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PICK OF THE MONTH

SEVENTH G20 SUMMIT HELD IN LOS CABOS, MEXICO AIMED AT BOOSTING WORLD ECONOMY

The seventh G20 summit took place on 18, 19 June 2012. Mexico chaired the summit. The summit took place in the city of Los Cabos in Mexico. It is a twenty member brigade; the summit includes countries, South Africa, Canada, India, Mexico, United States, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and Australia. The objectives and highlights of the summit are as follows:

THE G 20 DECLARATION

- The leaders of the world's largest economies will help in boosting growth and job creation to repair the wounded global economy because of the European financial crisis.
- The statement also included the importance of easing the Spanish Crisis.
- The Summit declaration also included investment in infrastructure in the developing countries; this decision would help in achieving global growth which was hauled due to the falling state of the world economy and the Eurozone crisis.
- All the Euro members of the G 20 will indulge in necessary policy measures to not only safeguard the integrity, but also stabilize the whole area. This would be done only by breaking the feedback loop between the sovereigns and the banks.
- The summit has also recognized the progress made by China in market-determined exchanged rates.
- The summit has singled out Saudi Arabia, by bringing in a Saudi pledge to keep the oil prices at bay and low. This is a step to ensure global economic well being.
- European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy asked markets to focus on a European summit at the end of the month. It would eventually help the continent move deeper and help the economic and political integration to match its single currency.
- The 14-page statement emphasized the need for growth because this is the only way they will solve the debt problem of the Eurozone.
- The non-European members of the G20 have sent a message to Europe that it has to find a way that the Eurozone's finances can be supervised by a triumvirate comprising the European Central Bank, the IMF and the EU.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION

- Owing to the debt loaded 17 nation Euro zone, India on 19 June 2012 announced a \$10 Billion contribution to the already existing IMF's \$430 Billion financial money.
- The announcement was made by Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, India in the Seventh

Seventh G 20 and G 20's history

- The seventh G 20 take took place in the Mexican resort of Los Cabos. The seventh summit was headed by Mexico's President, Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa.

Summit, G 20, Mexico.

- The amount was contributed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the bailout fund, which would help them ease off a little burden from the debt scenario.

The Group of Twenty, or G20, is

the premier forum for international cooperation on the most important aspects of the international economic and financial agenda. It brings together the world's major advanced and emerging economies. The G20 includes 19 country members and the European Union, which together represent around 90% of global GDP, 80% of global trade and two-thirds of the world's population. The G 20 started in the year 1999, but it has been regular only since 2008.

FJP LEADER MOHAMMED MURSI WON EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2012



MOHAMMED MURSI, leader of the FREEDOM AND JUSTICE PARTY (FJP), on 24 June 2012 was declared victorious in Egypt's historical presidential election. Mursi bagged 51.73 per cent of the total 13.23 million votes cast, while his closest rival Ahmed Shafiq, the former Egyptian PM and the independent candidate, polled 48.3 per cent votes. The FJP is an independent political party, which enjoys a strong political support from the Muslim Brotherhood, the largest and best-organized political group in

Egypt

The first Presidential election, which was also the first free elections in the history of the country, was held on 23 and 24 May 2012 followed by the main election, held on 16 and 17 June 2012. The presidential election 2012 was the first presidential election in the country after the 2011 Egyptian revolution during the Arab Spring, which ousted the autocratic president Hosne Mubarak from the office.

TURN OF EVENTS

Egypt, which was officially named the Arab Republic of Egypt on 18 June 1953, has remained under constant autocratic rule since 1967 (barring the 18-month break in 1980). Between 1981 and 2011, the country was governed by authoritarian ruler Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, who rose to power following the assassination of President Mohammed Anwar El-Sadat. But the thunderous Arab Uprising in 2011, which led to a wide spread movement for democracy in Egypt and several other Arab states, forced Mubarak to step down after reigning in the country for 30 years. Mubarak, who stepped down on 11 February 2011, entrusted the power to the army led by Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi. The 18-day unrest in the country claimed lives of about 850 people. After taking the rein of the country, the Army scrapped the constitution and

dissolved parliament. It also promised to reinstate democracy in the country by holding a nationwide Presidential election. But a long delay from the military government's side in setting up the democratic

government, caused thousands of people resume the protest against the government. On 29 June 2011, in a violent protest held at Tahrir Square of Cairo, the place which symbolized the Arab Uprising, more than 1000 people were left wounded and score others left dead.

