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61ST MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT 2012

Miss Universe 2012 is the 61st Miss Universe pageant, and was held on December 19, 2012, at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States. Leila Lopes from Angola crowned her successor Olivia Culpo from USA at the end of this event. 89 countries and territories participated in this year's pageant and it was broadcasted live in participant countries and territories by NBC, Telemundo & the international broadcasters.



Final results: USA - Olivia Culpo : Miss Universe 2012





Venezuela – Irene Esser : 2nd runner-up



Miss Universe 2012: India's hope dashed Women from around the world squared off on Dec 19, 2012 night for the right to be called Miss Universe, but India's hope Shilpa Singh failed to make the top 10 as celebrity judges descended on the red carpet and brought some extra sparkle to the Las Vegas Strip.



Australia, Russia, Brazil, France, Venezuela, USA, Hungary, South Africa, Mexico and Philippines were the top 10 contenders.

India has been eyeing the most coveted beauty

pageant since a decade now and this time around Shilpa Singh, a software engineer by profession, who was planning to make India proud at Miss Universe 2012 pageant.

Hailing form a small town in Bihar, Shilpa made her way to the I Am She - Miss Universe 2012 pageant and went onto become the first runner-up at the beauty pageant. However, later the winner of the pageant, Urvashi Rautela, was dethroned due to age conflict and the title was given to Shilpa Singh.

SACHIN TENDULKAR

ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM ODI CRICKET

Sachin Tendulkar has retired from ODI cricket. Tendulkar finishes an illustrious career in the 50-over format, having played 463 ODIs, scored 18,426 runs and made 49 centuries, each of them a world record. His last ODI was against Pakistan in Dhaka during the Asia Cup, where he made a half-

century in India's victory. "I have decided to retire from the One Day format of the game," he said in a statement. "I feel blessed to have fulfilled the dream of being part of a World Cup winning Indian team. The preparatory process to defend the World Cup in 2015 should begin early and in right earnest. I would like to wish the team all the very best for the future. I am eternally grateful to all my well wishers for their unconditional support and love over the years."

Tendulkar made his ODI debut on his first international tour, in 1989, against Pakistan in Guiranwala, where he got a duck. He scored his first half-century in his ninth ODI and made an immediate impact when promoted to open the batting in 1994, in an ODI against New Zealand in Auckland, where he smashed 82 in 49 balls. His first century took 79 ODIs to arrive but he kept piling them on with remarkable consistency.

Some of the batting highlights in his ODI career include back-to-back hundreds against Australia in 1998 in a triangular tournament in Sharjah, finishing as the highest rungetter in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, and becoming the first batsman to score a double-century in the ODI format, against South Africa in February 2010. He was part of

one of India's greatest ODI achievements over the last three decades, when they won the World Cup in 2011, beating Sri Lanka in the final on his home ground in Mumbai - it was his last ODI in India. In preparation for that World Cup, Tendulkar had curtailed the amount of ODI cricket in the year playing only four ODIs in the 12 months before the tournament. Since the end of the World Cup, Tendulkar has played 10 ODIs, seven in the CB Series against Australia and the last three of his career being played at the Asia Cup in Dhaka. His innings of 114 against Bangladesh on March 16 was his 100th international hundred in what turned out to be Tendulkar's penultimate ODI match for India.

Tendulkar's announcement of his ODI retirement came through a statement from the BCCI which stated that he had spoken to BCCI president N Srinivasan. His retirement was announced on the day the Indian selectors picked the teams to play in the five-match T20 and ODI series against Pakistan. "It was not sudden. He informed us before the selection about his decision," Sanjay Jagdale, the BCCI secretary, told reporters. "He spoke to me and the president about his decision. Naturally he must have been (emotional) I can't say we just spoke on the phone."

"What he has expressed is his concern that India has to prepare for the next World Cup," the BCCI's chief administrative officer Ratnakar Shetty added. "From that point of view, he felt that it was time that he retired."

One of the game's all-time greats, Sachin Tendulkar, on Sunday announced his retirement from one-day cricket, bringing to an end a glorious 23-yearold career in the format during which he rewrote numerous batting records. "I have decided to retire from the One-Day format of the game. I feel blessed to have fulfilled the dream of being part of a World Cup wining Indian team. The preparatory process to defend the World Cup in 2015 should begin early and in right earnest," the 39-year-old said in a statement released by the BCCI on Sunday. "I would like to wish the team all the very best for the future. I am eternally grateful to all my well wishers for their unconditional support and love over the years," he added.

Tendulkar, considered the most complete batsman in modern cricket and one who was considered next only to the legendary Sir Donald Bradman, retires from the ODI format at the top of the run-getters' list.

Tendulkar goes out after amassing 18,426 runs in 463 one-dayers at an average of 44.83. inutive right-hander has an astonishing 49 hundreds in the format, including a double hundred -- the first in this form of the game.

Tendulkar made his ODI debut against Pakistan way back in 1989 and interestingly he is quitting the scene just ahead of another series against the arch-rivals. The Mumbaikar, who made himself unavailable for Twenty20 after playing just one game in 2006, will now remain active in only the Test arena. The brightest moment of his ODI career came last year when he finally became part of a World Cup winning Indian team after five previous appearances.

	Career averages														
	Span	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR	100	50	0	4 s	6s	
overall	1989-2012	463	452	41	18426	200*	44.83	21367	86.23	49	96	20	2016	195	

INDIA GATE RAPE PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT "WE WANT JUSTICS"

What are becoming in India today, is indicate for all political class, that they are awaking otherwise it that kind of protest and silence of Governing

class turn may be like Egypt and western world's "Arab Spring". It is also indicators for Indian civil war if situation will not change shortly.

Police have clashed with hundreds of protesters for the second straight day in the Indian capital New Delhi, after earlier imposing a ban on mass demonstrations against the gang rape of a medical student in the capital last weekend. Police fired tear gas and water cannon, and used batons to disperse the demonstrators gathered in central areas of the city on Sunday. Despite the police's efforts, however, the crowd at Delhi's landmark India Gate monument swelled into the thousands, witnesses said. Scuffles occurred between protesters and police near government buildings, with demonstrators shouting slogans against the authorities and throwing stones and bottles at their barricades. Angry protesters later overturned a vehicle and seized police vans. At least 30 people, including several policemen, have been treated for injuries at a nearby hospital, officials said. Areas close to the president's residence and the parliament had earlier been declared off-limits to protesters. Early on Sunday morning, police had

cordoned off all routes leading to landmark government buildings, including metro stations. "Security has been tightened in the heart of New Delhi, with police in riot gear in every area of possible demonstration. Section 144, a criminal code that prohibits assembly of more than five people, has been imposed," reported Al Jazeera's Subina Shrestha in New Delhi. "The situation turned quite ugly [on December 22, 2012] after

protesters clashed with police, and the police retaliated with water cannon and tear gas."

A delegation of protesters met Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the ruling Congress party, to convey their demands. Some female protesters were injured after the police charged them when they tried to approach key federal government building near India Gate on Saturday.

The gang rape in New Delhi has sparked public outrage across India, bringing thousands of people onto city streets. Marches, demonstrations and candlelight vigils have spread during the last week. Six drunk men were joyriding in a bus when they picked up a physiotherapy student and her 28year-old male companion last Sunday. They took turns raping her before throwing the pair off the speeding vehicle. During her ordeal the victim suffered serious intestinal injuries from being beaten with an iron rod. She remains in critical condition on respiratory support, but is responding to treatment, doctors said on Sunday. Five of the suspects in the case were arrested soon after the crime and a sixth was caught on Friday, the Press Trust of India reported. New Delhi has the highest number of sex crimes among India's major cities, with a rape reported on average every 18 hours, according to police figures.

Journalist shot dead

Meanwhile, in a separate incident at a rally against the sexual assault of a film actress in the country's northeast on Sunday, a television journalist was shot dead by police. The 36-year-old man, who worked for the Doordarshan network, was killed in Imphal, capital of Manipur state, after police opened fire on the rally, police spokesperson A Singh told the AFP news agency. Police fired on protesters when they attempted to torch a police bus. The area has been observing a general strike against the alleged molestation of the actress by local political party workers.

VOLCANO ALERT ON CHILE-ARGENTINA BORDER

Southern Chile's Copahue Volcano has begun spewing plumes of ash skyward, prompting authorities there and in neighbouring Argentina to issue a low-level alert. The 2,965-metre-high Copahue volcano, which straddles in Argentina's Neuquen province and Chile's Biobio region, began belching ash and gas early on Saturday, but officials said on Sunday it's still in an early eruption stage. Hernan de Solminihac, Chile's mining minister, said the volcano's smoke plume led Argentine emergency officials to issue a yellow alert and constantly monitor its activity in case of a full eruption.

Authorities alerted residents in a small nearby community, Biobio, and were monitoring the activity closely. Mayor Victor Lobos told the AFP news agency that locals were concerned but no lava or rocks have been expelled from the crater. "We need to stay calm," Lobos added. Officials said there was no need yet to evacuate people near the volcano, which is part of the Andes mountain chain. Flights expected to pass by the area around the volcano have been warned. A volcano in southern Chile erupted last year, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights and the evacuation of more than 600 people.



ASEAN-INDIA COMMEMORATIVE

SUMMIT 2012

ASEAN, India conclude trade pact

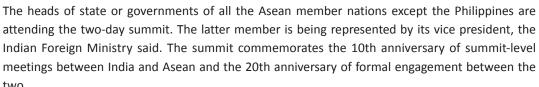
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and India on December 20, 2012 successfully concluded negotiations on a free trade agreement in services and investment. Speaking at an India-Asean commemorative summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said: "This represents a valuable milestone in our relationship. I am confident it will boost our economic ties in

The two parties reached a trade deal on goods in 2010 but India has pushed for extending the agreement to services and investment.

much the same way the FTA in goods has done."

India and Asean have set a bilateral trade target of US\$100 billion (3 billion baht) by 2015. Two-way trade currently stands at \$80 billion.

The two sides also agreed on a vision document laying out a roadmap for future cooperation across all



To mark the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership and the 10th anniversary of ASEAN-India Summit-level partnership, India is hosting the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on December 20-21, 2012. The theme of the summit is 'ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace and Shared Prosperity'.

The Summit is expected to result in the adoption of a Vision Statement which would chart the future direction of ASEAN-India relations. The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) would be submitting their recommendations to the Leaders on future relations between ASEAN and India at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh..



Enhancing relations with ASEAN has been central to India's "Look East Policy" and there has been steady progress in the relationship with ASEAN countries since the policy was initiated in 1991. India became a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1992, and a full dialogue partner in 1996. Since 2002, we have had annual Summits with ASEAN. Prime Minister of India would be meeting his ASEAN counterparts for the 10th ASEAN-India Summit at Phnom Penh on November 19, 2012.

The ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit will be the culmination of several events being organized in celebration of the partnership. These include a number of

Ministerial level Meetings, people to people initiatives, B2B activities and cultural programmes The Logo for the Commemorative Summit was launched by External Affairs Minister at a special

event organized on the sidelines of the 10th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh on July 11, 2012. (Details) External Affairs Minister with his ASEAN Counterparts at the launch of the logo forthe Special ASEAN-

India Commomerative Summit in Phnom Penh (July 11, 2012) Two flagship events being organized as part of the commemorative year events are the Shipping

Expedition of INS Sudarshini to ASEAN countries and the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012. The INS Sudarshini Shipping Expedition was flagged off on 15 September 2012 from Kochi and is

scheduled to conclude on 29 March 2013. The shipping expedition traces the ancient trade route along the monsoon winds and is conceptualized to highlight India's traditional and current maritime linkages with South East Asia and emphasize connectivity and the continuous flow of intellectual ideas, economic trade and the civilizational interface between the people of the region. INS Sudarshini would call on ports in nine ASEAN countries during this expedition. Various "Marker" events - B2B events by FICCI and ICC, Kolkata and cultural events by ICCR - are being organized at various ports of call

The 2nd edition of the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012 was flagged off from Yogjakarta, Indonesia on

After passing through several capitals and cultural and commercial centres, covering a distance of 7448 kms over 19 days, the Rally would be flagged-down at Guwahati on December 17, 2012. The rally would be received by the Leaders of ASEAN and India in New Delhi on December 21, 2012, on the occasion of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. "Marker" events, including business seminars, tourism road-shows, cultural performances, etc. are also being organized along the route of the Car Rally by Indian Missions, CII, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Tourism and ICCR.

China successfully conducts test run of high-speed railway

China has successfully conducted test run of the world's longest 2,298-km long Beijing- Guangzhou high-speed railway, ahead of its formal launch. Running at an average speed of 300 km per hour, it only took two-and-a-half hours for the train on Saturday to cover the 693 km distance from Beijing to Zhengzhou, the northern section of the whole route that links the country's capital and the southern economic hub. Zhou Li, director general of science and technology with the Ministry of Railways (MOR), also aboard the train, told reporters that he was confident in the country's railway technologies. "We will keep tracking the condition of equipment in real time and report potential risks immediately," Zhou said.

