



64TH REPUBLIC DAY NATION CELEBRATES

Padma Awardees 2013

Noted scientists Yashpal and Roddam Narasimha, cricketer Rahul Dravid, actor Rajesh Khanna and comedian Jaspal Bhatti (both posthumous), and boxer Mary Kom, are among the 108 eminent and illustrious personalities named for India's highest civilian honours, Padma awards, this year. According to a release from the home ministry Friday, President Pranab Mukherjee approved the names of the 108 awardees, who include four Padma Vibhushan, 24 Padma Bhushan and 80 Padma Shri. As many as 24 of the awardees are women.

Among the Padma Vibhushan awardees are Yashpal, Roddam Narasimha and artist S. Haider Ali Raza. Among the Padma Bhushan awardees are actors Rajesh Khanna and Sharmila Tagore, Bhatti, industrialist Adi Godrej, as well as Dravid and Mary Kom. Actor Nana Patekar, Urdu poet Nida Fazli, wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, boxer Dingko Singh, filmmaker Ramesh Sippy, Magsaysay Award winner Nileema Mishra, Olympic medallist Vijay Kumar are among the Padma Shri awardees. The country's top civilian awards are given under various disciplines like arts, literature, social work, public affairs, medicine, and sports. Padma Vibhushan is given for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.

President has approved the conferment of 108 Padma Awards. These comprise 04 Padma Vibhushan, 24 Padma Bhushan and 80 Padma Shri Awards. 24 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 11 persons in the category of Foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and Posthumous awardees. Padma Awards, the country's highest civilian awards, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. The awards are conferred by the President of India at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhawan sometime around March/ April.

Padma Vibhushan

Sl No.	Name	Discipline	State/ Domicile
1.	Shri Raghunath Mohapatra	Art	Orissa
2.	Shri S. Haider Raza	Art	Delhi
3.	Prof. Yash Pal	Science and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Prof. Roddam Narasimha	Science and Engineering	Karnataka

Padma Bhushan

Sl No.	Name	Discipline	State/ Domicile
1.	Dr. Ramanaidu Daggubati	Art	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Smt. Sreeramamurthy Janaki	Art	Tamil Nadu
3.	Dr. (Smt.) Kanak Rele	Art	Maharashtra [Images]
4.	Smt. Sharmila Tagore	Art	Delhi
5.	Dr. (Smt.) Saroja Vaidyanathan	Art	Delhi
6.	Shri Abdul Rashid Khan	Art	West Bengal
7.	Late Rajesh Khanna	Art	Maharashtra #
8.	Late Jaspal Singh Bhatti	Art	Punjab #
9.	Shri Shivajirao Girdhar Patil	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
10.	Dr. Apathukatha Sivathanu Pillai	Science and Engineering	Delhi
11.	Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat	Science and Engineering	Delhi
12.	Dr. Ashoke Sen	Science and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
13.	Dr. B.N. Suresh	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
14.	Prof. Satya N. Atluri	Science and Engineering	USA *
15.	Prof. Jogesh Chandra Pati	Science and Engineering	USA *
16.	Shri Ramamurthy Thyagarajan	Trade and Industry	Tamil Nadu
17.	Shri Adi Burjor Godrej	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
18.	Dr. Nandkishore Shamrao Laud	Medicine	Maharashtra
19.	Shri Mangesh Padgaonkar	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
20.	Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak	Literature & Education	USA*
21.	Shri Hemendra Singh Panwar	Civil Service	Madhya Pradesh
22.	Dr. Maharaj Kishan Bhan	Civil Service	Delhi
23.	Shri Rahul Dravid	Sports	Karnataka
24.	Ms. H. M. Chungneijang Mary Kom	Sports	Manipur

Padma Shri

Sl No.	Name	Discipline	State/ Domicile
1.	Shri Gajam Anjaiah	Art	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Swami G.C.D. Bharti/Bharati Bandhu	Art	Chhattisgarh
3.	Ms. B. Jayashree	Art	Karnataka
4.	Smt. Sridevi [Images] Kapoor	Art	Maharashtra
5.	Shri Kailash Chandra Meher	Art	Orissa
6.	Shri Brahmddeo Ram Pandit	Art	Maharashtra
7.	S. Vishwanath D. Patekar /Nana Patekar Art	Art	Maharashtra
8.	Shri R. N.Rao alias Surabhi Babji	Art	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Shri Lakshmi Narayana Sathiraju	Art	Tamil Nadu
10.	Smt. Jaymala Shiledar	Art	Maharashtra
11.	Shri Suresh Dattatray Talwalkar	Art	Maharashtra
12.	Shri P. Madhavan Nair alias Madhu	Art	Kerala
13.	Shri Apurba Kishore Bir	Art	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Ghanakanta Bora Borbayan	Art	Assam
15.	Smt. Hilda Mit Lepcha	Art	Sikkim
16.	Smt. Sudha Malhotra	Art	



power as also country's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The high-Agni-Five missile, advanced Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic tition and within a few minutes from a self-contained Road Mobile Naval fleet by the end of this year, Main Battle Tank Arjun, Super Sonic Rocket Launcher System and Chemical, Biological and Radiological lead the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath at The parade will begin with President Pranab Mukherjee taking the be the Chief Guest at the parade. Tableaux from 19 states and Central in different fields as well as historical and cultural heritage. Twenty-one of the 22 children selected for the National Bravery Award-2012 will also participate in the parade. One child has got the award posthumously. The grand finale of the parade will be a spectacular flypast by the Indian Air Force.

Nation celebrates its 64th Republic Day today. Unfurling of National flag and colourful parades highlighting the country's achievements in various fields, the military prowess, scintillating display of air power as also country's rich and diverse cultural heritage, mark the day. In the Capital, elaborate security arrangements have been put in place to keep a tight vigil. Over 25,000 police personnel, including those from paramilitary and sharpshooters from NSG, have been deployed across the city. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate.

This year's parade will highlight the nation's achievements in various fields, the military prowess, scintillating



display of air lights of the Parade will be the above 5,000 kilometre range Missile capable of being launched from anywhere in any direc-Launcher, a mini version of INS Vikramaditya which will join the Cruise Missile Brahmos Weapon System, Pinaka Multi Barrel Nuclear Recce Vehicle. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh will the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate.

salute. King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk will Ministries and Departments will present the country's progress

Bhutan King chief guest at Republic Day parade

Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck was the Chief Guest at the 64th Republic Day Celebrations in New Delhi on Saturday becoming the third emperor from the tiny king-



dom to grace the event, signifying the importance that India attaches to its neighbour. The Oxford-educated 32-year-old Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema, who did her schooling in Himachal Pradesh, are visiting India for the second time in the past two years.

The young king, who is known for inviting his subjects for tea at his palace in the picturesque Bhutanese capital of Thimphu, shares the honour of being the Chief Guest with his father Jigme Singye Wangchuck and grandfather Jigme Dorji Wangchuck.

While Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who abdicated the throne in 2006 in favour of his son, had the honour of being the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations twice in 1984 and 2005, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck received the honour in 1954.

Wangchuck came to Rajpath along with President Pranab Mukherjee escorted by horse-mounted presidential bodyguards.

The King, who married his girlfriend Pema in October 2011, was received by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the VVIP enclosure at the Rajpath following which he greeted him with a "Namaste". Wangchuck, who attended the National Defence College in the capital, is well-versed with Hindi and is adored by his subjects for his simplistic nature.

Australian Open: Victoria Azaranka wins Women's crown

Victoria Azaranka successfully defended her Australian Open title and retained the number one world ranking after hitting back to beat a battered and bruised Li Na in three sets.

A final low on quality but high on drama was claimed by the Belarusian 4-6 6-4 6-3 as Li's hopes of becoming the first Asian player to win in Melbourne were dashed. Twice the Chinese had to call for the trainer – the first time after going over on her ankle midway through the second set and again after tumbling in the first point after play resumed following a third-set stoppage for a nearby firework display. In Men's section, Andy Murray of Britain has set up title clash with Novac Djocovic of Serbia. In the grand semi final clash yesterday Murrey battled past Roger Federer 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 6-7, 6-2 to reach his third Australian Open and sixth Grand Slam final.



Republic Day Parade 2013 – A Curtain Raiser

A strong and resurgent India will be celebrating its 64th Republic Day tomorrow. This year's parade will highlight the nation's achievements in various fields, the military prowess, scintillating display of air power as also country's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The highlights of this year's Parade will be the above 5,000 kms range Agni-V missile. The advanced Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile capable of being launched from anywhere in any direction and within a few minutes from a self-contained Road Mobile Launcher is being paraded by the Defence Research & Development Organisation. The state-of-the-art missile, which was successfully flight tested in the month of April last year, has provided the true deterrence capability and brought India at par with the elite group of advanced countries possessing this capability. A mini version of INS Vikramaditya which will join the Naval fleet by the end of this year is being showcased to highlight Indian Navy's blue water operating capability.



The DRDO will also put on display the Armoured Amphibious Dozer (AAD), an indigenously developed versatile Combat Engineer support equipment with excellent earth moving and amphibious capabilities in varied terrain. Besides Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System and Naval Sonar will also be on display on Rajpath by DRDO.

The weaponry put on display by the Indian Army includes the Main Battle Tank 'Arjun', APC Ambulance tracked, the only Super Sonic Cruise Missile Brahmos Weapon System, Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Recce Vehicle, Sarvatra Bridge, Mobile Integrated Network Terminal (MINT) and Radio Trunking System Mk-II (RTS Mk-II). The Army's Mechanized Columns will conclude with a flypast by the Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv of the Army Aviation Corps.

The Indian Air Force will showcase its latest acquisitions on its tableau. It comprise the new basic trainer aircraft, the Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II and the new VIP helicopter, the Augusta Westland AW-101. It will also showcase the indigenous 'eyes in the sky' atop the Embraer 145, Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft and the strategic heavy lift aircraft, C-17 Globemaster-III, which will enter service by the middle of this year.

The Indian Navy's tableau depicts a scaled down model of INS Vikramaditya, a large aircraft carrier which will join the naval fleet by the end of this year. The ship is capable of sustaining at sea for more than 45 days at a stretch. She is also equipped to carry over 30 combat aircraft at any time giving her the freedom to operate and strike anywhere at sea. The Navy's tableau also focusing on INS Chakra, a nuclear propelled submarine.

The parade ceremony will commence at the Amar JawanJyoti at India Gate where the Prime Minister DrManmohan Singh will lead the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying wreath. An eternal flame burns at the Amar JawanJyoti to commemorate the indomitable courage of our Armed Forces personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland. The Amar Jawan, the immortal soldier, is symbolised by a reversed rifle topped by a helmet.

As per tradition, after unfurling of the National Flag, the National Anthem will be played. The parade will then commence and the President will take the salute. This year's Chief Guest in the parade will be His Majesty JigmeKhesarNamgyelWangchuk, the King of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. The parade will be commanded by Lt. General SubrotoMitra, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area. Major General Rajbir Singh, Chief of Staff, Delhi Area will be the parade Second-in-Command.

ParamVir Chakra winners Sub Maj (Hon. Capt) Bana Singh, 8 JAK LI, NaibSubedarYogendra Singh Yadav, 18 Grenadiers and Havaldar Sanjay Kumar, 13 JAK RIF and Ashok Chakra Winners Maj Gen CA Pithawalla, GoC, Andhra Sub Area, Lt Col Jas Ram Singh (ret'd), Major D. Sree Ram Kumar, 90 Field Regiment, Hon'yNaibSubedarChheringMutup (ret'd), Jammu, Shri Hukum Singh and Shri Govind Singh, both from district Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh and Shri BhureLal of district Guna, also from Madhya Pradesh will follow the Deputy Parade Commander on Jeeps.

