

DEVELOP INDIA

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PAGE-8

English Weekly Newspaper

Chairman of the 20th Law Commission Appointed

Justice D. K. Jain, Judge, Supreme Court of India, will be the Chairman of the Twentieth Law Commission of India. According to the Notification issued here today, the appointment of Justice Jain will be effective from any day after 24th January 2013 on his retirement from the Supreme Court.



The Twentieth Law Commission was constituted through a Government Order with effect from 1st September, 2012. It has a three-year term ending on 31st August, 2015. The Terms of Reference of the Twentieth Law Commission include the following:

A. Review/Repeal of obsolete laws: i). Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed; ii) Identify laws which are not in harmony with the existing climate of economic liberalization and need change; iii) Identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment; iv) Consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/ amendment given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonizing them; v) Consider references made to it by Ministries/ Departments in respect of legislation having bearing on the working of more than one Ministry/Department; vi) Suggest suitable measures for quick redressal of citizens grievances, in the field of law.

B. Law and Poverty: i) Examine the Laws which affect the poor and carry out post-audit for socio-economic legislations; ii) Take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

C. Keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure: i) Elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decision should be just and fair; ii) Simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; iii) Improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice. D. Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble to the Constitution.

E. Examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.

F. Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

G. Recommend to the Government measure for making the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

Usha Mehra COMMISSION

The Government has set up a Commission of Inquiry to identify lapses and fix responsibility in the gang rape of a 23 year-old girl in a moving bus in Delhi on December 16. According to a decision taken by the Cabinet in its meeting, the one-person Commission will be headed by former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Usha Mehra. The commission will suggest measures to make Delhi and NCR safer for women. It will submit its report within three months, which will be tabled in Parliament along with action taken by the Government.

The Commission has been set up to enquire into various aspect of the shocking incident of rape and brutal assault of a young woman in Delhi on 16.12.2012, identify the lapses, if any, on the part of the police or any other Authority or person that contributed to the occurrence; and fix responsibility for the lapses and/or negligence on the part of the police or any other Authority or person. The Commission shall suggest measures to improve the safety and security of women, particularly in NCT of Delhi and NCR.

Justice (Retd.) (Ms.) Usha Mehra, Commission of Inquiry Starts Functioning

The Commission of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of Ms. Justice(Retd.) Usha Mehra has requested the members of public to provide any information about the shocking incident of rape and brutal assault on a young woman in New Delhi on Dec.16, 2012.

Any information, suggestions and responses may be sent through email at usha.mehracommission@nic.in or through Fax at 011-23093750 latest by Jan.10, 2013.

All the members of the public including Jurists, Legal professionals, NGOs, Media persons/journalists, Women Groups are requested to suggest measures to improve the safety and security of women particularly in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and National Capital Region.

Justice (Retd.) (Ms.) Usha Mehra Commission Invites Complaints/ Suggestions

ustice (Retd) (Ms) Usha Mehra Commission will function from their office at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi-110 003. The Commission of Inquiry has invited complaints/suggestions that could be sent to the Commission on the telephone nos/ Fax/e-mail address as below:

1. Justice (Retd.) (Ms.) Usha Mehra

Room No.331, and 331 (A),

Vigyan Bhawan Annexe,

New Delhi-110003.

Telephone No. 23022365

Fax- 23022364

Email address: usha.mehracommission@nic.in

2. Shri S.M. Aggarwal,

Convener,

Room No.330,

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New Delhi-110003.

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Fiscal situation may get worse, can come close to 1991 situation: ASSOCHAM

With little room available for taking counter-cyclical fiscal measures, India's faltering growth coupled with unresponsive inflation could push the country's economy to a precarious situation which could be closer to the one prevailing at the time of 1991 economic crisis, a study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has warned. "Analysts have been stating that India currently has the least room for counter-cyclical fiscal policy response if conditions take a turn for the worse in global markets. The faltering growth, unresponsive skewed inflation, continued turbulence in the global economic conditions and widening infrastructure deficiencies are challenging India's growth story," the paper said. "If appropriate action is not taken in time, we are likely to be in a worse situation than in 1991 for several reasons," it said.

The paper said that, with public finances remaining in great stress, the Central Government fiscal deficit might even go to touch 6.1 per cent of GDP in the current financial year, 2012-13. The point was also highlighted by the expert committee appointed by the Government of India. The fiscal stress compounds the current account deficit problem faced by the country, it said.

According to the ASSOCHAM, the study titled "Fiscal Policy Imperatives for Economic Growth", the deteriorated government finances are affecting the growth of Indian economy in a big way. The current account deficit (CAD) needs to be financed through external capital inflows, government external debt or drawdown of foreign exchange reserves. Government's funding of the deficit through domestic sources tends to cause inflationary and crowds out private investment, it said.

The paper said that deviation from the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) Act after 2007-08 by the Union Government has resulted in deteriorated fiscal health of the public finances.

'DANGEROUS' POLLUTION LEVELS CHOKE BEIJING

Dense smog has shrouded Beijing, China's capital, with pollution at hazardous levels for a second day, with residents advised to stay indoors, state media has said. The municipal environment warning centre issued an alert on Saturday advising the elderly, children, and those suffering respiratory or cardiovascular illness to avoid going out or doing strenuous exercise, Xinhua reported. Air quality in Beijing showed airborne particles with a diameter small enough to deeply penetrate the lungs at a reading of 456 micrograms per cubic metre, the warning centre said. The quality is considered good when the figure stands at less than 100, but a reading shown on the website of the US embassy in the city was above 800.

Beijing only measures up to a maximum value of 500, with the US embassy tweeting that their own readings were "beyond index". Those who ventured out had to wear facemasks for protection, with visibility low, the skyline shrouded, and the sun hidden in the smog. Last year, Beijing said it was illegal for foreign embassies to issue their own air quality readings, but the US said its diplomatic missions in China would not stop tweeting levels, which were useful to its citizens living abroad. The heavy pollution is expected to last another three days, with weather conditions preventing pollutants from dispersing, the warning centre said, according to Xinhua. Yu Jianhua, head of the atmospheric environment management office of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, said that current weather conditions in the capital are preventing the pollution from dispersing, as the temperature and humidity have kept mounting in the city recently. Yu advised local residents to turn to public transportation in order to reduce pollution created by automobile emissions. Fog also covered vast swathes of east and central China, with numerous closed highways and delayed flights in several provinces, it added.

China's air quality is among the worst in the world, international organisations say, citing massive coal consumption and car-choked city streets in the world's biggest vehicle market. Formulated at the end of 2012, Beijing's emergency response plans for seriously-polluted days currently rank pollution into three levels, including polluted, seriously polluted and heavily polluted.

100TH INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

theme selected for the centenary session is "Science for shaping the future of India"

Annual Session of Indian Science Congress has emerged as a major national event. The centenary session scheduled for 3rd – 7th January, 2013 gains historical importance in more than one way. Whereas the themes for all the sessions up the period of 2003 since the first session in 1914 could be grouped under 'Shaping of the Indian Science', the theme selected for the centenary session is "Science for shaping the future of India". Whereas the themes for all the sessions up the period of 2003 since the first session in 1914 could be grouped under 'Shaping of the Indian Science', the theme selected for the centenary session is "Science for shaping the future of India".

Science has remained a human activity for the formulation of knowledge. The generation of new body of knowledge continues to be the important preoccupation of scientists. In the real world, the deployment of formulated knowledge for solving social problems has been gaining equal importance. It is widely accepted that the future generations would rely on the power of scientific knowledge to solve problems of food and nutrition security, affordable health care challenges, energy and environment related problems, water and sanitation related challenges, etc. Science, Technology and Innovation are emerging three pillars from which future societies could not only benefit but also rely for solving social challenges.

Support from the political will for Indian science since independence has always been total. Investments into science have increased in absolute quantum significantly during the 21st century, although the commitment to increase the Gross Expenditure on Research and Development to 2% of the Gross Domestic Product still remains a target than reality. Realization of a national target would demand significant increases of private sector engagement into Research and Development. A new policy environment for making research and development attractive for investment by all share holders of science seems the need of the hour.

Science should emerge as a building block for the future of India. The manner in which the new Science, Technology and Innovation policy 2013 could be implemented would form the central theme of the annual session. A road map for investing science into the development process of India is the main topic for discussion. Various economic sectors like agriculture, housing, energy, environment, health care, water, home land security, communication etc may require new scientific knowledge for shaping their future. The centenary session is expected to serve as a platform for creating coalition among all stake holders of science and society to pave a new path of progress for the country in the emerging global knowledge economy.

There are predictions that India would emerge as a major economy within the next twenty years. The centenary session of the Indian Science Congress proposes to engage the attention of the scientific community to discuss, debate and deliberate the best next ways of harnessing science for shaping the future of India. All local chapters of the Indian Science Congress Association and many State Science and Technology Councils are currently engaged in the discussion on the theme of centenary session. Major recommendations emanating from the discussions would be presented at the annual session at Kolkata.

International experts and leaders of many science academies are expected to participate in the centenary session at Kolkata. Plenary, invited and theme lectures would generally focus on the theme science for shaping the future of India. In Democratization of development choices, science could play a critical tool. Faster, sustainable and inclusive development priority of the country demands all sectors of growth including science find special ways for dealing with the special challenges of India in dealing with the diversity and dimensionality. India has followed an evolutionary path of change. Several parts of the world are adopting revolutionary paths of progress. In the competitive world nation states are needed to keep pace with the rates of change elsewhere. If India were to emerge and sustain the leadership, science, technology and innovation should necessarily play a defining role. The focal theme selected for the centenary session of the Indian Science Congress is not just a subject for discussion but a fore-runner for paving actions and move of the largest democracy of the world.

Sessions should be action packed. Actions for implementing policy 2013 would need to be identified and shaped. The session should aim at galvanizing the scientific machinery to deliver new values to the country through science. International cooperation and inter connections among the research competencies and resources would need to form tools for new modes of connecting research and development to economic development processes. The lofty goal of the centenary session of the Indian Science Congress during 3rd -7th January 2013 is to make many good things happen in the country through science for shaping the future of India.

The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the foresight and initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon. It occurred to them that scientific research in India might be stimulated if an annual meeting of research workers somewhat on the lines of the British Association for the Advancement of Science could be arranged. The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the foresight and initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon. It occurred to them that scientific research in India might be stimulated if an annual meeting of research workers somewhat on the lines of the British Association for the Advancement of Science could be arranged.

The Association was formed with the following objectives :

- To advance and promote the cause of science in India
- To hold an annual congress at a suitable place in India
- To publish such proceedings, journals, transactions and other publications as may be considered desirable.
- To secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of Science including the rights of disposing of or selling all or any portion of the properties of the Association.
- To do and perform any or all other acts, matters and things as are conducive to, or incidental to, or necessary for, the above objects.

CHILDREN'S SCIENCE CONGRESS (RASHTRIYA KISHORE VAIGYANIK SAMMELAN)
As a part of the Indian Science Congress, the Children Science Congress is organized simultaneously to provide a unique opportunity to children to use their scientific temperament and knowledge and to quench their thirst for creativity by conducting scientific experiments. It generally comprises of a three days event which encourages children to visualize science and stimulate their scientific temperament by giving the school children a unique platform to showcase their innovation and creativity in scientific projects. You are cordially invited to be a part of Children Science Congress to be hosted by University of Calcutta on January 4th, 5th and 6th, 2013 at Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Salt Lake.



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Ami Bera and Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu ever elected to the US House of Representatives

Ami Bera, an Indian-American physician from California and Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu ever elected to the US House of Representatives, created history as they were sworn in as members of the 113th Congress. Raised by a Hindu mother and a Catholic father in "a multiracial, multicultural, multifait family," Gabbard, 31, the first American Samoan and one of the first female combat veterans in US Congress, took her oath of office Thursday on the Bhagavad Gita, the Hindu scripture. Democrat Gabbard, who represents Hawaii in the Congress previously served on the Honolulu City Council and as a Hawaii state representative. She was the youngest woman in the United States to be elected to a state legislature.

She is currently a Company Commander with the Hawaii Army National Guard, and has served on two deployments to the Middle East. "I believe strongly in embracing diversity," Gabbard, who was exposed as a child to both the New Testament and the Bhagavad Gita told Stephen Prothero, a professor in Boston University's religion department, in an interview published in USA Today.

Gabbard, who embraced a Hindu identity as a teenager and took the Gita as her guide, said Gita teaches her to try "to maintain my equilibrium in either success or failure." She then turned to Mahatma Gandhi: "The world's most famous Hindu, Mahatma Gandhi ... worked tirelessly for the welfare of his country and all of humanity without any thought of personal gain, leaving his ultimate success or failure in God's hands."

Amerish B. "Ami" Bera, 47, also Democrat, became the third Indian-American member of the US House after Amritsar-born Dalip Singh Saund, who represented a California district from 1957 to 1963 and Louisiana's current governor Bobby Jindal who was a member from his state from 2005 to 2008.

Bera, the son of immigrants from India, took the oath in the presence of his his wife, daughter, brothers, and his father.

Raised in La Palma, California, Bera defeated three-term Republican incumbent Dan Lungren by a narrow margin. He has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of California at Irvine, earning his MD there in 1991. The newly sworn-in 113th Congress is the most diverse group of representatives in history. 98 women, 43 African-Americans, 31 Latinos, 12 Asian-American and Pacific Islanders, and seven gay and bisexual members are now new members of the House and Senate.

Govt constitutes 14th Finance Commission with former RBI Governor Reddy as Chairman Former RBI Governor Y V Reddy will be the Chairman of 14th Finance Commission; the 13th Finance Commission was headed by former Finance Secretary Vijay Kelkar. The Finance Commission has been asked to submit its report by 31st October, 2014. Finance Commission, a constitutional body, is set up every five years. Besides other things, the Commission lays down principles governing the grants-in-aid to states and other local bodies for a five-year period beginning 1st April 2014.

Prior to joining RBI as its Governor in September 2003, Reddy was India's Executive Director on the Board of the International Monetary Fund.

Planning Commission member, Abhijet Sen, Former Finance Secretary Sushma Nath, Director National Institute for Public Finance and Policy Dr. M Govind Rao and Former acting Chairman National Statistical Commission Dr. Sudipto Mundle are members of the commission. Its recommendations will cover a period of five years commencing on 1st April 2015. The commission will make recommendations about the sharing of Central taxes, principles governing grants-in-aid to states and transfer of resources to local bodies.

Nigerian military wipe out 13 Islamists in north-east of country

14 people fell victim to clashes between the military and Islamists in Nigeria on Tuesday. This is reported by Agence France-Presse, with reference to the country's military command.



A fire exchange with members of the Islamist group "Boko Haram" occurred in the city of Maiduguri in the northeast of the country. According to spokesperson for the Nigerian military command Sagir Musa, one serviceman was killed in the clashes, two more were injured. In addition, 13 militants were killed.

