

# DEVELOP INDIA

YEAR 5, VOL. 1, ISSUE 259, 21-28 JULY, 2013

ALLAHABAD

PAGE-8

English Weekly Newspaper

## Government issues fresh Egypt protest warning

**Egypt has been thrown into turmoil once again, after the army ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi a year after his election.**

During Islamist President Mohammed Morsi's first year in office, he fell out with key institutions and sectors of society, and was seen by many Egyptians as doing little to tackle economic and social problems.

Egypt became polarised between Mr Morsi's Islamist supporters and their opponents, who include leftists, liberals and secularists.

On 30 June 2013 millions took to the streets to mark the first anniversary of the president's inauguration, in a protest organised by the Tamarod (Revolt) movement.

The protests prompted the military to warn President Morsi on 1 July that it would intervene and impose its own "roadmap" if he did not satisfy the public's demands within 48 hours.

As the deadline approached, Mr Morsi insisted that he was Egypt's legitimate leader. He warned that any effort to remove him by force could plunge the country into chaos.

and firm" action if protesters overstepped their rights, as thousands of those protesters stood their ground at multiple demonstrations across the country.

The council called on protesters "not to exceed their rights to peaceful, responsible expression of their opinions", warning that they would face "decisive and firm decisions and actions in response to any violations".

The warning from the council, which includes interim president Adly Mansour, army chief General Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, the prime minister and interior minister, came in a statement published by state news agency MENA on Sunday, after the council met



protesters, the country's interim interior minister pledged to deal decisively with any attempts to destabilise the country.

"I assure the people of Egypt that the police are determined to maintain security and safety

to their nation and are capable of doing so," Mohamed Ibrahim told a graduation ceremony at the national police academy.

"We will very decisively deal with any attempt to undermine stability," said Ibrahim, who is in charge of the police. In an apparent show of support for the police, a smiling military chief, Abdel Fatah el Sisi, turned up at a graduation ceremony on Sunday broadcast live on state television, receiving a standing ovation from the recruits.

"By association, the police also got the same mandate. We've already seen them co-operating on the ground, and we've already heard they will be co-operating together in the coming days."

### Signs of dissent

However, in one of the first signs of doubt from within the interim cabinet installed after

the military takeover, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Ziad Bahaa El-Din said the government must not copy the "oppressive and exclusionary policies" of its foes.



However, late on 3 July the head of the armed forces, Gen Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, announced that the constitution had been suspended and that Chief Justice Adly Mansour would oversee an interim period with a technocratic government until presidential and parliamentary elections are held.

Several of Egypt's most influential figures gave their approval to the ousting of Mohammed Morsi. They included Egypt's highest Islamic authority the Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar, the head of the Christian Coptic Church, leading opposition figure Mohamed ElBaradei, and the hard-line Salafist Nour party.

Troops backed by armoured vehicles secured key sites in the capital, Cairo, as hundreds of thousands of opposition protesters and Mr Morsi's Islamic supporters took to the streets. Egypt's National Defence council has warned supporters of deposed president Mohamed Morsi that security forces would take "decisive

late on Saturday.

The council also called on Morsi loyalists gathered at two sites in Cairo to "immediately announce their clear and categorical rejection of violence in all forms, and the immediate cessation of violence, terrorism and the verbal and physical abuse of citizens".

The statement comes after 72 Morsi supporters were killed in violence at the Rabaa al-Adawiya protest site in Cairo early on Saturday.

The protesters accused security forces of using live ammunition against unarmed demonstrators, but the interior ministry said forces had fired only tear gas.

On Sunday, the interim presidency said it was "saddened" by the deaths but described Rabaa al-Adawiya as a "terror-originating spot" and said the bloodshed came in the "context of terrorism".

### Government issues warning

Earlier, in a thinly veiled warning to pro-Morsi

## Accord reached on Syria chemical weapons: UN

The United Nations has said it reached an agreement with Syria on an inquiry into the use of chemical weapons, but did not say UN inspectors would be allowed in. Two UN envoys went to Damascus on Tuesday and Wednesday and held talks with Syria's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, read a brief UN statement.

"The discussions were thorough and productive and led to an agreement on the way forward," added the statement, without giving any other detail. Ake Sellstrom, the chief inspector in the UN investigation team, and Angela Kane, the UN high representative for disarmament, were to report to UN leader Ban Ki-moon on the trip. Ban has demanded widespread access to investigate all allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the 28-month-old conflict.

Syria has insisted that the UN only investigate its claim that opposition rebels used chemical weapons in the town of Khan al-Assal on 19th March. The UN says it has received reports of 13 attacks in the conflict. Britain, France and the United States say all the attacks were carried out by President Bashar al-Assad's forces. Russia, Assad's main ally, says its inquiry found opposition rebels used sarin gas in Khan al-Assal.

## India, France discuss Rafale deal, Af-Pak situation

The over Rs 50,000 crore deal for supplying 126 Rafale combat aircraft and the security situation in the Af-Pak region are understood to have been discussed during the Defence Minister-level talks between India and France in New Delhi on Friday.

During the around 90-minute meeting between Defence Minister A K Antony and his visiting French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, the two sides are believed to have flagged the ongoing military hardware cooperation including the Rafale combat aircraft deal.

During the one-on-one meeting with Antony, Le Drian briefed the Indian side on the French white paper on defence and national security released April last year, officials said. They said such a briefing had earlier been held by France only for two countries - the United Kingdom and the US.

No contract will be signed by the two sides during this visit of the French Defence Minister, who had come to India with the French President in February this year.

The Rs 30,000-crore Maitri surface-to-air missile defence system is also understood to have been discussed at the meeting between the two sides. The 126 medium-multirole combat aircraft deal is the biggest focus of the two sides at the moment.

India has been treading cautiously on the contract, which would be the biggest-ever defence deal for the country in case it is signed. Both sides are keen to conclude the negotiations for the project at the earliest but the possibility of signing it by the end of this year looks bleak against the backdrop of a weak rupee and the complexity of the contract.

## India, China trying to dev mechanism to prevent face-offs: Antony

India and China are trying to develop effective mechanisms to prevent the embarrassing face-offs between their troops along the disputed points of the Line of Actual Control, Defence Minister A K Antony said. Terming the 21-day stand-off between the two sides in Dopsang valley in Daulat Beg Oldi area as an "unusual" incident, the Defence Minister said the two countries will meet soon in Beijing to discuss issues and try to find a solution for such "unpleasant incidents".

"Till the final settlement of the border issue, we are trying to find out more effective mechanisms to prevent occasional incidents. There are many points in the LAC that are disputed and they are patrolled by both sides. So, sometimes it leads to some face-off," he told reporters on the 14th anniversary of Kargil Friday. The Minister was asked about the Chinese troops' incursions by the Chinese troops the LAC in Ladakh and North-Ladakh. "There are disputed points there which sometimes situations," He said after the



Vijay Diwas in New Delhi on to comment on the rising into the Indian territory along eastern sectors. Antony said, where both sides are going causes some embarrassing

Dopsang incident in April, India and China had "free and frank" talks and "we are trying to have more border personnel meeting places and have more effective mechanisms to prevent such unpleasant incidents."

"On the one side, both sides are trying to find a long term solution to the long pending border dispute. Till that time, our aim is to maintain peace and tranquillity at the border," Antony said. On the recent third meeting of the Joint Working Group between the two sides, the Minister said free and frank discussions were held between both sides.

"We are going to have another round of this meeting in Beijing soon on this issue. So, I think we will be able to find out a solution to such unpleasant incidents on the border," he said.

In the recent past, there have been several incidents of incursions in Ladakh sector where Chinese troops have entered well within Indian side and stayed there for long hours before returning to their areas. In one such incident, Chinese troops had entered Chumar area in Ladakh on 16-17th July on horses and ponies and demanded that Indian troops leave the area staking claim over it. In the last two weeks, there have been at least five incursions in the area and around 150 incidents in the last seven months.

Meanwhile, commenting on the alleged "mistreatment" of armed forces personnel and the lack of accommodation for them, Antony said though the situation had improved in comparison with past but "a lot was still required to be done". "Under the married accommodation project, nearly 1.99 lakh houses are to be built for forces. Out of that, 50 per cent has been completed," he said. On the rank pay issue of the forces, the Defence Minister said the Government has referred it to the Attorney General for his "final advise" on the matter.



.....continue on page 2



.....continue from page 1

Is Egypt now prone to a new "holy war" fought by Islamists against the authorities?

Extremist minority

There are plenty of grounds for optimism that the Arab world's most populous country should be able to avoid a descent into wide-scale, fanatical, religiously-inspired violence following the ousting of President Mohammed Morsi last week.

Having lived there twice, for several years, I have experienced first-hand how good-natured, generous and mostly tolerant Egyptians can be.

There are extremists in their midst but they are in a minority. Their views, however noisily they are broadcast, do not represent the bulk of the population.

Egypt has also survived worse crises within living memory: the assassination of its president by a jihadist cell in 1981 and an Islamist insurgency that killed more than 700 people in the late 1990s, culminating in the massacre of 58 foreign tourists at Luxor in 1997.

But given the unhappy confluence of events and trends surfacing in Egypt this week, it would be unwise to ignore the seeds of a potential holy war now being sown.

Religious clashes

Nearly 10% of Egypt's population are Coptic Christians.

Egyptian Coptic Christians mourn for a man killed in clashes in April 2013 (24 May 2013) There were clashes between Christians and Muslims in Egypt during Mr Morsi's rule

Mostly, they live harmoniously in this Muslim-majority country but some Islamist extremists want to see them driven out, as much of Iraq's Christian population has been.

There have been isolated but deadly attacks on Egypt's churches and Christians, and for the past year during Mr Morsi's presidency, many Egyptian Copts doubted his government's commitment to protect their community properly.

Now that he has been ousted, there is a counter-suspicion by some Muslim Brotherhood supporters that Christians somehow had a hand in his removal.

If Egypt were to fall prey to jihadist violence, then its Coptic Christians would find themselves easy targets.

Political frustration

The military coup will certainly lead to serving extremist groups within the Islamic current"

Abdel Bari Atwan al-Quds al-Arabi

There is an almost unanimous view amongst analysts of the Middle East that, however incompetent the rule of President Morsi was, his forced removal after just one year in office sends a very dangerous message to Islamists.

It risks leaving them with the conclusion that the democratic process the West has touted for so long is an avenue closed to them, prompting some to turn to the bullet instead of the ballot.

Writing in al-Quds al-Arabi, the editor Abdel Bari Atwan said: "The military coup will certainly lead to serving extremist groups within the Islamic current, specifically within the Muslim Brotherhood, and will confirm the argument of al-Qaeda and other groups, which reject democracy and consider it a Western invention."

Failing economy

Lastly, but no less importantly, Egypt is facing a slow-motion economic crisis.

Homeless man in Cairo (3 April 2013) Egypt's battered economy remains in crisis

Since the 2011 uprising against Mr Mubarak, the country's latent economic and fiscal problems have gone into free fall.

Tourism has slumped, unemployment and crime has soared, confidence has evaporated and the government is running out of money.

Mr Morsi's inability to fix these problems was a major contributor to his unpopularity but those problems will still be there for whoever becomes his elected successor.

A combination of a failing economy, zero job prospects and profound political frustration can lead to a dangerous sense of despair. Fertile ground, then, for those looking to recruit for nefarious purposes.

200 killed in police firing, claims Muslim Brotherhood

Thousands of defiant supporters of deposed Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi on Sunday staged a sit-in Cairo; a day after the Muslim Brotherhood claimed that security forces killed nearly 200 Islamists, opening a deadly new phase of conflict in the deeply polarised country.

Vowing to stand their ground despite violent crackdown on their supporters by armed forces, Brotherhood leaders addressed protesters overnight, saying they would not back down from their demands including reinstatement of Morsi.