The railway authorities have taken a string of targeted measures to guarantee a safe trip, such as in tensifying the maintenance of fixed equipment and mobile devices on board and improving the control system to address possible problems under extreme weather, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying.

This is the longest high-speed network after China launched the Beijing-Shanghai bullet train last

year which brought down travel time to around five hours covering over 1,300 km distance between two of China's largest cities.

The new train covers Beijing with China's most industrialised province Guangdong which houses top developed cities like Guangzhou close to Hong Kong and Maccau.

Designed with a maximum speed of 350 km per hour, the railway has 35 stops in major cities, including Shijiazhuang, Zhengzhou, Wuhan and Changsha.



2013 FORMULA 1™ AIRTEL INDIAN GRAND PRIX

BUDDH INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT



Formula One championship leader Sebastian Vettel took pole position for the Indian Grand Prix on October 27, 2012, edging out team-mate Mark Webber by four-hundredths of a second for Red Bull's third straight front-row sweep. McLaren pair Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button qualified third and fourth at the Buddh International Circuit, ahead of the Ferraris of Fernando Alonso and

Felipe Massa. Alonso trails Vettel by six points in the drivers' championship. Vettel is primed for a fourth consecutive win as he chases a third straight F1 title; something only previously achieved by Juan Manuel Fangio and Michael Schumacher. Vettel also completed the double of pole and race victory in last



very happy with the lap," Vettel said. "It's been a great weekend so far, no problem

with the car." Pole position, coupled with his recent dominant form, suggests Vettel will be very hard to stop in Sunday's race — but he did add a note of caution. "Tomorrow is the major exercise," Vettel said. "The McLarens were very quick on the long runs in practice, along with the Ferraris." Located 60 kilometers away from New Delhi in the province of Greater Noida, Buddh International Circuit, the newest addition to the F1 family in October 2011 was conceived by the circuit architect Hermann Tilke, reknown for all the latest F1 circuits on the map - Sepang, Yas Marina, Valencia... The Indian Grand Prix circuit, which required the displacement of four million cubic tons of dirt, can welcome up to 130.000 spectators.

- Track Length 5,125 km
- Amount of laps 60
- Race distance 307,249 km
- Corners 15
- Top Speed 318 km/h
- Average Speed 210 km/h
- Lap Record Time 1:27.249 Sebastian Vettel (2011)



Flags of Formula One

Marshals at various points around the circuit are issued with a number of standard flags, all used to communicate vital messages to the drivers as they race around the track. A special display in each driver's cockpit - known as a GPS marshalling system - also lights up with the relevant flag colour, as the driver passes the affected section of track. Travelling at such high speeds, it may be hard for a driver to spot a marshal's flag and this system helps them identify messages from race control more effectively.

Chequered flag

Indicates to drivers that the session has ended. During practice and qualifying sessions it is waved at the allotted time, during the race it is shown first to the winner and then to every car that crosses the line behind him. Yellow flag

Indicates danger, such as a stranded car, ahead. A single waved yellow flag warns drivers to slow down, while two waved yellow flags at the same post means that drivers must slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary. Overtaking is prohibited.

Green flag

All clear. The driver has passed the potential danger point and prohibitions

imposed by yellow flags have been lifted. Red flag

The session has been stopped, usually due to an accident or poor track conditions.

Blue flag Warns a driver that he is about to be lapped and to let the faster car over take. Pass three blue flags without complying and the driver risks being

penalised. Blue lights are also displayed at the end of the pit lane when the

pit exit is open and a car on track is approaching. Yellow and red striped flag

Warns drivers of a slippery track surface, usually due to oil or water. Black with orange circle flag

Accompanied by a car number, it warns a driver that he has a mechanical

problem and must return to his pit. Half black, half white flag

Accompanied by a car number, it warns of unsporting behaviour. May be followed by a black flag if the driver does not heed the warning.

Accompanied by a car number, it directs a driver to return to his pit and is most often used to signal to the driver that he has been excluded from the race.

White flag

Warns of a slow moving vehicle on track.

Hilary Mantel wins 2012 Man Booker Prize

The whittling has finished. The judges of this year's Man Booker Prize started with a daunting 145 novels and have winnowed, sifted, culled, and in some cases hurled, until there was only one left: Hilary Mantel's Bring up the Bodies. Hers is a story unique in Man Booker history. She becomes only the third author, after Peter Carey and J.M. Coetzee, to win the prize twice, which puts her in the empyrean. But she is also the first to win with a sequel (Wolf Hall won in 2009) and the first to win with such a brief interlude between books. Her resuscitation of Thomas Cromwell – and with him the historical novel – is one of the great achievements of modern literature. There is the last volume of her trilogy still to come so her Man Booker tale may yet have a further chapter.

The writing will have to wait a bit though. She may have won before but the torrent of media interest will still knock her back as if she's been hit by a wave. In 2009 she confessed to feeling as though she were "flying through the air", well, she's soaring again. When she lands she won't have time to think and she will talk into microphones until her throat is sore. It comes with the territory: everyone wants a bit of the Man Booker winner.

It has been a long and uniquely intense journey not just for her but for everyone associated with the prize. For the judges it has meant nine months of work, worry and pleasure. Their choices have been scrutinised and criticised and their thoughts and penchants imagined. They will have read the shortlisted books at least three times. They will await the public's verdict on their choice with sang froid mixed with curiosity. They needn't be worried, Bring Up the Bodies has had near universal praise from critics and reading public alike.

The shortlisted authors meanwhile have felt the hot brightness of the media spotlight on them since July when the long-list was first announced. They can breathe out now. For Hilary Mantel all those middle-of-the-night moments when she had to tell herself not to think of what it would be like to win again, not to jinx herself, can stop.

Indeed, spare a thought for the shortlisted authors; they will have had a day unlike any other they have known. How do you take your mind off the fact that in a matter of hours you might be the winner of arguably the world's most high-profile literary prize? Of course it is an honour and validation to be shortlisted but they will have known that at 11.30 this morning the judges closed the door of a room somewhere in London – possibly near to where they themselves were standing/

ICC World Twenty20, 2012 world cup West Indies won by 36 runs

There was no fairytale finish for the host nation, no culmination of a dream for its brave captain. Instead, international cricket's most admired team walked away with the spoils, as West Indies justified pre-tournament favourite status by lifting the ICC World Twenty20 2012 crown in sensational fashion. West Indies' first global title since it won the ICC Champions Trophy 2004 at The Oval in London thus consigned Sri Lanka to a fourth consecutive defeat in the final of an ICC tournament, a miserable run that dates back to 2007. A fourth of the way into the title clash in front of a capacity 35,000-strong crowd – including Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa – at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday night, the West Indies had all but batted itself out of the game. Then, it found a timely hero in Marlon Samuels. Batting like a man possessed, Samuels single-handedly resurrected an innings that had been stifled by the parsimony of Angelo Mathews and the prolific wicket-taking ways of Ajantha Mendis. Samuels tore into Lasith Malinga, arguably the best Twenty20 bowler of the past few seasons, on his way to a stirring 78 off 56 deliveries. In the process, he carried West Indies to 137 for 6.

t wasn't the most intimidating total, but on a slowing surface that cried out to be exploited by the spin resources at Darren Sammy's disposal, it needed some getting. Through brilliance with the ball, commitment in the field and fuelled by the desire to do it for the Caribbean people, the West Indies beat Sri Lanka at its own game, bowling the host out for 101 to complete an emotion-soaked and comprehensive 36-run victory.

Sri Lanka needed at least one of its top three – the experienced unit of Mahela Jayawardena, its inspirational captain, Tillakaratne Dilshan and Kumar Sangakkara – to anchor the chase. Dilshan was knocked over in the second over by a beauty from Ravi Rampaul, and while Jayawardena and Sangakkara did put on 42, they took 50 deliveries in doing so as West Indies kept things remarkably tight. Sangakkara's dismissal, trying to force the tempo, set in motion an extraordinary passage of play as wickets tumbled in a rush. There is no greater advantage in a cup final than scoreboard pressure; Sri anka completely succumbed to it, especially after Jayawardena's second-gear effort was terminated by Sunil Narine, who sowed the early seeds of doubt by ripping his first couple of deliveries past. Sangakkara's hopeful blade.

Sri Lanka completely lost its head after its captain's dismissal and played itself out of contention through two silly run-outs. The sound of silence gripped the stadium but the West Indies, Gangnam Style and all, couldn't be bothered. Until Samuels's blitzkrieg, though, the West Indian innings was headed nowhere. Runs came in a trickle as Sri Lanka began brilliantly, keeping up the pressure through Mathews and Nuwan Kulasekara. Johnson Charles fell prey to frustration in the first over from Mathews, a wicket-maiden, after four dot balls, while Kulasekara conceded only wide in his first over to Chris Gayle.

The West Indies had limped to 12 for 1 after five, and when Ajantha snared Gayle with a straighter one in his first over – Gayle had never looked like he was in any control, taking 16 deliveries for a tortured three – the West Indies finished the Power Play at 14 for 2, easily its lowest ever. The first ten overs yielded just one four; otherwise, forget the boundaries, even the twos had completely dried up. At 32 for 2 after 10, Sri Lanka had a serious stranglehold.



n the final analysis, the 11th over proved the most critical one of the game. It only produced six runs, but it was the over in which Samuels was reprieved, by Kulasekara running round to his right from ong-off as the batsman tried to drive Jeevan Mendis's leg-spin over the boundary. Samuels was then on 20, out of 33 for 2. Taking that as the cue to stamp his authority on the final, Samuels cut loose n some style. His assault on Malinga had to be seen to be believed. It wasn't as if Malinga bowled too badly; Samuels, though, was in the zone, unleashing a bucketful of fury on the hapless bowler. What was pleasing about Samuels's pyrotechnics was that he played fabulous cricketing shots. There was one gorgeous drive over cover and a top-edged pull, both easily clearing the boundary rope, but otherwise his breathtaking innings was characterised by brilliant use of the straight field.

Dwayne Bravo played no more than a bit part in the only partnership of substance, 59 off 49 for the third wicket, until he was adjudged leg before to Ajantha, but that association had given the West ndies renewed hope. That hope burgeoned the longer Samuels stayed at the wicket. Having taken 21 off Malinga's second over, he smashed Jeevan for 14 in his second, then picked up 19 off Malinga's third, with two more sixes and a peach of a cut-drive behind point. In all, he hammered one four and five sixes off Malinga alone, leaving him with figures of none for 54 from four overs. Contrast this with Mathews, who bowled four overs for 11 and Ajantha, who finished with 4 for 12 from his quota, and it puts the Samuels innings in perspective. Ajantha did cut a swathe through the middle order, but even after Samuels fell playing one stroke too many to give Akila Dananjaya his only success, the West Indies was far from finished. Sammy dented Kulasekara's figures in the last over by alternating between helter-skelter running and two beefy hits to pick up 16. At the break, the West Indies total appeared competitive but gettable. By the end, it was a mile too far, again, for Sri Lanka.

shopping/chomping their nails and settled down to decide their future. They will have wondered what that group literary holy men and women, like the conclave of cardinals in the Sistine Chapel choosing a new Pope, were talking about and wondered whether the puff of



white smoke that finally emerged was for them. They may be writers but they're only human. The nerves will have continued all through the prize dinner, even a phalanx of loved ones, publisher and agent can't keep them away. They chatted amicably, a drink – but perhaps just the one – to steady the beating heart. I doubt they tasted their food. Who would have wanted to be them as Sir Peter Stothard took to the rostrum and opened his mouth to enunciate the first syllable of the winner's name? She may qualify as an old hand but Hilary Mantel confessed that her nerves this time round were infinitely worse than in 2009.

This is not the end of the process, however. For Hilary Mantel it is the moment of coronation before she confronts the wider horizons that have suddenly opened up before her. For the other shortlisted authors who came so agonisingly close they have the knowledge that every publisher in the land will bite their hand off for the chance to publish their next book and that, whatever they write, they will have a wide and eager audience. Their names are now known to readers who may have had no idea of them only a few months ago.

Perhaps the real object of envy is not the winner – she thoroughly deserves her triumph – but the readers who have yet to open Bring Up the Bodies. They have just won a prize too.

The Man Booker International Prize recognises one writer for his or her achievement in fiction. Worth £60,000, the prize is awarded every two years to a living author who has published fiction either originally in English or whose work is generally available in translation in the English language. The winner is chosen solely at the discretion of the judging panel and there are no submissions from publishers. The Man Booker International Prize is significantly different from the annual Man Booker Prize for Fiction. In seeking out literary excellence, the judges consider a writer's body of work rather than a single novel.