News of the Week

- The Pakistani schoolgirl **Malala Yousafzai**, who was shot by the Taliban for campaigning for education for girls, was discharged yesterday from the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Birmingham, England after success in the first stage of her medical treatment. Yousafzai was shot in October by Taliban forces on a school bus in Mingora, in the Swat Valley in Pakistan. She was given emergency treatment in Pakistan and then flown to Britain for treatment at a specialist unit which deals with injured soldiers. Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, Rwanda, and South Korea join the **United Nations Security Council** on Jan 1, 2013.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** has been selected for the **Krishi Karman Award** for its best performance in the increase in foodgrain production during 2010-11.
- The **11th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** gets underway in Kochi on January 7, 2013. Over 2000 delegates from different parts of the world are participating in the three day event, which provides a platform to the Overseas Indian Community to discuss key issues concerning Indian diaspora.
- U.S. President Barack Obama signs the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, intended to prevent the "fiscal cliff". Upcoming G8 summit is to be held on the shores of Lough Erne in Northern Ireland in June 2013.
- Tulsi Gabbard from Hawaii has created history by not only becoming the first Hindu ever to be sworn in as a member of the US House of Representatives, but also being the first ever US lawmaker to have taken oath of office on the sacred Bhagavad Gita. Currently, she was a Company Commander with the Hawaii Army National Guard.
- The centenary session of the **100th Indian Science Congress** was held in Kolkata from January 3-7, 2013. This is the 13th time the Indian Science Congress is being hosted by Kolkata. The city had hosted in first Science Congress in 1914 and hosted the event last in 1995. The **theme** of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) is '**Science for Shaping the Future of India**'.
- Former RBI Governor Y. V. Reddy will be the Chairman of **14th Finance Commission**; the 13th Finance Commission was headed by former Finance Secretary Vijay Kelkar. The Finance Commission has been asked to submit its report by 31st October, 2014. Finance Commission, a constitutional body, is set up every five years. Besides other things, the Commission lays down principles governing the grants-in-aid to states and other local bodies for a five-year period beginning 1st April 2014.
- Country's apex policy making body **National Development Council - NDC** has approved the strategy to achieve average **GDP growth rate of 8 pc during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17)**, generate 50 million new jobs and increase investments in infrastructure sector.
- Australian pace legend **Glenn McGrath** was inducted into the **International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame** on Jan 4, 2013, making him its 68th male member.
- The **March 23 Movement** in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** announces that peace talks will only commence if President Joseph Kabila's government signs a ceasefire.

The radical group "Boko Haram" is seeking introduction of Sharia law throughout Nigeria, and eradication of the western secular model of education. The group is behind a majority of attacks, which occur regularly in the country.

Temporary member of UN Security Council

Rwanda - along with Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg and South Korea - was elected in October as a temporary member of the 15-nation UN Security Council for 2013-14. Analysts say the new group will likely be more friendly to the West on crises like Syria or North Korea but lacks the power to force an end to the impasses on those issues.

The Security Council's "Group of Experts" has accused Rwanda and Uganda of backing so-called M23 rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in their fight against the Congolese army. Uganda and Rwanda deny the group's allegations.

"Our role (on Congo) will be positive as it has always been," Olivier Nduhungirehe, Rwanda's deputy UN ambassador, told Reuters. "We will continue supporting the peaceful resolution of the conflict."

"We will also support (UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's) efforts in bringing together leaders of the region, in order to address the root causes of the conflict," he said. But he made clear Kigali would not tolerate any further finger pointing regarding what he said were unfounded charges.

"Rwanda will not be part of and will not support any attempt to continue the blame game initiated by a politicised and discredited Group of Experts," Nduhungirehe said. Security Council diplomats have told Reuters on condition of anonymity that they worry it will be more difficult to achieve consensus on Congo with Rwanda on the council. At the same time, they said, any solution for eastern Congo must include Rwanda, so having it on the council is not necessarily a bad thing.

The last time Rwanda was on the council was in 1994-95. That coincided with a genocide in which 800 000 people were killed when Rwanda's Hutu-led government and ethnic militias went on a 100-day killing spree, massacring Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The council's new composition will not break the deadlocks on Syria or North Korea, council diplomats say. The Security Council has been at an impasse on Syria since that conflict began 21 months ago, with veto powers Russia and the United States unable to agree on whether Syrian President Bashar Assad should be required to step down or not.

In addition to India and South Africa, Colombia, Germany and Portugal are leaving the Security Council. Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Pakistan, Togo and Morocco will remain through 2013.

SC upholds appointment of Retd. Justice Mehta as Guj Lokayukta

The Supreme Court today upheld the appointment of Justice (ret'd) R A Mehta as Gujarat Lokayukta by Governor Kamla Beniwal, saying it was done in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. A bench of justices B S Chauhan and F M Ibrahim Kalifulla dismissed the Gujarat government's plea that the appointment was illegal as it was done without consulting it. The bench said that the Governor is bound to act under the advice of the Council of Ministers, but the appointment of Justice Mehta is right as it was done in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. The apex court said that Justice Mehta can go ahead with his work as Lokayukta.

The Governor had on August 25th, 2011 appointed Justice Mehta to the post of Lokayukta, which had been lying vacant for the last eight years.

The Gujarat government had moved the apex court against the January 18, 2012 order of the Gujarat High Court upholding the Governor's decision.

The High Court's verdict had been delivered by Justice V.M Sahai after a division bench gave a split decision on the legitimacy of the Governor's action in appointing Justice Mehta, a retired judge of the Gujarat High Court, as Lokayukta.

The division bench of the High Court had given the split verdict on the appointment issue on October 11th last year.

Challenging the High Court's order in the Supreme Court, the state government had contended that the personal discretion exercised by the Governor in unilaterally issuing the warrant of appointment of Lokayukta was unwarranted.

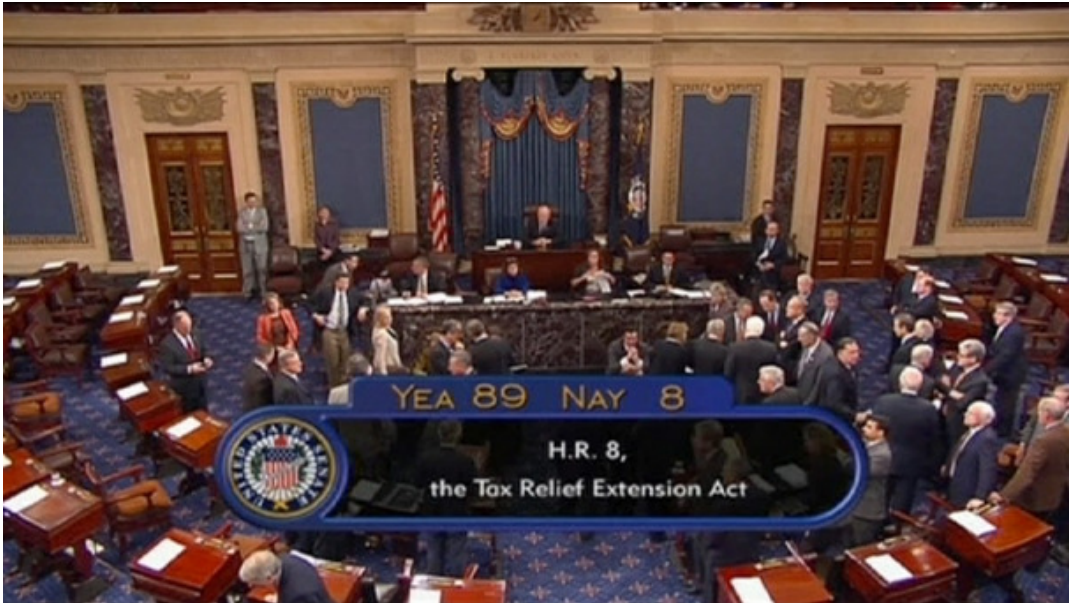
US Senate approves bill to avoid fiscal cliff

The US Senate overwhelmingly approved a legislation to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff in the wee hours of Tuesday, with 89 voting in favour and 8 against.

The proposal would extend tax rates on annual household income under USD 4,50,000 and postpone automatic spending cuts for two months. The bill will now have to be passed by the House of Representatives. "While neither Democrats nor Republicans got everything they wanted, this agreement is the right thing to do for our country and the House should pass it without delay," the US President, Barack Obama, said. He was speaking moments after the Senate vote, which came after some tough late night negotiations between Republican and Democratic leadership and the White House to arrive at a last minute deal brokered by the US Vice President, Joe Biden.

The agreement passed by the Senate protects 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small business owners from a middle class tax hike. "This agreement will also grow the

economy and shrink our deficits in a balanced way - by investing in our middle class, and by asking the wealthy to pay a little more," Obama said. While the Senate met in the wee hours of Tuesday - some two hours after US technically hit the fiscal cliff - the legislation is yet to be passed by House of Representatives, which is not due to meet before Tuesday noon local time (late Tuesday night IST). It is only after House passes the bill that it goes to the White House for the US President, Barack Obama, to sign into law. The House is to debate the package beginning Tuesday afternoon.



Since any or all of the current provisions could be amended or rejected, the final shape of the deal is still not certain. As the US Congress passed the fiscal cliff deal ending fears of tax hikes among a vast majority of Americans, US President Barack Obama today said this would avert possibility of recession in the economy and he would sign the bill into a law.

The Republican-controlled US House of Representatives voted 257-167 last night on the fiscal-cliff bill that was passed by the Senate in the wee hours yesterday. Vice President Joe Biden, who played a key role in negotiating a deal with the Republicans, was standing by his side in the White House press room.

In the United States, the "fiscal cliff" refers to the economic effects that will result from tax increases, spending cuts, and a corresponding reduction in the US budget deficit, potentially beginning in 2013. The deficit-the difference between what the government takes in and what it spends-is projected to be reduced by roughly half in 2013. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this sharp decrease in the deficit (the fiscal cliff) will likely lead to a mild recession in early 2013 with the unemployment rate rising to roughly 9 percent in the second half of the year.

The laws leading to the fiscal cliff include the expiration of the 2010 Tax Relief Act and planned spending cuts under the Budget Control Act of 2011. Nearly all proposals to avoid the fiscal cliff involve extending certain parts of the Bush tax cuts or changing the 2011 Budget Control Act or both, thus making the deficit larger by reducing taxes or increasing spending. Because of the short-term adverse impact on the economy, the fiscal cliff has stirred intense commentary both inside and outside of Congress.

The Budget Control Act was a compromise intended to resolve a dispute concerning the public debt ceiling. Some major programs, like Social Security, Medicaid, federal pay (including military pay and pensions), and veterans' benefits, are exempted from the spending cuts.[note 1] Spending for defense, federal agencies and cabinet departments will be reduced through broad, shallow cuts referred to as budget sequestration.

At around 2 a.m. on January 1, 2013, the Senate passed a compromise bill, the proposed American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, by a margin of 89-8. The bill would delay the budget sequestration by two months, and includes \$600 billion over ten years in new tax revenue relative to extending 2012 levels, which is about one-fifth of the revenue that would have been raised had no legislation been passed. The revenue would come from increased marginal income and capital gains tax rates relative to their 2012 levels for annual income over \$400,000 for individuals and \$450,000 for couples; a phase-out of certain tax deductions and credits for those with incomes over \$250,000 for individuals and \$300,000 for couples, an increase in estate taxes relative to 2012 levels on estates over \$5 million, and expiration of the two-year-old cut to payroll taxes, which is applied to income under the Social Security Wage Base, which was \$110,100 in 2012. All these changes would all be made permanent. The House passed the bill without amendments by a margin of 257-167 around 11 p.m. EST on January 1, 2013.

US President Barack Obama and Republicans have sealed a budget deal to avert the fiscal cliff that would prevent a middle-class tax hike from hitting 98 percent of Americans. A senior White House official said in Washington ,the deal also delays for two months part of the 109 billion US Dollars in spending cuts.

Tax cuts passed during the Presidency of George W Bush formally expired yesterday. But the deal extends the tax cuts for Americans earning under 400,000 dollars - up from the 250,000 dollars level Democrats had originally sought.

A huge spending cut known as the sequester - that would see 1.2 trillion dollar cut from the federal budget over 10 years - has been deferred for two months, allowing Congress and the White House to reopen negotiations on a wider deal.

Congressional Budget Office, in a report, had predicted that fiscal cliff could dampen economic growth by 0. 5 percent. That could tip the US economy into a recession and driving unemployment from its current 7.7 percent back over nine per cent.

Half of world's food thrown away:UK study; says could feed growing & hungry population

A new report estimates that between thirty percent and fifty percent of all food produced in the world is never eaten. The report says as much as half of the world's food, amounting

to two billion tonnes worth, ends up being thrown away. The study also found that up to 30 per cent of vegetables in the UK were not harvested because of their physical appearance. Dr Fox, head of energy and environment at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, said the amount of food wasted and lost around the world is staggering. This is food that could be used to feed the world's growing population - as well as those in hunger today.

Messi wins record fourth Ballon d'Or

Lionel Messi added yet another record to his stellar list of achievements over the past 12 months when he won an unprecedented fourth, consecutive, Ballon d'Or at a FIFA gala in Zurich.

The accolade on Monday seals Messi's status as the greatest player of his generation after he saw off Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona teammate Andres Iniesta for the prize.

Messi received a vote share of 41.60 percent to 23.68 for Ronaldo and 10.91 for Iniesta. Messi and former French star, UEFA president Michel Platini, had prior to Monday been the only players to win three straight Ballon d'Or awards while Dutch greats Johan Cruyff and Marco Van Basten both won the accolade on three occasions.

Spain's Vicente del Bosque was named coach of the year for 2012, seeing off competition from Real Madrid's Jose Mourinho and former Barcelona coach Josep Guardiola.

Messi's success crowned another landmark year for the Argentine who is already the top scorer in La Liga for the ongoing season with 25 goals, having also broken Gerd Mueller's 40-year record for the most goals in a calendar year. He finished 2012 with an astonishing 91 goals in all competitions.

But Messi has insisted his scoring records will mean nothing if Barcelona do not go on to take the La Liga title off Real or fail to win the Champions League. "It is incredible to receive this prize once again and it's impressive it makes it four in a row. Each one is special. You never come here thinking you are going to win. "I would like to share this with my Barca teammates - particularly with Andres, who is here with me," said the ever unassuming Messi. "I am proud to be able to train alongside him every day. I am also thinking of my teammates in the Argentina squad," he went on.

"Thank you to all those who voted for me, skippers, coaches and national coaches. "Thank you too to my family, my friends and of course my wife and son, who is the best thing that ever happened to me," said the 25-year-old from Rosario, who in November became a father to son Thiago.

Barca coach Tito Vilanova had already eulogised his player in advance of Messi's win. "Leo's great quality is that he plays as if he is still a child," Vilanova opined. Portugal captain Ronaldo at least has the consolation of having won in 2008 before Messi's hegemony began while Iniesta can for his part bask in the knowledge that he has won a World Cup and two Euros - including Euro 2012 - whereas Messi still has to replicate such achievements at international level.

Until he can lift top honours with Argentina, some observers will insist he cannot be classed as the greatest player ever, moving ahead of Pele and Diego Maradona.

The award of best coach went to Spain's Vicente del Bosque, who beat off competition from Real Madrid's Jose Mourinho, the 2010 winner, and former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola. "It is an honour for me to receive this award," said Del Bosque, who led Spain to Euro 2012 - having also landed the World Cup two years earlier.

"It is an honour to represent Spanish football and the Spanish national side. I thank all the players - they make us (the coaches) better. "This prize can be extended to all coaches, to people who dedicate themselves to football," added the ever humble coach.

Barcelona and Real Madrid meanwhile contributed five players each to the best XI of the year - Radamel Falcao of AtleticoMadrid being the exception in an all Spain-based line-up. Slovakia's Miroslav Stoch edged both Falcao and Brazil's Neymar for best goal, Best woman player went to Abby Wambach of the USA, who edged Brazil's Marta and fellow American Alex Morgan while the USA's Swedish coach Pia Sundhage won the title of best women's coach.

The Uzbekistan Football Federation took the fair play award while a special FIFA president award went to German legend Franz Beckenbauer.