61-year-old Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected president, was toppled by the military on 3rd July. Morsi, who is facing criminal charges in many cases, was last seen in public on 26th June and has been detained along with senior aides of his Muslim Brotherhood party.

The Brotherhood's official website said at least 200 people had been killed and some 5,000 wounded, Ahram Online reported.

However, a Health Ministry official, Khaled El-Khatib, put the death toll from Friday and Saturday's clashes to 80.

Seventy-two of the casualties fell during violence between police and pro-Morsi supporters on the fringes of a month-long sit-in held by the president's loyalists in northern Cairo's Rabaa al-Adawia mosque, Ahram Online said.

Eight people were killed in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria during deadly clashes between pro and anti-Morsi supporters.

The official put the tally of injured at 792 nationwide, including 411 in clashes near the pro-Morsi sit-in in Cairo's Nasr City neighbourhood.

A spokesman from Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood said that more than 4,000 were wounded by tear gas and bullet or birdshot wounds in one of the bloodiest days in the nation. The violence yesterday was the bloodiest incident since Morsi's 3rd July ouster.

Meanwhile, Egypt's "Rebel" (Tamarod) campaign issued a statement today saying they are highly concerned with comments made by Minister of Interior Mohamed Ibrahim that they understood as foregrounding the possible return of the notorious Mubarak-era state security apparatus.

In a press conference held by the interior ministry yesterday, Ibrahim announced that departments of state security tasked with fighting extremism and monitoring political and religious activity, terminated after the 25th January Revolution, have been reinstated.

Ibrahim further added that a new police reshuffle will be announced tomorrow and will include police officers who have been excluded before.

"Our campaign supports the state's plans in fighting terrorism; however, we have earlier stressed that this support doesn't include the taking of extraordinary measures, or the contradiction of freedoms and human rights," Mahmoud Badr, spokesman of the Rebel campaign, said in a statement.

During the ministry's press conference, which was held hours after deadly clashes between the police and supporters of deposed president Mohamed Morsi, Ibrahim attributed the occurrence of violence to the closing of the reinstated departments and the restructuring of the ministry in "a non-technical way" after the 25th January Revolution.

Yesterday's killings followed a day of rival rallies. The Grand Imam of Al-Azhar mosque - the

highest Sunni Muslim authority in Egypt - has called for an investigation, while the vice-president of the interim government, Mohamed ElBaradei, has condemned the excessive use of force. The bloodshed has thrown Egypt into deeper turmoil weeks. The violence has claimed the lives of dozens and wounded hundreds since Morsi's ouster from the presidency.

The US, Canada and the United Nations have called for calm and peace in Egypt amidst escalation of violence in the post populous Arab country.

PMO sets deadlines for steps to implement key infra projs

With an aim of fasttracking infrastructure development, the Prime Minister's Office has set deadlines for steps to implement key projects covering sectors like railways, highways and power. The deadlines were earmarked at the first meeting of the steering group appointed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to accelerate infrastructure investment.

"The progress on the intermediate steps will be monitored on a regular basis. The deadlines will ensure that ministries /departments are clear about not just the overall deadline but also all the intermediate steps that need to be completed so that there are no slippages," a PMO statement said on Thursday.

The Principal Secretary to Prime Minister has directed all ministries/departments to nominate a nodal officer each, of the rank of a Joint Secretary or above, who will report on a weekly basis on the progress of their department's projects.

Contracts for the construction of 17 identified projects will be awarded between September 2013 and March 2014.



Projects which are to be awarded in 2014 include Mumbai Rail Corridor, Navi Mumbai Airport, Loco Project, Delhi - Meerut Expressway, Mumbai- Vadodra Expressway and UMPPs Cheyyar (TN) Bedabahal (Odisha).

Those to be awarded in 2013 include Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Eastern Region transmission strengthening VI and VII, Southern system strengthening for import of power from Eastern region.

As per the statement, Transmission system from Kudgi TPS (3x800 MW), Transmission system for connectivity of NCC power project and Baira Siul HEP Sarna D/C line too would be awarded in the remaining months of 2013. With regard to the Mumbai Elevated Rail Corridor Project, it was decided in the meeting that the issue of whether the RFQ will be reissued is to be resolved by Railways within a week.

Railways will also provide exact timelines on completion of the Khurja-Kanpur, Kanpur-Mughalsarai and Mughalsarai- Sonnagar stretches.

Regarding the Ludhiana-Dadri stretch for which funding has yet to be fully tied up, the PMO said the Steering Group will review the matter in four weeks, after the committee on financing projects in Railways completes its work.

In the meeting it was also decided that Power Ministry will try to award 13 identified transmission projects as per the agreed timelines.

The PMO statement further said that in addition to Navi Mumbai, the Ministry of Civil Aviation will make efforts to move ahead on Goa (Mopa) airport as well.

Driver of derailed Spanish train charged with 79 counts of homicide

The driver of a Spanish high-speed train that derailed was charged with 79 counts of homicide and released pending trial, after appearing before a judge on Sunday evening.

Francisco Garzon, 52, had been under arrest since Thursday, a day after the worst train crash in Spain's history.



He is suspected of driving the train too fast through a tight curve on the outskirts of the north-western Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela.

Examining Magistrate Luis Alaez formally charged Garzon with '79 counts of homicide and numerous offences of bodily harm, all of them committed through professional recklessness.

Israeli Cabinet votes to free prisoners

The Israeli Cabinet has voted in favor of release of 104 Palestinian prisoners to give a push to the Middle East peace process. The proposal by the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeks to free 104 Palestinian prisoners, including 24 Israeli Arabs.

The Israeli Cabinet also gave a go ahead for the bill which calls for a nationwide referendum before any agreement with the Palestinian Authority.

It implies that the government can approve any territorial exchange or land swap deal with the PA only after the approval of the Israeli citizens.

These measures are being seen as a part of goodwill gesture by Israel ahead of the negotiations which are likely to start on Tuesday in Washington.

Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher PINAKA successfully test-fired

India's Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System , the PINAKA , has undergone successful firing trials at Chandhan area in Pokhran field firing ranges. This state-of-art weapon for destroying and neutralizing enemy troops, communication centres and air terminal complexes by firing rockets with several warheads from launch vehicles has been developed by DRDO. Pinaka can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds from a launcher with a strike range of 40 km.



More than 1,000 escape in Libya prison break: security

More than 1,000 inmates, mostly common law offenders, escaped during a prison riot and attack on Saturday in the restive Libyan city of Benghazi, a security official told AFP.

"There was a riot inside Al-Kuifiya prison, as well as an attack from outside. More then 1,000 prisoners escaped. Special forces called in as reinforcements were given orders not to fire at the prisoners," he said, asking not to be named.



The official said most of the escapees were common law detainees, including nationals of other African states. "But some of them were detainees in cases linked to the former regime of Moamer Kadhafi," he said. Several were recaptured shortly after the breakout.

Prime Minister Ali Zeidan confirmed the incident, without giving the number of fugitives.

"Residents of the area carried out the attack because they don't want the prison near their homes," he said, adding that border posts had been alerted and given a list of names to apprehend the escapees.

Zeidan earlier announced that border posts with Egypt had been closed to prevent the escape of the killers of a prominent activist in the eastern Libyan city on Friday.

Opposition presses for weapons as Syria death toll tops 100,000

Syria's opposition urged the United States to provide arms to rebel groups in a Thursday meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry at the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

"The US commitment of military support ... is vital, but it needs to happen fast, and in a way that allows us to defend ourselves and protect civilians," a statement from the Syrian National Coalition. "To deny us the right to self-defense is to risk that the regime will survive: thousands will be executed, the repression will continue without end."

The session between Kerry and coalition President Ahmad Jarba in New York City came as the United Nations announced more than 100,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a peace conference to stop the violence on both sides.



"We have to bring this to an end," Ban said in remarks before his meeting with Kerry.



In addition to the deaths, Ban noted that "millions of people have either been displaced or become refugees in neighboring countries." A State Department official said Kerry and Jarba agreed that a "political solution is the best path forward" in the conflict. "Secretary Kerry reiterated the ongoing commitment of the United States to helping end the bloodshed and suffering of the Syrian people," the official said.

**The conflict**

Syria is wracked by a civil war in which a government dominated by minority Alawite Muslims is squaring off with rebels dominated by Sunni Muslims.

This May, the United Nations reported that more than 1.5 million had fled for other countries because of the violence, while 4 million more had been displaced within Syria.

Yet many remain, whether by choice or necessity, amid the bloodshed.

And -- as has happened very day for more than two years -- more of them died Thursday.

A car bombing rocked a square in Jaramana, which is about 5 kilometers southeast of Damascus, according to both opposition activists and state-run media.

The attack left 17 dead and tens more injured, according to the opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Syrian state TV put the death toll at 10, with 70 others wounded, blaming the blast on an al Qaeda branch operating within its borders.

Jaramana has a mostly Christian and Druze population known for backing the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

The Local Coordination Committees in Syria, a network of opposition activists, reported at least 50 died nationwide on Thursday, including 19 in Aleppo province and 18 in and around the war-torn Middle Eastern nation's capital.

## China orders audit of government debt

China has ordered a nationwide audit of all government debt, underlining fears that the recent slowdown in its economy may impact the financial sector. Local governments in China borrowed heavily after the global financial crisis to try to sustain growth rates.

The last audit, published in 2011, showed they had debt of 10.7tn yuan (\$1.7tn; £1.1tn) by the end of 2010. Debt may threaten China's growth, and there are growing fears that local governments may not be able repay.

"In line with a request of the State Council, the National Audit Office (NAO) will organize auditing agencies across the country to carry out an audit of government debt," the national auditor said in a statement on its website. The NAO said that it had halted all other projects to conduct the audit, but did not give any other details or a timeline for the audit.



**Pressure on finances**

A large part of the local government borrowings were taken up after the global financial crisis as Chinese authorities released a 4tn yuan fiscal stimulus. According to the China Banking Regulatory Commission, local governments took up 80% of total bank lending in China at the end of 2010.

Some of the borrowings were spent on infrastructure projects, such as road and rail - seen as vital to sustain orderly economic development - but some of it also went into property construction. There have long been fears that the projects may not be financially viable in the long run.

"A lot of the projects that were invested in will not have the kind of returns that they had initially estimated," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, senior economist with Credit Agricole-CIB in Hong Kong. "That coupled with slowing growth means that the finances of the local governments may not look too good."

**'Large and unknown'**

At the same time, there have been concerns about the size of total government debt in China, with some arguing that the figures for local government debt have been underestimated. According to the NAO's last audit, local government debt was around 25% of the China's total gross domestic product (GDP). But many have said that the levels may be much higher than that.

Mr Kowalczyk said that the concerns about the bad loans in China were serious because "the size of the debt is large and unknown". However, he added that the audit was a step in the right direction and would be good for the country in the long run as it should help bring out the details on the size of the problem.

There are also concerns over the way the local government debt has been managed.

Last year, the audit office said that it had uncovered 531bn yuan of irregularities in local government debts.

It said that breaches included "irregular credit guarantees", "irregular collateral" and "fraudulent and underpayment of registered capital". The Chinese central government has repeatedly stressed the urgent need to guard against financial risks, including the local government debt problem. In June, Liu Jiayi, auditor general with the NAO, warned at a session of China's top legislature that local governments must improve their debt management in order to handle escalating growth in local debt.

## Cambodia election: Opposition party rejects results

Cambodia's opposition has rejected the result of Sunday's elections, citing "serious irregularities". Names were missing from voter lists and some voters found others had used their ballot, reports said. Provisional results suggest Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party has won by 68 seats to the opposition's 55.