The marching contingents of Army will include the horse-mounted columns of the 61st Cavalry, Mechanized Infantry Regiment, Maratha Light Infantry, Dogra Regiment, Garhwal Rifles, Ladakh Scouts, 8 Gorkha Training Centre, Army Ordnance Corps and Territorial Army (Punjab). The marching contingents of Navy comprising 144 men will be led by Lt. Commander Ajay Kumar Verma and the Air Force contingent comprising 144 men will be led by Flight Lieutenant Heena Pore. The marching contingents of paramilitary and other auxiliary civil forces will include contingents from the Border Security Force, Assam Rifles, Coast Guard, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Central Industrial Security Force, SashastraSeemaBal, Railway Protection Force, Delhi Police, National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme. The Camel-mounted band of the BSF and the Ex-Servicemen marching contingent will be another major attraction.

Tableaux from 19 states and Central Ministries and Departments will present the varied historical, architectural and cultural heritage of the country. They will also showcase country's progress in different fields. Twenty one of the 22 children selected for the National Bravery Award-2012 will also participate in the parade. One child has got the award posthumously. In the children's pageant section, 1,000 boys and girls drawn from Delhi's two schools, one school fromKendriyaVidyalayaSangathanand one from Eastern Zone Cultural Centre, Kolkata will present dances and other programmes.

Tornadoes, the motorcycle display by the Army Service Corps will be a major attraction of the parade. The tornadoes team consists of 135 riders on motorcycles performing Standing Salute, Ladder Balance, Fish Riding, Back Riding, Long Arm, Verma Lotus, ASC Special, Balance Seat and Fish, Sudershan Chakra, Balance Ride Standing, Ladder Lotus and Human Pyramid forms under the leadership of Major SS Rathore. They will perform breathtaking stunts in a synchronised and synergetic display of mind, body and machine coordination. The grand finale of the parade will be a spectacular flypast by the IAF. The flypastcommence with 'Chakra' formation, comprising three Mi-35 helicopters in 'Vic' formation, followed bythe Hercules formation comprising three C-130J Super Hercules aircraft in 'Vic' formation. Trailing them will be a Big Boy formationcomprising one IL-78, flanked by two AN-32 and two Dorniers. Next in line will be the fighters, - while five Jaguars will fly in Arrowhead formation, another five Mig-29 air Superiority Fighter called the "Tridents" will fly in Fulcrum style. Then the breathtaking Trishul formation comprising threeSu-30 MKI would fly over the Rajpath and once in front of the saluting dais the Su-30MKI aircraft will split upwards, making a Trishul in the sky. The flypast will conclude with another Sukhoi Su-30 MKI

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE TO THE NATION ON THE EVE OF REPUBLIC DAY

The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, addressed the Nation on the eve of the 64th Republic Day. Following is the text of the President's address on the occasion:

"My Fellow Citizens:

On the eve of our 64th Republic Day, I extend warm greetings to all of you in India and abroad. I convey my special greetings to members of our armed forces, paramilitary forces and internal security forces.

India has changed more in last six decades than in six previous centuries. This is neither accidental nor providential; history shifts its pace when touched by vision. The great dream of raising a new India from the ashes of colonialism reached a historic denouement in 1947; more important, independence became a turning point for an equally dramatic narrative, nation-building. The foundations were laid through our Constitution, adopted on 26 January 1950, which we celebrate each year as Republic Day. Its driving principle was a compact between state and citizen, a powerful public-private partnership nourished by justice, liberty and equality.

India did not win freedom from the British in order to deny freedom to Indians. The Constitution represented a second liberation, this time from the stranglehold of traditional inequity in gender, caste, community, along with other fetters that had chained us for too long.

This inspired a Cultural Evolution which put Indian society on the track to modernity: society changed in a gradual evolution, for violent revolution is not the Indian way. Change across the knotted weaves of the social fabric remains a work in progress, impelled by periodic reform in law and the momentum of popular will. In the last six decades there is much that we can be proud of. Our economic growth rate has more than tripled. The literacy rate has increased by over four times. After having attained self sufficiency, now we are net exporters of food-grain. Significant reduction in the incidence of poverty has been achieved. Among our other major achievements is the drive towards gender equality.

No one suggested this would be easy. The difficulties that accompanied the first quantum leap, the Hindu code bill, enacted in 1955 tell their own story. It needed the unflinching commitment of leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Babasaheb Ambedkar to push through this remarkable legislation. Jawaharlal Nehru would later describe this as perhaps the most important achievement of his life. The time has now come to ensure gender equality for every Indian woman. We can neither evade nor abandon this national commitment, for the price of neglect will be high. Vested interests do not surrender easily. The civil society and the government must work together to fulfill this national goal.

Fellow Citizens:

I speak to you when a grave tragedy has shattered complacency. The brutal rape and murder of a young woman, a woman who was symbol of all that new India strives to be, has left our hearts empty and our minds in turmoil. We lost more than a valuable life; we lost a dream. If today young Indians feel outraged, can we blame our youth?

There is a law of the land. But there is also a higher law. The sanctity of a woman is a directive principle of that larger edifice called Indian civilization. The Vedas say that there is more than one kind of mother: birth mother, a guru's wife, a king's wife, a priest's wife, she who nurses us, and our motherland. Mother is our protection from evil and oppression, our symbol of life and prosperity. When we brutalise a woman, we wound the soul of our civilization.

It is time for the nation to reset its moral compass. Nothing should be allowed to spur cynicism, as cynicism is blind to morality. We must look deep into our conscience and find out where we have faltered. The solutions to problems have to be found through discussion and conciliation of views. People must believe that governance is an instrument for good and for that, we must ensure good governance.

Fellow Citizens:

We are on the cusp of another generational change; the youth of India spread across villages and towns, are in the vanguard of change. The future belongs to them. They are today troubled by a range of existential doubts. Does the system offer due reward for merit? Have the powerful lost their Dharma in pursuit of greed? Has corruption overtaken morality in public life? Does our legislature reflect emerging India or does it need radical reforms? These doubts have to be set at rest. Elected representatives must win back the confidence of the people. The anxiety and restlessness of youth has to be channelized towards change with speed, dignity and order.

The young cannot dream on an empty stomach. They must have jobs capable of serving their own as well as the nation's ambitions. It is true that we have come a long way from 1947, when our first Budget had a revenue of just over Rs.171 crore. The resource base of the Union government today is an ocean compared to that drop. But we must ensure that the fruits of economic growth do not become the monopoly of the privileged at the peak of a pyramid. The primary purpose of wealth creation must be to drive out the evil of hunger, deprivation and marginal subsistence from the base of our expanding population.

Fellow Citizens:

Last year has been a testing time for us all. As we move ahead on the path of economic reforms, we must remain alive to the persisting problems of market-dependent economies. Many rich nations are now trapped by a culture of entitlement without social obligations; we must avoid this trap. The results of our policies should be seen in our villages, farms and factories, schools and hospitals.

Figures mean nothing to those who do not benefit from them. We must act immediately, otherwise the current pockets of conflict, often described as "Naxalite" violence, could acquire far more dangerous dimensions.

"In his first address to the nation on the eve of the 64th Republic Day, Mukherjee referred to the "grave tragedy" of the brutal rape and murder of a woman in the capital that has shattered complacency."

Fellow Citizens:

In the recent past, we have seen serious atrocities on the Line of Control on our troops. Neighbours may have disagreements; tension can be a subtext of frontiers. But sponsorship of terrorism through non-state actors is a matter of deep concern to the entire nation. We believe in peace on the border and are always ready to offer a hand in the hope of friendship. But this hand should not be taken for granted.

Fellow Citizens:

India's most impregnable asset is self-belief. Each challenge becomes an opportunity to strengthen our resolve to achieve unprecedented economic growth and social stability. Such resolve must be nourished by an avalanche of investment, particularly in better and greater education. Education is the ladder that can help those at the bottom to rise to the pinnacles of professional and social status. Education is the mantra that can transform our economic fortunes and eliminate the gaps that have made our society unequal. So far education has not reached, to the extent desired, to those most in need of this ladder. India can double its growth rate by turning today's disadvantaged into multiple engines of economic development. On our 64th Republic Day, there may be some reason for concern, but none for despair. If India has changed more in six decades than six previous centuries, then I promise you that it will change more in the next ten years than in the previous sixty. India's enduring vitality is at work.

Even the British sensed that they were leaving a land which was very different from the one they had occupied. At the base of the Jaipur Column in Rashtrapati Bhavan there is an inscription:

"In thought faith...

In word wisdom...

In deed courage...

In life service...

So may India be great"

The spirit of India is written in stone.

JAI HIND!"

carrying out a Vertical Charlie manoeuvre over the saluting dais.

President Confers Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) to Flight Lieutenant Siddharth Chopra

Flight Lieutenant Siddharth Chopra, an AN-32 Pilot was tasked with a Free-fall Para drop sortie for the Akash Ganga Skydiving Team with the onlookers in huge attendance. On opening the ramp for the drop at 8000 feet, one pressure door bracket was found broken. With the ramp open he completed the drop and decided to land back at Barrackpore (with the Ramp Open) to prevent any further damage to the aircraft. In this situation, any harsh manoeuvres would severely endanger the safety of the aircraft and lives on board. The delicate condition of the aircraft and the necessity to land with the ramp open along with the prevailing strong winds, turbulent conditions, short runway at Barrackpore and tall trees on approach demanded extreme caution and piloting skills to execute a safe landing. The pilot was compelled to land the aircraft with a steeper approach perspective with 38 degree flaps which is not normally practiced. Using all his piloting skills, professionalism and courage, he executed a flawless approach and carried out the stipulated three-point landing without any further damage to the ramp. His act of safe recovery of the aircraft ensured that the aircraft snag was rectified and further damage avoided. Flight Lieutenant Siddharth Chopra displayed exemplary courage and decision making ability by recovering the aircraft safely from a critical emergency situation and also saved the precious lives of all its occupants with his commendable flying skills. For this act of exceptional courage, Flight Lieutenant Siddharth Chopra was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).

President Confers Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) to wing Commander Chickmandya Girish Deepak

Wing Commander Chickmandya Girish Deepak, Flying (Pilot) while on the posted strength of Flying Instructors School at Air Force Station Tambaram as a Directing Staff, was tasked to

fly an instructional sortie on Kiran Mk II aircraft on 31 Jan 2012. While coming in to land, he experienced an engine flame out. After an unsuccessful attempt to jettison the canopy, he ordered his co-pilot to eject through the canopy. As the co-pilot ejected, he noticed that the aircraft was approaching over a populated area. Even as the speed of the aircraft was reducing rapidly, endangering his own safety, he steered the aircraft clear of the populated area below. Once sure that the trajectory of the aircraft was in a safe direction, he carried out an ejection. His extremely prompt reaction resulted in successful ejection by both pilots. Knowing fully well about the risks of ejecting through a aircraft canopy and availability of critical time, Wing Commander Deepak went well beyond the call of duty to ensure that the aircraft was turned away from populated area, which prevented any collateral loss of life and damage to civil property. He displayed exceptional nerve and professional courage in the face of imminent danger to his life.

For this act of exceptional courage, Wing Commander Chickmandya Girish Deepak is recommended for the award of Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).

President Confers Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) to wing Commander Gurkirat Singh Sohal

Wing Commander Gurkirat Singh Sohal Flying (Pilot) is on the posted strength of a Su-30 MKI squadron. On 13 Dec 11, Wing Commander Sohal was detailed to fly an Airframe and Engine Check sortie in Su-30 MKI aircraft. Just after getting airborne, the aircraft yawed and rolled viciously to the right and this was noticed by the Air Traffic Controller as well. Wing Commander Sohal immediately initiated the recovery action and continued to climb to safer heights. Though the oscillations continued to be violent and dangerous Wing Commander Sohal overlooked his personal safety in a desperate attempt to try and get the aircraft under control to effect a safe recovery. During the whole process, Wing Commander Sohal managed to somehow keep the aircraft pointing away from a populated village, so as to reduce the risk of damage to life and property on ground in case of an ejection. As the aircraft seemed no longer controllable, ejection was the only option available after a 22 minutes long ordeal. Thus Wing Commander Sohal initiated ejection, but not before he had ensured that the aircraft was directed away from the populated village. His presence of mind, when faced with a life threatening situation, helped in preventing loss of many innocent lives on ground.