Govt unveils 10-yr plan to identify sports talent in rural ares

Aiming to clinch more medals in international events like the Olympics, the government's new 10-year plan would identify talent from rural areas. Sports Minister Jitendra Singh said this in Chennai on Tuesday. He told reporters that the government has made the plan in the Ministry of Sports which will include identifying talents from rural areas and sending them to districts and giving them training.

The Minister said those doing well during the training would be sent for 'world class' coaching at Sports Authority of India centres of excellence. He said 28 centres of excellence are being developed where world class coaching will be given. He also said the National Institute of Sports, Patiala, will be strengthened to churn out more coaches. Along with that, a lot of foreign coaches will also be taken over the next few years. And India will be sending the players abroad also, he said.

Observing that sports needed to be connected with livelihood and career progression, which was not seen as of now, he said, there is a need to connect sports with various courses and various corporate houses so that a good sportsman gets a job also after he performs.

Publisher Tribune emerges from bankruptcy

Tribune's controlling owners, which include hedge funds Oaktree Capital and Angelo, Gordon & Co, and JPMorgan Chase & Co intend to sell most, if not all, of its newspapers and already have expressions of interest for The Los Angeles Times, The Orlando Sentinel and others, Reuters has reported. For now at least, the Chicago-based company said its portfolio would include eight major daily newspapers and 23 TV stations.



Tribune's newspapers remain profitable despite the falloff in readers and advertising. Veteran newspaper analyst John Morton, President of Morton Research, estimated the Los Angeles Times could fetch \$130 million at an auction, while the Chicago Tribune could garner \$86 million in a sale.

Oaktree is the biggest Tribune shareholder, owning about 23 percent of the company while Angelo Gordon and JP Morgan each hold a 9 percent stake.

"Tribune will emerge as a dynamic multi-media company with a great mix of profitable assets, powerful brands in major markets, sufficient liquidity for operations and investments and significantly less debt," Chief Executive Eddy Hartenstein said in a statement.

As part of the Chapter 11 exit, the company closed on a new \$1.1 billion senior secured term loan and a new \$300 million asset-based revolving credit facility.

The term loan will be used to fund certain payments under the plan of reorganization and the revolving credit facility will be used to fund ongoing operations, the company said.

Tribune's most actively traded debt, a \$5.5 billion loan due in May 2014, was most recently trading at 83 cents on the dollar, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Upon exiting bankruptcy, Tribune will have issued to former creditors a mix of about 100 million shares of new class A common stock and new class B common stock, and new warrants to purchase shares of new class A or class B common stock.

Hartenstein will remain CEO until the new Tribune board names a new management team. Peter Liguori, a former Discovery Communications chief operating officer, is expected to be named CEO.

The company announced a seven-person board that includes Hartenstein, Liguori, former Yahoo CEO Ross Levinsohn and Peter Murphy, Walt Disney's former top strategic planning executive.

Tribune is expected to focus on building its TV operations. In its portfolio, it owns WGN America, a national feed of Tribune's Chicago TV stations that it distributes through cable and satellite to more than 76 million U.S. homes.

Horizon Media analyst Brad Adgate said WGN could expand its base by 20 million to 25 million homes if it adds original programming to its lineup.

Tribune's TV operations are estimated to account for \$2.85 billion of the company's \$7 billion valuation, while its publishing assets are estimated to represent \$623 million, according to a report by its financial advisor, Lazard. The rest of its value resides in assets including its 30 percent stake in the Food Network and its cash balance.

In November, Tribune received regulatory approval from the Federal Communications Commission to transfer its broadcast licenses to the owners who would take it over after emerging from bankruptcy.

Real estate magnate Sam Zell stunned the media industry when he took the company private in 2007 in an \$8.2 billion leveraged buyout that burdened the company with debt and that many observers warned would be disastrous. Tribune was forced into bankruptcy in 2008. The company's reorganization plan was confirmed by the Delaware bankruptcy court in July. The case is In re: Tribune Co et al, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware, No. 08-13141.

India's Foreign Trade: December, 2012

EXPORTS (including re-exports)

Exports during December, 2012 were valued at US \$ 24877.57 million (Rs. 135950.47 crore) which was 1.92 per cent lower in Dollar terms (1.75 per cent higher in Rupee terms) than the level of US \$ 25365.69 million (Rs. 133618.61 crore) during December, 2011. Cumulative value of exports for the period April-December 2012 -13 was US \$ 214099.77 million (Rs 1166438.69) as against US \$ 226551.09 million (Rs 1066668.31 crore) registering a negative growth of 5.50 per cent in Dollar terms and growth of 9.35 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.



IMPORTS

Imports during December, 2012 were valued at US \$ 42549.50 million (Rs.232523.66 crore) representing a growth of 6.26 per cent in Dollar terms and 10.23 per cent in Rupee terms over the level of imports valued at US \$ 40044.06 million (Rs. 210939.69 crore) in December, 2011. Cumulative value of imports for the period April-December, 2012-13 was US \$ 361271.88 million (Rs. 1967521.83 crore) as against US \$ 363867.81 million (Rs. 1714432.42 crore) registering a negative growth of 0.71 per cent in Dollar terms and growth of 14.76 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.

CRUDE OIL AND NON-OIL IMPORTS:

Oil imports during December, 2012 were valued at US \$ 14429.7 million which was 23.56 per cent higher than oil imports valued at US \$ 11678.7 million in the corresponding period last year. Oil imports during April-December, 2012-13 were valued at US \$ 124520.8 million which was 12.18 per cent higher than the oil imports of US \$ 111002.9 million in the corresponding period last year.

Non-oil imports during December, 2012 were estimated at US \$ 28119.8 million which was 0.87 per cent lower than non-oil imports of US \$ 28365.4 million in December, 2011. Non-oil imports during April - December, 2012-13 were valued at US \$ 236751.1 million which was 6.37 per cent lower than the level of such imports valued at US \$ 252864.9 million in April - December, 2011-12.

Combined Medical Services Examination, 2012

The enclosure is the list, in order of merit, of the candidates who have been recommended for appointment to medical posts in the Railways, Indian Ordnance Factories Health Service, Central Government Health Services, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council on the result of the Combined Medical Services Examination, 2012 held by the Union Public Service Commission on 17.06.2012 and Personality Test held from 29.10.2012 to 7.12.2012. The figure shown before the names are the Roll Numbers of the candidates. A total number of 672 candidates recommended for appointment include 250 General Candidates (including 14 Physically Challenged candidates), 277 candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes (including 08 Physically Challenged candidates), 83 candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste (including 04 Physically Challenged candidates) and 62 Scheduled Tribe candidates.

Appointments to the various posts will be made according to the number of vacancies available and subject to the candidates fulfilling all the prescribed eligibility conditions and all verifications, wherever due, being completed satisfactorily.

2. In accordance with Rule 13 & 14 of the Rules of the Combined Medical Services Exam., 2012, the Commission is maintaining a consolidated Reserve List of 82 candidates which includes 41 General, 40 Other Backward Classes and 01 Scheduled Caste candidates.

3. U.P.S.C. has a "Facilitation Counter" near Examination Hall Building of its campus. Candidates can obtain any information/clarification regarding their result on working days between 1000 hours to 1700 hours in person or over telephone Nos. 23098543/23385271/23381125 from this Counter. Result will also be available on the U.P.S.C Website i.e. <http://www.upsc.gov.in>. However, marks on the website are likely to be available after 15 days from the date of declaration of result.

4. In case, any candidate desires to obtain printed/hard copy of his/her mark-sheet of the

above mentioned examination, he/she should forward a request to the Commission along with self-addressed stamped envelope within a period of thirty days from the date of publication of the result.

Major Achievements of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in the Year -2012

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation is responsible for carrying out surveys on socio-economic aspects of Indian Economy by collecting data from households and enterprises located in villages and in the towns with a view to update data base for sound planning for development and administrative decisions. Towards this end and objective of the organization, the major achievements during 2012 are as follows:

Survey undertaken/ launched:

- The field work of two sub-rounds of NSS 68th round on Household Consumer Expenditure & Employment and Unemployment was completed during the year and the field work for NSS 69th round, a six month duration survey, on Drinking Water, Sanitation & Hygiene and Housing Conditions (including slums) started in July 2012 and now has been completed.
- Agricultural Statistics Survey on Sample check on area enumeration and supervision of crop cutting experiments under the scheme for 'Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)' for the agricultural years 2011-12 and 2012-13. While the Survey for 2011-12 is completed, the Survey for 2012-13 will continue up to June 2013.
- Regular price collection surveys in rural areas for compilation of Consumer Price Indices for Rural and Agricultural Labour by Labour Bureau and in urban areas for Consumer Price Index (Urban) by Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- Assistance to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) in collection of wholesale prices from selected units/ factories for compilation of Wholesale Price Index.
- The data collection work of Annual Survey of Industries for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

New initiatives undertaken:

- All India Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is in progress in 3 States viz, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa. The primary objective of the survey is to measure the dynamics in labour force participation and employment status in the short time interval of 3 months.
- Experimentation of use of Hand-held devices / gadgets for data collection in the socio-economic surveys in the field.
- Use of RDBMS system of data processing.
- Data entry at field level in NSS 68th and 69th rounds in the states of Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Puducherry.

Reports released:

- 96th issue of the NSSO Journal 'Sarvekshana'.
- Reports/ Results based on NSS rounds:

NSS 66th Round:

- Informal Sector and Conditions of Employment in India
- Nutritional Intake in India
- Household consumption of various goods and services in India
- Energy Sources of Indian Households for Cooking and Lighting
- Employment and Unemployment Situation Among Social Groups in India
- Household Consumer Expenditure Across Socio-Economic Groups
- Home based workers in India

NSS 67th Round:

- Key Results of Survey on Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises (Excluding Construction) in India
- Operational characteristics of Unincorporated Non-agricultural Enterprises (Excluding Construction) in India

NSS 68th Round:

- Provisional Results of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey, NSS 68th round (July 20011 - June 2012)

Social Statistics Division

The Social Statistics Division released five publications namely, Manual on Disability Statistics, Manual on Labour Statistics (I), SAARC Social Charter-India Country Report 2012, Women and Men in India 2012, Children in India 2012 – A Statistical Appraisal.

The Ministry has constituted two national awards viz, Prof.C.R.Rao award for young Statistician and Prof.P.V.Sukhatme award for life time achievement in Statistics for Indian national in alternate years. In 2012, Prof.P.V. Sukhatme award was jointly awarded to Prof.S.P.Mukherjee, ex Professor, Calcutta University and Prof.Jayant Vinayak Deshpande ex Professor, Pune University. The award carries a prize money of Rs.5 lakhs, a citation and a memento.

National Accounts Division

Technical achievements

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released a press note on Quick Estimates (now called 1st Revised Estimates) of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Savings and Capital Formation for 2010-11 on 31.01.2012 and Revised Estimates (now called Provisional Estimates) of National Income for 2011-12 on 31.05.2012.
- The GDP at factor cost at constant (2004-05) prices in 2011-12 registered a growth rate of 6.5 %.
- The GDP at current prices for the year 2011-12 is estimated at Rs.82,32,652 crore, while the Net National Income is estimated at Rs.72,84,523 crore. The Per Capita Income during 2011-12 at current prices is estimated at Rs. 60,603/-.
- The Gross Saving Rate at current prices is estimated at 32.3% of GDP at market prices in 2010-11, as against the saving rate of 33.8% in 2009-10.
- The rate of Gross Capital Formation has also reached a high level of 35.1% in 2010-11.
- Quarterly GDP at factor cost at constant (2004-05) prices for Q1 of 2012-13 is estimated at Rs. 13,06,276 crore, as against Rs. 12,38,738 crore in Q1 of 2011-12, showing a growth rate of 5.5 per cent over the corresponding quarter of previous year.
- Quarterly GDP at factor cost at constant (2004-05) prices for Q2 of 2011-12 is estimated at Rs.12,93,922 crore as against Rs.12,28,982 crore in Q2 of 2010-11, showing a growth rate of 5.3 per cent over the corresponding quarter of previous year.
- The growth during H1 (April-September) for the year 2012-13 at constant prices is estimated at 5.4% over the corresponding previous half year.
- Population segment specific Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers do not reflect true picture of the price behaviors in the country. To overcome the above, the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had introduced a new series of Consumer Price Indices (CPI) for all-India and States/UTs separately from rural, urban and combined (rural plus urban) for the purpose of intra temporal price comparison with effect from January, 2011 with 2010 as the base year. These new monthly indices are compiled at State/UT and all-India levels. The annual inflation rates based on this CPI series are available since January 2012.
- Report on "Non Profit Institutions in India – A Profile and Satellite Accounts in the framework of System of National Accounts" was released based on the information col-

lected from more than 4.5 lakh Non-Profit Institutions of the country.

- Two publications – National Accounts Statistics, Back Series and National Accounts Statistics, Sources & Methods – were released giving time series estimates on the new base year, 2004-05, and the methodology used in the New Series of National Accounts.
- The Input Output Transaction Tables, giving the input structures and final demand patterns of the economy, have been compiled by this Division for the year 2007-08, and are available on the website of MOSPI.
- One Meeting of the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics which deliberates and advises on the methodological aspect of compilation of “National Accounts Statistics”, was held on October 8, 2012.
- Regional workshops for training of the State personnel in compilation of “State Domestic Product and other related aggregates” have been organized in conjunction with the State Directorate of Economics and Statistics at Jaipur, Srinagar, Gangtok, Gandhinagar, Kochi and Shantiniketan (in West Bengal) during the months of August to December, 2012.
- The 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy under the theme “Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making” was organized during October 16-19, 2012 in Delhi.

MPLAD Scheme

- Objective: The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in December, 1993 to provide a mechanism for the Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities based on locally felt needs. The annual MPLADS funds entitlement per MP under the scheme has been enhanced from Rs.2 crore to Rs.5 crore w.e.f. 2011-12.

Nature of the Scheme:

under the scheme funds are released in the form of Grant-in-aid as Special Central Assistance directly to the Districts. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has prescribed a set of guidelines for implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The guidelines are revised from time to time to make it more responsive to the local needs without compromising the basic principles of the scheme. The Guidelines of November, 2005 have been revised and the revised guidelines have been issued in August, 2012. As many as reform circulars on guidelines have been issued in this year till date.

- Impact: With a view to assess the implementation of the scheme for mid-course correction, a mechanism of physical monitoring of MPLADS works in selected Districts by an independent Institution has been put in place. Third party monitoring of MPLADS works in 208 Districts have been completed during the period 2007 to 2011 by NABCONS. Currently third party physical monitoring has been assigned to M/s AFC Ltd. And is underway in 100 Districts.

- Physical and Financial Progress of the Scheme since inception:
- Rs. 26960.25 crore has been released (including release of Rs. 1962 crore up to 30.11.2012 during the financial year 2012-13 since inception of the Scheme. As reported by the Districts, an expenditure of Rs. 24070.88 has been incurred under the Scheme. The percentage utilization over release of 89.28
- So far 13,87,151 works have been sanctioned and 12,382,87 works been completed. Percentage of works completed to sanction is 89.27.

Coordination and Publication (CAP)

- For Five year Plan 2012-17, the Ministry has been allocated Rs. 3709 crores excluding Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).
- Under India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP), Ministry has signed MOUs with 13 States and released Rs. 130.86 crores.
- An MOU was signed with EURO STAT for statistical cooperation.

Infrastructure & Project Monitoring Division (IPMD)

1. The Infrastructure & Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) monitors the implementation of Central Sector Projects (costing Rs. 150 crore and above) in 14 Infrastructure Sectors as well as the performance of 11 key infrastructure sectors.