However, Cambodia's opposition appears to have made a strong showing, reducing the ruling party's majority significantly. "The Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) cannot accept the results of the fifth parliamentary election ... because the CNRP has found a lot of serious irregularities," the opposition party said in a statement on Monday.

It has called for a committee with members from both parties, the UN and the National Election Committee to "be urgently established" to investigate.

**Tampering claims**

On Sunday, some voters told the BBC they could not find their names on voting lists, and said that indelible ink used to indicate that someone had voted was easily washed off.

Kol Preap, executive director of Transparency International Cambodia, told AFP news agency on Sunday that it was "very difficult to proclaim this a free and fair election".

"I think the level playing field in the process didn't really exist. There has not been equal access to the media and the opposition leader was not allowed to run as a candidate," he said. However, Cambodia's National Election Committee said there had not been voting irregularities, AFP reported.



Hun Sen has been in power in Cambodia for nearly three decades, and the CPP had been widely expected to win the election. However, if the provisional poll numbers are confirmed it would be the CPP's worst performance in 15 years.

The party enjoys considerable support in the countryside - in part due to the economic growth achieved there after the devastation caused by the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s, which was responsible for one of the worst mass killings of the 20th Century.

However, younger voters were thought more likely to look for a change and back the opposition and its leader Sam Rainsy, who recently returned to Cambodia from self-imposed exile.

In 2010 Mr Rainsy was sentenced in absentia to 11 years in prison, on a series of charges he says were politically motivated.

But analysts say his return to the country early in July - after a royal pardon was issued - seems to have helped his party's cause.

## EU and China reach deal in solar panel dispute

The European Commission says it has reached "an amicable solution" with Beijing in a row over imports of Chinese solar panels. Both sides have agreed a minimum price for the panels, EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said. The dispute erupted after the Commission - the EU's executive arm - imposed temporary anti-dumping levies on the imports. It argued that Chinese firms were undercutting rivals.



China is the world's largest producer of solar panels. Its exports to Europe totalled 21bn euros (\$27bn; £18bn) in 2011. "After weeks of intensive talks, I can announce that I am satisfied with the offer of a price undertaking submitted by China's solar panel exporters," Mr De Gucht said on Saturday.

"This is the amicable solution that both the EU and China were looking for." He added that the agreement would "lead to a new market equilibrium at sustainable prices". The anti-dumping case was the biggest ever undertaken by the Commission.

In June, the EU accused China of "dumping" solar panels in Europe - selling them at below cost to steal market share - and then said it would impose import tariffs of up to 47.6% on them. China said EU farm subsidies had resulted in European countries "dumping" wine on China, and warned it may respond in kind.

## Rio Tinto offloads Northparkes stake to Chinese firm

Rio Tinto has agreed a deal to sell its 80% stake in Northparkes copper and gold mine in Australia to China Molybdenum for \$820m (£530m). Rio has been looking to sell assets as part of its \$5bn cost-cutting plan. Meanwhile, Chinese firms have been keen to buy resources assets as they look to cater to domestic demand.



China is the world's largest buyer of copper and analysts said that demand from the world's second-largest economy was likely to continue to grow. "China's economy will continue to expand at a good pace, despite the recent slowdown," said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC markets.

"That will see demand for commodities continue to rise and as a result these assets make very good investment for Chinese firms looking to ensure long term supplies."

**Not big enough**

Rio Tinto announced the cost-cutting plan in November last year as slowing global demand and a fall in commodity prices hurt profits at mining firms. In June, the firm sold a nickel and copper mine in the US for \$325m.

Chris Lynch, chief executive of the firm, said the sale of the Northparkes stake "demonstrates our continued focus and discipline in the way we allocate capital across the group".

"Northparkes is a successful business but is not of sufficient size to be a good fit with our strategy," he added.

The sale is subject to regulatory and shareholder approval and to Rio's joint venture partners in the mine, Sumitomo Metal Mining and Sumitomo Corporation Mineral Resources, waiving their right to, or failing to match, the offer. If approved by regulators and shareholders, the deal is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

## Daughters win maharaja's \$4bn assets in court battle

The daughters of a former Indian maharaja have won a 21-year court battle to inherit more than \$4bn (£2.6bn) worth of assets. A court in the northern city of Chandigarh said the will of Harinder Singh Brar, Maharaja of Faridkot - who died in 1989 - had been forged. It had left his wealth in the care of a charitable trust set up by some of his servants and palace officials.

The assets include a 350-year-old royal fort and a private aerodrome. But his daughter Amrit Kaur claimed the will had been written under duress, at a time when the maharaja was suffering from depression. The court ruled in her favour, declaring the document void. The will came to light following the death of Harinder Singh Brar. His two surviving daughters will now inherit all the assets, which also include a property on one of Delhi's most expensive streets as well as gold and vintage cars.

Harinder Singh Brar was the titular ruler of the Faridkot area of Punjab before India became independent in 1947.



Chief Judicial Magistrate Rajnish Kumar Sharma on Thursday gave the verdict in favour of Sir Harinder Singh Brar's eldest daughter, Amrit Kaur who had challenged the will which had entitled a trust as the caretaker of the estates and assets including the Faridkot House in the heart of the national capital, a palace and a fort in Punjab besides bank deposits and jewellery. The assets include large number of properties in Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. The court declared that the will was 'forged and fabricated', making Amrit Kaur and her sister, Deepinder Kaur, heir to the estate and assets worth Rs 20,000 crore under the Hindu Succession Act.

As the will forged on July 1, 1982 has been declared 'illegal' and 'void' by the court, the 'Meharwal Khewaji Trust' has also become illegal, according to the Maharaja's family's advocate Vikas Jain. Of the Maharaja's three daughters, Amrit Kaur resides in Sector 10, Chandigarh; Deepinder Kaur is in Kolkata while Maheepinder Kaur died a few years ago in Shimla. At the time when the will was forged, Sir Brar was in depression as his only son Tikka Harmohinder Singh Brar had died. On June 1, 1982, the servants in connivance with certain people and lawyers had executed the will, while the Maharaja's family including his wife and mother (then alive) were kept in the dark.

The will which was executed eight months after Tikka Harmohinder's death, raised the trust and all the servants of Maharaja and lawyers, including some others were made trustees.

Amrit Kaur was divested of all the powers of heiress on the ground that she had married against the wishes of the late Maharaja. Deepinder Kaur was appointed trust chairman on paltry salary of Rs 1,200 per month while Maheepinder Kaur was given a salary of Rs 1,000 a month.

After the purported will came to light in 1989 following the death of the erstwhile ruler, Amrit Kaur filed a suit challenging the will in 1992 stating that her father had never made any such will and she was with her father till his death.

The suspicion about the will arose as the Maharaja excluded his mother Mohinder Kaur and his wife Narinder Kaur while all the employees, irrespective of their designation or class were appointed trustees.

## Pope Francis leaves for Brazil visit

Pope Francis has left Rome for Brazil for his first foreign trip, which will be taking place amid high security. The pontiff will be greeted by some two million young people from all over the world at the Roman Catholic World Youth Day festival in Rio de Janeiro. The first Latin American Pope will also celebrate Mass on the famous Copacabana beach and visit shanty towns. Some 22,000 security staff will be on duty during the visit of the Pope, who is not using his armoured Popemobile.



On his way to Brazil, Pope Francis said the global crisis risked creating a lost generation of jobless youth. "We run the risk of having a generation that hasn't worked," even though work confers dignity, he told journalists on the plane. He also criticised what he said was a "culture" of socially rejecting the elderly who were "thrown away" as if they had nothing to offer.

Mask ban Ahead of his week-long trip, the 76-year-old Pope from Argentina called on his followers to join him spiritually on his journey through prayer.

The pontiff is due to arrive in Brazil - the world's most populous Catholic country - later on Monday, and huge crowds are expected to greet him at Rio airport. The Vatican says it has full confidence in the ability of Brazilian security forces to protect the pontiff during his visit. However, Pope Francis's direct style of communication, his desire for close proximity with his flock and his frequent rejection of protocol are creating some worry among the organisers of the visit, the BBC's David Willey in Rome reports.

In Rio, the security forces have set up several monitoring centres to keep a close eye on the Pope's every step. The pontiff will also be using army helicopters to avoid Rio's heavy traffic jams.

The Brazilian authorities earlier banned masks at Pope Francis's opening Mass at the World



Youth Day. They are worried that the visit could spark a repeat of June's unrest, when many wore masks in the crowds.

There were widespread anti-government protests last month during the football Confederations Cup. Many of the protesters were wearing Guy Fawkes masks, which have become a feature of demonstrations around the world.

The demonstrators have taken to the streets to complain about the state of public services such as transport, health and education and about what they perceive as the inefficiency of their politicians.

## Over 625,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon: UNHCR

Over 625,000 Syrian refugees are receiving aid in Lebanon, the UN refugee agency has said. With the recent increase of 13,000 registered Syrian refugees with the UN office in Lebanon, the number of registered refugees is now more than 530,000, Xinhua cited the UNHCR as saying. Over 95,000 refugees are still waiting for their registration process to be completed. Lebanon has called on the UN Security Council and international donors to help it bear the burden of hosting the Syrian refugees, whose number may hit one million by the end of this year.

UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres said last month that the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon had surpassed 25 percent of its own population and was inflicting a huge burden on the Lebanese government and people.

## EU putting Hezbollah military wing on terror list

The European Union forged a political agreement on Monday to list the military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, a European diplomat told. The Iranian-backed Lebanese Shiite group, which is a strong force in Lebanese politics, already is regarded as a terrorist organization by the United States and Israel.

There had been political pressure to put the entire group on the terror list amid developments in Bulgaria and Cyprus. The designation would put asset freezes on Hezbollah entities. "Legal details need to be worked on in the coming days," the diplomat said.

The Bulgarians cited evidence that Hezbollah's military wing was involved in a terrorist attack last year that killed five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian bus driver.

In Cyprus this year, a court found a Hezbollah member guilty of assisting in the planning of an attack on Israel. Lately, its fighters have sided with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in that country's civil war.

### Terrorism at a moment of transition

The European Union agreed to target just the military component, the diplomat said. Critics of such an approach say designating part of an entity isn't effective or practical. Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni's spokeswoman called the decision "correct and just," adding that it "puts an end to the wrong argument" that Hezbollah's military activities are absolved by the group's political status. "Even if Hezbollah is a political party, that does not whitewash and make legitimate their terrorist activities," the spokeswoman said.

### Reactions

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said the move "will have a significant impact on Hezbollah's ability to operate freely in Europe by enabling European law enforcement agencies to crack down on Hezbollah's fundraising, logistical activity and terrorist plotting."

"As Hezbollah has deepened its support for the brutal Assad regime and worked to expand its global reach through increased involvement in international criminal schemes and terrorist plots around the world, a growing number of governments are recognizing Hezbollah as the dangerous and destabilizing terrorist organization that it is," Kerry said.

"We call on other governments to follow the EU's lead and to take steps to begin reining in Hezbollah's terrorist and criminal activities."

White House spokesman Jay Carney cited Hezbollah's support for the al-Assad regime in Syria. "The United States is proud to stand with the European Union on this front," Carney said.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said the agreement sends "a clear message" that the European Union "stands united against terrorism."

"It shows that no organization can carry out terrorist acts on European soil, such as the appalling attack in Bulgaria one year ago, without facing the consequences. European nations have rightly come together in response," he said.

U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, the New Jersey Democrat who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, praised the EU move, noting the Bulgarian and Cyprus developments and Hezbollah's role in Syria underscore its terrorist identity.

"While I believe that the entire Hezbollah organization unabashedly qualifies for a place on the European Union list of terrorist organizations, today's decision will send a clear message to Hezbollah, and to their primary backer Iran, that Europe is not a safe haven for terrorists," Menendez said.

