the violators6. Regulating the sale of the ultrasound machines only to registered bodies

2. Answer one of the following in about 250 words: 20x1=20

(a) Trace the salient sequences of events in popular revolt that took place in February 1946 in the then Royal Indian Navy and bring out its significance in the freedom struggle. Do you agree with the views that the sailors who took part in this revolt were some of the unsung heroes of the freedom struggle?

Answer: Royal Indian Navy revolt of February 1946 took place in the background of Quit India Movement and Second World War. This was a very turbulent phase in India's freedom struggle. The popular revolt shook the very foundation of British Raj and made it abundantly clear that their time in India was numbered.

In November 1945 some students from Forward Block, Students Federation of India and Islamia College participated in a protest march over the INA trials. They tied together League, Congress and red flag, as a symbol of anti imperialist unity.

In February 1946, Muslim League students took a protest march in which some Congress students also participated against the seven year sentence to INA prisoner Rashid Ali.

In February 1946, naval ratings of HMIS Talwar went on strike to protest against racial discrimination, unpalatable food, INA trials, and abuse by superior officers. This was followed by city people joining in through mass strikes, hartals, meetings, attacks on police stations, railway station etc. Other parts of the country also expressed support in the form of strikes by Royal Indian Forces in Calcutta, Puna and Bombay.

The upsurge showed that the fearless action by the masses, revolt in armed forces had psychological affect on masses and it also prompted British to extend some concessions but above all it marked the end of British rule in India.

Sailors who took part in the struggle were the unsung heroes as they did not get the level of publicity as that of the INA trials and in the pages of history; they remain anonymous and unknown.

(b) Evaluate the influence of three important women's organisations of the early twentieth century in India on country's society and politics. To what extent do you think were the social objectives of these organisations constrained by their political objectives?

**Answer:** Bharat Stree Mahamandal, All India Women's Conference and Women's India Association were some

of the important women's associations of the early twentieth century. Bharat Stree Mahamandal was the first women's organisation in India founded by Sarala Devi Chaudhurani in Allahabad in 1910. One of the primary goals of the organisation was to promote female education which was not well developed at that time. The organisation opened several offices in Lahore, Allahabad, Delhi, Karachi, Amritsar etc. to improve the condition of women all over India. All India Women's Conference was founded in 1927 by Margret cousins having Sarojni Naidu, Lady Dorab Tata as its founding members. It worked towards women's education, abolition of purdah system, legislative reform, abolition of child marriage, harijan welfare, family planning, and rural reconstruction. These women's organisations worked for a society based on principles of social justice. integrity, equal rights and opportunities. They wanted security for every human being; the essentials of life not determined by accidental births but by planned social distribution.

Their efforts led to several legislative reforms in Sharda Act (1929), Hindu Women's Right to Property Act (1937), Factory Act (1947), Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act etc. AIWC efforts also led to setting up of The All India Women's Education Fund Association, and Lady Irwin College of Home Science.

Social and educational reforms effort by the women's associations helped in preparing the Indian women to participate in the freedom struggle. With Mahatma Gandhi women availed an opportunity to get into the scene of freedom struggle.

#### 3. Answer any one of the following in about 250 words: 20x1=20 consumer Complaints Council (CCC)

(a) Critically examine the design of
National Rural Livelihood Mission
(NRLM) scheme. Do you think it has a
better chance of
success than the Swarna Jayanti

Swarojgar Yojna(SGSY) in achieving its objectives?

Answer: NRLM is the rechristened version of Swarna Jayanti Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY). It is a Ministry of Rural Development programme. It aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor household to access gainful self employment and skilled wage employment opportunity resulting in a sustainable livelihood.

NRLM is based on three pillars

1. Enhancing and expanding the
existing livelihood options of the poor
2. Building skills for the job market
3. Nurturing self employed and entrepreneurs

NRLM plans to give special focus on the poorest households who are currently dependent on the MGNREGA. The design of NRLM is more likely to succeed because its implementation is in a mission mode which enables it shift from the present allocation based approach to demand based approach. This enables the states to formulate their own livelihood based on poverty reduction action plans. It also focuses on targets, outcomes, and time bound strategy. The monitoring would be done against the targets of the poverty outcomes. NRLM will have continuous capacity building, imparting of requisite skills and creating linkages with livelihood opportunities for the poor, including those emerging from the organised

NRLM funds will be directly released to the state level agencies and DRDA based on the detailed district wise annual action plan. It will involve the Self Help Group in the implementation which increases the likelihood of its success. National Skill Development Council will also coordinate in the skill development part in the implementation of NRLM. In order to ensure institutional arrangement for skill development for self employment and wage employment, dedicated training institute for rural BPL youth i.e Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) are being set up with the aim of having at least one such institution in each district in India. These RSETIs will be set up with the partnership of banks. This will help in achieving the objectives of NRLM.

**(b)** Highlight the structure, objectives and role of the Advertising Standard Council of India. In what way has the August 2006 government notification made it more effective?