2. As per the latest Report for the month of September, 2012 there are 566 such on-going Central Sector Projects (costing Rs. 150 crore and above whose original cost of implementation was about Rs. 7,90,572.38 crore and anticipated completion cost likely to be Rs.9,23,573.57 crore. This reflects a cost overrun of 16.8%. 46.5% of the Projects i.e. 263 Projects are delayed, with the average time overrun being about 17.3 months for all projects and 37.1 months for the delayed project.

3. The infrastructure performance recorded positive growth during the year 2012-13 (April- September) over the corresponding period of the previous year in various sectors such as power generation (4.8%), Production of coal(8.1%), Production of finished steel (2.0%), cement (7.4%), refinery (5.4%), up-gradation of Highway by NHAI (38.8%), goods traffic carried by Railways (4.8%), passengers handled at International terminals (2.6%) of the airports and net addition in switching capacity of telephone exchanges (59.1%). The negative growth over the performance with respect to the previous year was observed in some sectors namely fertilizers (6.0%), crude oil (0.7%) & natural gas (12.5%), & up-gradation of Highway by State PWD and Border Road Organisation(BRO) (9.3%), cargo handled at major ports (3.3%), Cargo handled at airport –[Export (1.6%) & import cargo (9.2%)] and passenger handled at domestic terminals of the airports (3.1%).

Recent Initiatives:

4. To facilitate resolving of various extraneous issues/bottlenecks such as land acquisition, encroachments, delay in issue of clearances and shifting of utilities, etc. Which are increasingly having a bearing on the implementation of Central Sector Projects, all States have been requested to constitute Central Sector Projects Coordination Committees under the Chief Secretaries in which concerned PSU s in the State, the concerned Departments of State Government and Agencies etc. are also represented.

5. Recognizing the importance of Project Management in the improving the project implementation, this Ministry is supporting various initiatives in promoting the Project Management discipline and training. Five-day training for public sector employees in project management is being organized by this Ministry once in each quarter. Over 200 executive have benefitted from it.

6. The Review meeting on the implementation of Projects in the state of Odisha have been taken up, by the Hon'ble Minister with the IOCL, RVNL, MCL & NHAI. The minute have been circulated for taking necessary action to all concerned.

7. Field visits to various project sites of JNPT, MbPT, NHAI & IOC etc. have been taken to understand the constraints and appropriate suggestion were made to resolve the same.

Twenty Point Programme (TPP) 1. The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) was launched by the Government of India in the year 1975 and has been restructured thrice in 1982, 1986 and again in 2006. The restructured programme, known as Twenty Point Programme (TPP) – 2006, became operational with effect from, 1st April, 2007. The TPP-06 is meant to give a thrust to schemes relating to poverty alleviation, employment generation in rural areas, housing, education, family welfare & health, protection of environment and many other schemes having a bearing on the quality of life, especially in the rural areas. The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) – 2006 consists of 20 points with 65 items which are monitored on annual basis. Out of the 65 items, 20 items are monitored on monthly basis also on the basis of progress report submitted by state Government. UT Administrations and concerned Central Nodal Ministries. Performance of 15 of the 20 items is monitored against pre-set targets which are fixed by concerned Central Nodal Ministries.

2. The Ministry releases a Monthly Progress Report (MPR) on implementation of monthly monitored items. During the financial year 2012, MPR's have been released for the months of October, 2011 to September, 2012 respectively. In addition to MPR, an Annual Review Report on TPP- 2006 covering progress of implementation of all items during the year under TPP-2006 is also released. During 2012, Annual Review Report for 20010-11 has

been released.

3. In order to strengthen the monitoring of the implementation framework of schemes/ programmes covered under TPP-06 TPP Division of the Ministry has been mandated to undertake Monitoring and Impact Assessment Studies on selected programmes/schemes covered under TPP-2006. So far, the Ministry has undertaken two Impact Assessment Studies. First relates to impact of MGNREGA in 3 selected districts of North Eastern States namely Mon (Nagaland), , Saiha (Mizoram), Dhalai (Tripura), The second study related to rehabilitation of Disabled persons under Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) in the States of Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

4. Twenty Point Programme was last revised in 2006 which came into operation in April 2007. Since then, the priorities of the Government have shifted from 10th Plan to 11th Plan to 12th Plan. Beside these the Government has taken initiatives in the form of “Bharat Nirman” and other Flagship Programmes. In order to accommodate these policy changes and thrusts, the Ministry has initiated a proposal to revamp the TPP.

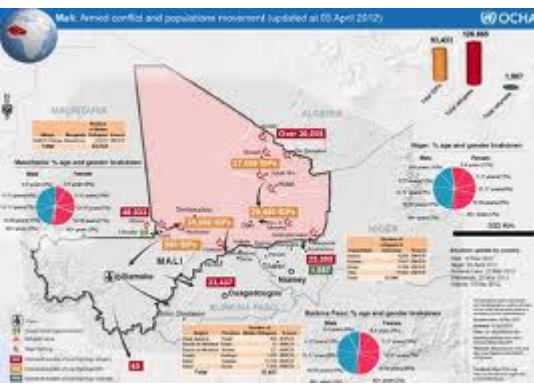
5. Ministry of Statistics & PI also undertakes review meeting at National and State levels as part of monitoring and consultation mechanism. Two National Review Meeting of TPP-06 have been successfully held so far on 28.10.10 and 11.11.11 respectively. These review meeting are held to review the overall progress of schemes/programmes so to improve the implementation of schemes/ programmes covered under TPP. These meetings addressed the core issues with States Govts/UT Administrations and with concerned nodal Ministries viz. State –wise performance of programmes and Schemes covered under Twenty Point Programme , variation in reported performance figures by States/UTs and furnished by Central Nodal Ministries. Delay in reporting of monthly performance figures, Constitution of TPP Monitoring committees at State, District & Block levels and their meetings at regular interval, Target fixation approach taken by central nodal ministries, suggestions for revamping of TPP-2006, need for a single portal of TPP, difficulties faced by the implementing agencies in the implementation of schemes/programmes and suggestion for dropping obsolete schemes/programmes and inclusion of new schemes in view of the Bharat Nirman and new flagship programmes of Govt. of India.

Road Transport Scenario in India

About 60 per cent of freight and 87 per cent passenger traffic is carried by road. Although National Highways constitute only about 2 per cent of the road network, it carries 40 per cent of the total road traffic. Easy availability, adaptability to individual needs and cost savings are some of the factors which go in favour of road transport. Road transport also acts as a feeder service to railway, shipping and air traffic. The number of vehicles has been growing at an average pace of around 10 per cent per annum. The share of road traffic in total traffic has grown from 13.8 per cent of freight traffic and 15.4 per cent of passenger traffic in 1950-51 to an estimated 62.9 per cent of freight traffic and 90.2 per cent of passenger traffic by the end of 2009-10. The rapid expansion and strengthening of the road network, therefore, is imperative, to provide for both present and future traffic and for improved accessibility to the hinterland. In addition, road transport needs to be regulated for better energy efficiency; less pollution and enhanced road safety. The Ministry also recognizes the need for improving the country's road safety scenario. There are four aspects of road safety, viz. Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency care which are also known as four Es of Road Safety. Necessary actions on these aspects are being taken in consultation with States /UTs and organizations under MORTH.

Mali conflict

Since 17 January 2012, several insurgent groups have been fighting a campaign against the Malian government for independence or greater autonomy for northern Mali (an area known



as Azawad). The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), an organization fighting to make Azawad an independent homeland for the Tuareg people, had taken control of the region by April. The MNLA were initially backed by the Islamist group Ansar Dine. However, after the Malian military were driven from Azawad, Ansar Dine began imposing strict Sharia law. Since then, the MNLA has been fighting

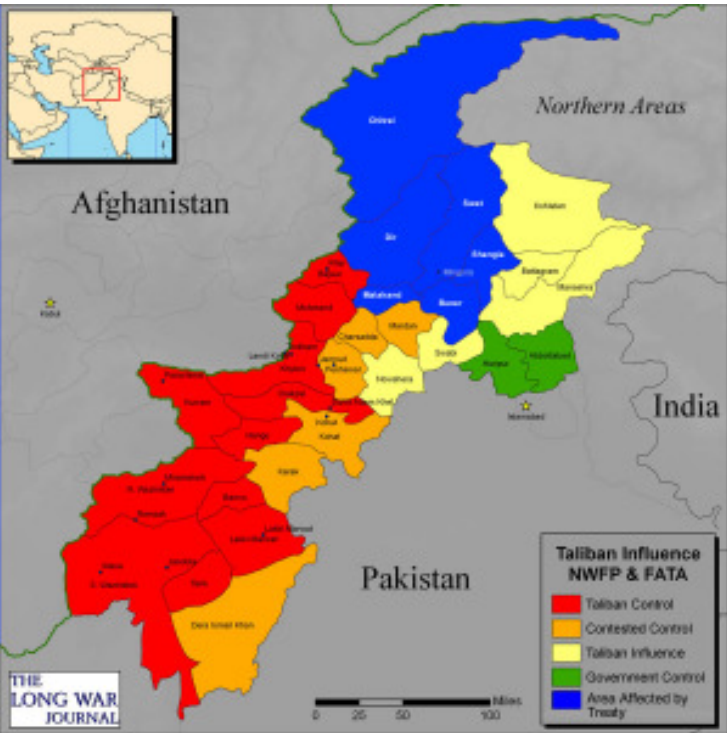
against Ansar Dine and another Islamist group called the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA), a splinter group of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. On 22 March, President Amadou Toumani Touré was ousted in a coup d'état over his handling of the crisis, a month before a presidential election was to have taken place. Mutineering soldiers, calling themselves the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State (CNRDR), took control and suspended the constitution of Mali. As a consequence of the instability following the coup, Mali's three largest northern cities—Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu—were overrun by the rebels on three consecutive days. On 5 April, after the capture of Douentza, the MNLA said that it had accomplished its goals and called off its offensive. The following day, it proclaimed Azawad's independence from Mali.

After the end of hostilities with the Malian Army, however, the MNLA and Islamists struggled to reconcile their conflicting visions for an intended new state. On 27 June, MOJWA Islamists clashed with the MNLA in the Battle of Gao, wounding MNLA secretary-general Bilal Ag Acherif and taking control of the city. By 17 July, the MNLA had lost control of northern Mali's cities to the Islamists.

On 11 January 2013, President of France François Hollande said that he had agreed to a request from the government of Mali for foreign aid and that "French forces have provided support to Mali".

War in North-West Pakistan

The War in North-West Pakistan is an armed conflict between the Pakistan Armed Forces and armed religious groups such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Islam, TNSM, regional armed movements, and elements of organized crime.



The armed conflict began in 2004 when tensions, rooted in the Pakistan Army's search for

Al-Qaeda fighters in Pakistan's mountainous Waziristan area (in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas), escalated into armed resistance. Pakistan's actions were presented as its contribution to the international War on Terror. Clashes erupted between Pakistani army troops and Arab and Central Asian militia forces. The foreign militants were joined by Pakistani non-military veterans of the War in Afghanistan (2001–present) which subsequently established the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan and other militia organizations such as Lashkar-e-Islam. The Tehreek-e-Nafaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TSNM) established in 1992 allied with the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Islam.

Thirteen Colombian Farc rebels 'killed in air strike'

At least 13 members of Colombia's largest rebel group, the Farc, have been killed in an air strike, the Colombian military says. The air force bombarded a rebel camp in north-western Antioquia province on Monday and has since found 13 bodies. The military has been continuing its attacks on the left-wing rebels at the same time as the government is engaging them in peace talks in Cuba.



The next session is scheduled in two weeks time.

The Farc called a temporary unilateral truce at the start of the peace talks and urged the Colombian government to do the same. But Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon called the truce "incoherent" and said there would be no let-up in operations against the Farc.

Air Force officials said Monday's air strike near the town of Chigorodo had seriously weakened the 5th Division of the Farc.

They said that among those injured in the attack was a rebel known as Mayerly, who is wanted on suspicion of involvement in the 2009 killing of 19 soldiers in Antioquia.

In its heyday in 2001, the Farc had some 16,000 fighters, but military operations and desertions have halved their number.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has set a deadline of November 2013 for an agreement to be reached with the rebel group. He said the peace process had to be a matter of months, not years. The last peace talks broke down in 2002 after the government accused the rebels of using a demilitarised zone they were granted as part of the negotiations to regroup and retrain.

Rwanda vows to help on DRC at UN

Rwanda warned on Monday it will not tolerate attempts to blame it for a rebel insurgency in eastern Congo but vowed to use its two-year UN Security Council stint to help put an end to the conflict that has destabilised its much larger neighbour. Rwanda - along with Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg and South Korea - was elected in October as a temporary member of the 15-nation UN Security Council for 2013-14.

Analysts say the new group will likely be more friendly to the West on crises like Syria or North Korea but lacks the power to force an end to the impasses on those issues.

The Security Council's "Group of Experts" has accused Rwanda and Uganda of backing so-called M23 rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in their fight against the Congolese army. Uganda and Rwanda deny the group's allegations.

"Our role (on Congo) will be positive as it has always been," Olivier Nduhugirehe, Rwanda's deputy UN ambassador, told Reuters. "We will continue supporting the peaceful resolution of the conflict."

"We will also support (UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's) efforts in bringing together leaders of the region, in order to address the root causes of the conflict," he said. But he made clear Kigali would not tolerate any further finger pointing regarding what he said were unfounded charges.

"Rwanda will not be part of and will not support any attempt to continue the blame game initiated by a politicised and discredited Group of Experts," Nduhugirehe said.

Security Council diplomats have told Reuters on condition of anonymity that they worry it will be more difficult to achieve consensus on Congo with Rwanda on the council. At the same time, they said, any solution for eastern Congo must include Rwanda, so having it on the council is not necessarily a bad thing.

Diplomats say that Rwanda's leverage is its influence over M23.

The last time Rwanda was on the council was in 1994-95. That coincided with a genocide in which 800,000 people were killed when Rwanda's Hutu-led government and ethnic militias went on a 100-day killing spree, massacring Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The council's new composition will not break the deadlocks on Syria or North Korea, council diplomats say. The Security Council has been at an impasse on Syria since that conflict began 21 months ago, with veto powers Russia and the United States unable to agree on whether Syrian President Bashar Assad should be required to step down or not.

In addition to India and South Africa, Colombia, Germany and Portugal are leaving the Security Council. Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Pakistan, Togo and Morocco will remain through 2013.

UK assumes presidency of G8 group

The UK is assuming its year-long presidency of the G8 group of nations. The presidency - which rotates through the G8 members - means it will host the annual leaders' summit and choose the global priorities that are discussed. June's summit is to be held at Lough Erne, in County Fermanagh, while topics discussed will include tax havens.