On 28 and 29 November, Egypt held its first post-uprising parliamentary election, which saw Islamist parties claiming the victory on nearly 75 per cent of seats. On 23 and 24 May 2012 the country held its first it's first free presidential election followed by the main election which was held on 16 and 17 June 2012. Putting an end to the 18-month long political turmoil in the country the Muslim Brotherhood affiliated Freedom and Justice Party leader Mohammed Mursi won the election.

The victory of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammad Mursi has virtually delighted the entire Arab world. Being the first Islamic President of the country, Mursi is expected to cooperate in a better manner with other Islamic nations in the region.

IMPACT OF MOHAMMAD MURSI'S VICTORY ON GLOBAL POLITICS

The victory of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammad Mursi has virtually delighted the entire Arab world. Being the first Islamic President of the country, Mursi is expected to cooperate in a better manner with other Islamic nations in the region. The victory of Mursi also holds a larger significance in the context of Arab- Israel conflict. The poll verdict, which appeared highly satisfactory for the Palestinians, caused the same amount of anxiety among the Israeli establishment. Islamist leader's rise to power certainly perturbed the Israel and its allies in the world, which had long been at loggerheads with Arab countries. Given the fact that Palestinian organization Hamas is popularly called the daughter of the Muslim Brotherhood and has always shared a warm tie with the mother organization, the two countries are likely to team up against Isreal on regional issues which will apparently intensify the hatred politics in the middle-east.

CALCUTTA HC SCRAPPED SINGUR LAND REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2011

The Calcutta High Court on 22 June 2012, held the Singur Land Rehabilitation and Development Act, 2011 as unconstitutional and void. The legislation enabled the government to recover the disputed Singur land from Tata Motors, who was leased 997 acre of land at Singur in Hooghly district by previous left front government in the state.

Singur land dispute surfaced in May 2006, following the left front government's decision to lease 997 acre land for 99 years, at Singur in Hooghly district, about 40 km from Kolkata, for The Tata Motors' Nano car project.

The Singur Land Rehabilitation and Development Act were passed by the West Bengal state assembly in 2011 when Mamata Banerjee led Trinamool Congress swept to power in May 2011. The legislation which justified the state government's land re-acquisition drive empowered the government to recover 1000 acres of land at the abandoned Tata

Nano factory site in Singur.

WHAT IS SINGUR LAND DISPUTE?

Singur land dispute surfaced in May 2006, following the left front government's decision to lease 997 acre land for 99 years, at Singur in Hooghly district, about 40 km from Kolkata, for The Tata Motors' Nano car project. The move was fiercely opposed by the Trinamool Congress, the then principal opposition party of the state. The party demanded the return of 400 acre of land to farmers reluctant to give land for the project. Following the dispute and the political hindrances occurring in the project the Tata Motors decided to move to Sanand in Gujarat in 2008 to keep its ambitious Nano project going. The company, however, kept possession of the leased land at Singur.

When the Trinamool Congress swept to the power in May 2011, throwing long standing left front government out of power, the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee passed the Singur Land Rehabilitation and Development Act, which enabled the government to reclaim the Singur land from the Tata Motors. Tata Motors moved to the Calcutta High Court against the legislation. The single judge bench of Calcutta High Court upheld her decision in its ruling held on 28 June 2011. Perturbed of the ruling, Tata Motors challenged the verdict before the Division Bench of Calcutta High Court comprising Justice Kalyan Jyoti Sengupta and Justice Joymalya Bagchi on 1 November 2011.

WALT DISNEY BANNED JUNK FOOD ADVERTISEMENTS ON KID'S PROGRAMMES

The Walt Disney Company on 6 June 2012 announced to ban the junk food advertisements on kid's programmes. The decision taken by the senior management of the company made it the first media company to ban junk-food ads on programmes made for children. Disney necessitated new guidelines for the commercials of food and beverages products on Disney XD and Disney-owned ABC television stations. Disney Channel and Disney Junior, which are not ad-supported but receive brand sponsorships, would also be covered under the nutrition guidelines.