**Answer:** The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), established in 1985, is committed to the cause of Self-Regulation in Advertising, ensuring the protection of the interests of consumers. The ASCI was formed with the support of all four sectors connected with Advertising, viz. Advertisers, Ad Agencies, Media (including Broadcasters and the Press) and others like PR Agencies, Market Research Companies etc. Its main objective is to promote responsible advertising; thus enhancing the public's confidence in Advertising. ASCI thus aims to achieve its own overarching goal i.e., to maintain and enhance the public's confidence in advertising. The Board of Governors (16 members)

ensures equitable representation of Advertisers, Agencies, Media and other Advertising Services, the individual member firms being leaders in their respective industries or services. The Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) (21 members) has 12 Non-Advertising professionals representing civil society, who are eminent and recognised opinion leaders in their respective disciplines such as Medical, Legal, Industrial Design, Engineering, Chemical Technology, Human Resources and Consumer Interest Groups; 9 are advertising practitioners from our member firms.

ASCI is represented in all committees working on advertising content in every Ministry of the Government of India.

ASCI's Code for Self-Regulation in Advertising is now part of ad code under Cable TV Act's Rules. Violation of ASCI's Code is now treated as a violation of the government's rules.

ASCI's membership of The European Advertising Standards Alliance (EASA) ensures that it gets valuable advice, learning and even influence at the international level.

The Consumer Complaints Council is ASCI's heart and soul. It is the dedicated work put in by this group of highly respected people that has given tremendous impetus to the work of ASCI and the movement of selfregulation in the advertising. In August 2006, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued a notification deeming it necessary for all TV commercials in India to abide by the ASCI code. This effort of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has made the advertising selfregulatory movement in India stronger and more effective. 4. Comment on any five of the fol-

lowing in about 150 words each. 12x5=60

(a) Salient recommendations of the

RBI-appointed Damodaran committee on customer service in Banks. **Answer:** The Damodaran Committee on bank customer services has recom-

mended active involvement of the boards of banks to guarantee customer satisfaction. The committee held that customer service and grievance redress should be included as a mandatory parameter in the performance appraisal report of all employees. The committee has suggested that an agenda on the level of implementation of the Bank's Code of Commitments to Customers and an overview on the grievance redress mechanism in the bank should be placed before the bank every quarter before the Customer Service Committee.

The committee suggets that every board should ensure they have comprehensive policies for customer acceptance, care and severance. The banks should show sensitivity for small customers by ensuring that the pricing (bank charges) does not act as a deterrent for the small person to do banking transactions.

Emphasising on 'customer centricity', the committee recommended that bank boards should evolve human resources policies which should recruit for attitude and train for skills.

(b) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS).

Answer: It is a scheme by the Central Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Its funding pattern is up to 90 percent; it is funded by the Central Ministry. The Grant in Aid is released on the basis of recommendations received from the State Government, UTs through State Multi-Disciplinary grant-in-aid committee concerned or any other agency designated by the Ministry. Beneficiary could be an individual, a family, a community, women and Children.

The voluntary organisations are assisted in running rehabilitation centres for leprosy cured persons and also for manpower development in the field of mental retardation and cerebral palsy. They are also assisted in establishment and development of special schools for major disability areas, viz. Orthopaedic, speech, hearing, visual and mental disability. The NGOs are extended assistance for setting up projects of vocational training to facilitate the disabled persons to be as independent as possible by acquiring basic skills. The Ministry, under the Scheme supports both recurring and non-recurring expenditure of projects by NGOs up to 90 percent. (c) Evolution of 'Green Benches' in our

higher judiciary. **Answer:** The Supreme Court of India interpreted Article 21 which guarantees the fundamental right to life and personal liberty, to include the right to a wholesome environment and held that a litigant may assert his or her right to a healthy environment against the State by a writ petition to the Supreme Court or a High Court. Public interest litigation has been used by the higher judiciary to ensure environment protection and safeguard public interest. Till 1980, not much contribution was made by the courts in preserving the environment. One of the earliest cases which came to the Supreme Court of India was Municipal Council, Ratlam, vs Vardhichand AIR 1980 SC 1622. Thereafter, series of cases were filed before the Supreme Court and there was a dynamic change in the whole approach of the courts in matters concerning environment. India has now become the third coun-

try in the world to start a National Green Tribunal (NGT) which is a judicial body exclusively meant to judge environmental cases. The National Green Tribunal has been established under the National Green Tribu-

**DEVELOP INDIA** 

**English Weekly Newspaper** 

nal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources. The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same. The predecessor to the NGT, the erstwhile National Environment Appellate Authority has been superseded by the NGT.

(d) Distinction between 'Department Related Parliament Standing committees' and 'Parliamentary Forum'. **Answer:** Departmental Standing Committees were created in 1993 to exercise control over the executive; particularly financial control. There are now 2 such committees having 31 members each; 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. Members from the Lok Sabha are nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, while members from the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the Rajya Sabha Chairman. A minister cannot be nominated as a member of the committee. These committees consider the demand for grants of the concerned ministry. They submit the reports based on which the discussion on budget takes place.

Parliamentary Forums on the other hand are ad hoc in nature and are constituted for specific issues to make the Members of the Parliament aware of the seriousness of the particular situation and to enable them to adopt a result-oriented approach towards these issues. The Parliamentary for ado not interfere in or encroach upon the jurisdiction of the concerned Departmentally Related Standing Committees or the Ministry/Department concerned. Members of these for aare nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, as the case may be.