The G8 is made up of countries who have, historically, been the richest in the world - France, the US, Russia, Japan, Germany, Italy, Canada and the UK. As prime minister of the presi-

OPINION - EDITORIALS

FISCAL CLIFF IN US

C.S. Rajput

In the United States, the fiscal cliff is the sharp decline in the budget deficit that could have occurred beginning in 2013 due to increased taxes and reduced spending as required by previously enacted laws. The deficit-the amount by which government spending exceeds its revenue-was projected to be reduced by roughly half in 2013. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had estimated that the sharp decrease in the deficit would have likely led to a mild recession in 2013 with the unemployment rate rising to roughly 9 percent in the second half of the year. The fiscal cliff was largely eliminated by the eleventh-hour passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

The previously enacted laws leading to the fiscal cliff had been projected to result in a 19.63% increase in revenue and 0.25% reduction in spending from fiscal years 2012 to 2013. Those laws included the expiration of the 2010 Tax Relief Act and planned spending cuts under the Budget Control Act of 2011. The former extended the Bush tax cuts for two years, while the latter was enacted as a compromise to resolve a dispute concerning the public debt ceiling and address the failure of the 111th Congress to pass a Federal Budget. Under the fiscal cliff scenario, some major programs like Social Security, Medicaid, federal pay (including military pay and pensions), and veterans' benefits, would have been exempted from the spending cuts. Spending for federal agencies and cabinet departments would have been reduced through broad, shallow cuts referred to as budget sequestration.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 was signed into law by the President on January 2, 2013 and eliminated much of the tax side of the fiscal cliff, with the CBO projecting a 8.13% increase in revenue and 1.15% increase in spending for fiscal year 2013. Adjustments to spending were expected to be hashed out in early 2013. The Act resulted in a projected \$157 billion decline in the 2013 deficit relative to 2012, rather than the sharp \$487 billion decrease projected under the fiscal cliff. The increase in revenue came from increased marginal income and capital gains tax rates relative to their 2012 levels for annual income over \$400,000 (\$450,000 for couples); a phase-out of certain tax deductions and credits for those with incomes over \$250,000 (\$300,000 for couples); an increase in estate taxes relative to 2012 levels on estates over \$5 million; and expiration of payroll tax cuts (a 2% increase for most taxpayers earning under approximately \$110,000). These changes would all be made permanent. A reduction in spending due to budget sequestration was delayed for two months under the act and the debt ceiling was not changed, leading to further debate during early 2013. The House passed the bill without amendments by a margin of 257-167 around 11 pm EST on January 1, 2013, and President Barack Obama signed it the next day.

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Tax provisions

- For individuals with taxable income of \$400,000 per year or less (\$450,000 for a married couple on a joint tax return), the tax rates for income, capital gains, and dividends remained at their 2012 levels, instead of reverting to the higher rates from the expiration of the Bush tax cuts.
- For individuals with taxable income of over \$400,000 per year (\$450,000 for a married couple on a joint tax return):
- The top marginal tax rate on income of 39.6%, provided for under the expiration of the 2001 portion of the Bush tax cuts, was retained. This was an increase from the 2003-2012 rate of 35%.
- The top marginal tax rate on long-term capital gains of 20%, provided for under the expiration of the 2003 portion of the Bush tax cuts, was retained. This was an increase from the 2003-2012 rate of 15%.
- The top marginal tax rate on dividends, which would have increased to the ordinary income rate of 39.6% due to the expiration of the 2003 portion of the Bush tax cuts, was set to the capital-gains rate of 20%. This was an increase from the 2003-2012 rate of 15%.
- A phase-out of tax deductions and credits for incomes over \$250,000 for individuals and \$300,000 for couples was reinstated. Limits on deductions had existed before the Bush tax cuts, and had disappeared in 2010.
- Estate taxes were set at 40% of the value above \$5,250,000, indexed for inflation, an increase from the 2012 rate of 35% of the value over \$5,120,000.
- Changes were made to the Alternative

Minimum Tax to permanently index it to inflation and thus to avoid the annual "patch" that was previously required to prevent it from impacting middle-class families.

- The two-year old cut to payroll taxes was not extended. The rate had been reduced from 6.2% to 4.2% for 2011 and 2012.
 - Some tax credits for poorer families were extended for five years, including ones for college tuition and an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.
 - A number of corporate tax breaks were extended, including the "active financing" tax exemption for major corporations (cost \$9 billion), a rum tax supporting Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands rum industry (\$547 million in 2009), a tax benefit for NASCAR racetrack owners (around \$43 million), tax credits for two- and three-wheeled electric vehicles and hiring of individuals who are members of a Native American tribe.
- In all, the bill included \$600 billion over ten years in new tax revenue, about one-fifth of the revenue that would have been raised had no legislation been passed. For the tax year 2013, some taxpayers will experience the first year-to-year income-tax rate increase since 1993, although the rate increase came about not as a result of the 2012 Act, but as a result of the expiration of the Bush tax cuts. The new rates for income, capital gains, estates, and the alternative minimum tax would be made permanent.
- In the United States, the fiscal cliff is the sharp decline in the budget deficit that could have occurred beginning in 2013 due to increased taxes and reduced spending as required by previously enacted laws. The deficit-the amount by which government spending exceeds its revenue-was projected to be reduced by roughly half in 2013. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had estimated that the sharp decrease in the deficit would have likely led to a mild recession in 2013 with the unemployment rate rising to roughly 9 percent in the second half of the year. The fiscal cliff was largely eliminated by the eleventh-hour passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.
- The previously enacted laws leading to the fiscal cliff had been projected to result in a 19.63% increase in revenue and 0.25% reduction in spending from fiscal years 2012 to

2013. Those laws included the expiration of the 2010 Tax Relief Act and planned spending cuts under the Budget Control Act of 2011. The former extended the Bush tax cuts for two years, while the latter was enacted as a compromise to resolve a dispute concerning the public debt ceiling and address the failure of the 111th Congress to pass a Federal Budget. Under the fiscal cliff scenario, some major programs like Social Security, Medicaid, federal pay (including military pay and pensions), and veterans' benefits, would have been exempted from the spending cuts. Spending for federal agencies and cabinet departments would have been reduced through broad, shallow cuts referred to as budget sequestration.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 was signed into law by the President on January 2, 2013 and eliminated much of the tax side of the fiscal cliff, with the CBO projecting a 8.13% increase in revenue and 1.15% increase in spending for fiscal year 2013. Adjustments to spending were expected to be hashed out in early 2013. The Act resulted in a projected \$157 billion decline in the 2013 deficit relative to 2012, rather than the sharp \$487 billion decrease projected under the fiscal cliff. The increase in revenue came from increased marginal income and capital gains tax rates relative to their 2012 levels for annual income over \$400,000 (\$450,000 for couples); a phase-out of certain tax deductions and credits for those with incomes over \$250,000 (\$300,000 for couples); an increase in estate taxes relative to 2012 levels on estates over \$5 million; and expiration of payroll tax cuts (a 2% increase for most taxpayers earning under approximately \$110,000). These changes would all be made permanent. A reduction in spending due to budget sequestration was delayed for two months under the act and the debt ceiling was not changed, leading to further debate during early 2013. The House passed the bill without amendments by a margin of 257-167 around 11 pm EST on January 1, 2013, and President Barack Obama signed it the next day. Because of the projected short-term impact on the economy, the fiscal cliff had stirred intense debate and media coverage toward the end of 2012.

EDITORIAL
DEVELOP INDIA

English Weekly Newspaper
Year 5, Vol. 1, Issue 230, 31 December 2012 - 6 January, 2013

Fourteenth Finance
Commission Constituted

As mandated by the Article 280 of the Constitution, the Government has constituted the Fourteenth Finance Commission consisting of Dr. Y.V.Reddy, former Governor Reserve Bank of India, as the Chairman and the following four other members, namely: -

1. Prof Abhijit Sen
Member, Planning Commission (Member)
(Part Time)
2. Ms. Sushma Nath
Former Union Finance Secretary (Member)
3. Dr. M.Govinda Rao
Director, National Institute for Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi
Member
4. Dr. Sudipto Mundle
Former Acting Chairman,
National Statistical Commission (Member)

Shri Ajay Narayan Jha shall be the Secretary to the Commission. The Commission shall make its report available by the 31st October, 2014, covering a period of five years commencing on the 1st April, 2015.

The Commission shall make recommendations regarding the sharing of Union taxes, principles governing Grants-in-aid to States and transfer of resources to local bodies. Terms of Reference and the matters that shall be taken into consideration by the Fourteenth Finance Commission in making the recommendations are as under :

1. (i) the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;
- (ii) the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India and the sums to be paid to the States which are in need of assistance by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues under article 275 of the Constitution for purposes other than those specified in the provisos to clause (1) of that article; and
- (iii) the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State.
2. The Commission shall review the state of the finances, deficit and debt levels of the Union and the States, keeping in view, in particular, the fiscal consolidation roadmap recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission, and suggest measures for maintaining a stable and sustainable fiscal environment consistent with equitable growth including suggestions to amend the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management Acts currently in force and while doing so, the Commission may consider the effect of the receipts and expenditure in the form of grants for creation of capital assets on the deficits; and the Commission shall also consider and recommend incentives and disincentives for States for observing the obligations laid down in the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management Acts.
3. In making its recommendations, the Commission shall have regard, among other considerations, to -
- (i) the resources of the Central Government, for five years commencing on 1st April 2015, on the basis of levels of taxation and non-tax revenues likely to be reached during 2014-15;
- (ii) the demands on the resources of the Central Government, in particular, on account of the expenditure on civil administration, defence, internal and border security, debt-servicing and other committed expenditure and liabilities;
- (iii) the resources of the State Governments and the demands on such resources under different heads, including the impact of debt levels on resource availability in debt stressed states, for the five years commencing on 1st April 2015, on the basis of levels of taxation and non-tax revenues likely to be reached during 2014-15;
- (iv) the objective of not only balancing the receipts and expenditure on revenue account of all the States and the Union, but also generating surpluses for capital investment;
- (v) the taxation efforts of the Central Government and each State Government and the potential for additional resource mobilisation to improve the tax-Gross Domestic Product ratio in the case of the Union and tax-Gross State Domestic Product ratio in the case of the States;
- (vi) the level of subsidies that are required, having regard to the need for sustainable and inclusive growth, and equitable sharing of subsidies between the Central Government and State Governments;
- (vii) the expenditure on the non-salary component of maintenance and upkeep of capital assets and the non-wage related maintenance expenditure on plan schemes to be completed by 31st March, 2015 and the norms on the basis of which specific amounts are recommended for the maintenance of the capital assets and the manner of monitoring such expenditure;
- (viii) the need for insulating the pricing of public utility services like drinking water, irrigation, power and public transport from policy fluctuations through statutory provisions;
- (ix) the need for making the public sector enterprises competitive and market oriented; listing and disinvestment; and relinquishing of non-priority enterprises;
- (x) the need to balance management of ecology, environment and climate change consistent with sustainable economic development; and
- (xi) the impact of the proposed Goods and Services Tax on the finances of Centre and States and the mechanism for compensation in case of any revenue loss.
4. In making its recommendations on various matters, the Commission shall generally take the base of population figures as of 1971 in all cases where population is a factor for determination of devolution of taxes and duties and grants-in-aid; however, the Commission may also take into account the demographic changes that have taken place subsequent to 1971.
5. The Commission may review the present Public Expenditure Management systems in place including the budgeting and accounting standards and practices; the existing system of classification of receipts and expenditure; linking outlays to outputs and outcomes; best practices within the country and internationally, and make appropriate recommendations thereon.
6. The Commission may review the present arrangements as regards financing of Disaster Management with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005(53 of 2005), and make appropriate recommendations thereon.
7. The Commission shall indicate the basis on which it has arrived at its findings and make available the State-wise estimates of receipts and expenditure.
8. The Commission shall make its report available by the 31st October, 2014, covering a period of five years commencing on the 1st April, 2015.

Index of Eight Core Industries (Base: 2004-05=100) November 2012

The summarized Index of Eight Core Industries with 2004-05 base is given at the Annexure. The Eight core industries have a combined weight of 37.90 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The combined Index was 144.9 in November 2012 with a growth rate of 1.8% compared to their 7.8% growth in November 2011. The decline in growth in November, 2012 was on account of negative growth witnessed in the production of Coal, Natural Gas and Cement and deceleration in growth rates of Electricity, Steel and Petroleum Refinery Products. During April-November 2012-13, the cumulative growth rate of the Core industries was 3.5 % as against their growth at 4.8% during the corresponding period in 2011-12.

Coal

Coal production (weight: 4.38%) registered a growth of (-) 4.4% in November 2012 compared to its growth at 4.9% in November 2011. In cumulative terms, Coal production recorded a growth of 6.7% during April-November 2012-13 compared to its negative growth at (-) 4.0% during the same period of 2011-12.

Crude Oil

Crude Oil production (weight: 5.22%) registered a growth of 0.8% in November 2012 compared to its (-) 5.7% growth in November 2011. Cumulatively, Crude Oil production recorded a negative growth of (-) 0.5% during April-November 2012-13 compared to its growth at 2.9% during the same period of 2011-12.

Natural Gas

The growth rate of Natural Gas production (weight: 1.71%) was negative both in November, 2012 at (-) 15.2% and in November 2011 at (-) 10.1%. Cumulatively also, Natural Gas production registered a negative growth of (-) 13.1% during April-November 2012-13 and (-) 8.5% during the same period of 2011-12.

Petroleum Refinery Products (0.93% of Crude Throughput)*

Petroleum refinery production (weight: 5.94%) had a growth of 6.6% in November 2012 compared to its growth at 11.2% in November 2011. In cumulative terms, Petroleum refinery production registered a growth of 7.2% during April-November 2012-13 compared to its 4.4% growth during the same period of 2011-12.

Fertilizers

Fertilizer production (weight: 1.25%) registered a growth of 5.0% in November 2012 against its negative growth at (-) 6.7% in November 2011. Cumulatively, Fertilizer production registered a negative growth of (-) 3.3% during April-November 2012-13 compared to (-) 0.7% growth during the same period of 2011-12.

Steel (Alloy + Non-Alloy)

Steel production (weight: 6.68%) had a growth rate of 6.0% in November 2012 against its 10.5% growth in November 2011. Cumulatively, Steel production registered 3.4% growth during April-November 2012-13 compared to its 8.9% growth during the same period of 2011-12.

Cement

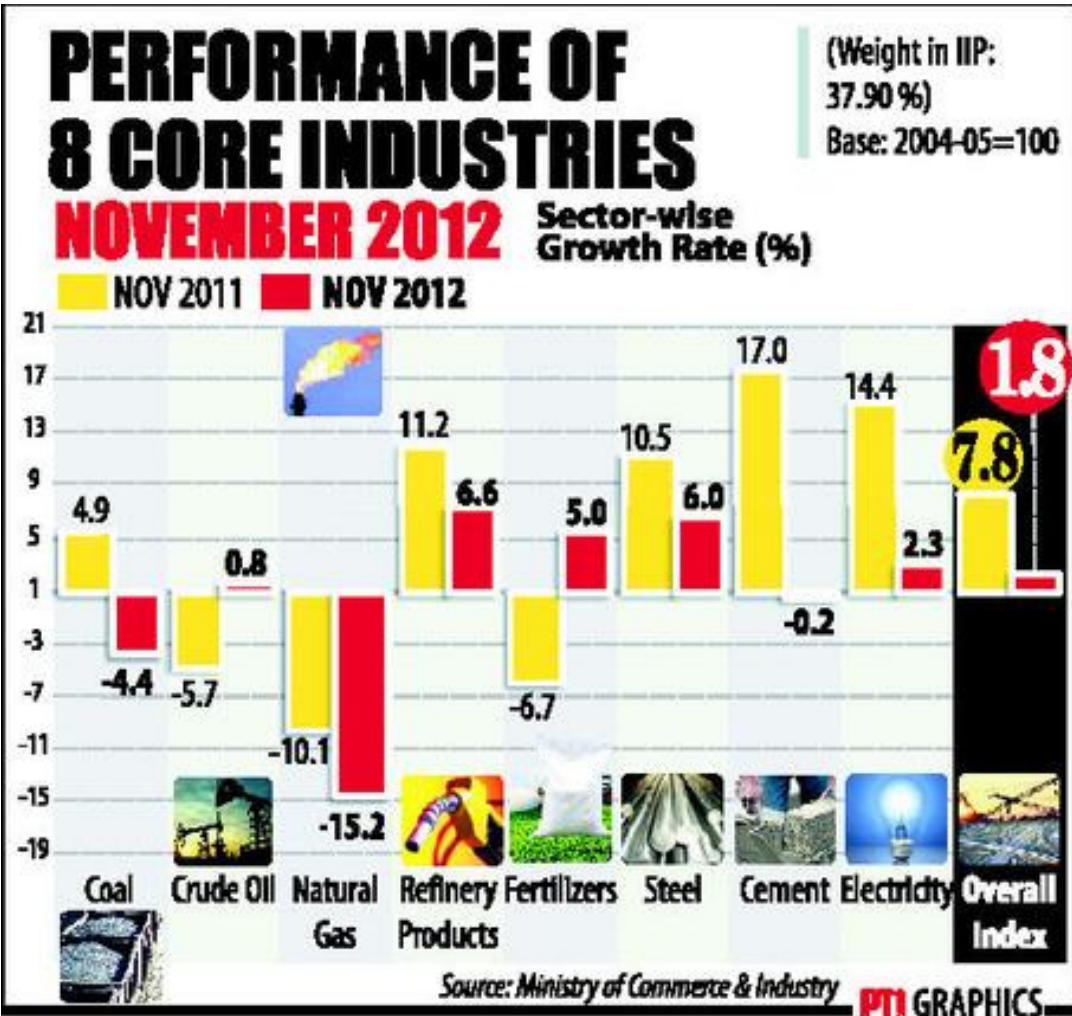
Cement production (weight: 2.41%) registered a negative growth at (-) 0.2% in November 2012 against its 17.0% growth in November 2011. The cumulative growth of Cement Production was 6.7% during April-November 2012-13 compared to its 4.8% growth during the same period of 2011-12.