Food and beverage advertisers who want their products to get endorsed on Disney Channel or

Disney XD will have to meet various guidelines such as serving size, calories, fat and sugar content by 2015. The guidelines are aimed at reducing the obesity among the children.

WHAT IS JUNK FOOD?

Junk food is a term used for food that contains high level of calories and little nutritional components. The term Junk Food was coined by Michael Jacobson, director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, in 1972.

Junk foods are considered to be one of the most vital reasons of obesity among the people across the world. In USA more than two-thirds of the entire populations are overweight and 30 per cent suffer from obesity, in addition to that there has also been a dramatic increase in childhood obesity. In the United States, the percentage of overweight or obese children has doubled over the past 30 years to 25 per cent of the under-19 population.

FITCH RATING AGENCY REVISED OUTLOOK ON INDIA'S FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO NEGATIVE

Ratings agency Fitch on 20 June 2012 revised the outlook on India's financial institutions to negative from stable. The outlook of six government banks, two private banks, two wholly owned government institutions and one infrastructure finance company was lowered by the rating agency. The financial entities which faced the axe are as follows: Bank of Baroda (BoB) and its overseas subsidiary Bank of Baroda (New Zealand), Canara Bank, IDBI Bank and Axis Bank, Export-Import Bank of India, Hudco, IDFC and Indian Railway Finance Corporation. The downward revision in outlook is likely to result in increased cost of fund from overseas. Major public sector lender, State Bank of India which recently announced its plans to raise \$2 billion from overseas markets will be hit the most by the revision.



In the report by Fitch, the rating agency listed high customer deposit base, established domestic franchises and adequate capitalisation as the strengths of banks. On the other hand it also mentioned that non-banking institutions are at greater risk because they lack the funding advantage. It also mentioned that in case sovereign long-term IDR is downgraded, banks with viability rating (VR) of BBB- would also be affected because of these linkages. VR is designed to represent its view as to the intrinsic creditworthiness of an issuer.

The rating agency had earlier on 18 June 2012 also revised India's sovereign outlook to negative. Following the downward revision of the sovereign outlook, outlook of seven PSUs including NTPC, SAIL, IOC, PFC, GAIL, REC and NHPC was lowered to negative. The Fitch action thus affected 19 Indian entities in all. The rating agency further opined that weakening economic and fiscal outlook, slowing business reforms as well as inflationary pressures is likely to further put pressure on the future asset quality of the entities.

CLEAN INDIA CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED FOR 100 MONUMENTS IN DELHI

Under 12th five year plan of Indian Government CLEAN INDIA CAMPAIGN was launched on 19 June 2012 at Qutab Minar, Delhi by Tourism Ministry to improve Indian heritage and to attract more tourists. There were 100 heritages likely to be cover under the project of Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC).

The project involves garbage clearance, drinking water facilities, maintenance of parking lots and toilets and proper signage at the heritage complex. It also includes tourist help desks and volunteers for good management among tourists. There were number of facilities available for physically challenged person. Delhi Government also planned to advertise the campaign message on train tickets. Radio jingles and posters were also released. The project was launched with the plan to attract 6 million more foreign tourists. Currently, foreign tourist rate is 5.7 million in a year.

PAK SPINNER DANISH KANERIA WAS BANNED BY ENGLAND & WALES CRICKET BOARD



Pakistani Cricket player Danish Kaneria was banned by England and Wales Cricket Board on 21 June 2012. He was given a lifetime ban because he was found guilty for corruption. He is the third Pakistani player who is banned because of match fixing.

In addition, in the year 2000 Salim Malik and Ata-ur-rehman were banned for lifetime from Cricket because of match-fixing. Moreover, Salman Butt, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif were banned by the International Cricket Council and jailed by the court of United Kingdom in the year 2010 for fixing specific parts of a Test match. Danish Kaneria is 31 years old. He took 261 wickets in 61 Tests for Pakistan. He had taken 15 wickets in 18 one-day internationals.