Direct Cash Transfer scheme from Jan next year

The ambitious electronic Direct Cash Transfer scheme for beneficiaries of subsidised items will be rolled out from January next year and is expected to cover 16 states by April 2014, the government announced on November 16, 2012. The scheme, which is aimed at curtailing corruption and pilferage of subsidised items, will be based on the payment platform of Aadhaar which is also to be rolled out speedily in line with it. These decisions were taken at a meeting held by the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Pulok Chatterjee with secretaries and representatives of various ministries and departments concerned. As per the roadmap, the scheme will be rolled out in 51 districts from January one next year. It will cover 16 states from April one 2014, according to a PMO statement. "It was decided that all departments engaged in transferring benefits to individual beneficiaries will quickly move to an electronic Direct Cash Transfer system, based on an Aadhaar Pay-**DEVELOP INDIA**

ment Bridge/Platform," the statement said. "They will identify the schemes to move to this system and also prepare a roadmap with timelines so that the rollout is smooth and fast," it said. The list of schemes, roadmaps and timelines will be sent to the Planning Commission and PMO by 20 November 2012.

UIDAI will set up a dedicated cell of technical experts in UIDAI to facilitate Aadhaar enabled Direct Cash Transfers and help individual ministries. Department of Financial Services will go for universal financial inclusion through individual bank accounts for all in line with the roadmap. UIDAI will rollout Aadhaar speedily in line with the roadmap, it said. Departments will work towards digitising their databases quickly, particularly at the state level, with the help of state governments, Department of IT and NIC to ensure convergence.

The Prime Minister had recently constituted a National Committee on Direct Cash Transfers under his chairmanship and an Executive Committee on Direct Cash Transfers to give a thrust to roll out a cash transfer programme across the country, leveraging the Aadhaar platform. Dr. Singh will be holding the first meeting of the Committee on November 26 where the roadmap and timelines will be presented. The purpose of Friday's meeting was to move forward and operationalise Direct Cash Transfers for which many steps need to be taken, the PMO statement said. The necessary steps include identification of areas where Direct Cash Transfers can be introduced, establishing mechanisms for preparing rollout plans for these areas and ensuring rapid rollout of Aadhaar to achieve better coverage of at least 80 per cent. The steps also include ensuring universal access to banking and financial inclusion and setting up of mechanisms to enable cash transfers to actually take place. "To facilitate all this, there is a need to constitute other committees including a Technology Committee, a Financial Inclusion Committee and Implementation Committees within each Ministry so as to ensure coordination and quick implementation," the statement said. The agenda for the meeting was to explain to all committee members the rationale and purpose of Direct Cash Transfers and the institutional architecture that has been put in place for the rollout. Its agenda also included finalisation of the constitution and composition of the implementation committees, identification of areas for introducing Direct Cash Transfers and make arrangements for finalising roadmaps for rollout in each area, keeping in view the roadmap already prepared for Direct Cash Transfers of LPG Subsidy.

Second Quarter Review of Monetary Policy 2012-13

"First of all, on behalf of the Reserve Bank, I want to welcome you all to this Second Quarter Review of Monetary Policy for 2012-13.

2. A short while ago, we put out the Second Quarter Review. Based on an assessment of the current macroeconomic situation, we have decided to:

Cut the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks by 25 basis points from 4.5 per cent to 4.25 per cent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) effective the fortnight beginning November 3, 2012. The reduction in the CRR, will inject around `175 billion of primary liquidity into the banking

3. There is no change in policy interest rate. Accordingly, the repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility remains at 8.0 per cent.

4. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF), determined

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with a spread of 100 basis points below the repo rate, will continue at 7.0 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate, determined with a spread of 100 bps above the repo rate, at 9.0 per cent



Considerations Behind the Policy Move

5. Let me begin with an explanation of the rationale behind this monetary policy action.

6. The decision to cut the CRR and keep the policy interest rate unchanged draws from our assessment of the evolving liquidity situation and the growth-inflation dynamic.

First on liquidity. Systemic liquidity deficit has been high because of several factors: the wedge between deposit and credit growth, the build-up of Government's cash balances from mid-September and the drainage of liquidity on account of festival-related step-up in currency demand. This high systemic deficit will have adverse implications for the flow of credit to productive sectors and for the overall growth of the economy going forward.

As regards the growth-inflation balance, headline WPI inflation moderated from its peak of 10.9 per cent in April 2010 to an average rate of 7.5 per cent over the period January-August 2012. During this time, growth has slowed and is currently below trend. This slowdown is due to a host of factors, including monetary tightening.

Since April 2012, the Reserve Bank's monetary policy stance has sought to balance the growthinflation dynamic through calibrated easing. The transmission of these policy impulses through the economy is still underway. In conjunction with the fiscal and other measures recently announced by the Government, the Reserve Bank's monetary policy stance should work towards arresting the loss of growth momentum over the next few months. Yesterday's statement by the Finance Minister reaffirming commitment to fiscal consolidation will open up space for monetary policy to restrain inflation and support growth.

Now coming to inflation. It turned up again in September, reflecting the partial pass-through of adjustment of diesel and electricity prices, and elevated inflation in non-food manufactured products. It is, therefore, critical that even as the monetary policy stance shifts further towards addressing growth risks, the objective of containing inflation and anchoring inflation expectations is not de-emphasised.

Monetary Policy Stance

7. The policy document spells out the three broad contours of our monetary policy stance. These

first, to manage liquidity to ensure adequate flow of credit to the productive sectors of the economy; second, to reinforce the positive impact of government policy actions on growth as inflation risks moderate: and third, to maintain an interest rate environment to contain inflation and anchor inflation expectations.

Guidance

8. As in the past, we have also given guidance for the period forward.

9. In reducing CRR, the Reserve Bank intended to pre-empt a prospective tightening of liquidity conditions, thereby keeping liquidity comfortable and supportive of growth. The policy stance anticipates the projected inflation trajectory which indicates a rise in inflation over the next few months before easing in the last quarter. While there are risks to this trajectory, the baseline scenario suggests a reasonable likelihood of further policy easing in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year. Let me add though that this guidance will, however, be conditioned by the evolving growth-inflation

Expected Outcomes

10. We expect that today's policy actions, and the guidance that we have given, will result in the following three outcomes:

first, liquidity conditions will facilitate a turnaround in credit growth to productive sectors so as to support growth;

second, as inflation risks moderate, the growth stimulus of the policy actions announced by the Government will be reinforced:

and, finally, the policy action will anchor medium-term inflation expectations on the basis of a

credible commitment to low and stable inflation.

Global and Domestic Developments

11. As always, our policy action has been based on a careful assessment of the global and domestic macroeconomic situation. Let me comment first on the global economy.

Global Economy

12. Over the last quarter, policymakers around the world have confronted increasingly difficult challenges. Globally, even as the growth momentum has slowed, governments have had to manage the balance between fiscal consolidation and growth stimulus amidst visible signs that the two objectives are in conflict with each other. As the advanced economies deal with these tensions and global demand conditions weaken, emerging and developing economies are also slowing down.

13. Liquidity infusions by central banks in advanced economies during the quarter have contributed to some stability in global financial markets. It is important to note though that liquidity infusions are only a stop-gap measure intended to maintain financial stability and arrest further downturn. They cannot substitute for robust structural solutions that can return the advanced economies to the path of recovery. At this stage, growth risks have risen and could well overwhelm the positive effects of enhanced liquidity. Moreover, notwithstanding some muted softening recently, commodity prices are still at elevated levels. Consequently, there is a significant risk of liquiditydriven price increases. Even as the global recovery process moves forward, the months ahead will

be a period of heightened uncertainty for the global economy. Indian Economy

14. Let me now turn to the domestic macroeconomic situation. Growth decelerated over four successive quarters, from 9.2 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2010-11 to 5.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2011-12. In the first quarter of this year, growth was marginally higher at 5.5 per cent. This slight improvement in GDP growth in the first quarter was mainly driven by growth in construction, and supported by better than expected growth in agriculture. On the demand side, the growth of gross fixed capital formation decelerated, while the slowdown in growth of private consumption expenditure continued. The external demand conditions and crude oil prices also remained unfavourable, adversely impacting net exports.

15. Over the last quarter, global risks have increased and domestic risks have become accentuated owing to halted investment demand, moderation in consumption spending and continuing erosion in export competitiveness accompanied by weakening business and consumer confidence. The industrial outlook remains uncertain. Notwithstanding the improvement in rainfall in the months of August and September, the first advance estimates of the 2012 kharif production are about 10 per cent lower than last year's production.

16. On the basis of the above considerations, the baseline projection of GDP growth for 2012-13 is revised downwards from 6.5 per cent to 5.8 per cent.

Inflation

17. Moving on to inflation. Headline WPI inflation remained sticky, at above 7.5 per cent on a y-oy basis, through the first half of the current year. Furthermore, in September there was a pick-up in the momentum of headline inflation owing to the increase in fuel prices and elevated price levels of non-food manufactured products. This is, in part, attributable to some suppressed inflation in the form of earlier under-pricing being corrected. However, even after adjusting for this, the momentum remains firm.

etables, prices of cereal and protein items edged up. WPI food products inflation increased in September, mainly due to the firming up of the prices of sugar, edible oils and grain mill products. 19. Fuel group inflation registered a significant rise in September, reflecting the sharp increase in prices of electricity effected from June, the partial impact of the increase in prices of diesel in mid-September and significant increase in non-administered fuel prices on account of rising global crude

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18. While WPI primary food articles moderated since July due to the softening of prices of veg-

20. Non-food manufactured products inflation was persistent at 5.6 per cent through July-September. This upside pressure was a result of firm prices of metal products and other inputs and intermediates, especially goods with high import content due to a depreciating rupee.

21. Consumer price inflation, as measured by the new CPI, remained elevated, reflecting the buildup of food price pressures. CPI inflation excluding food and fuel groups ebbed slightly during June-September, from double digits earlier.

22. Looking ahead, the path of inflation will be shaped by two sets of counteracting forces.

First, on the downside, slower growth and excess capacity in some sectors will help moderate core inflation. Stable, or in the best case scenario, declining commodity prices will reinforce this tendency. An appreciating rupee will also help to contain inflationary pressures by bringing down the rupee cost of imports, especially of commodities.

Balancing those downside forces are some on the upside. Persistent supply constraints may aggravate as demand revives, resulting in price pressures. Global financial instability could put downward pressure on the rupee and that will add to imported inflation. Also, the upsurge in both rural and urban wages will exert cost-push pressures on inflation.

Finally, as under-pricing in several products is corrected as part of the fiscal consolidation process, suppressed inflation is being brought into the open. This correction is necessary and important. Nevertheless, it will result in higher inflation readings.

23. Taking the above factors into consideration, the baseline projection for headline WPI inflation for March 2013 is raised to 7.5 per cent from 7.0 per cent indicated in July. Importantly, inflation is expected to rise somewhat in the third quarter before beginning to ease in the fourth quarter.

Monetary and Liquidity Conditions

24. Let me now move on to monetary and liquidity conditions. Money supply (M3), deposit and credit growth have so far trailed below the indicative trajectories of the Reserve Bank indicated in the April Policy and reiterated in the July Review. Deposit growth has decelerated with the moderation in interest rates, especially term deposits. Credit growth has ebbed with the slowdown in investment demand, especially with regard to infrastructure, and lower absorption of credit by industry, in general. Keeping in view the developments during the year so far and the usual yearend pick-up, the trajectories of the monetary aggregates for 2012-13 are projected at 14 per cent for M3, 15 per cent for deposit growth and 16 per cent for growth of non-food credit.

25. Liquidity conditions, as reflected in the average net borrowing under the LAF at `486 billion during July-September, remained within the comfort zone of (+/-) one per cent of NDTL. However, liquidity conditions tightened in October, mainly on account of the build-up in the Government's cash balances and the seasonal increase in currency demand, taking the average LAF borrowing to `871 billion during October 15-25, well above the band of (+/-) one per cent of NDTL

26. Now, let me highlight the risks to our growth and inflation projections:

First, the downside risks to growth stemming from the global macroeconomic environment now seem likely to be stronger than earlier thought. Domestically, a revival in investment activity, which is key to stimulating growth, depends particularly on the recent policy announcements by the Government being translated into effective actions;

Second, despite recent moderation, global commodity prices remain high. Also, under recoveries in domestic prices of administered petroleum products persist and will need to be corrected. While corrections are welcome from the viewpoint of overall macroeconomic stability, we will have to guard against their second-round effects on inflation.

Third, the behaviour of food inflation will depend on the supply response in respect of commodities characterised by structural imbalances, particularly protein items;

Fourth, the persistent increase in rural and urban wages, unaccompanied by commensurate productivity increase, has been and will continue to be a source of inflationary pressures;

Fifth, the large twin deficits, i.e., the current account deficit and the fiscal deficit pose significant risks to both growth and macroeconomic stability; and

Finally, while liquidity pressures pose risks to credit availability for productive purposes and could adversely affect overall investment, excess liquidity could aggravate inflation risks.

Developmental and Regulatory Policies

27. This review also includes developmental and regulatory policies which focus on carrying forward the initiatives taken for strengthening the financial system and for efficiently providing financial services to the widest sections of society. Let me briefly indicate some of the important initia-

28. I will begin with financial markets and market infrastructure. Some important measures contained in the policy are the following:

The settlement cycle of the primary auction in Treasury Bills (T-Bills) will be reduced from T+2 to

IRS contracts will be standardised to facilitate centralised clearing and settlement of these con-

We will move towards developing a trade repository for OTC derivatives.