**(e)** Benefits and potential drawbacks of 'cash transfers' to Below Poverty Line Households.

**Answer:** Cash transfer has come into discussion due to the leakages in several government schemes like the Public Distribution System. It has been successful in Latin American countries. Cash transfer has some benefits in terms of better targeting of public subsidy, reducing diversion, preventing corruption, and eliminating wastages in transportation and storage of goods like food grains. It also gives flexibility to the citizens in terms of buying the public goods and services. Cash transfer is also suitable for migrating population that moves in search of work.

Cash transfer on the other hand can only succeed if an appropriate IT infrastructure exits, through which cash can be transferred directly to the account of the beneficiary which becomes a challenge in the poor financial inclusion. Cash can be more prone to diversion if proper safeguards are not taken. Moreover cash transfer can work if the public delivery system is in place for e.g. how giving cash for health services will make any difference if there are no hospitals, medicines and doctors in the villages. Factoring inflation into cash transfer is always been a challenge.

always been a challenge. **(f)** New initiatives during the 11th Five Year Plan in the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB). Answer: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) endorsed and approved a budget of INR 12,500 million for the XI five-year (2007-12) plan period. The enhanced funding and financial allocation to the tune of nearly two-thirds of the previous plan period is indicative of the high political commitment accorded to blindness control activities in the India. With the federal nature of the Indian Constitution, the States are largely independent in matters relating to health delivery. The Central Government's responsibility consists mainly of policy making, planning, funding, guiding, assisting, evaluating and coordinating the work of state health ministries so that health services cover every part of the country and no state lags behind for want of these services. The NPCB is striving to enhance the capacity of health institutions, health personnel and the community at all levels to address issues under the programme. In the approved XI five-year plan period, schemes with existing/enhanced financial allocation are being implemented along with new initiatives to reduce blindness.

5. Examine any three of the following in about 150 words each. 12x3=36(a) The impact of climate change on water resources in India.

Answer: The impact of climate change on water resources in India is evident through erratic monsoon, more frequent floods and droughts, stronger cyclones and rivers changing their course frequently. The severity is also due to the prevailing more than 7000km of coastline.

The changed rainfall pattern has adversely affected ground water recharge, wetlands both coastal and terrestrial. Climate change has resulted in melting of Himalayan glaciers. It has the potential of making the Himalayan Rivers swell first and then turning them into seasonal rivers, threatening the source of freshwater. It can also lead to salt water intrusion and threatening aquaculture and coastal agriculture.

The impact has been severe also because, India is still an agricultural country with its large population being dependant on weather related livelihood through agriculture, forestry, pisciculture etc.

**(b)** Measures taken by the Indian government to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean.

**Answer:** Indian government has used INS Talwar to foil several bids by pirates near the Gulf of Aden. Indian government is coordinating the anti piracy measures at the international level with China, European countries and with the Gulf countries. Indian government has placed surveillance radars in countries like Maldives and Srilanka to secure the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean. It has signed agreements with Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius for anti piracy measures. Government has also taken measures in strengthening the coastal security by equipping and reforming the coast guards. However, incidents like unmanned vessel drifting in the ocean and reaching the coast of Mumbai have highlighted the holes in our coastal security which needs to be

Supreme Court has recently asked the Central Government to formulate separate piracy law for trying the pirates and to take care of the compensation to the victim's family. Currently piracy is being dealt under the provisions of Indian Penal Code.

(c) The significance of counterurbanisation in the improvement of metropolitan cities in India.

Answer: Counter-urbanisation is a demographic and social process where people move from large urban areas or into rural areas, thereby leapfrogging the rural-urban fringe. It might mean daily commuting, but could also require lifestyle changes and the increased use of ICT (home working or teleworking). It is the process of migration of people from major urban areas to smaller urban settlements and rural areas. Counter-urbanisation affects the layout of rural settlements. Modern

settlement.

Counter urbanisation will reduce

t pressure on the metropolitan cities and its basic amenities like drinking water supply, sewage facilities, continuous

housing estates locate of the edge of

small settlements. Industrial units are

sited on main roads leading into the

supply of electricity, education facilities, etc as people move out due to following

(i) Increase in car ownership enabling their movement, growth in information technology (E-mail, faxes and video conferencing) meaning more people can work from home

(ii) Urban areas are becoming increasing unpleasant place to live. This is the result of pollution, crime and traffic congestion.

(iii) More people tend to move when they retire.