DHONI APPOINTED AS A BRAND AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL CRICKET ASSOCIATION



Indian Cricket Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was appointed as a brand ambassador of Nepal Cricket Association; Nepal on 17 June 2012. The announcement was made by Posta Bahadur Bogati, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal. Dhoni will promote and develop cricket in Nepal. Dhoni also advised Nepal cricket officials to get permission from International Cricket Council to construct a stadium. The stadium would likely to promote cricket in the country. Mahendra Singh Dhoni was born on 7 July 1981 in Ranchi, Bihar. At present, he is the captain of the Indian ODI, Twenty20 team and Indian Test team. India won the 2011 Cricket World Cup under his captaincy.

PRANAB MUKHERJEE ALL SET TO BE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Pranab Mukherjee, who has been nominated the ruling Congress Party candidate for the Presidential Elections 2012, resigned as the Union Finance Minister on 26 June 2012. Mukherjee tendered his resignation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. A veteran Congress party leader, Mukherjee was appointed the Union Finance Minister on 24 January 2009, during the UPA I government. The victory of UPA in 2009 general elections saw him again occupying the finance portfolio in the UPA II Government. Mukherjee was first appointed as the Finance minister of India during the Indira Gandhi government in 1982 and he got his maiden annual budget presented in the Parliament in 1982-83.



Mukherjee was first elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament in 1969 from West Bengal. He was re-elected in 1975, 1981, 1993 and 1999. His first stint as the Union Minister started in 1973, when he was appointed the Union Deputy Minister for Industrial Development in the Indira Gandhi government. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament, in 2004 from Birbhum constituency in West Bengal. Mukherjee served in various capacities under three different Prime Ministers including Indira Gandhi, PV Narsimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.

In a Parliamentary career spanning more than four decades, Mukherjee held various key positions such as the Union Minister of External Affairs and Union Minister of Defence in various Congress governments. As the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission during PV Narsimha Rao government from 24 June 1991 to 15 May 1996, he was instrumental in the growth of Indian economy in the post economic reform era. A key figure of the Congress led UPA government, Mukherjee was heading nearly a dozen Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on various crucial issues such as telecom, divestment, food security, water issues, gas pricing and large power projects, among others. His candidature for the Presidential Elections also made him to quit as the head of numerous EGoM.

Important Information:

As per the Article 58 of the Indian constitution, any person who holds any office of profit is not eligible to contest Presidential Election in India. Since any of the union or state cabinet ministries does not fall under the office of profit, it is constitutionally not obligatory on person holding any ministry to resign from his post to contest the Presidential Election.

PAKISTANI GHAZAL MAESTRO MEHDI HASSAN DIED IN KARACHI

Pakistani ghazal maestro Mehdi Hassan passed away in Karachi on 13 June 2012 following a prolonged illness. The legendary ghazal singer had not been well for last several years. He was suffering from lung, chest and urinary tract ailments. Born into a family of traditional musicians on 18 July 1927 in Luna in Rajasthan, Mehdi Hassan had migrated to Pakistan with his family in 1947 at the time of partition. Belonging from the Kalawant clan of traditional classical musicians, he represented the 18th generation of the family. He had been presented with numerous honours including Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, Pride of Performance and Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan, Saigal Award in India and Gorkha Dakshina Bahu by the Government of Nepal.



Mehdi Hassan learnt dhrupad and kheyal from his father Ustad Azeem Khan and uncle Ustad Ismail Khan who were both renowned Dhrupad singers. Hassan started to perform at a young age of eight and sang in more than 325 films. He got his first opportunity to sing on Radio Pakistan in 1957. From there he earned a name for him within the musical fraternity.

Once dubbed as the voice of God by Lata Mangeshkar, Hassan had a huge fan following both in India and Pakistan. The singer, who was also fondly called the Shehenshahe Ghazal by his fans, gave his voice to nearly 5000 songs including film songs, ghazals, thumri, dadra etc. His most popular film numbers came in the movies like Dard, Bharosa, Jab Jab Phool Khile, Insaaf Aur Qanoon, Daman Aur Chingari and Aaina. Aaj tu ghair sahi from the film Dahleez was his last big hit.