29. Now let me move on to initiatives for financial inclusion, credit delivery and customer service. Drawing on extensive consultation with banks, we have rationalised the guidelines on priority sector lending. Important initiatives in this regard are the following:

Loans up to `20 million to partnership firms, cooperatives and corporates directly engaged in agriculture and allied activities under partnership, rural co-operative and corporate categories will also be classified as direct finance to agriculture.

Bank loans to Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) for on-lending for housing up to `1 million per borrower will be included under the priority sector, provided the interest rate charged to the ultimate borrower by the HFC does not exceed two percentage points above the lowest interest rate of the lending bank for housing loans.

30. As regards the cooperative sector, scheduled urban cooperative banks (UCBs) have been allowed to undertake repo transactions in corporate bonds.

31. Another important step relates to micro and small enterprises. The definition of sickness of these enterprises is modified to facilitate early rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units and to lay down a procedure for assessing viability of sick units in the sector.

32. Moving on to regulation and supervision, we are carrying forward the implementation of Basel III capital regulations by issuing draft guidelines on capital requirements for bank exposures to central counterparties by mid-November 2012 and on composition of capital disclosure requirements by end-December 2012.

33. Given the larger objectives of financial stability, and keeping in view international best practices to ensure that banks have sufficient provisioning buffer, the provision for restructured standard accounts is being raised from the existing 2 per cent to 2.75 per cent.

34. To address the issue of rise in NPAs and restructured advances of banks, and with a view to improving effective information sharing among banks on credit, derivatives and unhedged foreign currency exposures, banks are being advised to put in place, by end-December 2012, an effective mechanism for information sharing. Any sanction of fresh loans/ad-hoc loans/renewal of loans to new or existing borrowers with effect from January 1, 2013 should be made only after obtaining/ sharing necessary information.

35. Turning to unhedged foreign currency exposures of corporates, which is a source of risk to them as well as to the financing banks and the financial system, we are advising banks to put in place a proper mechanism to rigorously evaluate the risks arising out of unhedged foreign currency exposures of corporates, and price them in the credit risk premium. Banks are also being advised to consider stipulating a limit on the unhedged position of corporates on the basis of bank's Boardapproved policy.

36. We are in the process of strengthening the regulatory framework for dealing with Systemically Important Financial Institutions (SIFIs) which may come under stress and may require resolution. Accordingly, the Government and the Reserve Bank are setting up a High Level Working Group to recommend a comprehensive resolution regime for all types of financial institutions in India.

37. Before I close, let me note that the persistence of inflation pressures, even as growth has moderated, remains a key challenge. Of particular concern is the stickiness of core inflation, mainly on account of supply constraints and the cost-push of rupee depreciation. Consequently, managing inflation and inflation expectations must remain the primary focus of monetary policy. A central premise of monetary policy is that low and stable inflation and well-anchored inflation expectations contribute to a conducive investment climate and consumer confidence, which is key to sustained growth on a higher trajectory in the medium-term.

38. Accordingly, over the past few quarters, monetary policy had to focus on inflation, even as growth risks have increased. As recent policy initiatives by the Government start yielding results in terms of revitalising activity, they will open up space for monetary policy to work in concert to stimulate growth. However, in doing so, it is important not to lose sight of the primary objective of managing inflation and inflation expectations.

India ranked 7th largest player in global services trade

India has been ranked by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as the seventh largest player in the global services trade with value of exports and imports aggregating 261 billion dollars in 2011. According to a WTO report, with exports at 137 billion dollar and imports at 124 billion dollar, India is among the five α countries out of the top ten players which ended the year 2011 $^{ extstyle extstyle$ with a surplus of trade in commercial services. The Indian economy is mainly driven by services with the sector contributing over 55 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



Obama on Thailand tour to boost US economy

Seeking to boost America's economic and strategic ties with Asia, President Obama is visiting Thailand as part of a three-day trip of Asia-Pacific region. His visit gains importance as it is seen to counter China's rise in the region. Obama is also seeking to open new markets for US businesses; the United States is Thailand's third biggest trading partner, behind China and Japan. It is Obama's first trip abroad after winning his second term. Obama terms alliance with Thailand as cornerstones of his administration's deeper committment to the Asia-Pacific region. Obama called on Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej and held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. His three-day tour to southeast Asia will also take him to Myanmar, the first by a US president.



Mysore gets country's first Intelligent Transport System

The cultural capital of Karnataka, Mysore boasts of country's first Intelligent Transport System, launched yesterday with the help of central government. At present 500 buses, 105 bus stops and six major bus stands with 45 platforms are covered under the system in Mysore city. It is implemented in Mysore as a pilot project at a cost of 23 crore rupees. AIR correspondent reports that once successful, the project will be replicated in other cities of the country.

GAAR amendments finalised: Chidambaram

Finance Minister P Chidambaram disclosed that amendments to General Anti-Avoidance Rules, GAAR, the law against tax avoidance through foreign investments, have been finalised. He said that the Finance Ministry has finalised the amendments to the Chapter 10A of the Income Tax Act. Chapter 10A of the Income Tax Act deals with taxation of investments.

GAAR which was proposed in 2012-13 budget with a view to preventing tax evasion, evoked sharp reactions from foreign as well as domestic investors who feared that unbridled powers to taxmen would result in harassment of investors.

The government later appointed a committee headed by tax expert Parthasarthi Shome to look into their concerns.

Chidambaram, during a interview, spoke on a variety of subjects including his optimism on meeting disinvestment and spectrum sales target, confidence on pushing through with reforms measures and the relationship with RBI which he said was not antagonistic. Speaking over the issue of subsidised LPG Cylenders, Finance Minister said that it is for Petroleum Ministry to consider raising the cap. Chidambaram also indicated that the proposal to set up the National Investment Board for expediting clearance to large projects will soon come up for approval before the Cabinet.

John Kerry nominated as next US secretary of state

US President Barack Obama has nominated Senator John Kerry to succeed Hillary Clinton as his next secretary of state. Mr Obama said Mr Kerry's "entire life" prepared him for the role, and praised him for the "respect and confidence" he has earned from world leaders. Mr Kerry ran as Democratic presidential candidate in 2004 and is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. His nomination comes after the US ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, withdrew from consideration last week.

Republicans had fiercely criticised her role in the aftermath of the deadly attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, in September.

Influential senator

Speaking at the White House, Mr Obama said Mr Kerry understood the need to "harness all elements of American power", and said the veteran senator was "not going to need a lot of on-the-job training". The president added that he was sure Mr Kerry would be swiftly confirmed in the Senate. Mrs Clinton, who is still recuperating from a stomach virus and concussion, was not present for the announcement. But in a statement, Mrs Clinton said Mr Kerry was an "excellent choice" of head for the state department. "He will be able to sustain and extend America's global leadership," she said. Mr Kerry, 69, becomes Mr Obama's first new cabinet nomination since he won a second term in November.

The president will also have to name a new defence secretary to replace Leon Panetta, and a new director of the CIA to take over from David Petraeus, who quit last month after admitting an affair. Mr Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran, lost a close presidential election to George W Bush in 2004 and had been a contender for the state department in 2008, before Mrs Clinton was chosen.

Mr Kerry is well-steeped in the details of world affairs and diplomacy. She says he has been the Obama administration's unofficial envoy to various hotspots, from Pakistan to Afghanistan. If confirmed, he will face the problem of ongoing Syrian unrest and continuing concern over Iran's nuclear programme.

Senator John Kerry

- Graduated from Yale University in 1966
- Enlisted in the US Navy and served in the Vietnam War. Honoured with a Silver Star, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts
- Attended Boston College Law School, graduating in 1976
- Elected lieutenant governor of Massachusetts in 1982
- Entered the US Senate in 1984
- Ran as Democratic party candidate for the White House in 2004. Narrowly defeated by incumbent George W Bush
- Member of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate

Virbhadra Singh to be Himachal CM for 6th time

Virbhadra Singh, who successfully spearheaded the Congress campaign in the Assembly polls, will be the next Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. 78-year-old Singh, President of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC), was named leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) by AICC General Secretary Janardan Dwivedi after his appointment was approved by Sonia Gandhi. Earlier, the CLP attended by 34 out of 36 Congress members, authorised Gandhi to appoint the CLP leader. Dwivedi, who was the central observer, made the announcement after a four-hour-long meeting of

A five-time Chief Minister, Singh first took over the top post on 8th April 1983 and again became CM on 5th March 1985 after mid term polls. Congress lost the elections in 1990 under his leadership but he again brought the party back in power and took over as CM for the third time on 3rd

The Congress emerged a single largest party in the hung assembly in 1998 and Singh was again sworn in as CM on 5th March 1998 but he failed to win the trust vote and resigned.

In 2003 polls, the Congress bounced back to power and Singh was again elected as leader of the CLP and assumed office of the CM on 6th March 2003. Singh was elected to Assembly in December 2007 polls but the party failed to win majority. He contested the Lok Sabha polls in 2009 from Mandi and was inducted as cabinet minister in the Manmohan Singh government. He resigned from the Cabinet on 26th June 2012 after framing of charges against him by a local court.

Italian president dissolves parliament for fresh elections in February

Italy's parliament has been dissolved by President Giorgio Napolitano following caretaker Prime Minister Mario Monti's resignation. After meeting political leaders, President Napolitano called for a measured and constructive electoral campaign. Soon after, the cabinet announced that the election would be held over two days, on 24-25 February. Mr. Monti, brought in last year to form a technocratic government, stepped down on Friday after MPs passed his budget. It followed the withdrawal of support from former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's party. Mr Berlusconi is to run again. Mr Monti, who remains head of an interim administration until the elections, is expected to announce later today whether he will run again.

Sahara-Sebi case: Tribunal dismisses deadline extension plea

In the high-profile case involving repayment of money to bondholders of two Sahara group firms,

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Allahabad; Sunday; Year 4, Vol. 1, Issue 228, 16-23 December, 2012 TENDULKAR'S CUMULATIVE ODI RECORD NO HS Ave BF SR **Opposition** Start Date Mat Inns Runs 0 0 0.00 0.00 ODI # 593 v Pakistan 18 Dec 1989 0.00 0.00 v New Zealand 1 Mar 1990 ODI # 612 83.72 36 36 12.00 43 6 Mar 1990 ODI # 616 v New Zealand 46 11.50 55 83.63 v Sri Lanka 25 Apr 1990 ODI # 623 66 36 13.20 80 82.50 v Pakistan 27 Apr 1990 ODI # 625 85 36 115 73.91 0 14.16 v England 18 Jul 1990 ODI # 634 116 36 16.57 141 82.26 v England 20 Jul 1990 ODI # 635 152 36 19.00 163 93.25 13 v Sri Lanka 1 Dec 1990 ODI # 644 53 22.77 204 100.49 0 205 20 v Sri Lanka 5 Dec 1990 ODI # 646 235 53 23.50 233 100.85 0 21 v Sri Lanka 8 Dec 1990 ODI # 648 10 235 53 23.50 233 100.85 0 21 25 Dec 1990 v Bangladesh ODI # 657 239 53 21.72 244 97.95 21 11 v Sri Lanka 28 Dec 1990 ODI # 658 12 292 53 24.33 92.99 v Sri Lanka 4 Jan 1991 ODI # 661 53 13 344 28.66 354 97.17 28 v Pakistan 18 Oct 1991 ODI # 680 14 366 53 28.15 381 96.06 31 v West Indies 19 Oct 1991 ODI # 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the Securities and Appellate Tribunal on Thursday dismissed a plea for extension of deadline for submitting investor documents to the market regulator Sebi.

The appeal, filed a month ago on 19th November by Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Ltd (SHICL) and Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Ltd (SIRECL), was dismissed as specific directions have already been passed by the Supreme Court since then in this matter.

Hearing the plea Thursday morning, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) observed that the appeal has become infructuous in light of the specific directions from the Supreme Court.

"The appeal is not maintainable, as directions in the same matter have been given by the Supreme

Court," SAT said. The appeals by the two companies, seeking extension of time till 31st January for submission of

investor documents to Sebi, were listed on Thursday for "admission" before the SAT.

In a Supreme Court order dated 31st August, the two companies were asked to submit the documents till 10th November.

However, in another order passed on 5th December, the Supreme Court asked the companies to submit the documents to Sebi within 15 days, which period incidentally ends on Thursday.

The two companies had also filed another appeal on November 19 for allowing deposit of money with the registrar of SAT. However, this appeal was dismissed by the tribunal on November 29. Thereafter, the two companies had approached the Supreme Court against the SAT order.