The sheer courage displayed by Wing Commander Sohal for the attempted recovery from such an unprecedented emergency was unparalleled. The courageous actions of Wing Commander Sohal to explore all possibilities of recovering the aircraft and to prevent any loss of lives on the ground in spite of an imminent threat to his life were most commendable and exemplary.

For his exceptional courage and flying skills in the face of a life threatening situation, Wing Commander Gurkirat Singh Sohal is recommended for the award of Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).

63 Presidential Awards for IAF this Year

63 IAF Air Warriors have been decorated with Presidential Awards on the eve of Republic Day, this year. This includes Param Vishist Seva Medal (PVSM) for six Air Marshals, Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM) for one Air Marshal, five Air Vice Marshal and six Air Commodores. PVSM has been conferred on Air Marshal Anil Chopra (Retd), Air Marshal Simha Kutty Varthaman (Retd), Air Marshal Satish Pal Singh (Retd), Air Marshal Arup Raha, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Air Command, Air Marshal Rajinder Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Training Command, Air Marshal Jagdish Chandra Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command respectively.



Air Marshal Herikudru Babu Rajaram, Director General (Works and Ceremonials) has been conferred the Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM).

This year, the Vayu Sena Medal (VM) for Gallantry have been awarded to Wing Commander Gurkirat Singh Sohal, Wing Commander Chickmandya Girish Deepak and Flight Lieutenant Siddharth Chopra. While two Air Commodores, seven Group Captains, five Wing Commanders have also been conferred Vayu Sena Medal for devotion to duty.

The Vishist Seva Medal (VSM) have been awarded to five Air Commodores, twenty Group Captains and three Wing Commanders.

National Communal Harmony Award 2012

The Foundation for Amity & National Solidarity, Delhi has been selected for the National Communal Harmony Award for the year 2012 by the Jury headed by the Vice-President of India. Formed in 1984, the Foundation for Amity & National Solidarity (FANS) is a Delhi based Trust which works for spreading amity and communal harmony. It has organized numerous seminars, workshops, symposiums, inter-religious meets, youth camps, sadbhavana sabhas and rallies to promote social amity. The Foundation has instituted 'National Amity Award', which is given every year to an eminent personality. A serial 'Yeh Gulistani Hamara' produced by the Foundation on national integration was telecast on Doordarshan. It has awarded numerous scholarships under its Amity Scholarship Scheme to promote education amongst the economically backward students. It has extensively contributed for promoting solidarity and communal harmony.

The National Communal Harmony Awards were instituted in 1996 by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous organization set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, for promoting communal harmony and national integration. The award has been instituted with a view to demonstrating due appreciation and recognition of the efforts of individuals and organisations for promotion of communal harmony and national integration in a sustained manner over a sufficiently long period of time. In addition to a citation, the award carries a cash prize of Rupees five lakh for the Organisation.

Indo-Pak water talks postponed

Talks between the Water Secretaries of India and Pakistan, scheduled to be held in Islamabad during January 28-29, have been put off in the wake of tensions between the neighbours over ceasefire violations along the Line of Control. "The talks have been postponed. New dates for the talks are yet to be decided," an official of Pakistan's Foreign Office said. The official, who did not wish to be identified, did not specify reasons for the postponement of the parleys. The two sides were scheduled to discuss the Tulbul navigation project-Wullar Barrage issue during the talks.



Reports in sections of the Pakistani media cited sources as saying that the cancellation of the talks was linked to the recent spurt in tensions between the two countries. However, reports from New Delhi said the move was apparently linked to the retirement of Water Resources Secretary D V Singh, who is set to step down at the end of this month.

This is the second high-level bilateral interaction that has been put off because of bad atmospheric conditions between India and Pakistan over a string of clashes along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir that left two Indian soldiers dead and their bodies badly mutilated. Pakistan claimed three of its soldiers were killed in fighting described as the worst violations of the ceasefire put in place along the LoC in 2003.

Earlier this month, Pakistan Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim called off a scheduled visit to India to attend a business meet in Agra.

New visa pact, extradition treaty with Bangladesh in offing

India is all set to sign a liberalised visa agreement and an extradition treaty with Bangladesh during Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde's two-day visit to Dhaka beginning Monday. The new visa pact, named revised travel arrangement, will remove restrictions on visit of each other's businesspersons, students, patients, senior citizens above 65 years and children below 12 years on the lines of the liberalised visa regime between India and Pakistan. "Both the treaties will be signed during the home minister's visit to Bangladesh," a Home Ministry official said.

The extradition treaty will pave the way for deportation of jailed ULFA 'general secretary' Anup Chetia, Tripura insurgent leader Vishwa Mohan Deb Barman, NDFB leader Thulunga

alias Tensu Narzery and many other insurgents from the northeast who have been hiding in Bangladesh.

Similarly, it will also help Dhaka in getting back its criminals who are currently lodged in Indian jails.

India has been pressing for Chetia's deportation since long. The ULFA leader has been in a Dhaka jail following his arrest in 1997 on the charge of entering Bangladesh without valid documents. He had, however, moved court seeking asylum in Bangladesh for security reason, making it 'legally' difficult for Dhaka to execute New Delhi's demand.

According to the proposed visa pact, businessmen will be given five-year multiple entry visa and those who want to travel for medical treatment will get two-year multiple entry visa which is extendable for another year. Visa will be given to three attendants of a patient. Under the student visa, a person can avail one-year multiple entry travel document.

India has also agreed to waive the 60-day cooling off period for second visit by a Bangladeshi national. The restriction is at present applicable to citizens of Pakistan, China and some other countries.

For the first time, India and Bangladesh are expected to exchange strip maps of their 4096 km-long international boundary to facilitate resolution of any boundary dispute locally.

A strip map is an unscaled drawing of a route to include critical points along the border, roadside features and town facilities on a simple flip-over style map.

The map usually incorporates distances. In September 2011, during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka, India and Bangladesh signed a pact to implement exchange of 162 enclaves between them envisaged under the 1974 Indira-Mujib accord.

The agreement on demarcation of the border and exchange of enclaves covers 111 enclaves in India and 51 on the other side in which about 51,000 people reside.

According to the pact, the people in the enclaves would be given the right to continue to reside there itself or choose the country of residence.

India to continue to push for Headley extradition

India has said it will continue to press for extradition of David Headley from the US after the Pakistani-American LeT terrorist escaped death penalty for helping plot the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and sentenced to 35 years in jail by an American Court.

External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said the Government was "slightly disappointed" over the quantum of sentence, saying the 52-year-old convict should have got a "severest sentence".



Asserting that India's demand was Headley should be tried in India; Khurshid said he would have possibly got a serious and severe sentence in this country.

Khurshid, however, said the sentence handed over to Headley was a beginning.

"The 35 year sentencing and what the judge said is a beginning. We understand there are legal procedures in the US but nevertheless the position we have, the request (extradition) that we have made remains intact," Khurshid told reporters in New Delhi on Friday.

Union Home Secretary R K Singh also said that India will push for Headley's extradition.

Congress spokesman Rashid Alvi expressed disappointment at the verdict and demanded that he should be tried in India.

BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy demanded that Headley should be extradited to India and be tried under Indian laws and given capital punishment.

"I think going by what the judge has said this should go a long way in hopefully conveying a very clear message that the kind of things that have been going on in the past will not be tolerated," Khurshid said.

US District Judge Harry Leinenweber on Thursday said, "The sentence I impose, I'm hopeful it will keep Mr Headley under lock and key for the rest of his natural life."

The Judge said it would have been much easier to impose the death penalty. "That's what you deserve".

Headley had entered into a plea bargain with the US investigators under which he escaped death sentence.

"Mr. Headley is a terrorist," the Judge said while imposing the sentence on 12 counts in a packed court. Leinenweber also said, "He commits crime, cooperates and then gets rewarded for the cooperation."

"No matter what I do, it is not going to deter terrorists. Unfortunately, terrorists do not care for it. I do not have any faith in Mr Headley when he says that he is a changed person now. "I do believe that it is my duty to protect the public from Mr Headley and ensure that he does not get into any further terrorist activities. Recommending 35 years is not a right sentence".

England beat India by 7 wickets in the 5th ODI

England beat India by 7 wickets in the 5th ODI in Dharamshala on Sunday as India wins the series 3-2 and retained its No. 1 title in the ODIs. This win will restore some pride for England. Ian Bell was clinical in the chase.



India fought hard with the ball. Ishant Sharma, Bhuvaneshwar Kumar and Ravindra Jadeja were impressive but the score was just not big enough to defend.

The game was heading for a tight finish going into the last 10 overs but the dominant stand between Eoin Morgan and Ian Bell sealed it for England.

They will be elated to go home on a winning note.

The batting woes, particularly the top order woes remain for India.

It cost them dear here in a dead rubber but will be a cause of concern.

The bowling and fielding performance was much more spirited and MS Dhoni will undoubtedly like it to rub off on the batsmen as well.

Sixty-one killed in Venezuela prison riot

The death toll has risen to 61 following fierce gunbattles between inmates and National Guard troops at a Venezuelan prison, a hospital director has said. About 120 more people were wounded in one of the deadliest prison riots in the nation's history. Penitentiary Service Minister Iris Varela said that officials had begun evacuating inmates from the Uribana prison in Barquisimeto and transferring them to other facilities, but she did not provide an official death toll.

However, Ruy Medina, director of Central Hospital in the city of Barquisimeto, told The Associated Press that the number of dead had risen to 61. He initially told Venezuelan news media after the Friday uprising that about 50 were killed.

Medina said that nearly all of the injuries were from gunshots and that 45 of the estimated 120 people who were wounded remained hospitalised.

Some underwent surgeries for their wounds. Relatives wept outside the prison during the violence, and cried at the morgue Saturday as they waited to identify bodies.

The riot was the latest in a series of deadly clashes in Venezuela's overcrowded and often anarchical prisons, where inmates typically obtain weapons and drugs with the help of corrupt guards.

Critics called it proof that the government is failing to get a grip on a worsening national crisis in its penitentiaries.

The gunbattles seized attention amid uncertainty about President Hugo Chavez's future, while he remained in Cuba recovering and undergoing treatment more than six weeks after his latest cancer surgery.

Government officials pledged a thorough investigation, while some critics said there should have been ways for the authorities to prevent such bloodshed.

Nayibe Mendez, the mother of a 22-year-old inmate in the prison, told the AP that she was able to talk by phone with her son and he was uninjured.

"What they say is that there were shots all over the place, and they don't know where they came from," Mendez said.

"It was a massacre. A full list hasn't come out of the dead and injured." Mendez spoke by telephone from the morgue, where she said she went out of solidarity. "We're all hurt. No matter what, a prisoner has a right to live," she said, demanding that the authorities fully investigate what happened. Varela said during a news conference that officials decided to evacuate all inmates from the prison in order to "close this chapter of violence."

AP Govt. to reclaim Maheswaram special economic zone land

Andhra Pradesh Government has decided to reclaim land allotted to develop a Special Economic Zone in Maheswaram near Hyderabad. The private limited company (Brahmani Infrautech Pvt Limited) could not initiate the work for construction of SEZ within the time limit.

More from AIR Hyderabad Correspondent reports that under the new land allotment policy, the State Government has begun working on reclaiming the lands allotted in bulk to private companies that have not utilised the land for intended purpose.

In this case, the Government has allotted 250 acres of land to a private company (Brahmani Infrautech Limited) for development of Special Economic Zone for Information Technology enterprises at the Ravirala village of Maheswaram Mandal near Hyderabad.

The land was allotted at cheaper rate based on a Memorandum of Understanding the company entered with the state Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation in 2006.