SACHIN TENDULKAR SWORN IN AS THE MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA

Legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar sworn in as the member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament on 4 June 2012. Sachin along with hindi film actress Rekha and business woman Anu Aga was nominated by the President of India as Rajya Sabha MP on 27 April 2012.

Since Parliament is not in session, Sachin was administered the oath in the chamber of the Rajya Sabha chairman Hamid Ansari. The Vice President administered him the oath. He took oath in Hindi. Sachin, 39, is the first active cricketer who has been nominated to Rajya Sabha for 6-year term. The President of India under article 80 of the Indian constitution nominates 12 members belonging from the various fields like art, literature, business and sports to the 250-member Rajya Sabha.

INDIAN RAILWAYS & IIT-KANPUR DEVELOPED REAL-TIME TRAIN RUNNING INFO SYSTEM

A joint team of Indian railways and IIT-Kanpur developed the real-time train running information system, a technology which will help a mobile user to get the information about the exact location of a train. Under the new technology the user will have to type the train number and SMS it to 09415139139 or 09664139139 for getting the exact location of a train on real-time basis.



The satellite-based train tracking system was jointly developed by the Centre For Railway Information Systems (CRIS), the IT arm of Indian railways and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur to overcome the limitations of the existing Train Running Information System. At present the real-time train running information system service covers 36 pairs of premier trains. Some of the trains which have been provided with the new technology include Mumbai Rajdhani, Howrah Rajdhani, Dibrugarh Rajdhani, Sealdah Durgam and Shatabdi trains for Bhopal, Kanpur and Amritsar.

The Indian Railway has allocated 121 crore rupees for the project and the service is likely to be extended to all major trains over the next 18 months. The Indian Railways has received the permission from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to operate the system through its satellite. The railways department, however, sought fresh order from ISRO, to extend the facility to other major trains.

INTERNATIONAL

AFGHANISTAN & NORWAY FINALIZED DRAFT OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Afghanistan and Norway on 27 June 2012 finalized the draft of the strategic partnership agreement between the two countries. The two countries will sign the draft in September 2012. Norwegian forces are posted in Faryab province of northern Afghanistan. The strategic partnership agreement provides the long-term framework for the relationship between Afghanistan and the Norway after the withdrawal of forces. Afghanistan has already signed strategic partnership agreements with the US, Britain, India, Germany, France and Italy.

INDIA EMERGED AS LARGEST TRADING PARTNER OF DUBAI

India emerged as the largest trading partner of Dubai in the first quarter of 2012-13. The latest data of Dubai foreign trade released by the Dubai Customs in the third week of June 2012 shows the trade volume in the first quarter between India and Dubai to be worth 13 billion US Dollars. India was the number one exporting country with a volume worth 7 billion dollars.

In terms of imports, India came second at 6 billion dollars after China. Dubai's oil foreign trade

registered a significant growth of 6.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2012-2013, which reflects the resilience and diversity of the economy. Gold was the number one product to be exported from Dubai in the first quarter of 2012-13.

INDIA AND ISRAEL INKED PACT TO PROMOTE BILATERAL RELATION IN TOURISM SECTOR

India and Israel inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand the bilateral relation in the tourism sector on 24 June 2012. Israel, under the MoU, will open a tourism office in Mumbai and increase the frequency of flights to India. The MoU was signed between Israeli Tourism Minister Stas Misezhnikov and his Indian counterpart Minister Subodh Kant Sahai in Jerusalem in Israel.

Israel is also set to invest 660000 dollar to draw more Indian tourists to the country. The MoU also set the foundation to establish a tourism development forum, which will seek the advice from various stakeholders including travel agents, hoteliers and tour operators and from the media, to expand tourism market in both the countries. The two countries have a great scope of tourism development by engaging into mutual cooperation as nearly 40000 Indian tourists visit Israel every year, and the same number of Israeli citizens comes to India annually.

INDIA AND CHINA SET A 100 BILLION DOLLARS TRADE TARGET BY 2015

India and China on 21 June 2012 agreed to increase their defence and security dialogue and work to take steps to ensure that the two countries achieve a 100 billion dollars trade target by 2015. The decision was taken on the sidelines of the RiO+ 20 summits at Rio De Janeiro. India also raised the border issue during the talks.