After hearing their appeal, the Supreme Court on December 5 directed the two companies to refund the outstanding payments to the investors with 15 per cent interest in phases in nine weeks. While the companies were asked to make an immediate payment of Rs 5,120 crore, the court also asked them to pay the first instalment of Rs 10,000 crore by the first week of January and the remaining by the first week of February.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Altamas Kabir also directed Sahara Group to supply the documents relating to investors within 15 days and warned that failure to fulfil its directive on payment of the money to Sebi will lead to attachment of assets.

As per an earlier Supreme Court order dated August 31, the two companies were asked to submit the investor documents by November 10, while the money was to be refunded to the investors within three months.

Philippine typhoon death toll may hit 1500

The death toll from a typhoon that devastated the Philippines earlier this month will likely hit 1,500, making it the second deadliest since the country began keeping records. Civil defence chief Benito Ramos said so far they had counted 1,067 dead with more than 800 still missing after Tyhoon Bopha hit the southern island of Mindanao on December 4.

Ramos said if the toll reaches 1,500 it would make it the second deadliest storm to hit the Philippines since 1947, when the Philippines began keeping records a year after independence.

The government statistics bureau said Typhoon Thelma, which killed at least 5,101 in 1991, remains the deadliest on record. Typhoon Ike, which claimed 1,363 lives in 1984, is listed as second. Thousands of people still remain homeless after Typhoon Bopha brought flash floods that wiped out

However, Ramos expressed confidence there would be no rise in health problems as the government had brought enough food and medicine to care for those affected.

Monti ready to lead next government

Mario Monti has declared his readiness to serve a second term as Italy's technocrat prime minister after elections next year on the basis of an agenda for reforms he set out today during a press conference in Rome. Mr Monti, who resigned on Friday, appeared to be keeping his options open, although he rejected an offer by Silvio Berlusconi, the former prime minister, to lead a coalition of moderates in the elections, expected to be held on February 24.

"For the forces that are willing to convincingly and coherently adhere to the Monti agenda, I am ready to give my appreciation, encouragement, and if requested, my guidance, and I'd be willing to assume one day, if the circumstances lend themselves to it, the responsibilities that could be bestowed by parliament," Mr Monti said. Mr Monti said that if he was asked to put himself forward as candidate for prime minister, he would consider that offer. However, as senator for life, he said it was not possible for him to be placed on an electoral list for a particular constituency, and declared his preference that his name not be used by other parties to head a list.

The prime minister's invitation to all parties to consider his proposals for reforming Italy and Europe was interpreted as a green light for centrist groups to name him as their preferred choice as a future head of government, while ruling out the possibility that he would launch his own political vehicle.

The sense that Mr Monti was ready to make the leap from neutral technocrat to active politician was reinforced by comments he later made at a reception for the media. "I seem to have made a gigantic step forward," he was quoted as saying by Ansa news agency.

Mr Monti is being courted by the Catholic centrist UDC party led by Pier Ferdinando Casini, and a civic movement launched by Luca Cordero di Montezemolo, head of Ferrari. Gianfranco Fini, speaker of parliament and a former ally of Mr Berlusconi, has also expressed his support for Mr Monti. Opinion polls indicate that such a centrist alliance would struggle to win more than 15 per cent of the vote. The centre-left Democratic party is leading in all polls, but with support levels of just more

than 30 per cent it might not have sufficient seats in the senate to govern alone. With his dry sense of humour, Mr Monti drew laughter at his televised press conference with what amounted to scathing criticism of Mr Berlusconi and his electoral promise to cancel an unpopular property tax imposed by the technocrat government during its 13 months in office.

"I struggle to understand his line of thought," Mr Monti said of his predecessor, noting that on Sunday Mr Berlusconi had adjudged the government as a "complete disaster" but some days earlier had offered flattering remarks. His logic "escapes me," Mr Monti said caustically.

Immediately afterwards, Angelino Alfano, secretary of Mr Berlusconi's centre-right People of Liberty, told a television interviewer that Mr Monti's "attitude" ruled out their party's collaboration with him.

Mr Monti also had tough words for the Democrats, noting that it was the influence of the main leftwing trade union federation that had led to blocks in parliament to his proposed labour market reforms. In an interview later with Rai, the state broadcaster, Mr Monti made clear that he wanted to put his reform agenda to the electoral test and that he was seeking broad support from civic society, not just political parties. His move carried "many risks" and a "high probability of not succeeding", Mr Monti admitted, but he said it would make a much bigger difference to the future of Italy than seeking "this or that institutional post", he said. Mr Montezemolo issued a statement backing Mr Monti, calling his speech that of a "great political leader and an international statesman", indicating that he would be their candidate as prime minister.

Egypt prepares for a final constitutional vote

An estimated 25.5 million voters - out of a total 51.3 million - in 17 Egyptian governorates are expected to head to the polls on Saturday in the second phase of the national referendum on the country's first post-uprising draft constitution.

The governorates can be divided into four groups: three Suez Canal ones (Port Said, Suez and Ismailia); five Nile Delta ones (Qalioubiya, Menoufiya, Damietta, Kafr El-Sheikh and Beheira); six Upper Egypt governorates (Giza, Fayoum, Beni Suef, Minya, Luxor and Qena); and three border ones (Marsa Matruh, the Red Sea and the New Valley).

According to statistics released by the Supreme Electoral Commission (SEC), a judicial body officially in charge of supervising the referendum, there will be 176 main polling stations and 6,724 auxiliary ones operating on Saturday. Schools, youth centres and courts will house the majority of the polling stations.

Of the 17 governorates voting in Saturday's poll, Giza has the most number of registered voters, with 4.3 million constituents (representing 17.2 per cent of the total). It is followed by Beheira, with 3.2 million (12.9 per cent); Minya with 2.7 million; Qalioubiya with 2.6 million and Menoufiya with 2.2 million.

The three border governorates of Marsa Matruh, the Red Sea and the New Valley together have only half a million registered voters. The three Suez Canal governorates (Port Said, Suez and Ismailia) include around 1.5 million voters.

Many analysts expect that chances for the vote 'Yes' in this stage could be much higher than in the first one in which just 57 per cent of registered voters in the 10 governorates approved the final draft constituents.

Gamal Zahran, an independent political analyst and a former MP for Qalioubiya Governorate, told Ahram Online that most of the governorates in the second stage are rural ones, with Muslim Brotherhood maintaining a sizeable base of support in agricultural governorates such as Beheira, Kafr El-Sheikh, Damietta, Minya, Beni Suef and Fayoum.

"This is to add to the fact that only three out of the 17 governorates (Port Said, Qalioubiya and Menoufiya) voted overwhelmingly against Egypt's current Islamist president Mohamed Morsi,' said Zahran.

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OPINION - EDITORIALS

YEAR END REVIEW-WATER RESOURCES

Comments

Following are the salient features of the initiatives taken by the Union Ministry of Water Resources during the year 2012:

In pursuance of the strategies identified in National Water Mission Document as well as deliberations in National Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources had initiated the process of reviewing the National Water Policy, 2002. Accordingly, Drafting Committee on National Water Policy released the draft policy on January 2nd, 2012 after taking into consideration recommendations of various stake holders.

Ist Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Ministerial **Commission on Water Resources held**

The 1st meeting of India-Nepal Joint Ministerial Commission on Water held on 15th February 2012. It was jointly led by the then Union Minister of Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Energy of Nepal Shri Posta Bahadur Bogati and Minister of Irrigation of Nepal Shri Mahendra Prasad Yadav. Union Minister of State for Water Resources and Minority Affairs Shri Vincent H. Pala, Minister of Water Resources Department of Bihar Shri Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, senior officers of the Government of India, State Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal were present in the meeting.

Survey of Ground Water

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources has conducted 13 conjunctive use studies for optimal utilization of Ground Water in various irrigation commands in the country. The details of conjunctive use studies carried out by CGWB are as under:

1. Indira Gandhi Nahar Paryojna, Stage - I, Rajasthan 2. Sarda Sahayak Irrigation Project, U.P. 3. Tungabhadra Canal Command Area, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka 4. Ghataprabha Canal Command Area, Karnataka5. Hirakud Canal Command Area, Orissa6. Mahi- Kadana Canal Command Area, Gujarat7. Nagarjuna Sagar Project, Andhra Pradesh8. Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojna Stage - II, Rajasthan 9. Kosi Canal Command Area, Bihar 10. Gandak Canal Command, Bihar 11. Sriram Sagar Canal Command Area, Andhra through the State Government of Bihar. During Area. Harvana 13. Rushikulia Canal Command Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR), Area, Orissa

In pursuance of the strategies identified in National Water Mission Document as well as deliberations in National Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources had initiated the process of reviewing the National Water Policy, 2002. Accordingly, Drafting Committee on National Water Policy released the draft policy on January 2nd, 2012 after taking into consideration recommendations of various stake holders.

NPCC Sets up A Turnover Target of Rs.1280 Crores in 2012-13

National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd, a Public Sector Enterprise signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 2012-13 with the Ministry of Water Resources on March 15, 2012. The MoU was signed by Shri Dhruv Vijai Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and Shri A.K. Jhamb, CMD, NPCC. It has set an ambitious target of Rs.1280 crores as turnover and other dynamic specific parameter for Excellence in Performance during2012-13.

Inter linking of Rivers

The examination of Supreme Court Order of dated 27th February, 2012 directing the Union of India and particularly Ministry of Water Resources to forthwith constitute a committee to be called 'Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers' underway.

The Supreme Court in the order mentioned that "time is a very material factor in the effective execution of the Interlinking of Rivers project. As pointed out in the Report by NCAER and by the Standing Committee, the delay has adversely affected the financial benefits that could have accrued to the concerned parties and the people at large and is in fact now putting a financial strain on all concerned" The initial cost of the Inter Linking projects assessed at prefeasibility stage was Rs.5.60 Lakh crore at 2002 Price Level. The Cost of individual project including the cost of land required to be acquired for project can be finalised only after completion of Detailed Project Report.

India Water Week to be celebrated as Annual International Event

The Ministry of Water Resources since this year has endeavoured to celebrate India Water Week annually as an international event to focus on

water issues. It would provide a global platform for water related issues that will bring policy makers, industry leaders, experts, professionals **Draft National Water Policy (2012) Released for** and practitioners together to address the challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities, recognizing the excellence of professionals/organizations and celebrate their achievements. As a part of the event, besides the technical and special sessions, there would also be an exhibition to focus on the various aspects of the main theme.

Prime Minister inaugurates India Water Week Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has underlined that the planning, development and management of water resources has to keep pace with current realities. He was inaugurating the India Water Week at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi On April 10, 2012. Dr. Singh said one of the problems in achieving better management of water is that the current institutional and legal structures that deal with water in the country are inadequate, fragmented and therefore need ur-

109.77 Million Hectare Irrigation Potential Cre-

The vision for Integrated Water Resources Development & Management, proposed by the Ministry of Water Resources in 2003 inter-alia stipulates to add an additional irrigation potential of 20 million ha. in the next 15 years to meet the food and fibre requirements for a projected population of 1200 million by 2015 and 1600 million by 2050, ensuring food security.

The Ministry is providing Central Assistance to State Governments for Creation/ Utilisation of irrigation potential, through the schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) and Repairs, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies. Out of 139.89 million ha. of Ultimate irrigation potential, 109.77 million ha. have been created till

Agreement with Nepal for Floods Control of Kosi

The Government of India maintains the flood protection works of Kosi Barrage in Nepal JMCWR recommended that the maintenance of 15 Km length of eastern Kosi embankment presently being maintained by the Government of Nepal, may also be taken up by the Government of India. In addition, SaptaKosi High Dam Multipurpose Project on river Kosi in Nepal, is planned, which on implementation will also mitigate floods due to Kosi river.

Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project is scheduled to be

completed by February, 2013. . **Mapping of Groundwater**

Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources has taken up pilot projects on aquifer mapping during the Twelfth Plan, which will lead to more accurate assessment of ground water resources, defining aquifer geometry and potential including water quality. Aquifer mapping will provide better insight for ground water management. However, it has not been linked to water pricing by the primary or any category of water user/ stakeholders.

Pilot projects on aquifer mapping have been taken up in parts of five States namely Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Based on the outcome of these projects, successful techniques will be replicated in other areas of the country.

Contract Signed for Micro Level Aquifer Mapping

Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources signed a contract with Council of Scientific Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) to implement the pilot project on "Aquifer characterization using advanced geophysical techniques in representative hydrogeological terrains of India" on May 21, 2012. The contract was signed in the presence of Minister of Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. Also present on the occasion were Minister of State for Water Resources and Minority Affairs, Shri Vincent H. Pala, Secretary, Water Resources Shri Dhruv Vijai Singh and Director General, CSIR, Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari.

Conference of State Secretaries Decides to Proritise Water Conservation Activities and Increase Water use Efficiency During 12th Plan

A one-day Conference of the Principal Secretar-

ies and Secretaries of the Departments of Irrigation, Water Resources and Command Area Development of the States/Union Territories was held in New Delhi today which deliberated on issues concerning development and management of water resources. In this one-day Conference, the States Secretaries were apprised of the various Central Government Schemes on development of water resources including the newly launched National Water Mission (NWM) and the capacity building scheme. Under the NWM the States were requested to prepare State Specific Action Plans and set up State Water Mission Cells. The State Secretaries also appreciated the Central Scheme on Human Resource Development and capacity building in water sector.