Accordingly, the company had to begin work within 12 months of allotment, develop and construct a minimum of 4.5 million square feet of office space over a five-year period and also employ 45 thousand people. It also agreed to provide employment to 20 thousand people within three years of commencement of the project. The Government has now begun the process to reclaim the land so that it can be put to some other use.

Security intensified in Goalpara district of Assam

In Assam, security has been intensified in Goalpara district following two low intensity blasts last night. No casualty has been reported. Goalpara Deputy Commissioner Preetam Saikia said that six additional companies of Central Para-military forces are being deployed in the district to maintain law and order.

The Deputy Commissioner has not ruled out involvement of any insurgent groups behind the twin blasts which were triggered at the residence of Jaleswar constituency MLA at Jaleswar and at Gournagar area.

Senior police officials visited blast spots and a bomb like substance was recovered at Jaleswar. One person was beaten to death by angry mob after the incident last night for allegedly throwing a bomb.

District administration is maintaining a close watch and has appealed to people to maintain peace.

Czech election: Milos Zeman wins presidential poll

Former PM Milos Zeman has won the Czech Republic's presidential election - the first time the position has been decided by direct popular vote. He won 55% of votes in the second-round poll, compared to Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg's 45%. Voters had braved freezing conditions to turn out in what was being seen as a nail-bitingly close poll. Mr Zeman is seen as a hard-drinking, chain-smoking politician, known for his witty put-downs of opponents.



As president, he will represent the Czech Republic abroad and appoint candidates to the constitutional court and the central bank, but the post does not carry much day-to-day power. Mr Zeman will replace the eurosceptic Vaclav Klaus, who steps down in March after ten years in office.

Both presidential candidates support deeper integration of the European Union.

The result is a triumphant return for a man many thought was finished in politics.

Ten years ago Mr Zeman was humiliated in his first attempt to become president, says the

He seems to have won the support of many poorer, older voters from areas of the country that have suffered in the economic downturn.

Mr Zeman won 24.2% in the first round poll, with Mr Schwarzenberg winning 23.4%.

Although Czechs are generally disillusioned with politics, they turned out in their droves to choose between the two very different candidates - Mr Zeman, the acerbic former Social Democrat prime minister, and Karel Schwarzenberg, the elderly, aristocratic foreign minister. The urban elite voted en masse for Mr Schwarzenberg - who was supported by many in the media and had a strong Facebook following, says our correspondent.

A titled prince, 75 years old but wildly popular amongst young, urban voters, in the early 1990s, he worked as chancellor to the President Vaclav Havel, the leader of the Velvet Revolution that brought down Communist rule in 1989. For Mr Schwarzenberg's supporters, this is a bitter defeat.

Venezuelan prison evacuated after deadly riot

Government officials were evacuating a prison after a deadly riot that reportedly left at least 61 people dead and 120 others wounded in Venezuela's northwestern city of Barquisimeto, Venezuela's top prisons official said. Penitentiary Service Minister Iris Varela said on Saturday that officials had decided to evacuate all inmates from the Uribana prison in the central city of Barquisimeto after the bloodshed on Friday in order to "close this chapter of violence."

Most of those injured at the Uribana prison in Lara state late on Friday suffered gunshot wounds, Ruy Medina, the hospital official said.

Among the dead are a pastor and a member of the National Guard - the rest are said to be inmates, the hospital director said. He called the death toll "alarming", saying it was based solely on bodies brought to the hospital. Saying that "prisons need to be places of re-education not for crimes and mafia", Nicholas Maduro, Venezuelan vice president, said an "immediate investigation" had been launched into the circumstances surrounding the deaths. Medina said the inmates began arriving at the hospital shortly before midday, and that 14 of the injured had wounds severe enough to require surgery.

Iris Varela, the government minister responsible for Venezuela's jails and prisons, said the riot was set off after inmates rebelled when prison authorities launched a sweep of the facility in search of illicit weapons.

Varela had said earlier in the day that there was an "undetermined number" of casualties from the melee. The state of Venezuelan prisons have often been called into question, especially for their overcrowding, which is among the worst in Latin America.

While the country's prisons have been built to house 14,000 inmates, there are almost 50,000 prisoners behind bars.

Scores killed in nightclub fire in Santa Maria, Brazil

At least 180 people have died in a fire that swept through a nightclub in southern Brazil, police say. They say the fire began when a band on stage started a fireworks display at the Kiss nightclub in the city of Santa Maria, in Rio Grande do Sul state.

Reports say there was only one exit and panic spread as people tried to get out. Many victims reportedly died from inhaling toxic fumes. The fire is now out and bodies are being removed from the scene.



"Fire services are looking for other victims. We can't give an exact number of victims. People started panicking and ended up treading on each other," fire chief Guido de Melo told local media. A reporter at the scene told local radio that the nightclub had a capacity for up to 2,000 people and was believed to be full on a Saturday night. Thick smoke engulfed the venue after acoustic insulation caught fire, officials say. Fire crews reportedly knocked through a wall to help those trapped inside escape. Hundreds of people have been taken to hospital. Santa Maria is a major university city with a population of about 250,000 people.

Nightclub fires

2009: Santika Club, Bangkok, Thailand - sparked by fireworks; 66 killed
2009: Lame Horse Club, Perm, Russia - sparked by fireworks; 150 killed
2003: The Station, Rhode Island, US - sparked by fireworks; 100 killed
1996: Ozone Disco Club, Quezon City, Philippines - 160 killed
1990: Happy Land, New York, US - arson kills 89 at unlicensed club
1977: Beverly Hills Supper Club, Southgate, Kentucky - 165 killed
1970: Club 5-7, Saint-Laurent-du-Pont, France - 146 killed;
1942: Cocomanut Grove, Boston, US - 492 killed.

Bulgaria set for nuclear power referendum

Bulgarians are set to vote in a referendum on whether a new nuclear power plant should be built. The opposition Socialist party called the vote because it wants the government to reverse its decision not to build a new plant at Belene. The first referendum in Bulgaria's post-Communist history has polarised opinion and is seen as a precursor of general elections later this year. The referendum would only be valid if at least 60% of the electorate votes. The government says it supports the provision of nuclear power from an existing plant at Kozloduy, but that it does not have the 10bn euros (£6.3bn) it says would be needed to build a new plant. Prime Minister Boyko Borisov told local media that this would remain the case even if Bulgarians voted in favour of a new nuclear plant.

Bulgaria had to close four of its old reactors at Kozloduy as a precondition for its 2007 EU membership.



The government froze plans to finish the plant at Belene last year, when work at the site on

the southern bank of the River Danube was already well under way.

The Socialists are seen as closely linked to the Belene project, having granted a construction contract for the plant to Russian state company Atomstroyexport in 2008.

They say Belene would now cost 4-6bn euros to complete, and would lower electricity costs for consumers. Environmentalists had opposed the plant, which had first been proposed when Bulgaria was under communist rule.

UK government formally launches same-sex marriage legislation in Parliament

The British government formally published legislation today to allow marriage for same-sex couples. The bill is titled the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill. MPs would be able to vote on the legislation at the second reading in Parliament on February 5.

Maria Miller, the Culture Secretary, said of the legislation to BBC Radio 4: "We feel that marriage is a good thing and we should be supporting more couples to marry." Gay and lesbian couples have been allowed since 2005 to form civil partnerships.



The Coalition for Equal Marriage, a campaign group supporting the legalization of same-sex marriage, have tracked support by individual MPs and claim 336 MPs are likely to vote in favour of the legislation, while 130 are likely to vote against. Conservative MPs are to be given a free vote, but both Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs are broadly in support.

As part of the legislation, the government have included a set of provisions they describe as a "quadruple lock" against churches and other religious denominations being forced to perform weddings, including an explicit ban on the Church of England and the Church of Wales doing so. The "quadruple lock" consists of an explicit statement in the Bill "that no religious organisation, or individual minister, can be forced to marry same-sex couples or to permit that to happen on their premises", an amendment to the Equality Act 2010 to prevent claims of discrimination against religious organisations for not performing same-sex weddings, an opt-in for religious groups who do wish to perform same-sex marriages, and the explicit ban for the Churches of England and Wales.

Maria Miller said the government recognises "that some churches won't want to participate in same-sex marriages. We are trying to make sure that there are the protections there for churches who feel that this isn't appropriate for their particular beliefs. We know that there are churches who do want to take part in same-sex marriages, so we have made sure that there are provisions there so they can."

Former defence secretary Liam Fox, opposing the legislation, has suggested the European Court of Human Rights will overrule the government's protections for churches. He argued earlier this month: "Any assurances that we are given that distinguishing between churches will not be used at some point by European courts to drive a coach and horses through the legislation carries little credibility with those of us who have watched similar assurances trounced in the past."

The Roman Catholic Church has strongly opposed the measures. Archbishop Vincent Nichols has said he is "very disappointed" the government is pushing for same-sex marriage and claimed it would "weaken" the institution. The Archbishop also claimed of the legislation: "[t]here was no announcement in any party manifesto". However, the Conservative Party's "contract for equalities" for the 2010 election included a statement saying they would "consider" same-sex marriage: "We will also consider the case for changing the law to allow civil partnerships to be called and classified as marriage."

Israelis re-elect Netanyahu, centre-left rises

Binyamin Netanyahu is set to be re-elected as prime minister of Israel despite losses suffered by his party, Likud. An alliance of centre-left parties has increased their share of the votes. Likud now have 31 seats in the Knesset. Netanyahu has stated he seeks to form "as broad a coalition as possible". The newly-formed Yesh Atid party led by former television presenter Yair Lapid is set to play an important part in negotiations over the formation of a coalition government.



As a result of Yesh Atid winning 19 seats in the Knesset, Lapid has been approached by both Netanyahu to form a governing party and by Shelly Yachimovich from the left-wing Israeli Labor Party to join an opposition alliance. Yesh Atid supports changing the law to remove the exemptions ultra-Orthodox Jews have from mandatory military service, a move which along with economic reforms to support the middle class they dubbed "sharing the burden". Yachimovich invited Yesh Atid "to form a coalition of moderate, social, peace advocate and centrist forces without Benjamin Netanyahu as PM". Yesh Atid have rejected that offer, with Yair Lapid saying that they will not join an "obstructive bloc".

The election sees the highest number of women elected to the Knesset, 26 out of 120.

Jay Carney, the White House press spokesman, reiterated American support for Israel: "The United States remains committed, as it has been for a long time, to working with the parties to press forward the goal of a two-state solution. That has not changed, and it will not change." Carney also laid out the White House view on how to deal with Palestine: "We believe that what needs to take place is direct negotiations between the two parties (Israelis and Palestinians) that addresses the final-status issues and results in a two-state solution". The New York Times noted that a newly-formed coalition government may improve the relationship between Netanyahu and US president Barack Obama.

Dan Shapiro, the US Ambassador to Israel, took to Twitter to congratulate Israelis on the conclusion of their voting process: "Mazal tov to the Israeli people on their just completed elections! Always inspiring to see democracy in action! [...] Fascinating election from a US perspective. Every democratic system is different. Important thing is the people have their say." Shapiro said the US "looks forward to working closely with next government of Israel." Palestine Liberation Organization official Hanan Ashrawi stated: "I am not going to say that now the chances of peace are going to be drastically improved or that we are going to see a sort of left-wing coalition and a peace camp that will take over and produce instant peace. You are not going to have a savior, suddenly producing instant peace."

UK economy shrinks by 0.3% in fourth quarter of 2012

The United Kingdom economy shrank by 0.3% in the fourth quarter of 2012 according to figures released today by the Office for National Statistics, increasing the likelihood of a triple-dip recession. This comes after the 0.9% growth seen in the preceding quarter which is believed to have been due to the Olympic Games. The Office for National Statistics has said economic output remained flat throughout 2012.