(iv) New business parks being developed on the edge of cities (on Greenfield sites) meaning people no longer have to travel to the city centre. People now prefer to live on the outskirts of the city to be near where they work

**(d)** Problems specific to the denotified and nomadic tribes in India.

**Answer:** Post Independence the Criminal Tribe Act 1871 was replaced; and criminal tribe nomenclature was replaced with denotified tribe (DNTs) which is still considered derogatory. They have been discriminated; British government included some of the tribes like Gonds, Ho and Santhals under this categorisation as they had rebelled against the British Raj. A major challenge in the intervention comes due dispersed nature of the tribes and having a nomadic culture surviving on shifting cultivation. This results in health and educational services a challenging task to deliver. It also makes the implementation of nutritional initiative like addressing iodine deficiency a challenging task. Preservation of their culture, script, practices also get hampered due to the same reason. Two different opinions arise with regard to the reservation for the DNTs to raise their social and economic conditions. One view supports providing reservation within existing group of SCs, STs and OBCs while the other view supports creating a new group for the reservation of

6. In the context of the freedom struggle, write short notes (not exceeding 50 words each) on the following: 5x3=15

(a) 'Benoy-Badal-Dinesh' martyrdom.

Answer: On 8 December 1930, Benoy along with Dinesh chandra Gupta and Badal Gupta, dressed in European costume, entered the Writers' Building and shot dead Simpson, the Inspector General of Prisons, who was infamous for the brutal oppression on the prisoners. This inspired further revolutionary activities in Bengal. After Independence Dalhousie square was named B.B.D Bagh-after Benoy-Badal-Dinesh.

(b) Bharat Naujavan sabha
Answer: Bharat Naujavan Sabha was an association of Indian youths which was established at a convention held in April 1928 at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. The aims of the Sabha were to create a youth wing of peasants and workers with a view to usher in revolution in the country and overthrow the British rule. Bhagat Singh was its secretary and principle organiser.

(c) 'Babbar Akali' movement

Answer: The Babbar Akali movement, which emerged in the wake of the Akali Movement, and was an underground terrorist movement established in the Jalandhar Doab in 1921. Members fought pitched battles with police and committed acts of violence.

7. Comment on the following in not more than 50 words each: 5x6=30

(a) Phase-IV of the tiger monitoring programme in India.

Answer: Phase-IV of the tiger monitoring programme by by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) means initiating intensive, annual monitoring of tigers at the tiger reserve level, across 41 protected areas in India. This programme is to estimate

numbers of both tigers and their prey. This programme is planned to be commenced from November 2011. **(b)** Why the Central Statistical Office has notified a new series of Consumer Price Index from this year? **Answer:** The Central Statistical Office has notified a new series of CPI with its base year of 2010 for rural, urban areas and for the nation as a whole. It will give a comprehensive picture of inflation at the national level for retail prices. Government also proposes to use it for giving dearness allowance for government employee in the seventh pay commission.

(c) Composition and functions of the National Executive Committee of the National Disaster Management Authority. **Answer:** The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the National Disaster Management Authority comprises the Union Home Secretary as the Chairperson, and the Secretaries to the GOI in the Ministries/Departments of Agriculture, Atomic Energy, Defence, Drinking Water Supply, Environment and Forests. Finance (Expenditure), Health, Power, Rural Development, Science and Technology, Space, Telecommunications, Urban Development, Water Resources and the Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as members.

(d) The Bihar Special Courts Act, 2009 and why it has been in news recently? Answer: Bihar Special Courts Act, 2009 provides that the property of corrupt persons can be attached even when the probe is under way, if the authorised officer concludes that the acquisition of the property was the result of the offence committed by the accused. Bihar implemented it and some officials came under this Act. Its constitutional validity was questioned in Supreme Court which refused to stay this act.

**(e)** The Telecommunications Ministry's proposed Spectrum Management Commission.

Answer: Spectrum Management
Commission is a new entity to manage
and regulate spectrum allocation. The
Commission will subsume Wireless
Planning Coordination wing of the
Department of Telecom and will get
wider powers including dispute settlement, pricing and regulations related to
spectrum. While the DoT will continue
to be the licensor, all issues pertaining
to spectrum allocation will be brought
under Spectrum Management Commis-

(f) The Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to sanitation.

Answer: CLTS is an innovative methodology for mobilising communities to completely eliminate open defecation (OD). Communities are facilitated to conduct their own appraisal and analysis of open defecation (OD) and take their own action to become ODF (open defecation free). CLTS focuses on the behavioural change needed to ensure real and sustainable improvements. It invests in community mobilisation instead of hardware, and shifting the focus from toilet construction for individual households to the creation of 'open defecation-free' villages.

8. Attempt the following in not more than 50 words each. 5x4=20
(a) Distinguish either between the 'Moatsu' and 'Yemshe' festivals of

Nagaland or the 'Losar' and 'Khan' festivals of Arunachal Pradesh. **Answer:** Moatsu Festival is celebrated in Nagaland by the Ao tribe. It is observed every year in the first week of May. During this Nagaland festival, a number of rituals are performed. After sowing the seeds, the Aos observe

The Pochury Tribe celebrates their greatest festival, Yemshe in the month of October every year. During the Yemshe festival, the arrival of the new harvest is celebrated with full fun & fair. The Losar Festival also called as the

New Year Festival and it is the most important festival celebrated in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. Losar is celebrated by the Monpas that forms the major portion of population in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. In the Khan festival of Arunachal Pradesh, the social and cultural beliefs of the local tribes can be witnessed. Regardless the different casts and creed, the local tribes unite in the Khan celebration.