Electricity

Electricity generation (weight: 10.32%) had a 2.3% growth in November 2012 compared to its 14.4% growth in November 2011. The cumulative growth of Electricity generation was 4.6% during April-November 2012-13 compared to its 9.4% growth during the same period of 2011-12.

* RPL (SEZ) with refining capacity 29MMT was commissioned on 25.12.2008 but crude throughput not reported by the refinery and not included in production for entire period.

N.B: Data are provisional. Revision has been made based on revised data obtained.



dency holding nation, David Cameron has said he wants to focus on combating trade protectionism, cracking down on tax havens and promoting greater government transparency. These topics will be discussed in ministerial meetings ahead of the summit along with urgent issues like the crisis in Syria.

Although G8 summits are renowned for fine communiqués, the group increasingly suffers from a credibility problem - some of the world's largest economies like China, India and Brazil are not members, says BBC world affairs correspondent Emily Buchanan. Our correspondent also adds that organisers will at least be hoping the June summit will be trouble-free. The last time the UK was the host in 2005, in Gleneagles, more than 200,000 people marched against world poverty. The proceedings were then overshadowed by the 7/7 bus and underground bombings in London. Mr Cameron announced in November that the G8 summit would be held at the Lough Erne golf resort near Enniskillen. It is the first time an event of this size has been held in Northern Ireland. Speaking at the time, the prime minister said: "I want the world to see just what a fantastic place Northern Ireland is - a great place for business, a great place for investment, a place with an incredibly educated and trained workforce ready to work for international business."

Flu emergency declared in New York

New York's governor has declared a public health emergency for the state over a flu epidemic that has sickened more than 19,000 people, allowing pharmacists to immunize infants and children. Governor Andrew Cuomo's move on Saturday comes as officials across the US grapple with the worst flu outbreak in several years.

There have been at least 28,747 cases reported across the country so far this season, and 20 children have died from the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, the true number of cases is likely far higher as many who fall ill do not go to the doctor to get tested.

In hopes of curbing the spread of the potentially lethal virus, Cuomo said it was critical to suspend, for the next 30 days, a legal limit that usually only allows New York pharmacists to administer flu vaccines to patients 18 years of age or older. "We are experiencing the worst flu season since at least 2009, and influenza activity in New York State is widespread, with cases reported in all 57 counties and all five boroughs of New York City," Cuomo said in a statement. "Therefore, I have directed my administration, the state health department and others to marshal all needed resources to address this public health emergency and remove all barriers to ensure that all New Yorkers -- children and adults alike -- have access to critically needed flu vaccines." In New York state alone, 19,128 cases have been confirmed this season, a jump from the total of 4,404 during the 2011-2012 flu season. In order to facilitate access to flu shots, the New York Health Department is also launching a large-scale campaign promoting flu immunisation through the media, dedicated websites and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

Urging non-immunized New Yorkers to schedule a flu shot "immediately," Cuomo reminded them that "it is NOT too late to get a vaccination". The governor stressed that relatives and caregivers who regularly come into contact with young children or people at high risk should get a shot against the flu virus, which can spread through coughing or sneezing. The virus poses an increased risk for infants and toddlers under the age of two, people over 50, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems or chronic medical conditions. Flu strikes every year across the United States, bringing chills, sore throats, fever, coughing and aches and misery to millions. The number of annual deaths has ranged from a low of 3,000 to a high of 49,000 since 1976, according to the CDC. Most of those deaths were among people aged 65 and older.

Anti-Morsi protesters attacked in Cairo

At least 14 people have been injured when unknown assailants attacked opponents of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi who were camping outside the presidential palace in Cairo, health officials said. Around 30 unmasked attackers on Saturday threw petrol bombs at the protesters' tents and fired pellets in the air outside the palace in the eastern Cairo quarter of Heliopolis, said witnesses.

The injured included seven police officers who were on duty near the palace, the Interior Ministry said. The state-run newspaper al-Ahram, citing a security official, said police were intensifying efforts to identify and arrest the assailants. Morsi had left the palace before the attack, added al-Ahram, quoting a presidential source. The site was the scene of deadly violence between the president's backers and opponents in early December. The protesters have camped out near the palace for more than a month now, decrying a constitution drafted by a Muslim Brotherhood-dominated constituent assembly and Morsi's insistence to put it up for a referendum. The charter was approved late last month by nearly 64 per cent of those who cast their ballots, although only one third of the registered voters showed up. Saturday's violence comes almost two weeks before mass rallies called by the opposition to mark the second anniversary of the eruption of an uprising that eventually deposed former President Hosni Mubarak. At least 10 people died in clashes outside the palace on 5 December that broke out when supporters of Morsi attacked the sit-in. Some were reportedly killed by gunfire. On 31 December, gunmen shot and critically wounded a well-known activist at the site of another sit-in in downtown Cairo's Tahrir square.

Islamists protest in London against French Mali role

Around 60 Islamists including women in veils protested outside the French embassy in London today against France's military intervention in Mali. The demonstrators held placards reading "French army, you will pay, the Muslims are on their way", "United Nations, go to hell" and "Sharia is the only solution for Mali".

Italian council to Libya attacked

An Italian consul has come under fire in his car in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi but was unhurt, the Italian Foreign Ministry said. "He is completely unharmed," said the spokesman on Saturday. "They shot at his car, but the car was armoured. He is fine, there are no injuries," a security source in Libya who declined to be named told the Reuters news agency. The consul, Guido de Sanctis, is based in Benghazi. Security for Westerners in Libya's second city has been an acute concern since the US ambassador was killed along with three other US embassy staff in an assault on the US consulate in the city on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. A police source in Benghazi said the shots had been fired from a car passing De Sanctis's residence. A Reuters reporter saw two bullet holes in the building, which was surrounded by police. The Italian spokesman said security around officials in Benghazi was already high before Saturday's attack.

The city was where the anti-Gaddafi uprising broke out in February 2011. But Libya's new elected rulers in Tripoli have struggled to impose their authority on a country where armed groups wield the real power, and Benghazi's multitude of armed factions now make it a hot spot for violence. In November, the city's police chief was shot dead. And last June, a convoy carrying the British ambassador was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade that injured two of his bodyguards. The offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the city were also attacked last year, as was a convoy carrying the United Nations' former special envoy to Libya.

Burma military 'targeting Kachin rebels'

Military aircraft have been targeting rebel areas in Burma's northern Kachin state over the last five days. The footage, shot by the humanitarian group Free Burma Rangers, shows attack helicopters firing on the ground and jets flying close to the trenches of the rebel Kachin Independence Army.

A government official said the army had not informed them of any air attacks.

Fighting with the Kachin rebels resumed in 2011, after a 17-year truce.

The presence of jets and attack helicopters in recent days was also confirmed by witnesses in the area. It is not clear how many casualties have been caused by five days of air attacks. Many of the people who live in the conflict areas have already fled into camps, both in Kachin and across the border in China.

Asked to comment on the video, the director of the president's office, Zaw Htay, said the situation was complex, and that the military had told them they were only using planes to re-supply its troops.



"The aircraft being used are K8 training aircraft not fighter jets - that is the information I got from the military," he said. "I have no information on the use of helicopters. There is a very difficult situation in Kachin state." He added that they wanted to hold peace talks with the rebels as soon as possible. The witness accounts, along with the video footage, suggest that the army is going beyond Thein Sein's public instructions to only fight in self-defence.

At present, it appears that the military could be making preparations for a full-blown offensive on the rebel headquarters of Laiza, our correspondent adds.

The Free Burma Rangers filmed the footage while in rebel trenches.

The group describes itself as "a multi-ethnic humanitarian service movement", according to its website. The group works to provide aid in Burma's troubled border regions.

An estimated 75,000 people have been displaced by fighting in resource-rich Kachin since the conflict re-started in 2011 after the end of a 17-year-old ceasefire between the rebels and the Burmese military.

Despite appeals from the international aid community, the Burmese government has allowed only a handful of convoys to deliver supplies to those sheltering in rebel areas.

Burma has seen a series of dramatic reforms since the nominally civilian government under Thein Sein came to power last year. But rights groups have also urged caution, pointing to violent unrest through 2012 in parts of the country like western Rakhine state, which has displaced more than a hundred thousand people.

Under the constitution, the military retains a dominant role in politics and Burma's army chief is possibly the most powerful figure in the new political system. It guarantees the military 25% of seats in parliament.

The president has repeatedly said that he would like to solve the Kachin conflict by peaceful means, but the latest attacks by the army make one wonder if he is losing his control over the army. The president's growing popularity with the people may have caused some concerns among the generals.

The Kachin Independence Army is regarded as one of the best equipped and trained forces among the armed rebel groups. The Burmese military has increased militarisation in almost all ethnic areas, putting pressure on the civilian population.

Kachin state is also strategically important for the Burmese military as it is sandwiched between Burma's two giant neighbours, China and India. The Burmese army would like to see the rebels weakened, but they may not attempt to take over their headquarters at the moment because the army needs internal conflicts to justify their crucial role as a defender of the nation.

Congo rebels demand government sign ceasefire for talks

Congolese rebels on Thursday threatened to walk away from this week's peace talks to end their nine-month revolt unless the government signs an official ceasefire, a demand Kinshasa dismissed as unnecessary. The rebel March 23 Movement, preparing for talks on Friday in Kampala, capital of regional mediator Uganda, said government troops had reinforced positions in the east of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and warned it would resist an offensive. "If Kinshasa continues to refuse to sign a ceasefire, M23 is going to ask its delegation to return to DRC. We will wait and when they say 'we're ready to sign (a ceasefire)' we'll go back," Jean-Marie Runiga, head of the rebels' political wing, told reporters in Bunagana, a border town under rebel control.



The first attempt at peace talks to end the nine-month rebellion in Congo's volatile east failed last month amid threats and accusations. A government spokesman dismissed the rebel demand. "There's no point in a ceasefire. When did we declare war?" Lambert Mende told Reuters by telephone. "This group wants permission to kill Congolese without the army reacting, and we will never accept that. If they attack us, attack the people, the army will defend the people."

Negotiations began last month after regional leaders secured a rebel pull-out from the city

of Goma in Congo's eastern North Kivu province. The front lines have been quiet since, although the talks quickly stalled in a climate of deep mistrust.

Foreign powers fear the conflict could spark another regional war in a borderlands zone that has suffered nearly two decades of turmoil. Neighboring Uganda and Rwanda are accused by a group of U.N. experts of supporting the rebel campaign.

Successive cross-border conflicts have killed and uprooted millions in the Congo basin since the colonial era, driven by political and ethnic divisions and competition for minerals.

At first, M23, named after a 2009 peace deal for eastern Congo, said it had taken up arms because the Kinshasa government failed to honor its side of the bargain, under which rebel fighters were integrated into the army. It later broadened its goals to include the "liberation" of all of Congo and the removal of President Joseph Kabila.

U.N. BLACKLISTED

M23 is led by Bosco Ntaganda, a Tutsi warlord indicted by the International Criminal Court. This week the United Nations blacklisted M23 along with another Congolese rebel group.

"We need encouragement from the U.N., not sanctions," said Runiga, dressed in a sharp suit and flanked by fighters clad in crisp fatigues and brandishing automatic rifles.

Nestled in lush green hills less than a kilometer from the Ugandan frontier, Bunagana fell into rebel hands last July after government soldiers fled.

The other group hit with U.N. sanctions was the FDLR, or Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda. The FDLR is a Rwandan Hutu group that opposes Rwandan President Paul Kagame's Tutsi-led government and includes militiamen suspected of participating in Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

One M23 commander, Bertrand Bisimwa, said Congo's government had air-dropped FDLR fighters to reinforce army positions near Goma last month. Officials from the government were not immediately available to comment on the accusation.

The U.N. peacekeeping force in Congo, MONUSCO, rejected talk that the number of FDLR fighters had risen to several thousand.

MONUSCO said on Wednesday that the group had "no more than a few hundred" fighters in the region and dismissed claims that weapons and munitions were being supplied to the FDLR.

Russia rejects Assad exit as precondition for Syria deal

Russia voiced support on Saturday for international peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi but insisted Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's exit cannot be a precondition for a deal to end the country's conflict. Some 60,000 Syrians have been killed during the 21-month-old revolt and world powers are divided over how to stop the escalating bloodshed. Government aircraft bombed outer districts of Damascus on Saturday after being grounded for a week by stormy weather, opposition activists in the capital said.



A Russian Foreign Ministry statement following talks on Friday in Geneva with the United States and Brahimi reiterated calls for an end to violence in Syria, but there was no sign of a breakthrough.

Brahimi said the issue of Assad, who the United States, European powers and Gulf-led Arab states insist must step down to end the civil war, appeared to be a sticking point.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said: "As before, we firmly uphold the thesis that questions about Syria's future must be decided by the Syrians themselves, without interference from outside or the imposition of prepared recipes for development."

Russia has been Assad's most powerful international backer, joining with China to block three Western- and Arab-backed U.N. Security Council resolutions aimed to pressure him or push him from power. Assad can also rely on regional powerhouse Iran.

Russia called for "a political transition process" based on an agreement by foreign powers last June.

Brahimi, who is trying to build on that agreement, has met three times with senior Russian and U.S. diplomats since early December and met Assad in Damascus.

Russia and the United States disagreed over what the June agreement meant for Assad, with Washington saying it sent a clear signal he must go and Russia contending it did not.

Qatar on Saturday made a fresh call for an Arab force to end bloodshed in Syria if Brahimi's efforts fail, according to the Doha-based al Jazeera television.

"It is not a question of intervention in Syria in favor of one party against the other, but rather a force to preserve security," Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani, said in an al Jazeera broadcast.

Moscow has been reluctant to endorse the "Arab Spring" popular revolts of the last two years, saying they have increased instability in the Middle East and created a risk of radical Islamists seizing power.

Although Russia sells arms to Syria and rents one of its naval bases, the economic benefit of its support for Assad is minimal. Analysts say President Vladimir Putin wants to prevent the United States from using military force or support from the U.N. Security Council to bring down governments it opposes.