India and China agreed that they would continue political dialogue at the political level. India and China also decided that the special representatives would work for preparing the joint record of their work so far, which was already announced in January 2012 and give directions for the future co-ordination between the two countries.

The special representatives of India and China would submit a report on the developments so far by January 2013. India would setup inter-ministerial group on its side while China would have an official team that would periodically exchange views on maritime issues relating to trade and security.

ANTONIS SAMARA SWORN IN AS PM OF GREECE

The New Democracy Party leader Antonis Samara sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Greece on 20 June 2012. Samaras's centre-right New Democracy party bagged 129 seats of 300 in the parliamentary elections held on 17 June 2012.

The New Democracy Party formed the new government with the support of socialist party Pasok (with 33 seats) and the Democratic Left party (with 17 seats). The fresh elections were held in Greece following the political parties' failure to reach an agreement on the results of the first election held on 6 May 2012.



Greece has been passing through the severe economic crisis which started in 2008. The country which makes nearly 2 per cent of the gross economic output of the Euro zone has seriously been contemplating the option of pulling out of the group. The exit of Greece from the euro zone raises a serious question over the future of European Union as many larger European economies such as Spain, Italy, Portugal are also likely to follow in the steps of Greece. To rescue Greece out of the economic crisis the European Union and International Monetary Fund had granted a 110 billion Euro package to the country in 2010, followed by a 130 billion Euro package in 2012.

PAK SC DEBARRED PM YUSUF RAJA GILANI FROM OFFICE

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on 19 June 2012 debarred Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raja Gilani from his office. The court's ruling also disqualified Gilani as the member of the National Assembly, the lower house of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament). Gilani was convicted for violating the article 63(1) (g) (contempt of court) of the constitution of Pakistan on 26 April 2012 by the Supreme Court. The court's verdict came following Gilani's refusal to probe cases of corruption against Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari.

The three-judge Bench of the apex Pakistani court headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry held Gilani, Pakistan's longest serving Prime Minister, ineligible for the post since 26 April 2012 when the court awarded him a symbolic 30-second sentence for the contempt of court. The court also instructed the President to take necessary measures under the Constitution to ensure continuation of the democratic process through the parliamentary system of government.

Born on 9 June 1952, Yusuf Raja Gilani, had been the member of Pakistan's National Assembly from Multan-IV constituency since 1988.

Earlier the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, Fehmida Mirza had ruled that Gilani can't be disqualified as the PM of the country as the conviction for the contempt of court awarded to him does not merit Disqualification. Born on 9 June 1952, Yusuf Raja Gilani, had been the member of Pakistan's National Assembly from Multan-IV constituency since 1988. In 2008 general elections he led Pakistan People Party (PPP) to a victory, to took over as the 16th Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

FATOU BENSOUA APPOINTED AS CHIEF PROSECUTOR OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Gambian lawyer Fatou Bensouda was sworn in on 15 June 2012 as the International Criminal Court's new chief prosecutor. Bensouda was elected at the latest session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute (ASP) in December 2011 for a nine-year term.

Born on 31 January 1961 in Gambia, Bensouda is the first woman and the first African to be appointed as the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, which is investigating 15 cases in seven countries, all of them African. She also served as a Deputy Prosecutor in charge of the Prosecutions Division of the ICC since 2004. Bensouda is the recipient of the ICJ International Jurists Award (2009), which was conferred on her by President of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil. Bensouda was given this award for her contributions to criminal law both at the national and International level.

What is International Criminal Court?

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent international organisation, which has been set up to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes. The Court is governed by the Rome Statute. The Rome statute was adopted on 17 July 1998 by 120 States for establishing the permanent International Criminal Court. The Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002 after ratification by 60 countries.

Separate from the United Nations system it is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to prosecute the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. The court has its permanent seating at The Hague in the Netherlands. The Court's expenses are funded primarily by its 120 member States. It also receives voluntary contributions from governments, international organisations, individuals, corporations and other entities.