The British economy would have to contract in this quarter in order for there to be a recession, but hopes of positive figures are fading after a snow-hit Britain to the beginning of 2013 with figures suggesting a £500m a day being lost in output.

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said, "We can either run away from those problems or we can confront them. And I'm determined to confront them so we can go on creating jobs for the people of this country".

The construction sector rose by 0.3%, however, the production in the industrial and manufacturing sector fell by 1.8% and 1.5% respectively.

Cabinet approves committee to probe Wal-Mart's lobbying activities

The Union Cabinet today approved the appointment of a one-man Committee into the media reports concerning Wal-Mart.

The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:-

- To inquire into recent media reports on disclosures of Wal-Mart before the US Senate regarding their lobbying activities and details.
- Whether Wal-Mart undertook any activities in India in contravention of any Indian law.
- Any other matter relevant or incidental to the above.

The Committee will submit its report within three months.

Bilateral Co-Operation Understanding in Water Resources Development and Management with Government of Rwanda

India and Rwanda have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral co-operation in Water Resources Development and Management. From Indian side it was Union Water resources Minister Shri Harish Rawat while from Government of Rwanda it was Dr. (Mrs.) Agnes M. KALIBATA, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources who were the signatories in a function held here in New Delhi yesterday.

The MoU specifies various areas of co-operation with focus on planning, design and implementation of marshland and hillside irrigation, watershed management, water governance, and training and capacity building of farmers and functionaries in the water sector.

It is also proposed to promote Joint Ventures between the private entrepreneurs of the two countries through mutual facilitation of investment procedures and for working out mechanisms and modalities for funding and technical assistance. The MoU provides for setting up a Joint Commission which would follow up the implementation of this MoU.

The objective of this co-operation is to realize the goal of achieving food security in Rwanda and thereby to promote further the already existing friendly relations between the two countries.

Celebration of National Girl Child Day

The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the National Girl Child Day on the 24th January, 2013 at A.P. Shinde Symposium Hall, National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, ICAR, New Delhi. Smt. Krishna Tirath, Minister of Women and Child Development will preside over the function and Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India will be the Chief Guest and will deliver the keynote address.



The Government of India in 2008 declared January 24 of every year to be celebrated as the 'National Girl Child Day' with the objective of raising consciousness of the society towards the girl child so that she can be valued and respected. Ministry of Women and Child Development has been taking a multi pronged approach to address and reverse the trend of declining child sex ratio in the country. The objective of all these initiatives is to work towards ensuring that girls are born, loved and nurtured and grow up to become empowered citizens of this country with equal rights and opportunities.

As part of the activities being undertaken to celebrate the National Girl Child Day in 2013, a nation-wide slogan writing competition amongst High School Children in the age group of 14-18 years is being organized by the National Mission for Empowerment of Women under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The objective of organizing this competition is to let students suggest a fresh mnemonic through the slogans for the theme 'save the girl child'. The slogan should reflect the larger concern of gender equity and empowerment of girls in a rights based approach.

During the function, prizes would be distributed to the winners of the All India Slogan Writing Competition which was conducted by the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW). Prizes would also be given to the winners of the slogan writing competition organized through local NGOs of Delhi running the Samajik Suvidha Kendras as part of extended event in the series of Nari ki Choupal organized by NMEW during Vatsalya Mela 2012. Cultural events comprising of song and dance sequence dedicated to the girl child by the children of Amba Foundation, a street play by Asmita Theatre Group and a dance drama on women's empowerment by Sharmistha Mukherjee and her troupe would also form part of the celebration.

OPINION - EDITORIALS

MUMBAI ATTACK: CHICAGO MAN GETS 35 YEARS IN TERROR PLOT

C.S. Rajput

David Coleman Headley, the terrorist who played a key planning role in the Mumbai massacre that killed more than 160 people in 2008, was sentenced today in Chicago's federal court to 35 years in prison. U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber could have imposed a life sentence but chose the sentence recommended by federal prosecutors who wanted Headley rewarded for his extensive cooperation in spite of his help in the deadly attacks in India.

Before imposing the 35-year prison term, the judge said he wanted to make sure Headley, 52, is "never in a position again to commit a terrorist attack."

Leinenweber was skeptical of a letter that Headley recently wrote to him. "I don't have any faith in Mr. Headley when he says he's a changed person," the judge said. Headley should be "under lock and key for the rest of his life," Leinenweber said. In the letter, Headley claimed he was learning to embrace "American values" and coming to grips with how he was convinced to plan terrorist attacks under the guise of religious obligation, Leinenweber said. "Mr. Headley's letter to the judge expressed his sincere remorse," Robert Seeder, one of Headley's attorney, told reporters after the sentencing. "He did explain in that letter what led him to this and how sorry he was. And I think we'll leave it at that." During the hearing, another defense attorney told the judge that Headley "literally saved lives" by providing valuable information that "no one else knew" about terrorist activities. "He has never minimized his role,"

attorney John Theis said. "He has accepted responsibility." Theis told reporters later he had asked the judge for a specific sentence for Headley, but he declined to reveal the length, saying the request was made under seal.

Before the sentence was handed down, a victim of the terror attack told the judge how surprised she was by the youth of the terrorists who stormed into a hotel's first-floor cafe while she was eating there.

Linda Ragsdale, a Nashville woman who was shot in the back during the 2008 rampage, recalled wondering how a man as young as her son could kill innocent people. Holding back tears, Ragsdale described a barrage of bullets so intense that "waves of heat clouded" her vision.

"I know what a bullet could do to every part of the human body," Ragsdale said. "I know the sound of life leaving a 13-year-old child. These are things I never needed to know, never needed to experience."

Ragsdale also read from a statement written by a woman whose husband and daughter were killed at the Oberoi Hotel who said it would be an "appalling dishonor" if Headley was sentenced to the 30 to 35 years in prison recommended by federal prosecutors. But former U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, making a surprise appearance at the sentencing hearing, told Leinenweber he should consider the "unusual nature" of Headley's cooperation even though Headley was involved in a "very, very heinous crime."

On the night of his arrest at O'Hare International Airport, Headley "freely admitted" his

role in the Mumbai massacre within half an hour of being given his Miranda rights, Fitzgerald said.

Headley, 52, appearing amid heightened security in Leinenweber's courtroom, faced up to life in prison. He pleaded guilty to scouting out sites to be targeted in the terrorist attack that killed more than 160 people – including six Americans – in India's largest city. He also admitted playing a similar role in an aborted plot to storm a Danish newspaper and behead staffers in retaliation for printing a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad.

Federal prosecutors have cited Headley's extraordinary cooperation for seeking a sentence of 30 to 35 years in prison.

Headley, who was arrested at O'Hare as he prepared to fly overseas, detailed the inner-workings of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistani terror organization that planned the Mumbai attacks. His information led to charges against seven terrorist figures, including his childhood friend from a Pakistani school, Tahawwur Rana, a former Chicago businessman.

Headley was the key witness at the trial of Rana, who was convicted of aiding the Denmark plot and providing support to Lashkar. Judge Leinenweber sentenced him last week to 14 years in prison, about half what prosecutors sought.

Headley, an American citizen of Pakistani descent, came to the United States at age 17 and was twice convicted of drug smuggling in the late 1980s. He later agreed to work as an informant for the DEA. Headley also re-



vealed during testimony at Rana's trial that there was an overlap between his work for the DEA and his early days with Lashkar. Headley became involved with Lashkar, a radical group that opposes Indian rule in divided Kashmir, around 2000, attending training camps between 2002 and 2005. He had moved to Chicago by 2009 and reconnected with Rana.

Though embraced by Rana's family, Headley lived a very different life that included multiple wives and apparently indoctrinating even his children with his ideologies. His 5-year-old son once dropped to the ground in a Chicago park and pretended to fire a weapon after a soccer coach yelled "shoot, shoot!" to him during a game, Headley testified at Rana's trial.

The charges against Headley and Rana likely represented the most significant terrorism case brought during Fitzgerald's nearly 11 years as Chicago's chief federal prosecutor. Bomb-sniffing dogs checked the coats and bags of all the spectators entering Leinenweber's courtroom today. At one point, more than 100 people had lined up to attend the sentencing.

Towards practical, high-capacity, low-maintenance information storage in synthesized DNA

D.S. Rajput

Digital production, transmission and storage have revolutionized how we access and use information but have also made archiving an increasingly complex task that requires active, continuing maintenance of digital media. This challenge has focused some interest on DNA as an attractive target for information storage because of its capacity for high-density information encoding, longevity under easily achieved conditions and proven track record as an information bearer. Previous DNA-based information storage approaches have encoded only trivial amounts of information or were not amenable to scaling-up, and used no robust error-correction and lacked examination of their cost-efficiency for large-scale information archival. Here we describe a scalable method that can reliably store more information than has been handled before. We encoded computer files totalling 739 kilobytes of hard-disk storage and with an estimated Shannon information of 5.2×10^6 bits into a DNA code, synthesized this DNA, sequenced it and reconstructed the original files with 100% accuracy. Theoretical analysis indicates that our DNA-based storage scheme could be scaled far beyond current global information volumes and offers a realistic technology for large-scale, long-term and infrequently accessed digital archiving. In fact, current trends in technological advances are reducing DNA synthesis costs at a pace that should make our scheme cost-effective for sub-50-year archiving within a decade.

DNA, which provides the genetic code for everything from bacteria to blue whales, is composed of combinations of just four units, or bases. Floyd Romesberg, a chemist at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, along with his team of researchers has recently successfully created two artificial DNA bases, dubbed alpha and beta, respectively. They hope to expand biology's potential by adding more bases to the preexisting mix. These new bases can be replicated using standard laboratory techniques and this new expanding of the blueprint of life could yield cheaper drugs and new nanomachines.

This is a landmark first step toward synthesizing exotic genetic material that reacts with a broader spectrum of elements than real DNA does. One of many possible uses for these new bases could be in DNA bar codes. Nature can't alter codes made entirely of alpha and beta, so these super-specific labels could be used to track products on their journey from the factory to the cash register.

In the future, Romesberg envisions manipulating the genetic code of bacteria in order to assemble better drugs or even man-made proteins. Until now, the bases only work in bacteria, so human augmentation is currently not possible. Another option is to use alpha and beta to help construct nanomachines to be used for drug delivery. "This is like jumping from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age," Romesberg says. "It takes time to figure out how best to use metal."

Mali conflict

S.S. Rajput

Since 16 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 2012. On 22 March 2012, 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. Mutinous 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 2012, after the capture of Douentza, the MNLA said that it had accomplished its goals and called off its offensive. The following day, it proclaimed Azawad's independence from Mali.

The MNLA were initially backed by the Islamist group Ansar Dine. After the Malian military were driven from Azawad, Ansar Dine and a number of smaller Islamist groups began imposing strict Sharia law. The MNLA and Islamists struggled to reconcile their conflicting visions for an intended new state.[76] Afterwards, the MNLA began fighting against Ansar Dine and other Islamist groups, including Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA/MUJAO), a splinter group of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. By 17 July 2012, the MNLA had lost control of most 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".

In the early 1990s Tuareg and Arab nomads formed the Mouvement Populaire de l'Azawad/Azawad People's Movement (MPA) and declared war for independence of Azawad. Despite peace agreements with the government of Mali in 1991 and 1995 a growing dissatisfaction among the former Tuareg fighters, who had been integrated into the Military of Mali, led to new fighting in 2007. Despite historically having difficulty maintaining alliances between secular and Islamist factions the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad allied itself with the Islamist groups Ansar Dine and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and began the 2012 Northern Mali conflict.

The MNLA was an offshoot of a political movement known as the National Movement for Azawad (MNA) prior to the insurgency. After the end of the Libyan civil war, an influx of weaponry led to the arming of the Tuareg in their demand for independence for the Azawad. The strength of this uprising and the use of heavy weapons, which were not present in the previous conflicts, were said to have "surprised" Malian officials and observers.