However, as rebels gain ground in the war, Russia has given indications it is preparing for Assad's possible exit, while continuing to insist he must not be forced out by foreign powers. Opposition activists say a military escalation and the hardship of winter have accelerated the death toll. Rebel forces have acquired more powerful anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons during attacks on Assad's military bases.

Assad's forces have employed increasing amounts of military hardware including Scud-type ballistic missiles in the past two months. New York-based Human Rights Watch said they had also used incendiary cluster bombs that are banned by most nations.

The weeklong respite from aerial strikes has been marred by snow and thunderstorms that affected millions displaced by the conflict, which has now reached every region of Syria.

On Saturday, the skies were clear and jets and helicopters fired missiles and dropped bombs on a line of towns to the east of Damascus, where rebels have pushed out Assad's ground forces, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The British-based group, which is linked to the opposition, said it had no immediate information on casualties from the strikes on districts including Maleiha and farmland areas. Rebels control large swathes of rural land around Syria but are stuck in a stalemate with Assad's forces in cities, where the army has reinforced positions. State TV said government forces had repelled an attack by terrorists - a term it uses for the armed opposition - on Aleppo's international airport, now used as a helicopter base.

100th session of Indian Science Congress at Kolkata

Address of Hon'ble President of India at the Inauguration of 100th session of Indian Science Congress at Kolkata

Dr Manmohan Singh, Honourable Prime Minister of India and the General President of Indian Science Congress Association, Shri Narayanan, Excellency the Governor of West Bengal, Miss Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jaipal Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, Past General President and President elect and General Secretaries, Members of the Council and Executive Committee of Indian Science Congress Association, Science Icons of the World including Nobel and Abel Prize Awardees, distinguished friends and representatives of the press and media, At the outset, I wish the participants to the Centenary session of Indian Science Congress and the people of the Nation, a purposeful and productive New Year. My warmest congratulations to the Indian Science Congress on the occasion of the celebration of their centenary. The Prime Minister of India generally inaugurates the annual sessions of Indian Science Congress. In the current year, the Association has elected the Prime Minister as its General President. I congratulate Dr. Manmohan Singh for being elected as the General President of Indian Science Congress in this historic year. It is a befitting honour. I can from personal experience vouchsafe the abiding faith of Dr. Manmohan Singh on education, science and technology. The good performance of science and technology sector in the recent years, I believe, owes greatly to the generous government support for S&T catalysed by the Prime Minister.

2. I am an alumnus of Calcutta University. Naturally, I am delighted to participate in a function co-organized by Calcutta University. As an alumnus, I fondly remember defining role of this university and Sir Asutosh Mukherjee in nurturing the Indian Science Congress in the early years. Kolkata has remained historically a city of culture, of knowledge. All Nobel Prizes awarded for work from India are somehow linked to the city of Kolkata. Sir Ronald Ross carried out his pioneering research on Malaria in this city for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1902. Sir CV Raman's remarkable discovery, the Raman Effect, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, was made here in Kolkata. The legendary Rabindranath Tagore and Mother Teresa were also awarded Noble Prizes for their work carried out in Kolkata. The earliest organizations associated with science—The Asiatic Society, The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science and the Indian Science Congress Association were established here. These organizations gave rise to celebrated luminaries in science who promoted a scientific culture. Sir JC Bose, Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose, PC Ray, Meghnad Saha and many others who built the edifice of modern science in the country. Sir JC Bose is hailed as the first of modern scientists of this country. His original contributions to the invention of radio are well known. The recent discovery of Higgs-boson particle highlights the epoch making contributions of Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose to particle physics. I do hope that the modern scientists of this city would emulate the examples of these leaders of science of the past.

3. ISCA presented me a compilation of all the addresses of General Presidents of the Association as well as the inaugural addresses delivered over the years. These make fascinating reading. In a sense, these capture the history of Indian science as it evolved over the past 100 years. In the year 1957, I was a student at Calcutta University. In that year, the Prime Minister of India Pandit Nehru was the Chief Guest. The Chief Minister of Bengal, the visionary Prof BC Roy was the President of the Science Congress. The topic of BC Roy's address to the Congress was "On Science for Human Welfare and Development of Country". The topic then was akin to the theme of the present session - "Science for Shaping Future of India". I was greatly touched by BC Roy's concluding message and I quote: "The clouds of time may have hidden for us innumerable problems, trials and dangers, yet time may also reveal solutions of unknown difficulties or delightful surprises which man with his knowledge of Science should be prepared to turn to his advantage with faith, hope and good will." Ladies and Gentlemen:

4. Let me congratulate the Indian Science Congress for selecting "Science for Shaping Future of India" as the focal theme for its 100th Session. Science has to be closely linked to a culture within the society which is built on scientific knowledge. It calls for a scientific temper that Pt. Nehru always used to talk about. Scientific culture demands that choices and decisions are made by individuals, society and the nation on the basis of scientific logic. Indian economy has been following a new paradigm of development; faster, sustainable and inclusive growth with equity. It is a new concept because it combines the faster growth with objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability. How to harness the forces of science, technology and innovation to achieve this end calls for deep deliberation. I am sure, you will discuss this in all its aspects and implications with the seriousness that it demands.

5. Science is one of the creative endeavours of human mind. Pursuit of Science as a personal passion can not be regulated or directed when the thrill of pursuit is in "Knowing the truth of Nature". Prepared and creative minds are required to observe the revelations of Nature. Science seeks universal and fundamental truth. Culture of Excellence is the second nature of creative scientists. Eminent scientists of the world have always been concerned as to how their understanding of natural phenomena could be applied to solve social problems of the future. Sir JC Bose, more than a century ago, on 5th March 1885, wrote in his diary "I have been thinking whether the solar energy that is wasted in tropical regions in a new way could be utilized. Of course trees conserve the solar energy. But is there no other way of directly utilizing the radiant energy of the sun?" The seed for artificial photosynthesis was sown then. Even now it is an active area of research pursued globally. His disciple Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose was a powerful communicator and an inspired teacher. He delivered lectures on 'power' and 'nuclear energy' in a language that lay people could understand. He motivated generation of people to move towards scientific endeavour. Public and political understanding of science is crucial. For that, I would like to urge upon you all to apply modern tools for communicating science in a manner that can be understood by the common man. This understanding would contribute to the creation of a science culture in the Indian society.

6. The prime concern of any government in a country is enhancing the well being of its people. Technology has the power of changing the lives of the people by creating physical well being. Countries have undergone transformational changes, all in one generation, from a relatively weak to an emerging economy. In this transformational change, technology led economic growth has played a key role. While technology can be considered a logical extension of knowledge gained from science, it is much more than mere application of science.

Technology is contextual. There is an economic value to technology. We all are a witness to the transformational changes being brought about by mobile telephony and internet. The number of mobile phone users in India was around 19 crore in October 2012 which is the second highest in the world after China. The mobile phone density of 74.21 per cent of India compares favourably with the other top ranking countries.

Another marvel of technology—the internet—has become a vital source of information and communication. India ranks third after China and USA in terms of number of internet users. However, the penetration of internet use as the percentage of the population is only 11.4 indicating the huge potential for future growth.

7. Another transformational application of technology is Aadhaar project which focuses on electronic transfer of benefits directly to the beneficiaries of various social sector schemes. I understand the roll out of Aadhaar enabled service delivery has already started in twenty districts. In the Budget 2012-13, a target for covering fifty districts has been set which, I am sure, will be met.

8. It is essential to innovate if we have to compete in a globalised economy. India has declared 2010-20 as the decade of innovation. The announcement of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy today lays the roadmap for the development of an eco system for innovations and for encouraging, recognizing and rewarding the innovators in the society, especially the grass root innovators who through their genius are adding value to the processes which directly impact the local population.

9. The new STI policy has also addressed the issue of rightsizing our research and development system. Balanced economic growth especially in emerging economies like India is 7 of paramount importance. Productive engagement of our youth in agriculture, manufacturing and value based services holds the key for a balanced growth of the country. The new STI Policy, I am confident, will pave the technology-led path for change ensuring prosperity with peace and inclusiveness.

10. We need an educational system which lays importance on development of a scientific culture within the society. Mere economic growth without the attendant knowledge capacity to manage the dimensions of change would neither suffice nor be appropriate.

11. Our ancient universities, whether these be Nalanda or Taxila, focused on value based holistic education. Perhaps it is appropriate to quote from an address of Rabindranath Tagore delivered ninety years ago: "You know the traditions of our country are never to accept any material fees from the students in return for teaching, because we consider in India that one who has knowledge has the responsibility to impart it to the students". Swami Vivekananda always spoke of fusion of cultural values of the orient with practical methods of the occident. Innovation is a modern means of converting knowledge into social value and wealth. Indian philosophy, seeks to balance the pursuit of wealth and material success with the mastery of the self and the quest of inner happiness. The deeply introspective, yet practical, wisdom of Indian philosophy must find resonance in the metaphor of competition and conquest popularized in the modern world.

12. I conclude with a quote from Swami Vivekananda, he said: "No nation can be said to have become civilized, only because it has succeeded in increasing the comforts of material life by bringing into use lots of machinery and things of that sort. ... In this age as on the one hand people have to be intensely practical, so on the other, they have to acquire deep spiritual knowledge".

13. I would like to call upon the scientific community to work for the promotion of a scientific culture for shaping our future in which prosperity and peace, excellence and equity and oriental values and occidental methods of science converge and coexist. India is expected to emerge as a major economic power by 2035. We should also emerge as a major knowledge power with high human and societal values. Let me mention in this regard that it has been 83 long years since CV Raman won the Nobel Prize for Physics. Another Nobel Prize in the sciences is long overdue for India. I call upon scientific fraternity gathered here to rise upto this challenge and work towards this goal in a time bound manner.

With these words, I formally inaugurate the 100th session of Indian Science Congress.

Key Features

The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, unveiled the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STI) 2013 by presenting its first copy to the President of India Shri Pranab Mukerjee at the inaugural session of the Centenary session of the Indian Science Congress.

The STI Policy seeks to send a signal to the Indian scientific community, both in the private and public domain, that science, technology and innovation should focus on faster, sustainable and inclusive development of the people. The policy seeks to focus on both STI for people and people for STI. It aims to bring all the benefits of Science, Technology & Innovation to the national development and sustainable and more inclusive growth. It seeks the right sizing of the gross expenditure on research and development by encouraging and incentivizing private sector participation in R & D, technology and innovation activities. The policy also seeks to trigger an ecosystem for innovative abilities to flourish by leveraging partnerships among diverse stakeholders and by encouraging and facilitating enterprises to invest in innovations. It also seeks to bring in mechanisms for achieving gender parity in STI activities and gaining global competitiveness in select technological areas through international cooperation and alliances. The policy goal is to accelerate the pace of discovery, diffusion and delivery of science led solutions for serving the aspirational goals of India for faster, sustainable and inclusive growth. A Strong and viable Science, Research and Innovation system for High Technology led path for India (SRISHTI) are the goal for the STI policy.

The Key features of the STI policy 2013 are

- Promoting the spread of scientific temper amongst all sections of society.
- Enhancing skills for applications of science among the young from all social sectors.
- Making careers in science, research and innovation attractive enough for talented and bright minds.
- Establishing world class infrastructure for R&D for gaining global leadership in some select frontier areas of science.
- Positioning India among the top five global scientific powers by 2020 (by increasing the share of global scientific publications from 3.5% to over 7% and quadrupling the number of papers in top 1% journals from the current levels).
- Linking contributions of Science Research and innovation system with the inclusive economic growth agenda and combining priorities of excellence and relevance.
- Creating an environment for enhanced private sector participation in R & D.
- Enabling conversion of R & D output with societal and commercial applications by replicating hitherto successful models, as well as establishing of new PPP structures.
- Seeking S&T based high risk innovation through new mechanisms.
- Fostering resource optimized cost-effective innovation across size and technology domains.
- Triggering in the mindset & value systems to recognize respect and reward performances which create wealth from S&T derived knowledge.
- Creating a robust national innovation system.

Aspirations of the Policy

The main aspirational elements of the STI policy are:

- Raising Gross Expenditure in Research and Development (GERD) to 2% from the present 1% of the GDP in this decade by encouraging enhanced private sector contribution.
 - Increasing the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of R&D personnel in India by at least 66% of the present strength in 5 years.
 - Increasing accessibility, availability and affordability of innovations, especially for women, differently-abled and disadvantaged sections of society.
- Mechanisms Wide ranging mechanisms are envisaged to be deployed to realize the policy aspirations, a few of these are:
- Promoting the spread of scientific temper amongst all sections of society.
 - Enhancing skill for applications of science among the



young from all social strata.

- Making careers in science, research and innovation attractive enough for talented and bright minds.
- Empowering women through appropriate STI inputs and investments
- Facilitating private sector investment in R&D centres in India and overseas.
- Promoting establishment of large R&D facilities in PPP mode with provisions for benefits sharing.
- Permitting multi stakeholders participation in the Indian R&D system.
- Treating R&D in the private sector at par with public institutions for availing public funds.
- Bench marking of R&D funding mechanisms and patterns globally.
- Aligning Venture Capital and Inclusion Innovation Fund systems.
- Sharing of IPRs between inventors and investors.
- Modifying IPR policy to provide for marching rights for social good when supported by public funds and for co-sharing IPRs generated under PPP.
- Providing incentives for commercialization of innovations with focus on green manufacturing.
- Closing gaps in the translation of new findings at the grassroots and the commercial space.
- Forging strategic partnerships and alliances with other nations through both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in science, technology and innovation.
- Triggering ecosystem changes in attitudes, mindset, values and governance systems of publicly funded institutions engaged in STI activities to recognize, respect and reward performances which create wealth from S&T derived knowledge.

Policy Implementation

Implementation of the proposals contained in the Policy will necessitate consultations with different government departments/ministries and agencies besides consultations with overarching, science and engineering academies industry and business associations etc. Accordingly DST will establish a Policy Implementation Group to expeditiously operationalise the proposals within the next two years.

Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had announced the Technology Policy Statement (TPS) at the Science Congress in January 1983. It focused on the need to attain technological competence and self-reliance. Several of the statements of TPS were implemented. Subsequently, a Science and Technology Policy (STP) was announced in 2003, seeking to bring science and technology (S&T) together. It basically called for integrating programmes of socio-economic sectors with the national R&D system and the creation of a national innovation system. The world has changed vastly since then in all spheres of human activity. New paradigms of innovation have emerged, arising, among others, out of the pervasive intrusion of internet and globalization. Even then systems that foster innovation have become country and context specific. India has declared 2010-20 as the "Decade of Innovation." India's demographics have changed significantly too. The youthful populations have high expectations and aspirations of the nation. The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STI) 2013 approved by the Union Cabinet is in furtherance of this declaration and aims to bring perspectives to bear on Science & Technology led innovations in the changing context.

Historical Background

The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the foresight and initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon. It occurred to them that scientific research in India might be stimulated if an annual meeting of research workers somewhat on the lines of the British Association for the Advancement of Science could be arranged. The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the foresight and initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon. It occurred to them that scientific research in India might be stimulated if an annual meeting of research workers somewhat on the lines of the British Association for the Advancement of Science could be arranged.

The Association was formed with the following objectives:

To advance and promote the cause of science in India

To hold an annual congress at a suitable place in India

To publish such proceedings, journals, transactions and other publications as may be considered desirable.

To secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of Science including the rights of disposing of or selling all or any portion of the properties of the Association. To do and perform any or all other acts, matters and things as are conducive to, or incidental to, or necessary for, the above objects.