### ‘Hezbollah not ‘responsible political actor’

Hezbollah was formed after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to go after the Palestine Liberation Organization and has been accused of high-profile terror attacks over the years.

**Time for G8 to make Hezbollah statement**

"Hezbollah first gained notoriety in 1983 after it bombed the United States Embassy in Beirut - an attack that killed 63 people. Shortly thereafter, Hezbollah bombed the American and French Marine Barracks in Beirut, killing 241 Americans and 58 French service members with one of the largest explosive devices ever detonated during a terrorist attack," Tom Donilon, President Barack Obama's former national security adviser, wrote in a New York Times column this year.

"Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the group conducted kidnappings and airplane hijackings, two bombings in Buenos Aires, several in Paris and an attempted bombing in Bangkok. In 1996, it assisted in the Khobar Towers attack in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 Americans. Thanks to this bloody record, in 1997 Hezbollah was among the first groups added to the State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations."

Donilon said the group has tried to portray itself as a political entity focused on social services and defending the country. "But it is an illusion to speak of Hezbollah as a responsible political actor. Hezbollah remains a terrorist organization and a destabilizing force across the Middle East," he said.

### Renewed Israeli-Palestinian talks planned

The latest EU move comes amid two diplomatic developments last week: its own intention to ban funding to Israeli entities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and serious diplomatic wrangling over peace in the Middle East. Kerry is working to bring Israelis and Palestinians together for peace talks.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton noted that the European Union published a document reiterating "the long-held position that bilateral agreements with Israel do not cover the territory that came under Israel's administration in June 1967."

The move prompted criticism out of Israel and from some U.S. lawmakers, who called it "counterproductive."

She said the "specific provisions" of the guidelines covering Israel-EU "funding instruments" won't be implemented before January 1.

"This is meant to clarify the EU's position in advance of negotiations of agreements with Israel during the forthcoming financial perspective commencing in 2014. In no way will this prejudice the outcome of peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. It has been the EU's long-held position that it will recognize changes made to the borders once agreed," Ashton said. She said the European Union is "deeply committed" to peace negotiations.

Hezbollah has been a staunch opponent of Israel. The Jewish state and Hezbollah also fought a war in 2006 after the military group kidnapped and killed Israeli soldiers.

## Myanmar pardons dozens of political prisoners

Myanmar's president has begun freeing all remaining political prisoners by granting amnesty to dozens of inmates. The leader says returning them to society can help transition Myanmar into a more democratic country. President Thein Sein had approved the release of some 70 political prisoners, according to officials on Tuesday. The inmates who received amnesty came from various prisons around the country. It was not immediately known when their official release would take place.



The executive director of Burma Campaign UK said the move was "welcome," but not enough. "It's important to remember that many still remain in prison and all the repressive laws that put them there are still in place," Burma Campaign UK executive director Anna Roberts told the news agency Associated Press.

Thein Sein's decision came roughly a week after he had announced his intention to empty Myanmar's jails of their remaining political prisoners by the end of the year, estimated to be between 100 and 200 people.

During a speech at London's Chatham House think-tank early last week, the Myanmar president vowed to continue his reforms aimed at releasing his country from its troubled political past.

"We are aiming for nothing less than a transition from half a century of military rule and authoritarianism to democracy," Thein Sein told the Chatham House audience, adding that a vital step toward this goal would be having "no prisoners of conscience in Myanmar."

The EU has dropped most sanctions against Thein Sein because of reform policies he has introduced since 2011, when he became Myanmar's first civilian president in almost 50 years. However, world leaders remain concerned about the state of human rights in the southeast Asian country, formerly known as Burma. Last year, violence between Myanmar's Buddhists and Rohingya Muslim minority led to the deaths of more than 200 people and displaced at least 150,000.

## Ultra-rare decay confirmed in LHC

Scientists have confirmed one of the rarest phenomena of decay in particle physics, found about three times in every billion collisions at the LHCb. They are now certain of the rarity of a transformation of subatomic particles hinted at previously. The way this unfolds casts doubt on versions of the theory of physics known as Supersymmetry (Susy). It was hoped Susy could explain gaps in the most established theory of how the Universe works. The vast LHC machine, housed in a circular tunnel that runs for 27km beneath the French-Swiss border, smashes beams of protons together at close to light speeds.



Detectors positioned at key points around the underground "ring" are then used to scour the wreckage of these collisions for signs of new particles and physical phenomena.

The theory Susy proposes that each particle has a heavier version of itself which could explain the ever mysterious dark matter, believed to make up a quarter of our Universe.

### Needle in a haystack

However, the rate of decay found was predicted by the Standard Model - the framework for particle physics devised in the 1960s and 1970s - even though it's now seen as an incomplete description of nature. It is not yet able to explain gravity, or indeed the dark matter and dark energy which together make up 95% of the Universe.



Some particles naturally decay into others and the types of decay can help physicists refine key theories. Here scientists found a particle called a Bs meson decaying into two muons for the first time.

The findings were announced at the EPS conference in Stockholm and had the 5-sigma level of

significance required to reach the level of a formal discovery.

This builds on a previous announcement of the findings which had lesser statistical significance as the team had not yet analysed all the data.

The observations at LHCb and CMS were so rare that Bs mesons only decayed into two muons about three times in every billion collisions.

The LHCb team announced: "Finding particle decays this rare makes hunting for a needle in a haystack seem easy."

This is due to the hundreds of millions of collisions the LHC produced every second, with each one producing hundreds of new particles that leave electrical signals in the giant detectors.

### Quantum loop

Val Gibson, leader of the Cambridge particle physics group and member of the LHCb experiment, told BBC News that it was the rarest decay they have observed so far.

"The reason it's so rare is the fact that it doesn't decay easily into the final quark particles we know about. It has to go through a loop process, like a quantum loop. It's not a straight road but it has to go round a roundabout before it can get to the final state particles.

"Because it's got this roundabout in it, it means that other heavy supersymmetric particles [could potentially] enter the roundabout and make a big difference to the decay rate," Prof Gibson added. But the quarks did not have heavy particles blocking the decay.

### Shy physics

"There was no observation of Supersymmetry, you would have to fine-tune the theory to explain the measurements found," Prof Gibson explained.

"The Supersymmetry theorists have not given up, however it is becoming harder and harder for them to explain these findings.

"Measurements of this very rare decay significantly squeeze the places new physics can hide. The UK LHCb team are now looking forward to the LHC returning at even higher energy and to an upgrade to the experiment so that we can investigate why new physics is so shy."

Tara Shears from the University of Liverpool also works with the LHCb, but was not involved with this particular discovery. She said: "Supersymmetry is starting to look less likely to be a good description of the universe."

"The catch is that Supersymmetry is quite a loosely defined theoretical model which means it has many uncertainties in it. It's impossible to rule it out altogether.

"This result has has really put the squeeze on the possibilities of the different ways Supersymmetry could be possible," she told BBC News. But John Ellis, professor of theoretical physics at King's College London, told BBC News that the results were not evidence against Supersymmetry. "It is as if the experiments had looked though a powerful telescope and not seen a new star they had been looking for.

"If the telescope is pointed in the wrong direction, it will not find it. Supersymmetry is a complicated theory with many parameters, and there are directions in parameter space where the Bs meson into two muons 'telescope' sees nothing."

### Statistics of a 'discovery'

#### Five Swiss francs



- Particle physics has an accepted definition for a "discovery": a five-sigma level of certainty
- The number of standard deviations, or sigmas, is a measure of how unlikely it is that an experimental result is simply down to chance, in the absence of a real effect
- Similarly, tossing a coin and getting a number of heads in a row may just be chance, rather than a sign of a "loaded" coin
- The "three sigma" level represents about the same likelihood of tossing nine heads in a row
- Five sigma, on the other hand, would correspond to tossing more than 21 in a row
- Unlikely results are more probable when several experiments are carried out at once - equivalent to several people flipping coins at the same time
- With independent confirmation by other experiments, five-sigma findings become accepted discoveries

## Ministry of Earth Sciences & Earth System Science Organisation Celebrates Its Day Function

The Ministry of Earth Sciences ( MoES) today celebrated its foundation day here in Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi. Shri S.Jaipal Reddy, Union Minister of Earth Sciences & Science and Technology who chaired the session called upon the MoES family of professionals to rededicate themselves by building new agenda to promote and discover a new perspective for understanding Earth System Processes and to build advanced knowledge based Monitoring, Detection, Warning & Decision Support Systems (DSS) for rendering improved services in respect of weather, climate, ocean state, hazards and also build programs leading to the sustainability of earth resources. He said Government has given full support for building appropriate national and international level focused Research & Development programmes in Ocean science, meteorology, climate, environment, seismology, cryosphere and biosphere.

The Minister detailed about the the following institutional endeavours and milestone achievements in his ministry:

- i) Functional separation of Operational Seismology and Geosciences under the umbrella of Centre for Seismology through appropriate reorganization
- ii) International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography at INCOIS, Hyderabad - signed MOU with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- iii) Launch of Climate Information Services from IMD, Pune
- iv) Signed the MoU with the Belmont Forum member countries to build collaborative research opportunity for Indian Scientists in the globally relevant areas of global environmental change and hazards – having current focus on Fresh Water Security and Coastal Vulnerability
- v) Announcement of collaborative research opportunity for building research programs with Natural Environmental Research Council of U K in the areas of Water Cycle and Earth Sciences
- vi) Established BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate as an Inter-Institutional Activity from the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, NOIDA for enhancing regional cooperation on forecast information, early warning of hazards, capacity building and observing systems
- vii) Launched activities towards establishment of India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather



# FARIDKOT MAHARAJA'S DAUGHTERS TO INHERIT RS. 20,000 CRORE ASSETS

C.S. Rajput

Raja Harinder Singh Brar was the last king of Faridkot Ryast before independence of India in 1947. The ancestor of the Faridkot principality, Bhallan was an ardent follower of 6th Sikh Guru Har Gobind. He helped the Guru Har Gobind ji in the battle of Mehraj. He died issueless in 1643. Kapura, who was a nephew of Bhallan, succeeded him. Kapura founded the town of Kotkapura in 1661. Nawab Kapura was the Chaudhry of eighty-four villages. He was a Sikh but did not want to earn the ire of the Mughals and help Guru Gobind Singh Ji and fight with Mughals.