Though dominated by Tuaregs, the MNLA stated that they represented other ethnic groups as well, and were reportedly joined by some Arab leaders. The MNLA's leader Bilal Ag Achérif said that the onus was on Mali to either give the Saharan peoples their self-determination or they would take it themselves.

Another Tuareg-dominated group, the Islamist Ansar Dine (Defenders of Faith), initially fought alongside the MNLA against the government. Unlike the MNLA, it did not seek independence but rather the imposition of Islamic law (Sharia) across Mali. The movement's leader Iyad Ag Ghaly was part of the early 1990s rebellion and has been reported to be linked to an offshoot of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) that is led by his cousin Hamada Ag Hama as well as Algeria's Département du Renseignement et de la Sécurité (DRS).



EDITORIAL

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3rd National Voters' Day Celebrated Across the Country

The Election Commission of India celebrated the 3rd National Voters' Day across the country today. The theme for the 3rd NVD is 'Inclusion'.

NVD functions were held at more than 6.5 lakh locations across the country covering nearly all 8.5 lakh Polling Stations. Around 46,000 Educational Institutions also celebrated National Voters' Day. Around 4,867 Youth Voter Festivals have been held across the states to engage youth in the registration process.

The National Function to mark the 3rd National Voters' Day was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble Vice President, Shri M Hamid Ansari who was the Chief Guest, gave away the National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices. The Award comprises three awards for District Election officers and Superintendent of Police of district and one Special Award for Officers outside the district machinery. Best State Awards for 2012 was also given away to Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Media Awards for the Best Campaign on Voter Education and Awareness was also given away.

The Chief Guest also gave EPIC (Voter ID card) to 10 new voters of Delhi (those who attained the age of 18 years – with 1st January every year as the qualifying date) and a badge with the slogan "Proud to be a Voter – Ready to Vote". The Vice President also administered the NVD pledge to all present in the function.

In his Keynote address, Shri Hamid Ansari commended the commission for its systematic and sustained programme for voters' participation which has given visible results. He further added that a lot more needs to be done to make people's participation complete. He appreciated the Commission's initiative in sharing its skills and expertise with other democratic countries through IIIDEM.

Chief Election Commissioner, Shri V S Sampath congratulated the election machinery for the new enrolment of about 2.32 crore citizens in the recently concluded roll revision which included around 93 lakh newly eligible electors in the 18-19 yr age group. With this, he said, the country's electorate now stands at 77.78 crore. He also pointed to the record turnout of voters particularly of women, in the recent general elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh through concerted efforts of all, including Central and State Govt departments, educational institutions, civil society, corporate sector and the media. Shri Sampath welcomed Olympics medallists Ms Saina Nehwal and Ms Mary Kom as the Commission's new national icons on voter participation.

Speaking at the function, Dr Ashwini Kumar, Minister of Law and Justice pointed out that voter participation is the key in electoral democracy and lauded the Election Commission for paying serious attention to this. He underlined ECI's role in reinforcing Indian democracy also for setting an example in the whole world. He assured the Commission all support necessary for management of elections particularly in the area of electoral reforms.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Election Commissioner Shri H S Brahma said that the NVD is now the flagship programme of the Election Commission of India not only in terms of the large-scale empowerment of citizens through enrolment but also for the country-wide undertaken for spreading voter education and awareness.

Introducing the National Awards, Election Commissioner Dr Nasim Zaidi, said that the objective of the awards was to encourage innovation, efficiency and contribution in the exclusive field of election management.

25th January is also the foundation day of the Commission, which came into being on this day in 1950. The Commission's objective through NVD is to increase enrolment of voters, especially of the newly eligible ones, to make universal adult suffrage a complete reality. The National Voters' Day is also utilized to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process.

NATIONAL AWARDS 2012

- A. NATIONAL AWARDS FOR BEST ELECTORAL PRACTICES
- First Award jointly to Ms Kamini Chauhan Ratan, DEO Bulandshahr, UP and Shri Surendra Singh, DEO Firozabad, UP
- Second Award jointly to Ms Avantika Aulakh, DEO Bharuch, Gujarat & Shri Pravin Bakshi, DEO West Garo Hills, Meghalaya
- Third Award jointly to Ms Jayshri Kiyawat, DEO Jhabua, MP & Shri Ram Krishna Bhardwaj, SP Barabanki, UP
- Special Award to Shri Ajit K Shrivastava, Addl Commissioner of Income Tax, Ranchi, Jharkhand
- Best State Award to Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; Chief Electoral officers to receive the Award
- B. NATIONAL MEDIA AWARDS
- National Media Award for the Campaign on Voters' Education and Awareness to Zee News
- Special Media Award for the Campaign on Voters' Education and Awareness to Amar Ujala

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CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ

1. Which one of the following companies became the first major online retailer to offer cloud-based media storage and streaming to unlimited web or Android devices with a free basic plan?

- a. Amazon
- b. Roamans
- c. LL BeAN
- d. vita Coast

Answer: (a)

2. State-owned carrier Air India announced on 29 March 2011 that it completed the first milestone of its modernisation process with the migration of Air India and Indian Airlines to SITA's Horizon Passenger Service System (PSS). When did Air India sign contract with SITA for the same?

- a. January 2011
- b. March 2010
- c. October 2009
- d. April 2010

Answer: (d)

3. NYSE listed US-based International Paper decided to buy up to 75% stake in which of the following for up to \$423 million, in the first significant domestic acquisition by a foreign paper company?

- a. Abhinav Publications
- b. Vinod Paper House
- c. Ananda Paper House
- d. AP Paper Mills

Answer: (d)

4. Sistema Shyam Teleservices issued over 54.73-crore equity shares to which of the following governments at 17.14 per cent stake against \$600 million received in December 2010 on 30 March 2011?

- a. Italian government
- b. US government
- c. Russian government
- d. Philippines government

Answer: (c)

5. According to the tiger Census 2010, the number of tigers in India increased from 1411 to ____.

- a) 1706
- b) 1672
- c) 1511
- d) 1611

Answer: (a)

6. Which one of the following statements on tiger Census 2010 in India is NOT correct?

- a) The number of tigers in India increased from 1411 in 2006 to 1706 in 2010.
- b) The tiger census 2010 was unveiled by the Union Home Ministry.
- c) The tiger occupancy areas decreased from 93600 sq. km to areas of 72800sq.km.
- d) In the Sunderbans, the tiger Census took place for the first time.

Answer: (b)

7. In tiger census 2010,

i) Pugmarks were used as the only indicator of tiger numbers.

ii) An advanced Scientific process was adopted which included video trapping and use of satellite data.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

Choose the right option:

- a) Only i is incorrect
- b) Only ii is incorrect
- c) Both i and ii are incorrect
- d) Both i and ii are not incorrect

Answer: (a)

8. In the Sunderbans, the tiger Census took place for the first time. In which one of the following states of India Sunderbans is located?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Orissa
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (a)

9. Scientists, at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute UK, for the first time identified genetic mutations that lead to the development of acute myeloid leukaemia. Acute myeloid leukaemia is a cancer of the ____.

- a) White Blood Cells (WBC)
- b) Red blood Cells (RBC)
- c) Liver Cells
- d) Stem Cells

Answer: (a)

10. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper resigned after a no-confidence vote was passed by 156-145 vote against him in the Canadian Parliament on 25 March 2011. He belongs to which one of the following political parties?

- a) Conservative Party
- b) Liberal Party
- c) Congress Party
- d) Democratic Party

Answer: (a) Conservative Party

11. Which of the following statements regarding the outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada are/is correct?

- i) He is the 22nd Prime Minister of Canada.
- ii) He was sworn as Prime Minister of Canada on 6 February 2006.

Choose the right option:

- a) Both i and ii are correct.
- b) Both i and ii are incorrect.
- c) Only i is correct.
- d) Only ii is correct.

Answer: (a)

12. Latikia, witnessed the mass unrest against the ruling President Bashar al-Assad on 25-26 March 2011. Where the place Latikia is located?

- a) Syria
- b) Egypt
- c) Yemen
- d) Pakistan

Answer: (a)

13. Latikia, witnessed the mass unrest against the ruling President Bashar al-Assad on 25-26 March 2011. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- i) Bashar al-Assad is the President of Egypt
- ii) Latikia is in Syria

- a) Both the statements are incorrect
- b) Only i is incorrect
- c) Only ii is incorrect
- d) Both the statements are not incorrect

Answer: (b)

14. The Rajya Sabha, the upper House in Indian Parliament, on 24 March 2011 passed the bill ____ changing the name of Orissa to Odisha.

- a) Orissa (the Alteration of Name) Bill, 2010
- b) Odisha(the Alteration of Name) Bill,2011
- c) Orissa (the Alteration of Name) Bill, 2011
- d) Odisha(the Alteration of Name) Bill, 2010

Answer: (a)

15. Earth quake of 6.8 magnitude struck Myanmar's borders with Thailand and Laos, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) from the northern Thai city of Chiang Rai on 24 March 2011. What was the magnitude of the quake?

- a. 6
- b. 6.3
- c. 6.8
- d. 7.6

Answer: (c)

16. The Shunglu Committee set up to probe corruption in organising the Commonwealth Games (CWG) on 23 March 2011 submitted its second report to the Cabinet Secretary. Which private developer was indicted in the second report?

- a. Emaar MGF
- b. Royale Builders and Developers
- c. Green Field Real Estate
- d. DLF

Answer: (a)

17. The World Meteorological Organization with its 189 Members and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day every year on 23 March. When was the WMO Convention convened for the first time with the purpose of setting up the World Meteorological Organization?

- a. 1947
- b. 149
- c. 150
- d. 1956

Answer: (d)

18. To how many village panchayats was the Nirmal Gram Puraskar awarded by President Pratibha Patil on 23 March 2011?

- a. 1543
- b. 2808
- c. 29
- d. 166

Answer: (b)

19. The Indian government on 24 March 2011 constituted 11member Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC) to examine the means of oversight on regulators and their autonomy from the government. Who will head the committee?

- a. Retired Supreme Court Justice BN Srikrishna
- b. former PFRDA Chairman D Swarup
- c. RBI Governor Dr. D. Subbarao
- d. PMEAC member M Govinda Rao

Answer: (a)

20. On which of the following freedom fighters was a commemorative postage stamp released by the Indian President Pratibha Patil on 24 March 2011?

- a. Padmaja Naidu
- b. Padmaja Naidu
- c. Sucheta Kriplani
- d. Subhadra Joshi

Answer: (d)

21. Which of the following radio stations was awarded the Most Successful Radio Channel of the Year at the FICCI Frames Excellence Awards 2011 was given out on 25 March 2011?

- a. Radio Mirchi (98.3)
- b. Big FM (92.7)
- c. Red FM (93.5)
- d. Radio One (95)

Answer: (a)

22. Read the following statement with reference to renowned dancer Leela Samson.

- 1. Leela Samson was appointed chairperson of the Central Board for Film Certification on 28 March 2011 by Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
- 2. Leela Samson is a renowned Kathakali dancer of India.
- 3. Leela Samson won the prestigious Bharat Ratna award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the art of dance in 1990.
- 4. Two documentary films were made on her work namely- Sanchari and The Flowering Tree.

Which of the above mentioned statements is/are false?

- a. 2 & 4
- b. 3 & 4
- c. 2 & 3
- d. Only 4

Answer: (c)

23. Nisha P. Rajagopal has been chosen as the first recipient of 'The Hindu Saregama M.S. Subbulakshmi Award instituted on 16 September 2010. To which of the following type of music is she famous for?

- a. Carnatic
- b. Hindusthani classical
- c. Haryanavi Music
- d. Ganasangeet

Answer: (a)

24. A team of Scientists led by Takehiko at Yokohama City University grew sperms in a test-tube. Consider the following statements regarding the scientific breakthrough.

i) Sperms were grown in a Test-tube for the first time.

ii) The Scientific breakthrough could help millions of infertile men to attain parenthood.