**(b)** Write a sentence each of any five of the following traditional theater forms:

(i) *Bhand Pather:* It is the traditional theatre form of Kashmir, which is a unique combination of dance, music and acting. Satire, wit and parody are preferred for inducing laughter.

(ii) *Swang:* It is a popular folk dancedrama or folk theatre form in Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Swang incorporates suitable theatrics and mimicry (or nakal) accompanied by song and dialogue. Swang theatre is traditionally restricted to men, who also play the female roles.

(iii) *Maach:* It is a traditional Hindi theatre form of Madhya Pradesh. It shares the secular nature and characteristics of other north Indian genres like Nautanki and Khyal. Based on religious, historical, romantic, or social themes, it was invented and developed by prominent artists like Guru Gopalji, Guru Balmukund, Kaluram Ustad, and Radhakrishan Ustad.

(iv) *Bhaona:* It is a unique festival of Vaishnava theatrical performance in Assam. The performance is marked by a continuous shifting between the classical and the folk, the mundane and the spiritual, providing thousands of spectators a rare aesthetic experience

(v) *Mudiyettu:* It is ritualistic dance drama performed after the harvest of summer crops in Kerala. In 2010, Mudiyettu was included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists.

(vi) *Dashavatar:* Dashavatar is the most developed theatre form of the Konkan and Goa regions. The performers personify the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu-the god of preservation and creativity.

(c) What are the major different styles of unglazed pottery making in India? Answer: There are three different styles in unglazed pottery making in India. They are - the paper-thin, scrafito and highly polished. Black pottery is another famous form of unglazed pottery in Indian villages and it resembles the Harappan pottery style. In the paper thin pottery, the biscuit coloured pottery is decorated with incised patterns.

(d) List the classical dance forms of India as per the Sangeet Natak Akademy.

Answer: Sangeet Natak Akademi currently confers classical status on nine Indian dance styles which are Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Gaudiya Nritya, Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Oddisi, kuchipudi, Sattriya, and Manipuri.

9. Comment on following in not more than 50 words each: 5x5=25

(a) Nisarga-Runa technology of BARC. **Answer:** The Nisarga-Runa technology developed at BARC converts biodegradable solid waste into useful manure and methane. It can be deployed for the dual objectives of waste management as well as for livelihood creation among the urban underprivileged. The 'Nisargruna' technology adopts biphasic reactor system wherein the first reactor is operated under aerobic and thermophilic conditions. As a result of the first feature, the universal problem of odour from waste processing biogas plants is eliminated and the second feature leads to a faster process. Unlike conventional single phase digesters, which take 30-40 days, a 'Nisargruna' plant can

digest organic solid waste between 18-22 days.

**(b)** The first aid that you can safely administer to a person standing next to you at the bus stop who suddenly faints.

**Answer:** I would first take the person away from the crowd to an open and safe area. Then I would sprinkle some water on his/her face to bring him/her back to consciousness. If the person does not gain consciousness then mouth to mouth respiration and administering CPR can be considered as the next step. His/her family members or friends should be immediately informed about his/her ill health by a phone call from the contact details from the mobile phone or the purse of the person and can gather information on the person's medical condition and then accordingly he/she can be taken for medical supervision. (c) The Kaveri K-10 aero-engine.

Answer: Kaveri K-10 engine is being developed to be used in the Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas. It is being developed in collaboration of French firm, Snecma. It will have less weight and more reheat thrust to meet the requirements of the Indian Army.

(d) Molecular Breast Imaging (MBI) technology

Answer: Molecular breast imaging (MBI) is three times more effective than mammograms, and far less costly than other nuclear-medicine imaging.

Molecular Breast Imaging (MBI) uses a dedicated dual-head gamma camera and 99mTc-sestamibi in women having dense breast patterns and additional risk factors for breast cancer.

(e) E-governance initiatives by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

Answer: UPSC has taken the initiative for getting the forms of several examinations like civil services filled online. It also displays the status of the application form for every candidate on its website. UPSC publishes the syllabus and tentative schedules of various UPSC conducted examinations on its website helping students to plan in advance. UPSC also publishes the various court orders and notifications on the web site and information regarding the RTI petitions on its website.

10. Who are the following and why have they been in the news recently? (each answer should not exceed 20 words): 2x7=14

(a) Lieutenant Navdeep Singh
Answer:Lieutenant Navdeep Singh laid down his life fighting terrorists during an anti-infiltration operation along LOC in Gurez Sector of north Kashmir.

(b) Rahim Fahimuddin Dagar
Answer: He was an exponent of Dagar
vani Dhrupad, which is one of the most
pristine and richest forms of Indian
classical music. He represented the
19th generation of Dagar Tradition.

(c) Lobsang Sangay

Answer: He is the Tibetan Prime

Minister in exile. He is a Harvard

graduate and a political successor of

Dalai Lama.

(d) P.R. Sreejesh

**Answer:** P.R. Sreejesh is Hockey Goalkeeper in the Indian Hockey team. He is from Kerela.

(e) Nileema Mishra

Answer: She is one of the Magsaysay Award winners for 2011.. She is a lender to the poorest in Maharashtra. She was recognised for her purposedriven zeal to work tirelessly with villagers in Maharashtra.