The famous last battle of Muktsar (Khidrane Di Dhaab) now a historic town, happened after Nawab Kapura declined Guru Gobind Singh's request to use his fort to fight Mughal Army. Otherwise the last war between Mughals and Guru Gobind Singh Ji was destined to happen at Kotkapura. Guru Ji moved from Kotkapura to Dhillwan Kalan from there to Talwandi sabo via Guru ki Dhab. However, later in the battle of Muktsar in 1705, Nawab Kapura helped Guru Gobind Singh Ji in an underhand manner. Kapura was slain by Isa Khan Manj in 1708. He had three sons named Sukhia, Sema and Mukhia. Mukhia killed Isa Khan and took control of the entire area. Sema was also killed in this battle in 1710. Kapura's elder son Sukhia again came into power in 1720. A dispute between grandsons of Kapura (sons of Sukhia) led to the division of the state in 1763. The older brother, Sardar Jodh Singh Brar, retained control of Kotkapura, and his younger brother, Sardar Hamir Singh Brar, was given Faridkot. The state was captured in 1803 by Ranjit Singh, but was one of the Cis-Sutlej states that came under British influence after the 1809 Treaty of Amritsar. During the Sikh wars in 1845, Raja Pahar Singh aided the British, and was rewarded with an increase of territory. The state had an area of and its 642 square miles, and a population of 124,912 in 1901. It was bounded on the west and northeast by the British district of Ferozepore, and on the south by the state of Nabha. The last Ruler of Faridkot was Lt. HH Farzand-i-sadaat Nishan Hazrat-i-kaisar-i-hind Raja Sir Harindar Singh Brar Bans Bahadur. **After the purported** will came to light in 1989 following the death of the erstwhile ruler, Amrit Kaur filed a suit challenging the will in 1992 stating that her father had never made any such will and she was with her father till his death. The suspicion about the will arose as the Maharaja excluded his mother Mohinder Kaur and his wife Narinder Kaur while all the employees, irrespective of their designation or class were appointed trustees. Daughters of the erstwhile Maharaja of Faridkot are set to inherit his estates and assets worth a staggering Rs 20,000 crore following a local court's ruling after a 23-year-old legal battle that his will was forged.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Rajnish Kumar Sharma on Thursday gave the verdict in favour of Sir Harinder Singh Brar's eldest daughter, Amrit Kaur who had challenged the will which had entitled a trust as the caretaker of the estates and assets including the Faridkot House in the heart of the national capital, a palace and a fort in Punjab besides bank deposits and jewellery. The assets include large number of properties in Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. The court declared that the will was "forged and fabricated", making Amrit Kaur and her sister, Deepinder Kaur, heir to the estate and assets worth Rs 20,000 crore under the Hindu Succession Act. As the will forged on July 1, 1982 has been declared "illegal" and "void" by the court, the **'Mehtarwal Khewaji Trust'** has also become illegal, according to the Maharaja's family's advocate Vikas Jain. Of the Maharaja's three daughters, **Amrit Kaur** resides in Sector 10, Chandigarh, **Deepinder Kaur** is in Kolkata while **Maheepinder Kaur** died a few years ago in Shimla. At the time when the will was forged, Sir Brar was in depression as his only son Tikka Harmohinder Singh Brar had died. On June 1, 1982, the servants in connivance with certain people and lawyers had executed the will, while the Maharaja's family including his wife and mother (then alive) were kept in the dark. The will which was executed eight months after Tikka Harmohinder's death, raised the trust and all the servants of Maharaja and lawyers, including some others were made trustees. Amrit Kaur was divested of all the powers of heiress on the ground that she had married against the wishes of the late Maharaja. Deepinder Kaur was appointed trust chairman on paltry salary of Rs 1,200 per month while Maheepinder Kaur was given a salary of Rs 1,000 a month. **Hindu Succession Act, 1956** The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, is a law that was passed by the parliament of India in 1956 to amend and codify the law relating to intestate or unwilling succession, among Hindus. The Act lays down a uniform and comprehensive system of inheritance and applies to persons governed by both the Mita-ks.ara- and Dayabha-ga schools. It is hailed for its consolidation of Hindu laws on succession into one Act. The Hindu woman's limited estate is abolished by the Act. Any property possessed by a Hindu female is to be held by her absolute property and she is given full power to deal with it and dispose of it by will as she likes. The Act was amended in 2005 by the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005. **As per religion** This Act is applicable to the following :

- any person, who is a Hindu by religion in any of its forms or developments including a Virashaiva, a Lingayat or follower of the Brahmo, Prarthana or Arya Samaj;
- any person who is Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh by religion; and
- to any other person who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion unless it is proved that the concerned person would not have been governed by the Hindu Law or by any custom or usage as part of that law in respect of any of the matters dealt with herein if this Act had not been passed.

Explanation as to who shall be considered as Hindus, Buddhists, Jains or Sikhs by religion has been provided in the section:



- any child, legitimate or illegitimate, one of whose parents are Hindus, Buddhists, Jains or Sikhs by religion;
- any child, legitimate or illegitimate, one of whose parents is a Hindu, Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh by religion and who is brought up as a member of the tribe, community, group or family to which such parent belongs or belonged;
- any person who is convert or re-convert to the Hindu, Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh religion.

A person shall be treated as a Hindu under the Act though he may not be a Hindu by religion but is, nevertheless, a person to whom this Act applies by virtue of the provisions contained in this section. **As per tribe** However it has been provided that notwithstanding the religion of any person as mentioned above, the Act shall apply to the members of any Scheduled Tribe within the meaning of clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution of India unless the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, otherwise directs. **In the case of males** The property of a Hindu male dying intestate, or without a will, would be given first to heirs within Class I. If there are no heirs categorized as Class I, the property will be given to heirs within Class II. If there are no heirs in Class II, the property will be given to the deceased's agnates or relatives through male lineage. If there are no agnates or relatives through the male's lineage, then the property is given to the cognates, or any relative through the lineage of males or females. There are two classes of heirs that are delineated by the Act. Class I heirs are sons, daughters, widows, mothers, sons of a pre-deceased son, widows of a pre-deceased son, son of a, pre-deceased sons of a predeceased son, and widows of a predeceased son of a predeceased son. If there is more than one widow, multiple surviving sons or multiples of any of the other heirs listed above, each shall be granted one share of the deceased's property. Also if the widow of a pre-deceased son, the widow of a pre-deceased son of a pre-deceased son or the widow of a brother has remarried, she is not entitled to receive the inheritance. Class II heirs are categorized as follows and are given the property of the deceased in the following order :

- Father
- Son's daughter's son
- Son's daughter's daughter
- Brother

- Sister
- Daughter's son's son
- Daughter's son's daughter
- Daughter's daughter's son
- Daughter's daughter's daughter
- Brother's son
- Sister's son
- Brother's daughter

### In the case of females

Under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, females are granted ownership of all property acquired either before or after the signing of the Act, abolishing their "limited owner" status. However, it was not until the 2005 Amendment that daughters were allowed equal receipt of property as with sons. This invariably grants females property rights. The property of a Hindu female dying intestate, or without a will, shall devolve in the following order:

- upon the sons and daughters (including the children of any pre-deceased son or daughter) and the husband,
- upon the heirs of the husband.
- upon the heirs of the father, and
- upon the heirs of the mother.

**Certain exceptions** If , and the heirs are both male and female, the female heir is not allowed to request partition until the male heir chooses to divide their respective shares. If this female heir is a daughter, she has the right to reside in the home if she is unmarried, divorced or widowed. After the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 Section 6 the difference between the female and male inheritor has been abolished - Now even female inheritor [daughter] can also claim partition of the ancestral property. Any person who commits murder is disqualified from receiving any form of inheritance from the victim. If a relative converts from Hinduism, he or she is still eligible for inheritance. The descendants of that converted relative, however, are disqualified from receiving inheritance from their Hindu relatives, unless they have converted back to Hinduism before the death of the relative. **Amendments** The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, amended Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, allowing daughters of the deceased equal rights with sons. In the case of coparcenary property, or a case in which two people inherit property equally between them, the daughter and son are subject to the same liabilities and disabilities. The amendment essentially furthers equal rights between males and females in the legal system.

EDITORIAL

DEVELOP INDIA

English Weekly Newspaper  
Year 5, Vol. 1, Issue 259, 21-28 July, 2013

## Egypt's failed democratic experiment

Mohammed Ramadan was angry. He was polite and welcoming but fury bubbled out of him. "The army, and General Sisi [its leader], have betrayed Egypt, they've betrayed our revolution. They're supposed to protect us, the Egyptian people. But they're strangling us." Mohammed stood next to a low wall built of uprooted concrete kerbstones. It was an improvised redoubt marking the edge of the streets that supporters of the deposed President Mohammed Morsi have occupied around the Rabaa al-Adawiya mosque in Nasr City in Cairo. Behind him stood three lines of men, almost all of them bearded. On their heads were building workers' helmets. In their hands were a variety of sticks and pipes. One man had a club, the business end of which he had studded neatly, almost lovingly, with sharp screws. "They have guns and planes, we only have these," another man shouted, when he saw me staring at the weapons in their hands. The army has appealed for calm, and says it wants to protect every Egyptian. This country's citizens tend to respect, even venerate, the armed forces. But its intervention in politics, and its removal of President Morsi, has alienated a big section of the community. **Two Egypts exist side-by-side** One is made of men and women, supporters of President Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, who are as angry as Mohammed Ramadan. They are furious that what they see as the democratic will of the people has been flouted, and they are in no mood to accept meekly what has been done to them. The other Egypt is still flocking to Tahrir Square and the area around the presidential palace for celebration rallies. For a few days this week the military has been entertaining them with a succession of air shows in the sky over Cairo. Helicopters fly in line astern over Tahrir Square trailing flags. Higher up fast jets let go vapour trials of black, white and red, the colours of the Egyptian national flag. **Jihadist whirlwind'** The planes are also a reminder of who is in charge now. Leaders of the secular opposition, who lost out badly at the last presidential election to political Islamists, will not use the words "coup" or "intervention" to describe what has happened in Egypt, even though what has happened matches most definitions of the word. They say instead that the armed forces are acting at the request of the people. Mohamed ElBaradei, an opposition leader who was a vocal critic of the military in the period it ran Egypt after it told President Hosni Mubarak his time was up, said the country had been stuck "between a rock and a hard place". President Morsi, he told me, had been trying to make himself into a pharaoh, and in the process he had stripped himself of his legitimate right to rule. The alternative to the military's move was civil war. It could even, he said, have been as bad as Somalia. Mr ElBaradei explained that Egyptian democracy was "nascent". The standards of European or American democracy, he said, could not be applied here. The actions of the army, he said, would put the revolution back on the right track. The best scenario for Egypt is that the army will enforce a period of calm. Mr ElBaradei said that politics would resume, and elections would follow. The worst scenario is that the violence the army says it wants to prevent will come back as a jihadist whirlwind. For all the talk of rebooting Egypt's political system, the fact is that its experiment with democracy has failed dismally. The leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood and its political party, together the biggest political and social movement in the country, have been rounded up and locked away in a way that happened often in the years before 2011. The army's intervention does not of itself do anything to tackle Egypt's huge economic problems. The country is deeply divided. **Egypt crisis: Who are the key players? (from left to)** GENERAL ABDEL FATTAH AL-SISI AND THE MILITARY MOHAMED ELBARADEI AND THE NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT TAMAROD (ANTI-MORSI MOVEMENT) ADLY MANSOUR AND THE SUPREME CONSTITUTIONAL COURT MOHAMMED MORSI AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD



SUBSCRIPTION

Develop India

available online

Price : 500 @ one year

for more details

09999811970

email us : subscriptiondevelopindia@gmail.com



- Forecasting in Mauritius as per the Announcement of Hon. Prime Minister of India at 2ndIndia-Africa Forum Summit held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2011 for leveraging weekly weather forecasts to harness benefits for building agro-advisory services.
- viii) Augmentation of High Performance Computing Facilities to Peta Flop Scale across the institutions of MoES in support of building advanced Earth System Models
  - ix) Launched major expansion of Training Facility for Operational Meteorology in IMD, Pune
  - x) First batch of fully trained scientific pool of 17 professionals from MoES Centre for Advanced Training in Earth System Science & Climate have been inducted in various institutions of the Ministry.
  - xi) Launched major multi-disciplinary mineral exploration program for potential sites of hydro-thermal and multi-metal sulphide mineralization over the Indian Ocean ridge.
  - xii) India, who has been so far actively engaged in scientific activities in Arctic region and member of International Arctic Science Committed, has attained Observer Status in the Arctic Council in May 2013
  - xiii) India to lead global efforts for building Climate Services as Vice-Chair of the Inter-Governmental Board of Climate Services under the aegis of the World Meteorological Organization.
  - xiv) Functional Establishment activities of India’s new research station – Bharati have been completed at Larsemann Hills during the recent 32nd Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica.
  - xv) 2-Units of Low Temperature Thermal Desalination Plants have been dedicated to the people of Minicoy and Agatti Islands of the Lakshadweep.
  - xvi) Pursuing Grand Challenge Programmes to address national priorities
    - Monsoon Forecasting Issue through targeted efforts involving coupled Ocean-Atmospheric Models under Monsoon Mission.
    - DPRs for Himalayan Meteorology and Glacier Research; Severe Weather Warning; Integrated Meteorological Services for North Eastern States; have been prepared for launching programs during XII Plan.
    - Earthquake Pre-cursory Research Efforts at Koyna region of Maharashtra

He also announced that the Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (AAS) and the Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) services have been among the most applauded user services rendered to the nation. He assured full support for expanded penetration of such services to the nation.