Now choose the right option:

- a) Both i and ii statements are correct
- b) Only i is correct
- c) Only ii is correct
- d) Both I and ii statements are wrong

Answer: (a)

25. The Union ministry of Environment and Forests, recently asked state governments to declare bamboo as a minor forest produce to address livelihood issues of forest dwellers and tribals. Bamboo is a ____.

- a) Grass
- b) Tree
- c) Plant
- d) Wood

Answer: (a)

26. The Union Cabinet of India, on 22 March 2011, approved the amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The amendment to the Indian Forest Act raised the limit to which fines for relatively minor offences can be compounded from 50 rupees to _ rupees.

- a) 9000 rupees
- b) 10000 rupees
- c) 11000 rupees
- d) 12000 rupees

Answer: (b)

27. Earthquake in Myanmar measured at magnitude 6.8 killed 73 people and injured 111 people on 25 March 2011. The strength of an earthquake can be measured by a device called ____.

- a) Seismograph
- b) Barometer
- c) Algometer
- d) Thermometer

Answer: (a)

28. Somdev Devvarman was defeated by which of the following ace tennis players at the quarter finals of the Indian Wells Masters in Californiain in two close sets 5-7 4-6 in March 2011?

- a. Cypriot Marcos
- b. Robin Soderling
- c. Rafael Nadal
- d. Andy Murray

Answer: (c)

29. World No. 4 India's Saina Nehwal won the Swiss Grand Prix 2011 by defeating Ji Hyun Sung of South Korea 21-13, 21-14. She had earlier defeated the South Korean badminton player in which of the following tournaments?

- a. Swiss Grand Prix 2011
- b. Indonesia Open Super Series in 2010
- c. All England Open Badminton Championships 2010
- d. Irish Open

Answer: (b)

30. Who defeated Spanish ace tennis player and World No 1 Rafael Nadal 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 on 20 March 2011 to win the ATP Indian Wells title?

- a. Novak Djokovic
- b. Robin Sderling
- c. Andy Murray
- d. Andy Roddick

Answer: (a)

31. Which of the following football clubs got back on track with a 2-0 win against Arsenal in the FA Cup quarterfinals at Old Trafford on 12 March 2011?

- a. Manchester United
- b. Chelsea
- c. Real Madrid
- d. Liverpool

Answer: (a)

32. Which of the following teams did Pakistan defeat in the Quarter final of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 to reach the semi finals?

- a. India
- b. New Zealand
- c. West Indies
- d. Australia

Answer: (c)

33. According to the latest WTA list, Sania Mirza broke back into the top-100 in the singles list with a jump of eight places. What is Sania Mirza's current position in the singles list?

- a. 95
- b. 90
- c. 99
- d. 75

Answer: (c)

34. Which Indian cricketer was declared the man of the match in the ICC World Cup Quarter final match between India and Australia in Ahmadabad on 24 March 2011?

- a. M S Dhoni
- b. Suresh Raina

<p>c. Yuvraj Singh d. Yusuf Pathan Answer: (c)</p> <p>35. Based on the recommendations of FIPB the Indian Government on 23 March 2011 approved 14 Foreign Direct Investment proposals and 27 proposals. What is the total worth of the FDI proposals accepted by the government? a. Rs 1289 crore b. Rs 1500 crore c. Rs 1342 crore d. Rs 1100 crore Answer: (a)</p> <p>36. The finance ministry has opposed the Reserve Bank of India's suggestion to restrict foreign direct investment in new banks. RBI had restricted foreign direct investment in new banks to what percentage? a. 43% b. 43.22% c. 45.7% d. 49% Answer: (d)</p> <p>37. Consider the following statements- 1. CAG in March 2011 sent a questionnaire consisting 40 questions to the telecom ministry on 2G spectrum allocation scam and other developments in the sector. 2. The department of telecom (DoT) was asked as to why the spectrum (radio waves) allocation was not delinked from the licence as it was known that spectrum was scarce vis-a-vis the demand. 3. The Parliamentary panel wanted to know whether DoT consulted telecom regulator TRAI regarding the "No Cap" recommendation on number of operators in a circle. 4. The loss incurred by the exchequer as a result of the 2G scam is estimated to be Rs 185379 crore Which of the above mentioned statements related to the 2G scam is true? a. All of the above statements b. 1 & 4 c. 2 & 3 d. 2 & 4 Answer: (c)</p> <p>38. Which of the following bodies ordered restriction on transmitting unauthenticated news by brokers and wealth managers on blogs and mobile phones in an effort to prevent stock manipulation through rumours? a. RBI b. IRDA c. FIPB d. SEBI Answer: (d)</p> <p>39. Which of the following bodies put off indefinitely the new rules governing unwanted telemarketing calls which were supposed to be implemented from 21 March 2011? a. Department of Telecommunication (DoT) b. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) c. Indian Ministry of communication & Technology d. HRD Ministry Answer: (b)</p> <p>40. The Indian government in March 2011 conferred the Miniratna status on which of the following PSUs? a. National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) b. Air India Charters Ltd c. Cement Corporation of India d. HMT Machine Tools Ltd Answer: (a)</p> <p>41. Gilead Sciences, a California based bio-pharmaceutical research firm, and its patent partner, Roche Holding AG, have sued which of the following Indian generic drug makers in March 2011 for allegedly infringing a US patent for Tamiflu, a drug used in treatment of bird and swine-flu infections? a. Dr Reddy's b. Natco Pharma c. Ranbaxy Laboratories d. GlaxoSmithKline Answer: (b)</p> <p>42. AT&T on Sunday announced that it had agreed to buy T-Mobile USA from which of the following telecom companies for \$39 billion? a. Deutsche Telekom b. Sprint Nextel c. Verizon Wireless d. Comcast Answer: (a)</p> <p>43. A consortium comprising two companies acquired the IPL's global Internet, mobile and audio rights, along with television rights in specific territories outside India, for the next four years. The consortium bagged the rights with a winning bid of Rs 261.6 crore in Chennai on 20 March 2011. Which are the two companies included in the consortium? a. TIL & Nimbus Communication b. Reliance Big Pictures & Zoom c. TIL & Colors d. Zoom and UTV Motion Pictures Answer: (a)</p> <p>44. HCL Technologies on Thursday announced the expansion of its Smart Grid partner ecosystem by entering into strategic alliances with two data management software firms focused on the smart grid market. Which are the two firms with which HCL has entered into an alliance? 1. Infosys 2. eMeter 3. Cape Gemini 4. Tridium a. 1 & 2 b. 2 & 3 c. 2 & 4 d. 1 & 4 Answer: (c)</p>	<p>45. In India's first sale of rupee perpetual bonds by a non-finance company Rs 1500 crore (\$332 million) was raised. Name the non-finance company. a. Tata Steel b. Pantalons Retail c. RIL d. Maruti Suzuki Answer: (a)</p> <p>46. Online marketplace eBay India, in association with leading apparel brand Reebok auctioned a bat autographed by Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni. The proceeds of the auction will go to which of the following NGOs? a. Oxfem b. CRY c. All Bengal Women's Union d. UNEM Answer: (b)</p> <p>47. Who did HDFC Bank, the country's second-largest private sector lender appoint in March 2011 to head its investment banking division? a. Rakesh Singh b. Charul Madan c. Gaurav Khungar d. Atul Singh Answer: (a)</p> <p>48. Read the following statements with regard to a veteran Bollywood actor. 1. The actor was first introduced in Bollywood movies by actor-filmmaker Sanjay Khan in the film Abdullah. 2. He essayed the role of villain in more than 200 films. 3. He was seen in movies like Kaalia, Mard, Nastik, Qurbani, Mr India etc 4. The actor's biography, Flashback: My Times in Bollywood and Beyond, was to be released by Akshay Kumar in June 2011. 5. He died at the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology in Bangalore on 20 March 2011. Identify the actor being referred to. a. Bob Christo b. Amjad Khan c. Sadashiv Amrapurkar d. Milind Gunaji Answer: (a)</p> <p>49. Former Israeli president Moshe Katsav was on 22 March 2011 sentenced to seven years in jail after being convicted for rape. To which of the following parties does he belong to? a. Kadima b. Likud c. United Torah Judaism d. Labor Party Answer: (b)</p> <p>50. The prime minister has constituted a committee to suggest rules and regulations for government procurement based on global best practices though India is a not a member of the GPA. What is the full form of GPA? a. Government's People Act b. Government Procurement Act c. Governmental Public Association d. Government for Procurement Agency Answer: (b)</p> <p>51. A weeklong exhibition of handloom and handicrafts, Bihar Utsav-2011 was organised by the Bihar Government in March 2011 to commemorate Bihar's Foundation Day. When was the modern State of Bihar carved out of Bengal Presidency? a. 22 March 1912 b. 2 March 1913 c. 31 March 1913 d. 7 March 1912 Answer: (a)</p> <p>52. A short film, Eclipse In Taregna which is about 2009 solar eclipse in Targena, a small hamlet in Bihar won the Founder's Choice Award at which of the following international film festivals in March 2011? a. India International Film Festival b. Tampa Bay c. Queens World Film Festival d. New York Indian Film Festival Answer: (c)</p> <p>53. Which one of the following social activist declared in March 2011 that he would sit on a fast on 5 April 2011 in Delhi in support of the introduction of Lokpal Bill to check corruption? a. Anna Hazare b. Medha Patkar c. Aruna Roy d. Bhaurao Patil Answer: (a)</p> <p>54. British Scientists discovered a cholesterol regulating protein which plays an important role in the formation of thrombosis a kind of blood clot that can result into heart attacks and strokes. What is the name of that protein? a) LXR b) LRX c) XRL d) LLL Answer: (a)</p> <p>55. A report by the Climate Group, named India's Clean Revolution, published on 18 March 2011 revealed that the market for low carbon goods and services in India could reach 135 billion US dollars by the year____. a) 2020 b) 2015 c) 2017 d) 2018 Answer: (a) 2020</p> <p>56. A New Technology Called High Tibial Osteotomy was developed in India to cure which one of the followings? a) Cancer</p>	<p>b) TB c) Knee Problems d) Skin Cancer Answer: (c) Knee Problems</p> <p>57. Scientists from which one of the following countries created a herd of more than 200 cows that is capable of producing milk similar to that of humans? a) China b) India c) USA d) UK Answer: (a) China</p> <p>58. A study of the conservation needs of the Kimberley region showed that dozens of mammals, lizards, birds and other vertebrates are endangered because of hunting by feral cats and destruction of their habitat by wild donkeys and fires. In which one of the following countries Kimberley region is located? a) USA b) Australia c) France d)Canada Answer: (b) Australia</p> <p>59. Chennai-based two-wheeler maker TVS Motor Company launched its premium Apache RTR 180 bike on 11 March 2011. Which unique technology does the bike boast of? a. Special cooling technology b. anti-lock braking system technology c. petrol control technology d. shock absorb technology Answer: (b)</p> <p>60. TPG and the Shriram Group will take over which one of the following retail chains through a joint venture subsidiary of the two companies- TPG Wholesale Private Limited? a. Vishal Retail b. Arvind Brands c. Classic Fashions d. Heritage Foods (India) Ltd Answer: (a)</p> <p>61. Nippon Life in March 2011 agreed to pick up what percentage of shares in Reliance Life Insurance for Rs 3602 crore marking the single largest foreign direct investment in the insurance sector and the first M&A transaction after IRDA capped life insurance charges in October 2010? a. 22.3% b. 24% c. 25.6% d. 26% Answer: (d)</p> <p>62. India's largest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd rolled out its 10 millionth car on 15 March 2011. Which car was Maruti Suzuki's 10 millionth car? a. blue Wagon-R b. red Maruti Omni c. red Swift Dezire d. black Ritz Answer: (a)</p> <p>63. IT hardware firm HCL Infosystems announced on 17 March 2011 that it bagged an order worth Rs 300 crore from which of the following to deploy Wideband CDMA-based portable wireless network? a. Indian Navy b. Indian Air Force c. DRDO d. Indian Army Answer: (b)</p> <p>64. Hindustan Unilever's toothpaste brand Close Up tied up with which of the following gaming portals for the Close Up's new variant Fire-Freeze? a. in5ane.com b. addictinggames.com c. 123kidzarea.com d. Zapak.com Answer: (d)</p> <p>65. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor the process of their release of 53 Indians on five hijacked ships being kept hostage in Somalia was decided to set up. Name the Cabinet Committee which in its meeting on 11 March 2011 decided to set up the IMG. a. Cabinet Committee on Foreign Relations b. Defence Committee of the Cabinet c. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs d. Cabinet Committee on Security Answer: (d)</p> <p>66. Which of the following missiles was not test-fired on 11 March 2011 by India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) establishing readiness of India's nuclear deterrence systems? 1. Dhanush 2. Agni-IV 3. Prithvi-II 4. Ballistic Air Defence Missile System a. 1 & 3 b. 2 & 4 c. 1 & 2 d. 3 & 4 Answer: (b)</p> <p>67. A devastating earthquake struck Japan on 11 March 2011 shaking buildings in a large swath of the country and giving rise to a 30 foot tsunami. What was the magnitude of the earthquake that hit Japan? a. 8 b. 8.3 c. 8.9 d. 9.1 Answer: (c)</p>
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68. Japan declared states of emergency for five nuclear reactors at two power plants after the units lost cooling ability in the aftermath of the powerful earthquake that struck on 11 March 2011. Which are the two nuclear plants where Japan declared a state of emergency following the earthquake?