(f) V.Tejeswini Bai

**Answer:** Tejeswini is a Kabbadi player from Karnataka who has represented India from 2005 to 2010 and captained Indian team for four years.

(g) Aishwarya Narkar

Answer: Aishwarya Narkar is a Marathi actress who also works in the Hindi TV serials. She has received National Film Award from the President of India.

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Moatsu Mong.

## French Open 2012

French Open 2012 is a tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts. It was the 111th edition of the French Open, and took place at the Stade Roland Garros from 27 May until 11 June 2012. The 2012 French Open was the one hundred and eleventh edition of the French Open and was held at Stade Roland Garros in Paris. The tournament was an event run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and is part of the 2012 ATP World Tour and the 2012 WTA Tour calendars under the Grand Slam category. The tournament consisted of both men's and women's singles and doubles draws as well as a mixed doubles event. There was a singles and doubles events for both boys and girls (players under 18), which is part of the Grade A category of tournaments, and singles and doubles events for men's and women's wheelchair tennis players as part of the NEC tour under the Grand Slam category. The tournament was played on clay courts and took place over a series of twenty courts, including the three main showcourts, Court Philippe Chatrier, Court Suzanne Lenglen and Court 1.

#### Nadal wins record seventh French Open

Rafael Nadal clinched a record seventh French Open title on Monday, defeating world number one Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 and shattering the Serb's dream of Grand Slam history.

In a fractious final pushed into a third week for only the second time because of Sunday's rain, the Spanish world number two, playing in his 16th Grand Slam final, also took his Paris record to a staggering 52 wins against just one loss.

Victory, which was achieved on a Djokovic double fault, allowed him to break the tie for six French Opens he shared with Bjorn Borg. It was the 26-year-old's 11th Grand Slam title, taking him one behind Roy Emerson, three off Pete Sampras and five away from the record of 16 held by Roger Federer.

For five-time major winner Djokovic, the Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open champion, it was the end of his dream of emulating Don Budge (1938) and Rod Laver (1962 and 1969) by holding all the Grand Slams at once. He was left to regret his unforced error count of 53 which undermined his challenge. After Sunday's suspension, the players, meeting in a fourth successive Grand Slam final, resumed with Nadal leading 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 1-2, but with Djokovic in the ascendancy and serving for a 3-1 lead in the fourth set. But a forehand error from Djokovic, with the court at his mercy, gave Nadal a break point and the Span-

The set remained tight as would be expected with the pair meeting for a 33rd time.

Nadal moved to 5-4 as the umbrellas went up all around Philippe Chatrier Court and the players sat courtside to wait out a passing, heavy shower and complained to tournament referee Stefan Fransen about the slippery conditions.

iard seized it when the Serb had been left flat-footed by a net cord which allowed his opponent to push

Djokovic finally buckled when a monster forehand from Nadal set up championship point which he converted when the top seed tamely served up a fourth double fault.

The celebrations were ecstatic as Nadal fell to his knees and consoled Djokovic before the champion climbed into the player's box to embrace his family.

On Sunday, Djokovic had looked down and out at one stage, even picking up a warning for destroying his

courtside chair box with his racquet. After slipping two sets down, he was also a break behind at 0-2 in the third before he reeled off eight games in succession to take the third set -- the first lost by Nadal in this year's event -- and lead 2-0 in the fourth.

The first game of the fourth set had featured a gruelling 44-shot rally. But Nadal had raged at tournament referee Stefan Fransen for having to keep playing as the court became increasingly treacherous. As he stormed, Djokovic, who had been two sets to love down to Andreas Seppi in the fourth round, and saved four match points in his quarter-final victory over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, seized his chance to get back into the match.

The last time a French Open men's final failed to be completed on the last Sunday was 1973 when it was played on the Tuesday with Ilie Nastase beating Niki Pilic.

Monday finishes have become common at the US Open in New York with the last four finals taking place on the extra day while the 2001 Wimbledon final was also completed on a Monday.

Roland Garros will eventually avoid late finishes as a main court with a retractable roof is to be built in 2017.

#### Sharapova completes career Grand **Slam with French Open win**

Maria Sharapova defeated Italy's Sara Errani 6-3, 6-2 on Saturday to win the French Open and complete a career Grand Slam sweep. Sharapova, 25, who returns to the world number one ranking on Monday, added the Roland Garros title to those she claimed at Wimbledon 2004, the US Open 2006 and the Australian Open

Sharapova claimed the win on her third match point after saving a break point in the final game.

The LA-based Russian, who battled back from shoulder surgery after winning her last major, was dominant in her first meeting with the 24th-ranked Errani, winner of the women's doubles title and a force on clay this spring with three WTA titles.

Errani sprang to prominence during the clay fortnight but failed to follow on from the 2010 title of compatriot Francesca Schiavone.

Errani beat three former Grand Slam champions -- Ana Ivanovic, Svetlana Kuznetsova and Samantha Stosur -- on her way into the final. She and Sharapova had never played.

Second seed Sharapova, winner of clay trophies in Stuttgart and Rome this year, has played the final at three of the last four Slams, finishing runner-up at 2011 Wimbledon to Petra Kvitova and at the Australian Open against Victoria Azarenka.