Shri Reddy said Recent heavy rainfall epochs and associated floods and large scale devastation in Uttarakhand have posed great challenges for augmenting weather, climate and hazard monitoring and warning systems in difficult hilly terrains. He also assured full support of the Government in all such efforts to render improved services to the people of hilly states.

The Guest of Honour Prof. Sir Brian Hoskins, Director, Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Imperial College, London, University of Reading,UK gave a vibrant presentation “The Indian Summer Monsoon-A Global Phenomenon “. Under it he discussed various aspects of the Indian Summer Monsoon which included the rain patterns since 2002. He detailed about the Behaviour of upper level (370K) PV structure in 2009 (August 2009 PV).

In addition he elaborated on the following points :

The low-level flow across the equator into the Indian Monsoon, Response to deep convective heating in the tropics, The low-level flow across the equator into the Indian Monsoon , The Mediterranean is part of the Asian Summer Monsoon, Upper atmosphere (370K) structure , Bi-weekly oscillation in model with idealised TP Orography & heating and the Pakistan floods summer 2010/Indian floods 2013

He concluded by saying that the Indian Summer Monsoon influences and is influenced by a significant proportion of the world’s weather/climate in June-August and it is vital to improve understanding of these connections for prediction on time-scales from 1day to 1 century.

On this occasion the Life Time Excellence Award was given to Prof. Roddam Narasimha from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advance Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangaluru, The Award Ccarries a cash prize of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and a citation; in the field of Ocean Science & Technology, Atmospheric Science & Technology, Geoscience & Technology and Polar Science & Cryosphere were given to Dr.Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi in the field of Ocean Science & Technology, Prof. U.C. Mohanty in the field of Atmospheric Science & Technology, Dr. Vijay Prasad Dimri in the field of Geoscience & Technology and Dr. Rasik Ravindra in the field of Polar Science & Cryosphere in addition the awards carries a cash prize of Rs 1.00 Lakh each and a citation. The young researcher award Dr. Nilanjan Saha the award carries a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/-. In addition certificates of merits were given in the categories of Ocean Science & Technology, Atmospheric Science & Technology some Ministry official were also awarded on this occasion. School children from across the country were also awarded for the drawing competition on the occasion.

## India’s Advanced Weather Satellite INSAT-3d Successfully Launched

India’s Weather Satellite INSAT-3D, carrying advanced weather monitoring payloads, was today launched successfully by Ariane-5 (VA214) launch vehicle from Kourou, French Guiana. According to a Press Release issued by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) ,after a smooth countdown lasting 11 hours and 30 minutes, the Ariane-5 launchvehicle lifted off right on schedule at the opening of the launch windowat 01:24 hours IST today. After a flight of 32 minutes and 48 seconds,INSAT-3D was placed in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO),very close to the intended one.

The orbital parameters of INSAT-3D, as recorded, are:

Parameter	Targeted	Achieved
Perigee (km)	249.9	249.9
Apogee (km)	35880	35923
Orbital Inclination with respect to Equatorial plane (deg)	3.501	3.495

Soon after the separation of INSAT-3D from the Ariane-5’s upper cryogenic stage, the satellite’s solar panel automatically got deployed. ISRO’s Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took over the control of INSAT-3D immediately. Preliminary health checks of all the subsystems of INSAT-3D bus were performed and the satellite’s health is satisfactory. In the coming days, orbit raising manoeuvres will be performed on INSAT-3D using the satellite’s own propulsion system to place it in the 36,000 km high Geostationary Orbit.



After placing the satellite at 82 deg East orbital slot, it is planned to turn on the meteorological payloads of INSAT-3D in the second week of August 2013 and to extensively test them.

With a lift-off mass of 2060 kg, INSAT-3D carries four payloads – Imager, Sounder, Data Relay Transponder and Satellite Aided Search & Rescue payload. Among them, the six channel imager can take weather pictures of the Earth and has improved features compared to the payloads in KALPANA-1 and INSAT-3A, the two Indian Geostationary Satellites providing weather services for the past one decade.



The 19 channel sounder payload of INSAT-3D adds a new dimension to weather monitoring through its atmospheric sounding system, and provides vertical profiles of temperature, humidity and integrated ozone.

Data relay transponder, the third payload carried by INSAT-3D, receives the meteorological, hydrological, oceanographic parameters sent by Automatic Data Collection platforms located at remote uninhabited locations and relays them to a processing centre for generating accurate weather forecasts.

INSAT-3D is also equipped with a search and rescue payload that picks up and relays alert signals originating from the distress beacons of maritime, aviation and land based users and relays them to the mission control centre to facilitate speedy search and rescue operations.

ISRO has taken up the responsibility of end-to-end reception and processing of INSAT-3D data and the derivation of meteorological parameters with India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi. An indigenously designed and developed INSAT-3D Meteorological Data Processing System (IMDPS) is installed and commissioned at IMD, New Delhi with a mirror site at Space Applications Centre, Bhopal and Ahmedabad.

## India, Belarus Sign Protocol to Boost Trade Ties

The 6th Session of the India-Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held today here. The session was co-chaired from the Indian Side by Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Mr. Dmitry S. Katerinich, Minister of Industry of the Republic of Belarus.

Highlighting that the meeting is yet another step in the direction of strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries, Dr. Natchiappan said that “sectors like pharmaceutical, fertilizers, information technology and research & development offer tremendous potential for cooperation between India and Belarus.” Elaborating on the fertilizer sector, the Indian Minister conveyed that “India is looking for long-term contracts for supply of potash to meet its growing requirements.” He also added that Indian companies can also look for “opportunities for setting up joint ventures in Belarus for production of potash-based fertilizers.” The Belarusian side recommended India to determine an Indian counterpart deputed to negotiate on the long-term cooperation agreement, take decisions and signing of the agreement for the full volume of the deliveries. The JSC “Belaruain Potash Company” and an Indian counterpart to be nominated by the Government of India should finalise the volumes, terms and conditions of the long-term cooperation agreement for MOP deliveries to India within specified time period.

The two Ministers also signed a Protocol after the Meeting. It was decided by both the sides that necessary steps will be taken to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Textiles, India and the Belarusian State Concern for Manufacturing and Marketing of Light Industry Goods (concern “Bellegprom”) on Cooperation in the Field of Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries.

The Republic of Belarus also asked India to recognise Belarus as a market economy country. The Indian side responded that the matter is under active correspondence between the sides. India is considering the issue of grant of market economy status to Belarus within the framework of India’s Antidumping Rules. The Indian side stated that the matter is being examined positively and the official decision would be taken before the next session of the Commission.

The Belarusian side flagged the issue related to the introduction and long duration of action of antidumping duties on a number of products of the petrochemical complex: tire cord fabric manufactured by JSC “Grodno Azot” and acrylics fibers manufactured by the plant “Polymir” of the OJSC “Naftan”. Belarus advocated for revocation of the antidumping duties on these goods and expressed the intension to maintain the export of the products to India, mostly of interest to Indian consumers.

Both the sides also agreed to create a Certification Centre of Belarusian companies and professionals in the field of software at the earliest possible time. The Belarusian Side will provide a draft concept of the Certification Centre of Belarusian companies and professionals in the field of software to initiate negotiations with the Indian Side.

The Belarusian delegation proposed to hold the 9th meeting of the Business Council “India-Belarus” in 2013 to promote the collaboration of business representatives, as well as agreed to define the dates of the National Exhibition (exposition) of the Republic of India during 2013-2014 in Minsk.

## Activities of the National Solar Mission

Under the National Solar mission, 11 projects of 50.50 MW capacity (48 MW PV+ 2.5 MW ST) under migration scheme, 26 projects of 130 MW capacity under Batch-I and 69 projects totalling 88.80 MW of small capacity power projects (RPSSGP Programme) have been commissioned. In all, a total capacity of over 1759.43 MW Grid connected Solar Power Projects have been commissioned in the country as on 31.05.2013. A total capacity of 252.50 MW off-grid Solar

Power Projects have been sanctioned and 60 MW have been commissioned. About 70.01 lakh sq. meter of collector area of solar thermal systems have been installed against a target of 70 lakh sq. meter of collector area.

## Tunisian politician Mohamed Brahmi assassinated

Tunisian opposition party leader Mohamed Brahmi has been shot dead in the capital, Tunis, in the country's second political killing this year. Protesters have gathered in Tunis and other cities across the country calling for the government to resign. Tunisia's largest trade union has called for a general strike on Friday and Tunisair has cancelled all flights to and from Tunisia for that day. Mr Brahmi, 58, led the nationalist Movement of the People party.



Prime Minister Ali Larayedh condemned his assassination, but said: "We are against all calls to dissolve the government to create a [power] vacuum."

In February, the killing of prominent secular politician Chokri Belaid sparked mass protests and forced Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali to resign.

An uprising in Tunisia in late 2010 kick-started a series of revolutions that spread through the Middle East and became known as the Arab Spring. But there has been deep division between Islamists and secular opponents since the revolution.



Many Tunisians, particularly the young, complain that their quest for secular democracy has been hijacked by intolerant Islamists, including the Muslim Brotherhood which forms part of the current government, our correspondent says.

Gunmen on a motorbike shot Mr Brahmi in his car in front of his wife and daughter on Thursday morning, Movement of the People party officials said. Local media reported the assailants fired 11 bullets at the politician. It is not known yet who was behind the attack.

## Secret of Usain Bolt's speed unveiled

Scientists say they can explain Usain Bolt’s extraordinary speed with a mathematical model. His 100m time of 9.58 seconds during the 2009 World Championships in Berlin is the current world record. They say their model explains the power and energy he had to expend to overcome drag caused by air resistance, made stronger by his frame of 6ft 5in. Writing in the European Journal of Physics, the team hope to discover what makes extraordinary athletes so fast.

According to the mathematical model proposed, Bolt's time of 9.58 seconds in Berlin was achieved by reaching a speed of 12.2 metres per second, equivalent to about 27mph.

The team calculated that Bolt's maximum power occurred when he was less than one second into the race and was only at half his maximum speed. This demonstrates the near immediate effect of drag, which is where air resistance slows moving objects.



They also discovered less than 8% of the energy his muscles produced was used for motion, with the rest absorbed by drag. When comparing Bolt's body mass, the altitude of the track and the air temperature, they found out that his drag coefficient - which is a measure of the drag per unit area of mass - was actually less aerodynamic than that of the average man.

Jorge Hernandez of the the National Autonomous University of Mexico said: "Our calculated drag coefficient highlights the outstanding ability of Bolt. He has been able to break several records despite not being as aerodynamic as a human can be.

"The enormous amount of work that Bolt developed in 2009, and the amount that was absorbed by drag, is truly extraordinary.

"It is so hard to break records nowadays, even by hundredths of a second, as the runners must act very powerfully against a tremendous force which increases massively with each bit of additional speed they are able to develop.

"This is all because of the 'physical barrier' imposed by the conditions on Earth. Of course, if Bolt were to run on a planet with a much less dense atmosphere, he could achieve records of fantastic proportions.

"The accurate recording of Bolt's position and speed during the race provided a splendid opportunity for us to study the effects of drag on a sprinter.

"If more data become available in the future, it would be interesting to see what distinguishes one athlete from another," added Mr Hernandez.

Bolt's time in Berlin was the biggest increase in the record since electronic timing was introduced in 1968.

John Barrow at Cambridge University who has previously analysed how Bolt could become even faster, explained that his speed came in part due his "extraordinary large stride length", despite



having such an initial slow reaction time to the starting gun.