Modification in the Guidelines of the scheme of National Projects

The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure approved the inclusion of Extension, Renovation & Modernization (ERM) projects envisaging restoration of lost potential of 2 lakh ha. or more under the category of National Projects in its meeting on August 03,2012. Under the scheme of National Projects, such projects would become eligible for 90% funding of the cost of works of the irrigation and drinking water components of the project from the Central Government.

Inclusion of Saryu Nahar Pariyojana of Uttar Pradesh in the scheme of National Projects

The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure today approved the inclusion of "Sarayu Nahar Pariyojana" of Uttar Pradesh in the scheme of National projects. Under the scheme of National Projects, this project would become eligible for 90% funding from the Central Government.

Modification in National Water Policy

The Draft National Water Policy (2012) inter-alia recommends that for the pre-emptive and high priority uses of water for sustaining life and ecosystem for ensuring food security and support ing livelihood for the poor, the principle of differential pricing may have to be retained. Over and above these uses, water should increasingly be subjected to allocation and pricing on economicprinciples.

The Draft National Water Policy (2012) recommends that there is a need for comprehensive State rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination ensuring scientific planning of land and water resources taking basin/subbasin as unit with unified perspectives of water in all its forms (including precipitation, soil moisture, ground and surface water) and ensuring holistic and balanced development of both the catchment and the command areas.

Water Resource Management

Keeping in view the possibility of delay in the onset of monsoon and also uneven spatial distribution which may result in some areas getting less than normal rainfall, the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India issued an advisory on 9th July 2012 to the States/ Union Territories requesting them inter-alia to make judicious use of available water in the reservoirs and to use ground water to meet the situation to the extent necessary.

It is within the competence of State Governments to fix appropriate charges for water sourced from the ground by bottled water / beverage companies.

Water being a State subject, the State Governments have the competence to consider hiking the water tariff for irrigation and urban water supply systems.

Terms of Reference to Study in Bangladesh the Impact of Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project

In pursuance to the decision taken at the first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC), held in New Delhi, on May 07, 2012, the first meeting of the Sub-Group on Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project under the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was held in New Delhi on August 27-28, 2012.

Both sides finalized the Terms of Reference under which study in Bangladesh territory to assess the impact of Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project would be conducted. During the meeting, India restated its offer to Bangladesh to take a stake in the Tipaimukh project and in this context handed over the Detailed Project Report to the Bangladesh delegation. India also reiterated the assurance, given at the highest level, that it would not take steps on the Tipaimukh project that would adversely impact on Bangladesh.

Ruling on Cauvery Waters After C R A Meeting The 7th meeting of the Cauvery River Authority was held today under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Puducherry were among the attendees. Kerala was represented by the Minister of Water Resources.

In the meeting, the States raised the problems being faced by them because of less than expected rainfall and the consequent distress being caused to the farmers in the Cauvery basin. After discussion, and based on the principle that distress needs to be shared among the basin States, the Prime Minister ruled that it was appropriate that Karnataka releases 9,000 cusecs of water daily from 20th September to 15th October 2012. It has been releasing 10,000 cusecs daily from 12th Sept on the directions of the Supreme Court.

Minister for Water Resources Releases Atlas on Aquifer systems of India

Minister of Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal released Atlas for six states viz Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya in New Delhi on September 28, 2012. Central Ground Water Board has generated enormous data on various aspects of ground water since its inception: the same has been compiled and integrated to bring out the publication in the form of atlas entitled "Aquifer systems of India." Transfer of 200 square meters of Farakka Barrage Project Land at Farakka in West Bengal to Government of West Bengal and subsequent handing over to Government of Jharkhand

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for transfer of 200 square metres of Farakka Barrage Project (FBP) land at Farakka (West Bengal) to the Government of West Bengal, and subsequent handing over to Government of Jharkhand, for construction of Sump House and residential facility at Pakur town to be constructed by the Nagar Panchayat, Pakur.

This would facilitate taking 13.65 MLD (5.58 cusec) water from Farakka Barrage Canal for drinking water supply to Pakur town of Jharkhand, which is located near the border of West Bengal and is facing acute water crisis.

Shri Harish Rawat takes Charge as Union Minister of Water Resources

Shri Harish Rawat took over as Union Minister of Water Resources on 30 October 2012. On his arrival at the office of the Ministry of Water Resources in Shram Shakti Bhavan in New Delhi, Shri Rawat was received by Secretary, Water Resources, Shri D.V. Singh and other senior officers of the Ministry. Shri Singh briefed the Minister about the functioning and priorities of the Ministry.

Later talking to Media persons, Shri Rawat said that his priority will be to increase availability of water and promote its conservation. Emphasizing that the water bodies in the States have to be preserved in active coordination with the States, he said the Ministry of Water Resources has formulated certain national projects which will be implemented on priority basis with 90% Central assistance.

Bangla Desh Minister of Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury calls on Union Minister of Water Resources Shri Harish Rawat Matters of Common Interest Including Sharing of Waters of Teesta and Other Common Rivers Discussed

The Bangladesh Minister of Agriculture, Begum Matia Chowdhury today called on the Union Minister of Water Resources, Shri Harish Rawat here in New Delhi. During the meeting, discussions were held on matters of common interest including sharing of waters of Teesta and other common rivers, irrigation projects in Bangladesh, Tipaimukh Hydro-Electric Project, dredging of rivers and other issues of cooperation.

Water Resources Ministry to Notify the Final Award of CWDT this Month

The Ministry of Water Resources will notify the final Award of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT) this month. This was decided during the 31st meeting of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) held under the chairmanship of Water Resources Secretary Shri Dhruv Vijay Singh here in New Delhi on December 07,2012. After it, institutions like Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) and Cauvery River Authority (CRA) will not be required..The meeting was convened after a Supreme Court direction to call a meeting of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) in a hearing on 5th of this month to determine the requirement of water for the standing crops in the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, and take a decision on that very day.

English Weekly Newspaper Xear 4, Vol. 1, Assue 228, 16-23 December, 2012

Top Burning Issues India

Though India is the largest democracy, we can derive satisfaction about the fact that we have retained our unity and sense of nationality in spite of often bewildering diversities. The selfsufficiency we have achieved in food is also no small feat. We can also legitimately be proud of some of our achievement in the frontier areas of science and technology. All of these are important element in assessing the strength of the foundation on which we hope to build

However there is something contrary to the feel good picture. We must look beyond what we want to see, to see what the reality is. The reality is disturbing. Indeed it is so disturbing that it should infuse in us an imminent sense of crisis. Fifty five years after independence we have over 300 million people who live below the poverty line and go hungry to bed every night. This means that the entire population of India in 1947 is today living in poverty which is by any standard the starkest definition of deprivation. It is a matter of considerable shame that in our capital Delhi, illiteracy is as high 46 percent. The situation in the field of primary health care should also give us sleepless night. Every three minute a child dies in India of a disease as elementary as diarrhea. A slogging 50 percent of the children below the age of five years are victims of malnutrition.

Whether we notice or not, these realities are likely to pose danger for the future of India. It can not be kept at bay. Even in Delhi if 40 percent of the people live in the slum, and 35 per cent of the people in the city defecate in the open, and 4500 tons of garbage in the city is not lifted every day, how long can we not notice this situations? What he or she notes, we don't? In fact, many foreigners wonder why educated Indians, who are secure and sophisticated in their bearing, and who claim to be the end product of a 5000 year old civilization can be so completely blind to the transparent suffering and deprivation around them.

There may be millions of things that Indian Government needs to fix but these are few of them that I feel will decide upon our country's future in the coming years.

India Gate Protest against rapist

Violence erupted at India Gate on Dec 23, 2012, when protesters pelted stones and fought pitched battles using rods with the police which repeatedly lobbed teargas shells, resorted to use of water jets and used force to disperse the agitators.

With the most of India's vast population living close to or below the poverty line, inflation acts as a 'Poor Man's Tax'. This effect is amplified when food prices rise, since food represents more than half of the expenditure of this group.

Terrorism

I know it should have been on the top of the list however I chose it to be on the 2nd place because people are any which ways dying due to not being able to feed themselves because of the rise in price of the consumable commodities. We spend a huge amount of money on defense but where is the defense. We have been preparing for WW III for I don't know how long. And in that process we have forgotten to spend money in the right direction.

Not a big deal in the rural areas but a huge concern for the people living in the urban areas. It seems to have deteriorated in the past 1 year but we need to go miles from here. We are no where near what a developed country should be. Unemployment rate as of now is around

We need around 100 CWG games organized in our country for the infrastructure to improve. After writing the last sentence, I pondered over it for a couple of seconds and this funny thought occurred to me that we would have 100 more corrupt events and millions of rupees will go into our politicians' pockets again.

Indo-Pak Relation

To be absolutely frank, we have to take a stand if we really want to solve this problem. It may not be a problem for the neighboring country but it is affecting us as a country, a lot. We have enough army to defeat a country like Pakistan. At the least give the opponent something to think about before they try or think about doing something which brings disgrace to our country. We keep sitting idle and wait for their response all the time after someone takes responsibility to attack India.

Indian Constitution I feel the root of all the problems is our constitution. Written over 60 years ago. Things are bound to change. We are still living in the same 60 year old world. We were a developing country then and are still a developing country. There hasn't been any change, moreover our politicians and constitution has brought nothing but misery to our country.

Uneducated Politicians

We are living in a country where an uneducated/illiterate (politically) person can enter the world of politics. We are living in a state of spiritual disbelief of which our politicians are taking undue advantage. We need to get out of this situation, and pretty fast. But the concern is who will bell the cat. These people are strong and powerful because of their unlawful deeds and its hard to reverse the effects for good.

Division of States

If we can divide the states then it's imminent that we would have around 30 countries within India in the next 10 years. Dividing states further was the first weakness shown by a weak leadership of our country. People will demand unethical things, it does not mean you mess up with the idea of peace and forget what you are supposed to do.

Communal Riots: We are the world's second largest standing army in the world. It definitely means something. But a bunch of people take over a state. Terrorize it. I am not convinced with the fact that a million armed forces can't take down these Naxalites or any other Maoist groups. We declared them as terrorist groups but we can't fight them. Over 30% of Indian states are affected by these groups in one way or the other.

40% of world's illiterate population is from India. Nothing much to say about this one. These are my thoughts. There are so many good things to point out. And the web is flooded with information like that but till the time we don't highlight the bad it won't turn into good. That's my theory. We can't make something right till the time we don't believe that there is something wrong.

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YEAR END REVIEW 2012

ACHIEVEMENTS OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DURING THE YEAR 2012

Augmentation of Nation's defence preparedness by adding new milestones in defence R&D, capacity building in existing and new strategic areas through upgradation and modernization, further strengthening of coastal security initiatives in different areas particularly in air defence and blue water capabilities and a systematic force projection of our armed forces in India's neighbourhood and far off Asian region by engaging them through exercises and defence diplomacy were the main

The year also saw massive welfare measures being undertaken for service personnel and ex-servicemen, scaling of new heights by armed forces personnel in fields like sports and adventure activities. The achievements of defence scientists in developing different soldier support systems like Suicide Risk Assessment Test, BMP Urban Survival Kit, Armour for Mi 17-IV for helicopters and Heavy Weight Anti-Submarine Electric Torpedo – 'Varunastra' also marked the eventful year New Weapons Systems to Strengthen Defence Preparedness

AGNI-V – India proudly entered the exclusive club as the sixth country on 19 April 2012, when its Long-range Ballistic Missile took to sky on its maiden flight and reached the pre-designated target point over 5000 km away in the Indian Ocean with remarkable accuracy. The missile which was launched from Wheeler Island off Orissa Coast incorporates many indigenously developed technologies. These include the composite rocket motor, state-of-the-art avionics, 5th generation 'On Board Computer' distributed architecture, highly accurate Ring Laser Gyro-based inertial navigation system (RINS), reliable redundant micro navigation system and the re-entry kit shield that withstands temperature with more than 4000 degree celsius ensuring that avionics function normally by maintaining an inside temperature less than 50 degreescelcius.

AGNI-IV – The 4000 km range nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-IV was successfully flight tested on 19 Sep 2012. The long-range missile propelled by composite rocket motor technology was tested for its cool capability. Launched from road mobile launcher, it reached the predefined target in about 20 minutes

With Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni-III and Prithvi P-II surface to surface missile and also its naval version Dhanushalready in the arsenal of the Indian Armed Forces, the missile from the production lots were flight tested by the Armed Forces as part of training exercises to ensure defence preparedness. Thus, Agni-I, India's 700 km range ballistic missile had its flight tests on 13 July and 12 Dec

The 2000 km range ballistice missile Agni-II and Agni-III with a range of 3000 km were test fired on 09 Aug and 21 Sept 2012 respectively.