- 1. Fukushima Daini site
- 2. Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant
- 3. Kushima Nuclear Power Plant
- 4. Ashihama Nuclear Power Plant

- a. 1 & 3
- b. 2 & 4
- c. 1 & 2
- d. 2 & 3

Answer: (c)

69. Which Indian river-island was nominated by the Indian government to be included in the cultural landscape category of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage list?

- a. Majuli
- b. Dhakuwakhana
- c. Nimati Ghat
- d. North Lakhimpur

Answer: (a)

70. Who among the following list of journalists was on 15 March 2011 conferred the Chameli Devi Jain award 2010 for an outstanding woman media person?

- a. Shahina K K
- b. Shireen Bhan
- c. Prabha Dutt
- d. Bachhi Karkaria

Answer: (a)

71. Bollywood's own Razzies, the annual Golden Kela Awards named which actor was selected as the worst actor for his role in a film released in 2010?

- a. Salman Khan for Veer
- b. Shah Rukh Khan for My Name is Khan
- c. Imran Khan for I Hate Love Stories
- d. Hrithik Roshan for Guzaarish

Answer: (b)

72. Mauritius has conferred one of his highest honours, Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean, on which of the following presidents?

- a. Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed
- b. Indian President Pratibha Patil
- c. US President barack Obama
- d. French President Nicolas Sarkozy

Answer: (a)

73. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest report on trends in the international arms trade on 14 March 2011. According to the report which country has been the world's biggest weapons importer over the past five years?

- a. China
- b. India
- c. South Korea
- d. Pakistan

Answer: (b)

74. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest report on trends in the international arms trade on 14 March 2011. When did SIPRI come into being?

- a. 1960
- b. 1966
- c. 1970
- d. 1983

Answer: (b)

75. Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 11 March 2011 announced in Lok Sabha an increase in the allocation under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme from Rs.2 crore to Rs.5 crore per Member. When was the MPLAD scheme introduced?

- a. 1990
- b. 1991
- c. 1992
- d. 1993

Answer: (d)

76. Union Minister of Finance Pranab Mukherjee declared in the Lok Sabha on 11 March 2011 the extension of the existing Interest Subvention Scheme of providing short term loans to farmers at 7% interest with additional interest subvention for timely repayment to which of the following group?

- a. Small scale entrepreneurs
- b. Cottage industries & handicraft professionals
- c. Fishermen
- d. Horticulturists

Answer: (c)

77. Indian agriculture needs Rs 108000 crore to fight climate change in the next five years to ensure food for all at a reasonable price by 2020. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture is implemented under which of the following?

- a. NABARD
- b. Bharat Nirman
- c. Prime Minister's National Action Plan on Climate Change
- d. Accelerated Fodder Development Programme

Answer: (c)

78. Read the following sentences with regard to NSIC.

- 1. National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) is a public sector undertaking under the ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).
- 2. NSIC was awarded the Mini Ratna status by the Indian Government on 3 March 2011.
- 3. NSIC has a marked presence both in the service as well as the manufacturing sectors.
- 4. NSIC acts as a facilitator to promote small industries through various user-friendly and demand-driven schemes

Which of the following sentence/sentences is/are not true with regards to NSIC?

- a. Only 3
- b. 1 & 3
- c. Only 2
- d. 2 & 4

Answer: (a)

79. In February 2011 imports rose to \$31.70 billion, up 21.2 per cent over the same period in 2010 while exports rose 49.8 per cent to \$23.60 billion. What was the trade deficit in February 2011?

- a. (-)8.1 billion
- b. (-)8 billion
- c. (-)8.3 billion
- d. (-)8.8 billion

Answer: (a)

80. The Reserve of India on 17 March 2011 increased the interest rate at which it injects liquidity into the banking system by 25 basis points to 6.75 per cent (repo rate). It also revised its inflation projection for March-end 2011 from 7 % to _?

- a. 7.3
- b. 7.5
- c. 7.5
- d. 8

Answer: (d)

81. An international team of scientists, led by the Australian National University recently discovered evidence that the body's immune cells often share information about foreign substances with each other to ward off invaders. The study can help increase the immunity level in human body against pathogens and cancer. Which of the followings are the symptoms of Cancer?

- i) Weight Loss
- ii) Excessive Sweating
- iii) Lumps and Swelling (tumour)
- iv) Enlargement of Spleen

Please choose the correct option:

- a) i, ii, iii and iv
- b) i and ii only
- c) i, ii and iii only
- d) only i

Answer: (a)

82. According to an extensive genetic study on modern humans, two conclusions were drawn out.

- i) There is an enormous amount of diversity in the African hunter-gatherer populations.
- ii) The genetic diversity among 27 present-day African populations originated in southern Africa and progressed to northern Africa.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Both i and ii
- b) Neither I and ii
- c) Only i
- d) Only ii

Answer: (a)

83. A massive Tsunami caused by a devastating earthquake of the 8.9 magnitude hit about 400 km north-east of Tokyo, capital of Japan. Consider the following statements regarding Tsunami.

- i) A Tsunami is a series of ocean waves that sends surges of water, reaching heights of over 100 feet onto land.
- ii) Most tsunamis, about 80 percent, happen within the Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire, a geologically active area where tectonic shifts make earthquakes and volcanoes common.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Both i and ii
- b) Only i
- c) Only ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer: (a)

84. A massive Tsunami caused by a devastating earthquake of the 8.9 magnitude hit about 400 km north-east of Tokyo, capital of Japan. Where is the Pacific Tsunami Warning System headquartered?

- a) Hawai
- b) Tokyo
- c) Manila
- d) Jakarta

Answer: (a)

85. A massive Tsunami caused by a devastating earthquake of the 8.9 magnitude hit about 400 km north-east of Tokyo, capital of Japan. What are the possible factors which can cause Tsunami?

- i) An Earthquake
- ii) A landslide
- iii) A volcanic eruption or explosion
- iv) Impact by a meteorite

Please choose the right option

- a) i, ii, iii and iv
- b) i and ii only
- c) ii and iii only
- d) i and iv only

Answer: (a)

86. As per the official data released by TRAI on 9 March 2011, which state in MNP Zone-2 recorded the maximum number of request for mobile number portability by end of February 2011?

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Karnataka
- c. West Bengal
- d. Assam

Answer: (b)

87. The Enforcement Directorate has booked Pune-based real estate agent and stud farm owner Hasan Ali Khan under section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. When did PMLA come into existence?

- a. 2000
- b. 2002
- c. 2005
- d. 1999

Answer: (c)

88. The e-commerce portal of India Post, was launched by Union Minister Kapil Sibal on 9 March 2011 provide postal services online. Which among the following is the correct name of the portal?

- a. e-post office
- b. e-post service
- c. e-postal services
- d. India Post e-commerce

Answer: (a)

89. Steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal overtook Mukesh Ambani to become the wealthiest Indian as per the annual Forbes list of World Billionaires for 2011. What is Lakshmi Mittal's ranking

in the list?

- a. Fourth
- b. Sixth
- c. Ninth
- d. Eleventh

Answer: (b)

90. According to the Economic Survey of India 2010-11, Forex Reserves estimated at ___ US dollars.

- a) 297.3 billion US dollars
- b) 245.6 billion US dollars
- c) 285.4 billion US dollars
- d) 113.2 billion US dollars

Answer: (a)

91. Consider the following statements regarding the Economic Survey of India 2010-11.

- i) Agriculture likely to grow at 5.4% in 2010-11
- ii) Trade Gap narrowed to 82.01 billion US dollars in April-December 2010
- iii) 59% rise in Bank Credit

Please choose the right option:

- a) All the three statements i, ii and iii are correct ; b) only I and ii are correct
- b) All three statements are wrong ; d) only i) is correct

Answer: (a)

92. India's External debt stood at 295.8 billion US dollars at the end of September 2010, recording an increase of 33.5 billion US dollars over the level of end-March 2010. The rise in debt was largely due to

- i) Higher Commercial borrowings; ii) Short-term trade credits
- iii) Multilateral government borrowings

Please choose the right option:

- a) Only i b) only i and ii
- b) Only i and iii ; d) All I,ii and iii

Answer: (d)

93. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India's exports crossed the USD 200 billion mark in the first eleven months of the 2010-11 fiscal.
 - 2. The trade gap for the first 11 months of the financial year 2010-11 stood at USD 97.1 billion.
 - 3. African countries and Japan were the traditional markets for Indian exporters during the 2010-11.
 - 4. The current forecast for the 2011-12 is USD 230-235 billion.
- Which of the statement given above is not correct?

- a.1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d.4

Answer: (c)

94. Foreign Minister of Brazil Antonio Patriota, reached India for a five day visit on 5 March 2011 for the Bilateral and the IBSA Ministerial meetings. What was the major agreement signed between Indian & Brazil during this period?

- a. Air Services Agreement
- b. Agreement on disarmament & non-proliferation
- c. Bilateral trade and investment agreement
- d. Climate change agreement

Answer: (a)

95. Which of the following days in March is observed as the International Children Broadcasting Day?

- a. 6 March
- b. 7 March
- c. 9 March
- d. 13 March

Answer: (a)

96. Singapore on 5 March 2011 appointed Brigadier General Ravinder Singh as its next army chief. Who was the first ever Sikh and non-Chinese to take up the post of army chief of Singapore in 1982?

- a. Colonel Mancharan Singh Gill
- b. Hari Singh Nalwa
- c. Harchand Singh
- d. Nirmal Chandra Suri

Answer: (a)

97. Which one of the following states recently announced 2-year child care leave for its women employees?

- a) Bihar
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttarakhand

Answer: (d)

98. The Foreign Ministers of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and India attended the India-LCD Ministerial Conference on 18-19 February 2011. Where it was held?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Tripoli
- c) Thimpu
- d) Kathmandu

Answer: (a)

99. What was the theme of International Women's day in 2011?

- a) Equal Access to Education, Training and Science and Technology: Pathway to Decent Work for Women.
- b) Celebrating Women's Power
- c) Equality, Freedom and Unity
- d) Equal Opportunities for All

Answer: (a)

100. Illinois became ___th State of the United States to abolish the death penalty when its Governor Pat Quinn announced the decision on 9 March 2011?

- a) 15th
- b) 14th
- c) 16th
- d) 17th

Answer: (b)

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