"He has lots of fast twitch muscle fibres that can respond quickly, coupled with his fast stride is what gives him such an extraordinary fast time." He said Bolt has lots of scope to break his record if he responded faster at the start, ran with a slightly stronger tail-wind and at a higher altitude, where there was less drag. Bolt's Berlin record was won with a tail wind of only 0.9m per second, which didn't give him "the advantage of helpful wind assistance", he added.

## Genome of oil palm sequenced

The genome of one of the world's key commercial crops, the oil palm, has been sequenced. The plant's oil is used in many food and household products, but has caused controversy because large areas of rainforest have been cleared to make way for plantations. Through deciphering the crop's DNA, researchers have identified the genes that could help to produce a more sustainable crop.



The oil from palms has a wide variety of uses and is found in food, soaps and shampoos and biofuels. But as demand for the product has grown, rainforests, particularly those in South East Asia, have suffered. Trees have been felled to make way for the crop.

Now though, scientists say an insight into the plant's genes could help. An international team sequenced the genome of the oil palm, deciphering 1.8 billion "letters" of DNA. Prof Robert Martienssen, from the Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory in the US, said: "These large plant genomes are very challenging to sequence, in part because of the size, but also because they have a lot of repetitive sequences, which makes it difficult to put the jigsaw puzzle together. "We had to use some very advanced technology to do this." Within this code, the researchers found a gene that made some of the trees produce more oil than others.

Dr Rajinder Singh, from government agency the Malaysian Palm Oil Board, said: "The oil palm has three fruit forms. We have the thick-shelled type - the Dura; those that don't have any shell - the Pisifera - but are not used for commercial production; and we have a third form produced as a cross between the thick shell and the one without the shell, which is known as the Tenera. "It has a thinner shell, but more of the fleshy fruit to produce the oil, and it is the one used for commercial production. And we identified the gene producing this trait."

### Sustainable crop?

While oil palm growers attempt to grow only the thin-shelled Tenera variety, up to 10% of the seeds can be contaminated, and turn out to be the other less oily plants. Now the researchers say they can use the genetic information to identify the seeds that carry this trait.

Prof Martienssen said "We can now use that gene in genetic testing, which will allow breeders as well as producers to know exactly what sort of tree they are planting before it produces fruit. "It takes a long time for these trees to produce fruit, and by being able to predict exactly what sort of fruit that tree will produce, it will greatly assist breeders."

The researchers say this could offer a more sustainable form of agriculture. Dr Ravigadevi Sambanthamurthi, from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board, said: "This finding gives us huge hope. We hope to maximise land usage and produce a lot more on the same amount of land... because we do not want to get into the rainforest any more, we have cleared enough." However the environmental group WWF-UK said that the oil palm was already a very productive crop and that the global demand was growing rapidly, making the expansion of plantations inevitable.

Adam Harrison, the organisation's food and agriculture policy officer, said: "In a sense it does not matter if a 'good' variety replaces forest or a 'bad' one - the wildlife and communities that need access to that land will suffer.

"So for palm oil to be sustainable, the process of allocating and converting land needs to be controlled. "There is an abundance of low-carbon, low-wildlife and conflict-free land available in Indonesia and Malaysia, where most palm oil is grown, and there is no more need for forest areas to be converted."

## Arctic methane 'time bomb' could have huge economic costs

Scientists say that the release of large amounts of methane from thawing permafrost in the Arctic could have huge economic impacts for the world. The researchers estimate that the climate effects of the release of this gas could cost \$60 trillion (£39 trillion), roughly the size of the global economy in 2012. The impacts are most likely to be felt in developing countries they say. Scientists have had concerns about the impact of rising temperatures on permafrost for many years. Large amounts of methane are concentrated in the frozen Arctic tundra but are also found as semi-solid gas hydrates under the sea.

### Price of gas

Previous work has shown that the diminishing ice cover in the East Siberian sea is allowing the waters to warm and the methane to leach out. Scientists have found plumes of the gas up to a kilometre in diameter rising from these waters.

In this study, the researchers have attempted to put an economic price on the climate damage that these emissions of methane could cause. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, even though it lasts less than a decade in the atmosphere.

Using an economic model very similar to the one used by Lord Stern in his 2006 review of the economics of climate change, the researchers examined the impact of the release of 50-gigatonnes of methane over a decade.

They worked out that this would increase climate impacts such as flooding, sea level rise, damage to agriculture and human health to the tune of \$60 trillion.

"That's an economic time bomb that at this stage has not been recognised on the world stage,"

said Prof Gail Whiteman at Erasmus University in the Netherlands, and one of authors.



"We think it's incredibly important for world leaders to really discuss what are the implications of this methane release and what could we indeed do about it to hopefully prevent the whole burst from happening."



The researchers say their study is in marked contrast to other, more upbeat assessments of the economic benefits of warming in the Arctic region.

It is thought that up to 30% of the world's undiscovered gas and 13% of undiscovered oil lie in the waters. Transport companies are looking to send increasing numbers of ships through these fast melting seas. According to Lloyds of London, investment in the Arctic could reach \$100bn within ten years.

### Methane belch

But according to the new work, these benefits would be a fraction of the likely costs of a large scale methane emission. The authors say a release of methane on this scale could bring forward the date when global temperatures increase by 2C by between 15 and 35 years.

"We are looking at a big effect," said Prof Peter Wadhams from the University of Cambridge, "a possibly catastrophic effect on global climate that's a consequence of this extremely fast sea ice retreat that's been happening in recent years."

Some scientists have cautioned that not enough is known about the likelihood of such a rapid release of methane. Even though it has been detected for a number of years, it has as yet not been found in the atmosphere in large amounts.

Prof Wadhams says the evidence is growing. "We are seeing increasing methane in the atmosphere. When you look at satellite imagery, for instance the Metop satellite, that's gone up significantly in the last three years and the place where the increase is happening most is over the Arctic," he said.

The impacts of the extra methane would be felt most in developing countries which are more vulnerable to rising waters, flooding and the agricultural and health impacts of rising temperatures.

### Mercury exposure linked to dramatic decline in Arctic foxes

Scientists say that foxes in Arctic regions who feed on ocean prey are being exposed to dangerous levels of mercury. On one Russian island where the population of foxes has crashed, the researchers believe the toxin has played a key role in the decline.

They say the findings could have important implications for conservation.

The data is published in the Journal, PLOS ONE.

Mercury levels in the world's oceans have doubled over the past 100 years, according to the UN, with more mercury deposited in the Arctic than on any other part of the planet.

The Arctic Council says there has been a ten-fold increase in the levels of mercury found in top predators in the region over the past 150 years.



Now a team of researchers says it has found significant levels of mercury in different populations of Arctic foxes in different environments.

On the small Russian island of Mednyi, part of the Commander Islands chain in the North Pacific Ocean, the foxes survive almost exclusively on sea birds with some also eating seal carcasses.

The island's fox population declined mysteriously in the 1970s, and while the population is currently stable many of them are in poor condition, and have low body weight. They are listed as a critically endangered species with IUCN.

Scientists at one time believed their shrinking numbers were caused by an infection, but they couldn't find the underlying cause.

"We started to look for different pathogens that might underline the cause of the poor condition and high mortality but we couldn't find anything," said Dr Gabor Czirjak from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, a lead author on the new work.

But when they examined hair samples from the foxes and the food the animals eat, they found significant rates of mercury.

"They have high levels, compatible with the food, and it could explain the state of the foxes there," said Dr Czirjak.

"We know it is in the marine environment and it is causing exactly the type of symptoms that were found in this population," he added.

The team found a very different result when they compared the Russian foxes to their Icelandic cousins who live inland. These foxes survived on non-marine birds and rodents. They had much lower levels of the poison in their systems.

The scientists say their findings have important lessons for conservation in the Arctic.

"When you make a decision to try and conserve a species then you can make it based on the ecology or the feeding strategies that they use," said Dr Czirjak.

"If we want to preserve the Arctic foxes, it is better to invest in the inland population where we can maintain or sustain in the long term, than in a coastal population where it is really hard to disconnect from the source which is the marine environment."

The study raises some important questions about the how mercury is accumulating in the marine food chain in the Arctic region.

Mercury levels there have for decades been linked to industrial pollution but recent research from Nasa has suggested that declining levels of sea ice in the region could be helping to push up levels of the substance.

Global efforts to contain the poisonous effects of the element received a boost earlier this year when more than 140 countries agreed on a legally binding treaty to curb mercury pollution.

## US economy improving slowly, IMF says

The underlying condition of the US economy is improving, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, the IMF added that the recovery from recession has so far been "tepid". In its regular assessment of the economy, the IMF said the US still faces "powerful headwinds". But it noted gains on stock markets and in house prices, and predicted that economic growth should gradually accelerate over the next year. The IMF said the expiration of the payroll tax cut earlier this year and the impact of government spending cuts (through the so-called sequester) were "weighing significantly on growth this year".



However, further ahead, the IMF sees a slightly brighter picture and expects "economic activity to accelerate to 2.7% next year as the fiscal drag subsides and the negative legacies of the financial crisis wane further". On unemployment, the IMF predicted that the rate would remain broadly stable this year, "reflecting the pickup in the labour force participation as discouraged workers return to the labour force". It also expects the rate of unemployment to gradually fall in 2014.

### Gradual acceleration

The Federal Reserve's policy of keeping interest rates very low (close to zero) was also seen by the IMF as still being necessary to support the recovery. Overall, the IMF felt that the improvement in the underlying conditions of the US economy "bodes well for a gradual acceleration of growth".

The IMF's assessment is in stark contrast to one it released early this week on the eurozone, in which it concluded that the economies in several member countries remained weak.

### US inflation rises to 1.8% in June

Annual US consumer price inflation hit 1.8% in June as clothing, petrol and services costs all increased. That was up from the 1.4% figure recorded in May but still below the target inflation figure of 2%.



The consumer price index increased by 0.5% in June from the month before.

The US economy is growing more strongly than most of Europe, but unemployment has put downward pressure on wages, making it harder for retailers and other firms to raise prices.

Most of the month-on-month price increase was attributed to the rising cost of petrol.

'Comforting'

Taking out energy and food, core consumer prices increased by 0.2% between May and June, giving an increase over 12 months of 1.6%, the slowest pace in two years.

## Mid-East peace talks to resume in Washington

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will resume peace talks in Washington on Monday, the US State Department has announced. The talks, stalled since 2010, follow months of shuttle diplomacy by US Secretary of State John Kerry. The statement came hours after Israel approved the release of more than 100 Palestinian prisoners.

The release - which split the Israeli cabinet - is to take place in stages over several months.

US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the initial talks would begin on Monday evening and continue on Tuesday.

She said Mr Kerry had called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday and they had agreed that the talks would "serve as an opportunity to develop a procedural work plan for how the parties can proceed with the negotiations in the coming months".

The Israeli delegation will be led by Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, while chief negotiator Saeb Erekat will represent the Palestinian side.

Way forward

Ms Psaki suggested the initial talks would be to chart a way forward rather than try to tackle the thorny issues between the two sides.

Major sticking points include the future of Israeli settlements on the West Bank, the status of Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees.

The issue of settlement-building halted the last direct talks in September 2010.

Settlements are considered illegal under international law, although Israel disputes this.

Mr Kerry said in a statement: "Both leaders have demonstrated a willingness to make difficult decisions that have been instrumental in getting to this point. We are grateful for their leadership."

That in the five months that Mr Kerry has been secretary of state he has visited the region six times in an effort to restart talks, so today's statement is seen as a big step forward.

However, these are talks about talks and although a welcome development it is still very early days, she adds.

Earlier on Sunday, the Israeli cabinet approved the release of Palestinian prisoners by 13 votes to seven.