The 350 km range surface-to-surface strategic missile Prithvi (P-II) was successfully flight tested on 25 Aug and 04 Oct 2012 from ITR Chandipur, Odisha. While its naval version Dhanush was test fired from a naval ship off the coast of Balasore, Odisha on 05 Oct 2012. The tests were like textbook launches meeting all mission objectives and the missiles reached the target points with high accu-

Brah-Mos Block III version with advanced guidance algorithm was flight tested on 28 Mar 2012 from ITR Balasore. The missile flew through the designated 290 kms distance at Mach 2.8 and achieved high precision with steep dive.

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENCE (BMD)

DRDO has developed a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) capability against missiles with range upto 2000 km class. Both the exo and endo atmospheric interception have been demonstrated with direct hits leading to disintegration of target missile.

The Interceptor Missile AAD launched by the Scientists of DRDO on 23 Nov 2012 from Wheeler's Island, Odisha, successfully destroyed the incoming Ballistic Missile at an altitude of 15 Kms. The target missile, a modified version of Prithvi, mimicking the enemy's ballistic missile, was launched from Launch Complex III, Chandipur. Long Range Radar and MFC Radar located far away could detect the Missile from take-off and tracked it through its entire path. The total trajectory of the incoming Missile was continuously estimated by the guidance computer and subsequently the AAD Missile was launched at an appropriate time to counter and kill the ballistic missile.

In this mission, a special feature of intercepting multiple target with multiple interceptor was demonstrated successfully. The complete Radar Systems, Communication Networks, Launch Computers, Target update Systems and state of the art Avionics have been completely proven in this Mission. AKASH AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM - Induction and productionisation of Akash, the medium range air defence system with multi-target, multi directional capability is another shining achievement. The production value of Akash missile systems ordered by Army and Air Force is over Rs 23,000 crores. Orders for two Army regiments and six Air Force Squadrons are under execution

LONG RANGE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE (LRSAM) - Control and Navigation Tests (CNT) for LRSAM, a joint development Programme between DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industry (IAI), to develop an Advanced Naval Air Defence System for Indian Navy) were conducted on 16th and 18th July 2012. All Planned mission objectives were fully met in both the tests. The missiles showed good navigation and control performance. DRDO is the Prime Development Agency and IAI the design authority for supply, installation and final acceptance.

NAG ANTI-TANK MISSILE - the fire and forget anti-tank missile with top attack capability is another important missile developed by DRDO. Its helicopter mounted version, Helina, underwent 2 successful flights from ground launcher proving full range of the missile.

LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT-NAVY (LCA-Navy) - had its first flight on 27th April 2012 followed by flights during month of Jun/Jul 2012. Initial Operation Clearance of this aircraft is expected by Dec 2014. LCA, country's first indigenous modern Light Combat Aircraft with four variants (air force, Navy and their trainer versions), is a precision weapon launch platform to carry a range of Air to Air missile, unguided rockets and bombs. The aircraft is integrated with advanced cockpit, digital avionics and weapons interface, to provide effective point and shoot capability with quick turnaround time. A Shore based Test facility (SBTF); one of its kind in Asia and third in the world; developed by DRDO at Naval Air Station INS Hansa, Goa is now ready for use. Besides testing of LCA-Navy, the test facility will also be used for training of pilots on LCA - Navy and MiG29K aircraft.

AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AEW&C) - In a landmark event the first EMB-145I aircraft fully modified for the indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) landed on Indian soil at CABS (Centre for Airborne Systems, Bangalore, a DRDO laboratory) on 23 Aug 2012.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAVs) - There have been significant achievements in the field of UAVs. NISHANT, with its ground control system has been made ready for the Army after confirmatory trials. An indigenous Wankel rotary engine has been developed by DRDO jointly with NAL, Bangalore, for powering UAVs like NISHANT. Rotary engine technology, especially suited for such applications, is the first of its kind in India. Orders for Lakshya II pilotless target aircraft; capable of flying in sea skimming mode and tree top heights; are expected from the Services after successful demonstration to them. Similarly, UAV Rustom-I, a forerunner to Mediun Altitude Long Range (MALE) UAV Rustom-2, had series of successful trials. Indigenously designed and developed RUSTOM-1 underwent series of successful test flights. This UAV has the potential to be used for military missions like Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Target Designation, Communications Relay, Battle Damage Assessment and Signal Intelligence. A mini UAV -'NETRA', especially suited for Low intensity conflict operations was inducted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). 'NETRA' has four high speed propellers allowing it to take off and land vertically. Similarly a fixed wing mini UAV for low intensity conflict was demonstrated to security forces at various locations for surveillance within the range of 10 kms. It is also useful in reconnaissance over hills.

ELECTRONIC WARFARE - There has been a significant achievement in the Electronic Warfare Area which includes integration and testing of country's first indigenous active array radar, operationalisation of Combat Information Decision Support System (CIDSS) and development and testing of laser based ordnance Disposal System and advanced Laser Guided Bomb Tester. The initial development of Indira-1, a short range 2D system has now been extended to high power 3D system like 3D Central Acquisition Radar and Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) based on phased array. The DRDOs radar warning receivers have been selected to upgrade most of Indian Air Force aircrafts like MiG 21, MiG 29, SU 30MKI, MiG 27 and Jaguars.

MBT ARJUN MK-II - Arjun Mk-II the advanced version of India's first main battle tank Arjun, commenced its user trials in record time of 2 yrs. The Arjun Mk-II incorporates 89 improvements over the Arjun Mk-I, of which, two regiments are already in service.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Smerch Rockets - Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a Joint Venture with M/s Rosoboronexport, Russia and M/s Splav "SPA", Russia to manufacture five versions of SmerchRockets based on the technology received from Russia. The SmerchRockets are technologically superior having a range of 70-80- kms. With formation of this Joint Venture, a new Chapter in the Indo-Russian Friendship has commenced. Joint Venture for Multi-role Transport Aircraft (MTA) - Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the aerospace major, signed the Preliminary Design Phase (PDP) Contract on 12 October 2012with the United Aircraft Corporation - Transport Aircraft (UAC-TA), the Russian partner and their JV-Multirole Transport Aircraft Ltd (MTAL) for the Multirole Transport Aircraft (MTA) project as a follow on contract of the General Contract signed between the three parties in May 2012. "With this HAL and UAC-TA will start the preliminary designwork immediately at Moscow.

CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH INDUCTIONS/ **ACQUISITIONS**

Mi-17 V5 Helicopter Inducted into IAF

Mi-17 V5 helicopter was inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 17 February 2012. This helicopter falls in the category of armed helicopter, with substantial and effective firepower with the latest and more powerful engines that will greatly enhance its payload carriage capability at higher alti-

Mi-17 V5, an upgrade of Mi-17 in the medium-lift category, is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics and on-board Navigation Systems. It is a glass cockpit variant; the first of its kind to get

Allahabad; Sunday; Year 4, Vol. 1, Issue 228, 16-23 December, 2012 186* 44 12 854 111 17 Nov 1999 ODI # 1526 222 22 8571 42.85 9875 v New Zealand 230 223 22 8584 186* 42.70 9901 86.69 44 12 856 111 ODI # 1537 v Pakistan 10 Jan 2000 224 22 8596 186* 12 858 111 231 42.55 9912 86.72 24 44 v Australia 12 Jan 2000 ODI # 1539 232 225 22 8597 186* 42.34 9923 86.63 12 858 111 44 v Australia 14 Jan 2000 ODI # 1540 226 22 8690 186* 42.59 10026 86.67 12 868 111 21 Jan 2000 233 v Pakistan ODI # 1543 227 22 8731 186* 42.59 10072 86.68 45 12 873 111 234 v Pakistan 25 Jan 2000 ODI # 1547 235 228 22 8749 186* 42.47 10100 86.62 12 875 111 ODI # 1548 24 45 v Australia 26 Jan 2000 229 22 8766 186* 42.34 86.67 12 879 111 28 Jan 2000 236 10114 v Pakistan ODI # 1550 22 186* 12 879 111 230 8769 42.15 10135 86.52 45 30 Jan 2000 237 v Australia ODI # 1552 238 231 22 8795 186* 42.08 10160 86.56 45 12 883 111 v South Africa 9 Mar 2000 ODI # 1572 232 22 8816 186* 41.98 86.50 12 886 111 239 10191 v South Africa 12 Mar 2000 ODI # 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inducted into the IAF. It has onboard weather radar, state of the art autopilot and is compatible with the latest Generation (Gen-III) Night vision Goggles. With this, the helicopter can undertake all-weather, day and night operations in any kind of terrain. The helicopter is also equipped with a Bambi-Bucket that can be used for fire fighting. It is also fitted with a powerful winch-a feature useful in the Disaster Relief Operations in restricted areas where landing is not possible.

Indian Navy inducted INS Chakra to itsunder water fleet on 04th April 2012 at Vishakhapatnam. Defence Minister Shri AK Antony inducted the submarine into the fleet of Eastern Naval Command. This four plus generation Russian origin submarine is capable of fulfilling multiple roles and will go a long way in strengthening Navy's blue water operating capability.

INS Sahyadri

The third of the follow-on class indigenous stealth frigate was commissioned on 21 July 2012 at Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony. Conceived and designed by Indian Navy Design Team this Shivalik class frigate will be mainstay frigate of the Navy in the 21st Century.

INS Teg and Tarkash

The First and Second of the three Talwar-class stealth frigates constructed at Yantar Shipyard, Kalinigrad Russia were inducted into Indian Navy on 27 April and 09 November 2012 respectively by the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command. These multi-role stealth frigate with advanced combat suits are fitted with formidable array of weapons and sensors onboard the Ship including the super-sonic BrahMos missile system and advance surface-to-air missile sys-

Commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Ship H-187, H-188 and H-189

To provide a boost to coastal security Indian Coast Guard Ship H-187, the first of the series of twelve Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs), was commissioned at Okha on 11 June 2012 by Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, DG Coast Guard. The 21 meter long ACV (hovercraft) designed and built by GriffenHaverwork Limited (GHL), UK displaces 31 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 45 knots. The ACV is capable of undertaking multi-farious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and responding assistance to small boats / crafts in distress at Sea.

The second in the series, H-188 was commissioned at Haldia by Inspector General of Coast Guard Shri Rajendra Singh on 20 Nov 2012.

The third ACV in this series, H-189 was commissioned in Mumbai by Vice Admiral SK Sinha FOC-in-C Western Naval Command. With the commissioning of H-189, the force level of Indian Coast Guard has gone up to 77 ships and First Attack Boats and with the planned induction the force level would be doubling by 2018.

Commission of Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Samudra Paheredar'

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'SamudraPaheredar', the second of the series of three Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) being built by M/s ABG Shipyard, Surat was commissioned by Admiral NirmalVerma, the then Chief of the Naval Staff in July 2012.

The 95m long indigenous PCV displaces 4300 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 20.5 knots with an endurance of 6500 nautical miles. The ship's primary role is pollution response at sea and is equipped with the most advanced and sophisticated pollution response and control equipment for mitigating oil spills, which include containment equipment like hi-sprint booms and river booms, recovery devices like skimmers and side sweeping arms. The ship is capable of unhindered

oil recovery operations with storage tank capacity of 500 KL in addition to inflatable barges. The ship is installed with modern Integrated Platform Management System and Power Management System, which makes it unique for unmanned machinery operations. It is also fitted with Dynamic Positioning System for fire fighting and pollution response operations and an infra-red surveillance system for night surveillance.

Commissioning of First Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) 'Rani Abbakka'

The Indian Coast Guard Ship Rani Abbakka, the 1st of a series of five Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) built at M/s HSL, was commissioned at Visakhapatnam by the then Minister of State for Defence Dr.MM PallamRaju, on 20 Jan 2012.

The 50 meter indigenous IPV displaces 300 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 31.5 Knots with an endurance of 1500 nautical miles. The special features of the ship include an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Machinery Control System (IMCS), and an indigenously built Gun Mount with Fire Control System. The ship is designed to carry one Rigid Inflatable Boat and two Geminis for Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol.

Commissioning Of ICGS 'Dahanu'

Coast Guard Station Dahanu, the third Coast Guard station in Maharashtra, was commissioned by Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, Director General Indian Coast Guard at Dahanu on 22 March 2012. The station is part of ongoing efforts by the Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security along the Indian coastline. The station at Dahanu will help augment patrolling along the north Maharshtra coast and prevent illicit activity such as infiltration and smuggling.

Commissioning Of ICGS Krishnapatnam

Coast Guard Station Krishnapatnam, the third Coast Guard Station in Andhra Pradesh, was commissioned in Andhra Pradesh by Dr MM PallamRaju, the then Raksha Rajya Mantri on June 18, 2012. The establishment of a Station at Krishnapatnam is part of the ongoing efforts by the Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security in the coastal states of the nation.

Commissionig of Coast Guard Station Karaikal

Coast Guard Station Karaikal the fifth CG station on the Puducherry - Tamil Nadu coastline was commissioned by Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, Director General Indian Coast Guard at Karaikal on 25 July 2012

The station is part of ongoing efforts by the Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security along the Indian coastline. The station at Karaikal will help augment patrolling along the east coast and prevent illicit activities such as infiltration, smuggling and illegal fishing.