The Russian has reached the final in six of her eight WTA events this year and stands 3-3 in 2012 finals.

#### Winners

through a winner.

Men's singles

Rafael Nadal def. Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5

Women's singles

Maria Sharapova def. Sara Errani, 6-3, 6-2 Men's doubles

Max Mirnyi / Daniel Nestor def. Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan, 6-4, 6-4

Women's doubles

Sara Errani / Roberta Vinci def. Maria Kirilenko / Nadia Petrova, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2

at the London Games.

Mixed doubles Sania Mirza / Mahesh Bhupathi def. Klaudia Jans-Ignacik / Santiago González, 7-6(7-3), 6-1

#### Need to adjust from clay to grass for Olympics: Sania, Bhupathi

After notching up their second Grand Slam title together at French Open, Indian mixed doubles pair of Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza said they will now look to make the transition from clay to grass to keep their Olympics preparation on track. Bhupathi and Sania's mixed doubles title triumph at the French Open has raised hopes of a medal in the Olympics and the Indian pair said they are looking forward to playing together

"We've got to make the transition from clay to grass, and yes like I said, just keep the rhythm going and

hopefully we can win a few more slams." said Sania. The victory at Ronald Garros is the second career Grand Slam title for Sania while 12th Major trophy for Bhupathi, who now has eight mixed doubles triumph under his belt. "We're looking forward to playing

together and if we get that opportunity to play the Olympics, hopefully we'll be able to fire like we did this

week and contend for a medal." said Bhupathi. "We're off on the grass courts season tomorrow. She's going to Birmingham; I am going to Queen's club. It's going to be a long grass courts season because the Olympics is on grass as well. We're playing well," added Bhupathi.

The Indian pair had missed out of a title at the 2008 Australian Open after finishing runners-up but they made up for the disappointment by winning the title in the next edition. This year, Bhupathi and Sania had reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open.

Asked what makes the two click so well, Sania said, "There are many things. Number One, we complement each other's game. And I think it's really important because we're really good friends and we've

known each other for a very long time." "I think the chemistry is really good and in tight moments that does show a little, but when you know someone that well. And we've been playing for a long time; we have been playing for a few years. So

hopefully we'll have a few more Grand Slams to win," Sania said. Bhupathi said it's a special feeling to win a title after a gap of 15 years at the Roland Garros. "...15 years later to be able to do it again, to do it with a really special friend of mine - Sania, for us to be

representing India. There are so many different variables but all in all it's been a great day and we are just happy to win the title," he said.

Sania also said that the win has come as a big relief for them after losing in their respective doubles campaign in the French Open last week. "For the last two weeks we've played well together and it's a great way to finish a disappointing week. Last week we lost the doubles earlier, so we're obviously

delighted to win this and now hopefully we can keep up the form," she added. Talking about the summit clash, Sania said, "It's always hard. I mean we're playing a Grand Slam. Everyone there's to win it and this is what we're playing it for just to

win the slams. Nothing's easy. We're just happy to come through."

Sania also praised Bhupathi and described him as one of the world's best doubles players. "He's one of the best players ever and I am fortunate enough to be his partner and to win slams with him," she said.

Sania said her husband Shoaib Malik watched the game on television and sent her and Bhupathi a congratulatory message.

"Yeah, he's actually in India right now and I know that he was watching. And he sacrificed a Bollywood film to watch a match which is huge. I haven't spoken to him yet but he's obviously very happy."







#### **Global Atmosphere Watch Programme (GAW)**

The major responsibility for monitoring global changes in atmospheric composition belongs to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with its 185 Member countries. Its activities, dating from the 1950s, is now carried out by the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) programme, designed to integrate global, regional and urban atmospheric chemistry research and monitoring programmes. GAW is essentially a long-term monitoring initiative aimed at determining trends in trace gases as well as an early warning system for changes in the atmosphere, the life-support system of the living world. It comprises 22 global observing stations located at clean air sites together with over 300 regional stations spread around the world. These stations are owned and operated by countries and their National Meteorological Services and have been brought together by WMO under the GAW umbrella. The Global Atmosphere Watch currently monitors greenhouse gases, ozone, the long-range transport of pollutants, including the acidity and toxicity of precipitation, and atmospheric loading of aerosols (e.g. dirt/dust and chemical particles). More than 70 countries actively participate in GAW. *In India there is no station*.

The objectives of the GAW programme are to improve the understanding of the behaviour of the atmosphere and its interactions with the oceans and the biosphere, and to enable predictions of the future state of the total Earth system. The GAW monitoring programme is essential to the understanding of:

The relationship between changing atmospheric composition, caused by large scale human activities, and changes of global and regional climate;

The impact of changes in climate and other aspects of the Earth system on the chemical composition of the atmosphere;

The long-range atmospheric transport and deposition of potentially harmful substances; and, The natural cycling of chemical elements in the global atmosphere/ocean/biosphere system and the impact of human activity on these cycles. A number of environmental conventions have been ratified in recent years as a consequence of information derived from global monitoring of the atmosphere. GAW, therefore, provides important information to the Parties implementing the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its

#### subsequent protocols. **Achievements**

A number of significant achievements can be attributed to the GAW programme: The atmospheric information provided by the GAW network of stations was pivotal in the decisions by the world's governments to develop and ratify those environmental conventions mentioned above; The bringing together of a number of disparate national, regional and global networks under the GAW umbrella and with an agreed core work programme; The establishment of six new GAW Global Observing Stations at remote clean air sites, and the instrumentation of more than a dozen sites in the Southern Cone of South America to assist countries monitor the ozone layer hole and issue public health adviso-

The establishment of both a global mechanism for quality assurance of the measurements and centres to archive and make available the data;

Facilitating the participation of developing countries in environmental monitoring and research; and,

Providing training, publishing guidelines and manuals on station operation and coordinating the development of a worldwide UV Index.