Some 104 long-term prisoners will be released in four stages over a number of months, linked



to progress in the peace process.



Sunday's cabinet meeting was delayed by an hour as Mr Netanyahu sought support for his proposal.



"This moment is not easy for me, is not easy for the cabinet ministers, and is not easy especially for the bereaved families, whose feelings I understand," he said shortly before the meeting. "But there are moments in which tough decisions must be made for the good of the nation and this is one of those moments."

The cabinet also approved a draft bill requiring a referendum for any peace agreement with the Palestinians that involves territorial concessions.

## Colombia says Farc 'accountable' for violence as talks resume

Chief Colombian government peace negotiator Humberto de la Calle has said the leftist Farc rebel group will be held to account for all the acts of violence it has committed. His comments come as peace negotiations resume in Cuba aimed at ending more than five decades of conflict. Mr de la Calle reaffirmed that the army would continue fighting until the end. More than 600,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the conflict, most of them civilians.



"I must remind you that the government has decided not to agree a ceasefire until, of course, the conflict comes to an end," said Mr de la Calle. "If we sign a final peace accord, then the Farc will be able to get into politics. But in a democracy and without weapons, only after they demobilise."

The current round of negotiations is intended to focus on the Farc's transition into formal politics. But a Farc negotiator in Havana confused journalists by reading a statement making reference to land reform, an issue on which there was agreement in May.

"There would be no point in discussing land reform in Havana if the government continues to reduce what has been agreed to empty words which vanish in the wind," said Andres Paris.

'Worse than war'

The talks were launched last November in the Cuban capital, 10 years after the failure of previous face-to-face negotiations.

At the time, the Colombian government was accused of being naive by agreeing to a ceasefire and allowing the rebels to operate in a vast demilitarised area. But the government of President Juan Manuel Santos has decided to continue fighting the rebels until they give up their armed struggle and join the legal political process.

There is huge pressure in Colombia, however, for justice for those who have perpetrated acts of violence from both sides of the conflict.

"The guerrilla will be held to account for everything that has happened during the conflict," said Mr de la Calle.

The rebels say most of the victims were poor peasants and other civilians targeted by the army and right-wing paramilitaries for their alleged support to the rebels.

Earlier this month, the main Farc negotiator, Ivan Marquez, said Colombia had to prepare for peace as the conflict was "nearing an end".

The government said a final settlement must be agreed by November. The Farc warned of the dangers of rushing into a settlement. "It is possible [to reach an agreement by November]. But to achieve peace you need time. A bad peace deal is worse than war," he said in an interview with Colombian network RCN. His comments came days before at least 15 soldiers were killed in an ambush near the Venezuelan border in an ambush the government blamed on the Farc.

### Six points on peace agenda

- Land reform
- Political participation
- Disarmament
- Illicit drugs
- Rights of the victims
- Peace deal implementation

# POVERTY ESTIMATES FOR 2011-12

The Planning Commission has periodically estimated poverty lines and poverty ratios for each of the years for which Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure have been conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. These surveys are normally conducted on quinquennial basis. The last quinquennial survey in this series was conducted in 2009-10 (NSS 66th round). However, since 2009-10 was not a normal year because of a severe drought, the NSSO repeated the large scale survey in 2011-12 (NSS 68th round). The summary results of this survey were released on 20th June 2013.

### Estimates for 2004-05 and 2009-10 Methodology for estimation

The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by experts in the field from time to time. In December, 2005, Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The Tendulkar Committee submitted its report in December 2009 and computed poverty lines and poverty ratios for 2004-05. For comparison they also computed poverty lines and poverty ratios for 1993-94 with identical methodology. These were accepted by the Planning Commission.

The next Large Sample Survey of Household Consumer Expenditure was conducted in 2009-10. Following the Tendulkar Committee methodology, Planning Commission made estimates of poverty for 2009-10 which were released through a Press Note on 19th March 2012.<sup>1</sup> Since several representations were made suggesting that the Tendulkar Poverty Line was too low, the Planning Commission, in June 2012, constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan to once again review the methodology for the measurement of poverty.

**Tendulkar methodology** uses implicit prices derived from quantity and value data collected in household consumer expenditure surveys for computing and updating the poverty lines.

The **Rangarajan Committee** is deliberating on this issue and is expected to submit its report by middle of 2014. Since the data from the NSS 68th round (2011-12) of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey is now available, and the Rangarajan Committee recommendation will only be available a year later, the Planning Commission has updated the poverty estimates for the year 2011-12 as per the methodology recommended by Tendulkar Committee.

### Estimates for 2011-12

The estimates of state wise poverty lines for rural and urban areas for 2011-12 are given in Table 1. The percentage and number of persons below poverty line for all States/UTs for rural areas, urban areas and combined are given in Table-2. The all India poverty ratio is obtained as state-population weighted average poverty ratio, and the all India poverty line is the per capita per month expenditure that corresponds to the all India poverty ratio.

The NSSO tabulates expenditure of about 1.20 lakh households. Since these households have different number of members, the NSSO for purpose of comparison divides the household expenditure by the number of members to arrive at per capita consumption expenditure per month. This is called Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) and is computed on the basis of three different concepts: Uniform Reference Period (URP), Mixed Reference Period (MRP), and Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP). As per Tendulkar Methodology, the poverty line has been expressed in terms of MPCE based on Mixed Reference Period. State-wise estimates of Average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure for rural and urban areas separately for the year 2011-12 are given in Table-3.

For 2011-12, for rural areas the national poverty line using the Tendulkar methodology is estimated at Rs. 816 per capita per month and Rs. 1,000 per capita per month in urban areas. Thus, for a family of five, the all India poverty line in terms of consumption expenditure would amount to about Rs. 4,080 per month in rural areas and Rs. 5,000 per month in urban areas. These poverty lines would vary from State to State because of inter-state price differentials.

The national level poverty ratio based on comparable methodology (Tendulkar Method) for 1993-94, 2004-05 and 2011-12 estimated from Large Sample Survey of Household Consumer Expenditure data of 50th, 61st and 68th round.

The percentage of persons below the Poverty Line in 2011-12 has been estimated as 25.7% in rural areas, 13.7% in urban areas and 21.9% for the country as a whole. The respective ratios for the rural and urban areas were 41.8% and 25.7% and 37.2% for the country as a whole in 2004-05. It was 50.1% in rural areas, 31.8% in urban areas and 45.3% for the country as a whole in 1993-94. In 2011-12, India had 270 million persons below the Tendulkar Poverty Line as compared to 407 million in 2004-05, that is a reduction of 137 million persons over the seven year period.

During the 11-year period 1993-94 to 2004-05, the average decline in the poverty ratio was 0.74 percentage points per year. It accelerated to 2.18 percentage points per year during the 7-year period 2004-05 to 2011-12. Therefore, it can be concluded that the rate of decline in the poverty ratio during the most recent 7-year period 2004-05 to 2011-12 was about three times of that experienced in the 11-year period 1993-94 to 2004-05.

It is important to note that although the trend decline documented above is based on the Tendulkar poverty line which is being reviewed and may be revised by the Rangarajan Committee, an increase in the poverty line will not alter the fact of a decline. While the absolute levels of poverty would be higher, the rate of decline would be similar. To illustrate the point, details about the magnitude of decline in poverty ratio at various levels above and below the Tendulkar Poverty Line are presented.

The decline in poverty flows from the increase in real per capita consumption. The per annum increase in real MPCE for each of the ten deciles is presented at Chart-2. The clear inference is that: (a) the real MPCE increased by much more in the second period (2004-05 to 2011-12) as compared to the first (1993-94 to 2004-05), (b) that the increase was fairly well distributed across all deciles of the population, and (c) the distribution was particularly equitable in rural areas.

## Haiti cholera epidemic caused by UN, say experts

A group of international scientists studying a deadly cholera epidemic in Haiti has concluded that peacekeepers from the United Nations were the most likely source of the disease. The epidemic, which began in late 2010, has so far claimed over 8,000 lives. The UN formally rejected compensation claims in February.

This conclusion could have a major impact on a forthcoming multi-billion dollar compensation claim now being mounted by victims in a US court. The cholera epidemic in Haiti has put the United Nations in an unprecedented legal and moral crisis.



Ever since the outbreak began, all the circumstantial evidence has pointed to the source of the disease being a military camp for UN peacekeepers from Nepal, where cholera is common. Sewage from the UN camp leaked into a nearby river and was dumped in an open pit.

The cholera then spread down the river and into Haiti's towns and cities.

The United Nations, under massive pressure from the victims, convened a panel of top scientists in 2011. But it concluded in an official UN report that no group or individual was to blame.

Now, the very same group of scientists has looked at new microbiological evidence. And it has concluded that the Nepalese camp was the most likely source of the outbreak.

The families of people who died in the epidemic are planning to sue the UN for compensation totalling many billions of dollars.

The UN says it has legal immunity from any prosecution. But the victims say they are bringing their case anyway, in a US court. This new evidence will almost certainly bolster their claim.

**UN says it will not pay compensation to Haiti cholera victims**

The UN says it will not pay compensation for the cholera outbreak in Haiti and that they have "advised the claimants representatives that claims are not receivable pursuant to section 29 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations"

Martin Nesirky, spokesman for UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he "expresses his profound sympathy for the terrible suffering caused by the cholera epidemic".

The cholera outbreak in Haiti has killed almost 8,000 people and infected more than 600,000 people.

## Cuba's Raul Castro points to 'gradual power transfer'

President Raul Castro has said power in Cuba is being gradually transferred, in a speech at celebrating 60 years since the start of the revolution. The revolutionaries were giving way to a new generation who would keep socialist ideals alive, Mr Castro said. Several Latin American leaders gathered in Santiago to mark the failed Moncada barracks assault, seen as the start of Mr Castro's brother Fidel's revolution.



Fidel Castro stepped down from power in 2008 after a series of health issues. He was absent from Friday's celebrations in Santiago. Whereas in Fidel's time it was customary to make big announcements on 26 July, Raul Castro has been keeping a lower profile at the event.

This year, President Castro - who's been pushing a string of economic and political changes in the country - paid tribute to his brother and the revolution. "The historic generation is giving way to the new one, with tranquillity and serene confidence, based on the preparation and competence to keep the flags of the revolution and socialism flying high," he told the crowd.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega and Uruguay's Jose Mujica were among dignitaries in the audience.

Mr Mujica, who also took up arms with revolutionaries in his country, said the Cuban revolution had given other Latin American nations confidence. "This was a revolution of dignity. It gave us dreams," he said.

On Wednesday, the former revolutionary had a personal meeting with Fidel Castro.

Following the talks, he said Mr Castro was weighed down by his age but remained brilliant and youthful in his mind.

The annual 26 July rally marks the anniversary of the first battle of the Cuban revolution when Fidel, along with Raul, led an attack on the Moncada barracks.

It was successfully repelled by the army of dictator Fulgencio Batista and the Castro brothers were sent to prison but later released.

**Editorial and Corporate Office**  
D 55, West Vinod Nagar, New Delhi - 92  
**RNI**  
UPENG/2008/26617  
**Publisher, Editor and Owner**  
Dheer Singh Rajput  
Allahabad; Sunday; Develop India Year 5, Vol. 1,  
Issue 259, 21-28 July, 2013  
**Place of Publication & Registered Office**  
331/240 A, Stainly Road, Nayapura, Allahabad  
(UP)  
**Printing Press & Address**  
Academy Press Daraganj, Allahabad (UP)  
**Website :** http://www.developindiagroup.co.in/  
**E-mails :**  
editordevelopindia@gmail.com  
subscriptiondevelopindia@gmail.com  
developindiamediagroup@gmail.com  
developindiamediagroupcorporate@gmail.com  
developindia2011@gmail.com  
civilservicesminerva@gmail.com