Commissioning of Naval Base INS 'DweepRakshak' and 'BAAZ'

Naval base INS 'DweepRakshak' was commissioned in Lakshadweep Islands and INS 'Baaz' was commissioned in Andaman Islands (Campbell Bay) in 2012. Commissioning of these full fledged naval bases was another milestone in the commitment of Indian Navy in maintaining effective coastal surveillance and defence capability. The positioning of radar stations and other surveil-

COASTAL SECURITY INITIATIVES

lance measures will add positive control over movement of Ships and intelligence gathering.

Inauguration of StaticSensors Project in Mumbai and Porbandar

With the inauguration of the Static Sensors Project of Coastal Surveillance Network by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony on 25 Aug 2012, the coastal security mechanism got a big boost. Shri Antony said that the patching up of National Automatic Identification System Network (AIS) and Vessel Traffic System (VTS) of Gulf of Khambat, along with the Coastal Security Network, will help us in identifying a friend or foe in our waters.

Under Phase I of Coastal Surveillance Network, Coastal Static Sensors will be put up at 46 locations. Out of these, the mainland radars are expected to be operationalised later this year, while those on the island territories will become operational next year.

Kerala Cluster of Coastal Radar NetworkCommissioned

The Remote Operating Station (ROS) of the coastal surveillance sensor chain of Kerala cluster was inaugurated by Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, Director General Indian Coast Guard at the Coast Guard District Headquarters No 4 Fort Kochi on 15 Sept 2012. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Admiral Muralidharan highlighted the efforts of BEL the agency who executed the project, Department of Lighthouses and Light Ships, MTNL, BSNL, and ISRO in seeing the project through.

In Kerala, the feed and data from the four coastal surveillance radars at Mount Dilli in Ezhimala Ponnani, Vypin and Kollam will be available at the ROS Fort Kochi. Two more additional sensors will be installed at Alapuzha and Azhikode in the phase two of the project.

Step towards Eastern Coast Sensitisation

Minister of State for Defence Shri Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Chain of Static Sensor at Vishakhapatnam on 23 Nov 2012, which will provide real time surveillance cover up to 25 nautical miles along the coast line. Post 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, the emergent need to strengthen

recognized by the Government and on recommendation made by the Group of Ministers, Indian Coast Guard was delegated to implement the project. With the inauguration of Eastern clusters at Vishakhapatnam, the phase-I of implementation of CSN at mainland is completed.

EXERCISES / INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Exercise YUDH ABHYAS is part of joint exercises between the Indian and United States Armies since 2005, agreed upon under the New Framework of India-US Defence Relationship. Commencing at the platoon level, the exercise graduated to a command post (CPX) and field training exercise (FTX). The seventh edition of Yudh Abhyas commenced on 05 March 12 in two locations under the South Western Command. The US Army contingent is from the US Army Pacific (USARPAC), part of their Pacific Command (PACOM). The Command Post Exercise has an engineer brigade headquarters with its planners from both sides, while the Field Training Exercise comprises troops of 2nd Squadron 14th US Cavalry Regiment from 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii, along with a platoon of Strykers, and a similar sized Indian Army contingent of mechanized infantry.

Navies of India and Japan conducted routine passage exercises 'PASSEX' during the visit of Japanese ships to Indian ports this year.

INS Sudarshini sets sail for ASEAN Sailing Expedition from Kochi on 13 Sept 2012. This expedition was organised to celebrate India's warm ties with the countries of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Admiral DK Joshi flagged off the six months voyage, a unique collaborative venture of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs. The voyage commemorates 20 years of dialogue partnerships. During the course of voyage, 12,000 nautical expedition of INS Sudarshini will visit 13 ports in nine countries in South East Asia.

The 15 nation Naval Exercise 'MILAN-2012', a biennial congregation of Littoral Navies of the Asia-Pacific region, hosted by the Indian Navy, commenced at Port Blair, in Andaman and Nicobar islands, on 01 February 2012. It significantly contributed in strengthening cooperation among the Navies of 14 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Allahabad; Sunday; Year 4, Vol. 1, Issue 228, 16-23 December, 2012 13509 186* 44.43 15679 86.15 1425 145 v Pakistan ODI # 2237 345 336 69 15 9 Apr 2005 346 337 32 186* 44.69 38 69 1437 147 13632 15809 86.22 15 v Pakistan 12 Apr 2005 ODI # 2238 347 338 32 44.55 38 69 147 13633 186* 15819 86.18 15 1437 v Pakistan 15 Apr 2005 ODI # 2239 348 339 32 13642 186* 44.43 15834 86.15 69 15 1437 147 v Pakistan 17 Apr 2005 ODI # 2240 349 340 32 13735 186* 38 70 1446 149 44.59 15930 86.22 15 v Sri Lanka 25 Oct 2005 ODI # 2286 350 341 33 13802 186* 44.81 15999 86.26 38 71 1457 149 15 v Sri Lanka 28 Oct 2005 ODI # 2287 33 342 71 351 13804 186* 44.67 16002 86.26 38 15 1457 149 v Sri Lanka 31 Oct 2005 ODI # 2290 352 343 33 13815 186* 44.56 16021 86.23 38 71 15 1458 150 v Sri Lanka 3 Nov 2005 ODI # 2291 344 33 353 13834 186* 44.48 16051 86.18 38 71 15 1461 150 v Sri Lanka 9 Nov 2005 ODI # 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Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. 'Theatre Level Readiness and Operational Exercise (TROPEX)' was held on 07-08 February 2012 at Vishakhapatnam by Eastern Naval Command. Defence Minister Shri AK Antony, who inaugurated the exercise, spent two days with the Indian Navy and he was given a glimpse of the expansive scope and scale of the Indian Navy's annual exercise.

Indian and Indonesian Armies participated in the 'Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare Training Drill'in March 2012. Training together to counter the scourge of insurgency in various contemporary scenarios including jungle warfare, the operational part of the first-ever platoon-level joint training exercise - EX GARUDA SHAKTI - of the armies of India and Indonesia, concluded successfully at the Indian Army's elite 'Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School' (CIJWS), Vairengte in Mizoram. Exercise 'Shoor Veer' is based on the integrated theatre battle concept under South Western Army Command with the elite Strike Corps in the lead, supported by Chetak Corps and all other relevant elements of South Western Army.

The Army and IAF has tested new battle fighting concepts and doctrines during the exercise with real time pictures of the battle zone provided to a centralized command and control centre from fighter jets, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and attack helicopters, waging war in network centric environment and massed tank drills backed by long range artillery guns.

More than 300 combat vehicles including main battle tank T-90, T-72, long range 150mm artillery guns, multi barrel rockets and about 60000 troops has taken part in this massive major exercise in Rajasthan.

A major highlight of the joint exercise was the integrated air-land war-fighting machinery and the synergy between the Indian Army and IAF.

Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise 'PRALAY' in the North East on 29 February 2012.

IMPORTANT VISITS PROMOTING DEFENCE

COOPERATION • The twelfth meeting of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical

- Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) was held on 10 October 2012. In a joint India-Russia press conferene held in New Delhi by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony and Russian counterpart Mr.AE Serdyukovendorsed the Protocols of the meetings of the Working Group on Shipbuilding, Aviation and Land Systems, (WGSALS) and the Working Group on Military Technical Cooperation (WG-MTC) which were held in New Delhi on 27-28 August, 2012 and 30-31 August, 2012 respectively.
- The US Secretary of Defence Mr. Leon Panetta was on a visit to India05-07 June, 2012. Mr. Panetta met the Defence Minister Mr. AK Antony in New Delhi on 06 June 2012. Mr. Panetta was accompanied by a ten member delegation, including the US Ambassador to India and other senior officers from the US Department of Defence. During the delegation level talks, both sides exchanged views on the security situation in South Asia, West Asia and the Asia-Pacific and on various global security challenges, including in the area of cyber security.
- Indo-China delegation level talkson defence cooperation held in New Delhi on 04th September 2012. The two Defence Ministers had an extensive exchange of views on defence and military exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed the regional security situation and international issues of common interest and concern. Both Ministers agreed that expanding bilateral cooperation between the Defence Ministries and Armed Forces of India and China helps enhance mutual trust, deepens friendship and promotes comprehensive development of the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. The two Defence Ministers agreed to work together to enhance mutual trust in the security field and continue to maintain peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.
- Chinese Defence Minister Gen Liang Guangliealso visited the National Defence College (NDC) on 05 Sep 12. This is the first time since its inception in 1960 that such a high level military delegation from China visited the College.
- Defence Minister Shri AK Antony inaugurated the 8th Heads of Asian Coast Guards Meeting (HACGAM) in New Delhi on 03 Oct 2012. HACGAM is an apex level forum facilitating congregation of all the major Coast Guard Agencies of Asian region. This initiative was developed initially in 2004 to discuss cooperation among the member organizations to combat piracy in the region. However, the scope of discussions has been expanded to include law enforcement, maritime security, disaster prevention and relief and capacity building. Presently, there are more than 20 member organizations from 17 countries that are part of the initiative.
- Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar Gen Min AungHlaing visited India in August 2012 and called on the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony.
- The Defence Minister Shri AK Antony addressed the 11th Asia Security Summit, also known as 'Shangri La Dialogue', in Singapore in June 2012. Shri Antony said the international community must 'remain sensitive to the problems of smaller nations and ensure that their rights, as equal members of the global community, are not overlooked or compromised'. He said the spirit of cooperation among international community shown in anti-piracy measures can be extended to 'deconflict contentious maritime issues'.
- Minister of Defence of Singapore Dr. Ng Eng Hen visited India in November 2012 and met the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony. During the delegation level talks, it was agreed to further enhance the bilateral defence relationship in the mutual interest of both countries as it would contribute to regional peace and stability. Both sides also agreed that the on-going interactions between the defence establishments of the two countries, including through regular joint military training and exercises, had been useful. They also agreed to continue such interactions in future.
- The first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 10 Sep 2012. The 11-member Saudi delegation was headed by Maj Gen Suleiman Saleh Al-Khalifa, Chief of the Armed Forces Operations of Saudi Arabia. The Indian delegation was headed by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The Joint Committee was mandated to formulate a programme to develop areas of cooperation between the defence establishments of both countries. During the meeting both sides expressed their interest in further enhancing defence exchanges and interactions between their armed forces.
- Vice Admiral Axel Schimpf, Chief of Naval Staff, Germany visited India in February 2012. Defence Secretary level talks between India and Germany to expand defence co-operation were also held in June 2012.
- Defence Minister of Spain called on the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony in New Delhi on 26 Oct 2012.
- Defence Minister of BrazilMr.CelsoAmorim visited India on 06 Feb 2012 and held one-to-one talk with the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony.
- Defence Minister Mr AK Antony laid foundation stone of maritime training academy of Maldives during his visit to Maldives in September 2012. Continuing with his dialogue on defence cooperation with the top leadership of Maldives, he called on the President MohamedWaheed Hassan
- Defence Minister of Republic of Korea Mr. Kim Kwan Jin visited India and held the delegation level talks with his Indian counterpart Shri AK Antony on 30 Nov 2012 on the matters of bilateral
- A high level delegation led by Rear Admiral AARA Dias, the Director General Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG), who was on a visit to India from 26-30 Aug 2012, held a High Level Meeting, with the Indian delegation led by Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, Director General Indian Coast Guard in New Delhi in August 2012. The visit was in continuation of the various efforts by the governments of the two countries towards cooperation between the ICG and SLCG and pursuance of the discussions on maritime issues of mutual concerns to formulate a cooperative approach.
- General Haruhiko Kataoka, Chief of Staff, Japan Air Self Defence Force was on a three day goodwill visit to India from 19-21 Nov 12. The visit assumed special significance in the light of improving military cooperation between the two countries in consonance with India's growing relationship
- The Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) and Chairman Chief of Staff Committee (COSC) was on a four day Defence Cooperation visit to the Union of Myanmar from 26-29 November 2012. The CAS led a five member Composite Defence Delegation team comprising of senior officers of the three services.
- Vice Admiral ZahirUddin Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy visited India from 08-10 July 2012. He was given a Guard of Honour on 09th July. Later he met the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral NirmalVerma and discussed matters on mutual interests.
- BNS (Bangladesh Naval Ship) Bangabandhu entered Kochi on 2nd November. The modern frigate and veritably the Flag Ship of Bangladesh Navy was on en route to Doha to participate in Exercise Ferocious Falcon. A host of professional and social interactions were scheduled between India and Bangladesh Navies on the occasion which included sports fixtures and mutual visits. Mr Tariq Ahmad Karim, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India also flew in to Kochi to welcome BNS Bangabandhu.
- Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, US Navy visited India on 23 April 2012 and held talks with the then Chief of Naval Staff Admiral NirmalVermaon matters of bilat- developindiamediagroup@gmail.com eral interests.

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