The first meeting of the Congress was held from January 15-17, 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, with the Honourable Justice Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, the then Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, as President. One hundred and five scientists from different parts of India and abroad attended and the papers numbering 35 were divided into six sections-Botany, Chemistry, Ethnography, Geology, Physics, Zoology under six Sectional Presidents.

From this modest beginning with hundred and five members and thirty five papers communicated for reading at the first session, ISCA has grown into a strong fraternity with more than ten thousand members till to date. The number of papers communicated for reading has risen to nearly one thousand. Upto 2000 there were Sixteen sections, two committees and six forums, namely Sections- Agricultural Sciences, Anthropology & Archaeology, Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Earth System Sciences, Engineering sciences, Material Sciences, Mathematics, Medical & Veterinary Sciences, Physics, Physiology, Psychology & Educational Sciences, Statistics, Zoology, Entomology & Fisheries; Committees-Home Sciences, Science & Society; Forums-Communication & Information Science, Environmental Sciences, Forensic Science, Science Education, Science for School Students and Women & Science.

There are now fourteen sections namely Agriculture and Forestry Sciences, Animal, Veterinary and Fishery Sciences, Anthropological and Behavioural Sciences (including Archaeology and Psychology & Educational Sciences), Chemical Sciences, Earth System Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Information and Communication Science & Technology (including Computer Sciences), Material Sciences, Mathematical Sciences (including Statistics), Medical Sciences (including Physiology), New Biology (including Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular Biology and Biotechnology), Physical Sciences, Plant Sciences and one Committee Science & Society.

Silver Jubilee

The Silver Jubilee Session of the Science Congress was held at Calcutta in 1938 under the Presidentship of Lord Rutherford of Nelson but due to his sudden death, Sir James Jeans



took the chair. It was at this Jubilee Session that the participation of foreign scientists in session of the Indian Science Congress was first initiated.

Golden Jubilee

The Science Congress celebrated its Golden Jubilee in October, 1963 at Delhi with Prof.D.S. Kothari as General President. On this occasion two special publications were brought out : (1) A short History of the Indian Science Congress Association and (2) Fifty Years of Science in India (in 12 volumes, each volume containing reviews of particular branch of science).

Diamond Jubilee

The Diamond Jubilee Session of the Science Congress was held at Chandigarh in January 3-9, 1973, under the Presidentship of Dr.S.Bhagavantam. On this occasion two special publications were brought out : (1) A Decade (1963-72) Indian Science Congress Association (with life-sketches of General Presidents) and (2) A Decade(1963-72) of Science in India(in section-wise).

Platinum Jubilee

The Indian Science Congress Association celebrated its Seventy Fifth year of its inception, popularly called otherwise, Platinum Jubilee, in 1988, with Prof.C.N.R.Rao as General President. Keeping this in view, a special brochure, entitled "Indian Science Congress Association-Growth & Activities" was published so as to highlight the programmes of the Association over the years. The main programmes were: (i) Bringing out special publication on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee (ii) Presentation of Plaques to the General Presidents of the Association (iii) Establishment of Platinum Jubilee Lectures to be organised in each section during the annual session of the Science Congress and (iv) Extension of the recent activities of the ISCA and its further diversification to generate scientific temper and popularise science.

Participation of Foreign Scientists

The 34th Annual Session of the Indian Science Congress was held at Delhi in January 3-8,1947 with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, as General President. Pandit Nehru's personal interest in the Science Congress continued ever since and there had been hardly any session which he did not attend. He has immensely enriched the activities of the Congress by his sustained interest in the development of scientific atmosphere in the country, particularly among young generations. In fact from 1947, programme for inviting representatives from foreign societies and academies was included in the Science Congress. This trend still continues with the support of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Interaction with Foreign Scientific Academies/Associations

After independence ISCA has been actively represented in various foreign scientific academies/associations, namely British Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, French Academy of Sciences, Bangladesh Academy of Sciencesw, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, etc. with a view to have a first hand knowledge on topics of mutual interest.

Introduction of Focal Theme

The year 1976 witnessed a significant departure in the trend of deliberations during the congress. It was being felt for sometime that such a gathering of scientists, covering a wide spectrum ought to be seized of national issues that have scientific and technological implications. In 1976, Dr.M.S.Swaminathan, the then General President of ISCA introduced the Focal Theme of national relevance which is now discussed in every section, committee and forum during the annual session. These apart, several plenary sessions are organised around various facets of the Focal Theme in which scientists and technologists as well as policy makers and administrators interact with one another. ISCA has thus become a platform where members from different disciplines and from different walks of life can contribute to discussions on the Focal Theme.

Task Force

Another significant breakthrough was made in 1980 when the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, set up a permanent Task Force involving representatives of ISCA and chiefs of different agencies and voluntary organizations chaired by Secretary, DST, as being responsible for following up various recommendations on the Focal Theme. Every year follow-up actions on recommendations made in the previous Science Congress are discussed at a General Session organized by DST during the Science Congress. Through this process, the Indian Science Congress Association has been contributingto the development of Science in general and National Science Policy, in particular.

CHILDREN’S SCIENCE CONGRESS

RASHTRIYA KISHORE VAIGYANIK SAMMELAN

As a part of the Indian Science Congress, the Children Science Congress is organized simultaneously to provide a unique opportunity to children to use their Scientific temperament and knowledge and to quench their thirst for creativity by conducting scientific experiments. It generally comprises of a three days event which encourages children to visualize science and stimulate their scientific temperament by giving the school children a unique platform to showcase their innovation and creativity in scientific projects. You are cordially invited to be a part of Children Science Congress to be hosted by University of Calcutta on January 4th, 5th and 6th, 2013 at Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Salt Lake.

Women's Science Congress

The 100th Indian Science Congress is organizing a special programme "Women empowerment for the development of the country". This programme is intended to showcase the contribution of women in science and technology. Renowned women scientists will be delivering lectures in this session. The session will also deliberate on the role of Science and Technology in empowering women and ways and means of tapping their potential as innovators, implementers of innovations in addition to being beneficiaries of innovations.

Young Scientist Awardees for the Year 2012- 2013

Name of Sections	Name of Awardees
Agriculture and Forestry Sciences Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi	K. Chakraborty
Animal, Veterinary& Fishery Sciences Deptt. of Zoology,NEHU, Shillong.	A. K. Verma
Anthropological and Behavioural Sciences (including Archaeology and Psychology & Educational Sciences and Military Sciences) University of Calcutta, Kolkata	Madhumati Chatterjee
Chemical Sciences Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai	Rubel Chakravarty
Earth System Sciences CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad	Parijat Roy
Engineering Sciences CSIR National Metallurgical Lab, Jamshedpur	Abhilash
Environmental Sciences Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	Divya Sharma
Information and Communication Science & Technology (Including Computer Sciences) Department of Computer Science, Bangalore University, Bangalore	Mallamma V.Reddy
Materials Science IIT Kharagpur	Arvinder Singh
Mathematical Sciences (including Statistics) IIT Gauhati	Pratibhamoy Das
Medical Sciences (including Physiology) NICED,Kolkata	Poulami Karmakar
New Biology (including Biochemistry, Physics & Molecular Biology and Biotechnology) IIT Rajasthan, Jodhpur	Amit Kumar Mishra
Physical Sciences Department of Physics,Lucknow University, Lucknow	Richa Srivastava
Plant Sciences Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, Faizabad	Ranjan Singh

SESSIONS OF INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

Session	Year	Place	General President	Title of the presidential address
1st	1914	Kolkata	Ashutosh Mukherjee	About Science Congress
2nd	1915	Chennai	W. B. Bannermann	The importance of knowledge of biology of medical, sanitary and scientific men working in the tropics
3rd	1916	Lucknow	Sidney J. Burrard	The plains of northern India and their relationship to the Himalayan mountains
4th	1917	Bangalore	Alfred Gibbs Bourne	On scientific research
5th	1918	Lahore	Gilbert T. Walker	On teaching of science
6th	1919	Mumbai	Leonard Rogers	Researches on cholera
7th	1920	Nagpur	Prafulla Chandra Roy	Dawn of science in modern India
8th	1921	Kolkata	Rajendranath Mookerjee	On science and industry
9th	1922	Chennai	C. S. Middlemiss	Relativity
10th	1923	Lucknow	M. Visvesvaraya	Scientific institutions and scientists
11th	1924	Bangalore	N. Annandale	Evolution convergent and divergent
12th	1925	Varanasi	M. O. Forster	On experimental training
13th	1926	Mumbai	Albert Howard	Agriculture and science
14th	1927	Lahore	J. C. Bose	Unity of life
15th	1928	Kolkata	J. L. Simonsen	On chemistry of natural products
16th	1929	Chennai	C. V. Raman	On Raman Effect
17th	1930	Allahabad	C. S. Christopher	The science and disease
18th	1931	Nagpur	R. B. Seymour Sewell	The problem of evolution experimental modification of bodily structure
19th	1932	Bangalore	Lala Shiv Ram Kashyap	Some aspects of the Alpine vegetation of the Himalaya and Tibet
20th	1933	Patna	Lewis L. Fermor	The place of geology in the life of a nation
21st	1934	Mumbai	Meghnad Saha	Fundamental cosmological problems
22nd	1935	Kolkata	J. H. Hutton	Anthropology and India
23rd	1936	Indore	U. N. Brahmachari	The Role of science in the recent progress of medicine
24th	1937	Hyderabad	T. S. Venkataraman	The Indian village – its past, present and future
25th	1938	Kolkata	James Jeans (Lord Rutherford of Nelson died prematurely)	Researches in India and in Great Britain
26th	1939	Lahore	J. C. Ghosh	On research in Chemistry in India
27th	1940	Chennai	Birbal Sahni	The Deccan Traps: an episode of the Tertiary era
28th	1941	Varanasi	Ardeshir Dalal	Science and industry
29th	1942	Vadodra	D. N. Wadia	The making of India
30th	1943	Kolkata	D. N. Wadia	Minerals’ share in the war
31st	1944	Delhi	S. N. Bose	The Classical Determinism and the Quantum Theory
32nd	1945	Nagpur	Shanti S. Bhatnagar	Give science a chance
33rd	1946	Bangalore	M. Afzal Hussain	The food problem of India
34th	1947	Delhi	Jawaharlal Nehru	Science in the service of the nation
35th	1948	Patna	Ram Nath Chopra	Rationalisation of medicine in India
36th	1949	Allahabad	K. S. Krishnan	-
37th	1950	Pune	P. C. Mahalanobis	Why statistics?
38th	1951	Bangalore	H. J. Bhabha	The present concept of the physical world
39th	1952	Kolkata	J. N. Mukherjee	Science and our problems
40th	1953	Lucknow	D. M. Bose	The living and the non-living
41st	1954	Hyderabad	S. L. Hora	Give scientists a chance
42nd	1955	Vadodra	S. K. Mitra	Science and progress
43rd	1956	Agra	M. S. Krishnan	Mineral resources and their problems
44th	1957	Kolkata	B. C. Roy	On science for human welfare and development of the country
45th	1958	Chennai	M. S. Thacker	Grammar of scientific development
46th	1959	Delhi	A. L. Mudaliar	Tribute to basic sciences
47th	1960	Mumbai	P. Parija	Impact of society on science
48th	1961	Roorkee	N. R. Dhar	Nitrogen problem
49th	1962	Cuttack	B. Mukherji	Impact of life sciences on man
50th	1963	Delhi	D. S. Kothari	Science and the universities
51st	1964	Kolkata	Humayun Kabir	Science and the state
52nd	1965	Kolkata	Humayun Kabir	-
53rd	1966	Chandigarh	B. N. Prasad	Science in India
54th	1967	Hyderabad	T. R. Seshadri	Science and national welfare
55th	1968	Varanasi	Atma Ram	Science in India – some aspects
56th	1969	Mumbai	A. C. Joshi (A. C. Banerjee died prematurely)	A breathing spell:plant sciences in the service of man
57th	1970	Kharagpur	L. C. Verman	Standardization: a triple point
58th	1971	Bangalore	B. P. Pal	Agricultural science and human welfare
59th	1972	Kolkata	W. D. West	Geology in the service of India
60th	1973	Chandigarh	S. Bhagavantam	Sixty years of science in India
61st	1974	Nagpur	R. S. Mishra	Mathematics – queen or handmaid
62nd	1975	Delhi	Asima Chatterjee	Science and technology in India: present and future
63rd	1976	Waltair	M. S. Swaminathan	Science and integrated rural development
64th	1977	Bhubaneswar	H. N. Sethna	Survey, conservation and utilisation of resources
65th	1978	Ahmedabad	S. M. Sircar	Science, education and rural development
66th	1979	Hyderabad	R. C. Mehrotra	Science and technology in India during the coming decades
67th	1980	Jadavpur	A. K. Saha	Energy strategies for India
68th	1981	Varanasi	A. K. Sharma	Impact of development of science and technology on environment
69th	1982	Mysore	M. G. K. Menon	Basic Research as an integral component of self-reliant base of science and technology
70th	1983	Tirupati	B. Rama Chandra Rao	Man and the ocean – resource and development
71st	1984	Ranchi	R. P. Bambah	Quality science in India – ends and means
72nd	1985	Lucknow	A. S. Paintal	High altitude studies
73rd	1986	Delhi	T. N. Khoshoo	Role of science and technology in environment management
74th	1987	Bangalore	Archana Sharma	Resources and human well-being-inputs from science and technology
75th	1988	Pune	C. N. R. Rao	Frontiers in science and technology
76th	1989	Madurai	A. P. Mitra	Science and technology in India:technology missions
77th	1990	Kochi	Yash Pal	Science in society
78th	1991	Indore	D. K. Sinha	Coping with natural disaster: an integrated approach
79th	1992	Vadodra	Vasant Gowariker	Science, population and development
80th	1993	Goa	S. Z. Qasim	Science and quality of life
81st	1994	Jaipur	P. N. Shrivastava	Science in India: excellence and accountability
82nd	1995	Kolkata	S. C. Pakrashi	Science, technology and industrial development of India
83rd	1996	Patiala	U. R. Rao	Science and technology for achieving food, economic and healthy security
84th	1997	Delhi	S. K. Joshi	Frontiers in science and engineering, and their relevance to national development
85th	1998	Hyderabad	P. Rama Rao	Science & Technology in Independent India : Retrospect and Prospect
86th	1999	Chennai	Manju Sharma	New bioscience: opportunities and challenges as we move into the next millennium
87th	2000	Pune	R. A. Marshelkar	Indian science and technology into the next millennium
88th	2001	Delhi	R. S. Paroda	Food, nutrition and environmental security
89th	2002	Lucknow	S. K. Katiyar	Health care, education and information technology
90th	2003	Bangalore	K. Kasturirangan	Frontiers of science and cutting-edge technologies
91st	2004	Chandigarh	Asis Dutta	Science and society in the twenty first century : quest for excellence
92nd	2005	Ahmedabad	N. K. Ganguly	Health technology as fulcrum of development for the nation
93rd	2006	Hyderabad	I. V. Subba Rao	Integrated rural development: science and technology
94th	2007	Annamalainagar	Harsh Gupta	Planet Earth
95th	2008	Visakhapatnam	Ramamurthi Rallapalli	Knowledge Based Society Using Environmentally Sustainable Science And Technology
96th	2009	Shillong	T. Ramasami	Science Education and Attraction of Talent for Excellence in Research
97th	2010	Thiruvananthapuram.	G. Madhavan Nair	Science & Technology of 21st Century - National Perspective
98th	2011	Chennai	K.C. Pandey	Quality education and excellence in science research in Indian Universities.
99th	2012	Bhubaneshwar	Geetha Bali	Science And Technology for Inclusive Innovation- Role of Women
100th	2013	Kolkata	Manmohan Singh	Science for shaping the future of India

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