#### **Current Activities**

The GAW system consists of a number of components that have been designed to provide accessible, high quality atmospheric information, at both regional and global levels, to a variety of users. These components are: (a) measuring stations; (b) calibration and quality assurance centres; (c) data centres; and, (d) oversight structures. With respect to (a), there are currently 22 global stations located clean air sites around the world, whose programmes are focused on monitoring long-term changes in the composition of the atmosphere. Their measurements are particularly important for determining ozone and greenhouse gas concentrations. In addition to these global stations, over 300 measuring stations have been designated as GAW regional stations. These stations' programmes concern issues such as the formation of surface ozone with its health impacts, acid precipitation, transport of pollutants from distant areas, and to build a database of aerosol information around the world. Such a database does not exist at present. Summarizing, the GAW global and regional stations are concerned with: greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, CFCs, and nitrous oxide) - mounting levels of these greenhouse gases, caused largely by human activities, in the atmosphere may lead to global warming and to change the Earth's climate and weather over the next century. They act by trapping some of the long-wave radiation emitted by the Earth that would have otherwise escaped to space. ozone and ultraviolet radiation- the main atmospheric ozone concentrations can be found in the 'ozone layer' at about 20 km above the Earth. This layer absorbs much of the ultraviolet radiation emitted by the Sun. Levels of ozone are being reduced as a result of ozone-depleting chemicals, principally chlorofluorocarbons used in refrigeration, industrial cleaners and as foam-blowing agents. This reduction in ozone concentrations allows more ultraviolet radiation to reach the Earth with deleterious effects on the biota and the human immune system. Ozone in the lower atmosphere acts as a greenhouse gas. acid deposition - acid precipitation falls on many areas of the world, notably Europe, North America and the Far East. Acids are formed in the atmosphere through the oxidation of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, produced during the smelting of ores and the burning of fossil fuels. Such acids are often transported from their region of origin over hundreds or thousands of kilometres where they raise the acidity of soils, streams and lakes causing serious damage to forests and fish populations. aerosols - aerosols are small solid or liquid particles suspended in the atmosphere. They are produced by human activity and are also generated naturally by, for example, wind erosion and volcanic eruptions. They have a cooling effect on the climate by reflecting incoming heat from the Sun back into space and therefore somewhat offset the action of the greenhouse gases. In high concentrations they can have an impact on human health. long-range transport - many atmospheric pollutants, particularly those that occur in aerosol form, can be carried over very large distances. These pollutants eventually fall to Earth transformed into acid rain, while others, equally harmful to living creatures and biota, are deposited on the Earth's surface thousands of kilometres from their place of origin. GAW both monitors these forms of pollution and facilitates research and application of mathematical models of their transport. reactive gases and the urban environment (carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides) - these gases are important as they influence the chemistry of the greenhouse gases, and as pollutant gases in their own right. Both sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides react in sunlight and play crucial roles in the occurrence of urban smog and in determining associated surface ozone concentrations. With regard to the calibration and quality assessment centres, some 20 of these perform the vital function of ensuring that the data derived from the measuring sites is of sufficiently high quality to be useful for scientific research and credible for governments. They do this through a combination of calibrating instruments at the stations, hosting intercomparisons between instruments from various stations, providing on-site training to operators, and by identifying suspect data. There are currently six World Data Centres whose task it is to collect, process and make available atmospheric data from the GAW network.WMO provides oversight to the GAW activities by coordinating and facilitating the operation of the stations and centres, and by arranging training and intercomparisons. It also is responsible for developing and implementing the GAW Strategic Plan in collaboration with the GAW community. It is assisted by a number of Scientific Advisory Groups established to provide guidance on major themes of the GAW programme. The Future

The future core activities of the GAW programme are seen as: To acquire and distribute data of high and known quality through the use and implementation of consistent quality control procedures and through making more use of Internet; To improve and expand the measurement network by maintaining operations at the present stations, selectively

extending measurement capabilities and adding stations in targeted biomes and regions of the world with little or no coverage; To enhance capacities of station operators, technicians, and scientists in developing countries through on-site training, workshops, and advanced international To expand GAW efforts into the urban environment, biosphere burning, aerosols, and Persistent Organic Pollutants/ heavy metals; To expand the user base for GAW data into the scientific community; and, To evolve GAW into a 3-dimensional global observation network through integration of surface-based, aircraft, satellite and other remotely sensed observations for realtime monitoring.

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