84 PEOPLE KILLED AND SEVERAL INJURED IN A SERIES OF BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN IRAQ

At least 84 people were killed and score others were left injured in a series of bomb blasts and gunfire attacks throughout Iraq on 13 June 2012. The first explosion struck in downtown Hilla, nearly 100km South of Baghdad.

The deadly explosions, which seem to be the bloodiest since the 15 August 2011 attack which had claimed nearly 80 lives, came shortly ahead of Shiite religious festival on 15 June 2012. The bomb went off as tens of thousands of pilgrims headed to the capital to mark the death anniversary of Imam Kad-hum, the great grand son of Prophet Mohammed.

Iraq has been facing an unrelenting sectarian violence between the Shiites and Sunnis in the country. Sunnis, who are in the minority in the country, perceive the Shiite Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki is attempting to sideline them. The unceasing political crisis began in the country following an arrest warrant issued for the Sunni vice president, Tariq al-Hashimi, for allegedly being involved in terror activities and for funding attacks on government and security officials during Iraq's bloody insurgency. The move was viewed by the Sunnis as tantamount to segregate them.

Later Sunni leaders in alliance with Kurdish lawmakers tried to topple the Shiite prime minister, Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, through a vote of no confidence in the Parliament. However, Maliki, who has a massive support base among his Shiites followers, has successfully refuted the opposition's attempt to topple his government. Analysts believe the possibility of regime change in Iraq in foreseeable future to be vague.

MYANMAR PREZ THEIN SEIN DECLARED EMERGENCY IN WEST MYANMAR

Myanmar President Thein Sein declared emergency in West Myanmar on 10 June 2012. The government's move came following a wave of sectarian violence between the Buddhists and Muslims in the past week which left seven people dead and hundreds of properties ravaged in Rakhine state of west Myanmar.

Conflict in troubled Rakhine state blazed after a Buddhist woman was killed in May 2012, followed by an attack on a bus carrying Muslims. The clashes began on 4 June 2012 when a violent mob attacked a bus in Taungup, Rakhine province, apparently mistakenly believing some of the passengers were responsible for the earlier rape and murder of a Buddhist woman.

Rakhine state is named after the ethnic Rakhine Buddhist community, which is in the majority in the state. The state also has a sizeable Muslim population, including the Rohingya minority. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group and are considered to be the refugees who have illegally entered Myanmar from neighboring Bangladesh.

The state emergency imposed in the western state can upset the country's initiatives taken in the direction of democracy. The former military ruled country has been trudging the path of political reforms over the past two years.

The process of political reforms accelerated in Myanmar after Thein Sein's Union Solidarity and Development Party stormed to the power in March 2011 after its massive victory in the election held in the country after 20 years. Despite largely being controlled by the military, the Thein Sein's government showcased enough willingness to introduce real political reforms in the country. In a reconciliatory move the government had released hundreds of prisoners from the jail in January 2012. The move was followed by a by-elections in the state in April 2012, which witnessed pro democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party NLD for the first time since 1990 capturing 43 out of 45 seats.

INDIA ALLOWED FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FROM PAKISTAN

India on 8 June 2012 announced to allow foreign direct investment from Pakistan. The move is aimed at strengthening the bilateral economic relations between the two countries. The decision will also facilitate the economic integration in the South Asian region.

The Union Finance Ministry had received a proposal by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) seeking changes in Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to allow FDI from Pakistan. Under the present FDI policy, a Pakistani citizen or an entity incorporated in there is not allowed to invest in India. The Government had earlier allowed investments from Bangladesh under the FIPB route. The bilateral trade between India and Pakistan for the year 2010-11 stood at 2.7 billion dollar. With 2.32 billion dollar exports, India dominated the trade, which grew at a rate of 47 per cent and also approaching forward to occupy 1 per cent share of Indian global exports.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION SUMMIT 2012 CONCLUDED IN BEIJING

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 2012 concluded in Beijing on 7 June 2012, with member states agreeing to further cooperation in a variety of fields. Chinese President Hu Jin Tao, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and Uzbek President Islam Karimov, Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov and Afghan President Hamid Karzai were among the top leaders who attended the summit.



Leaders and officials from the four SCO observer countries of Mongolia, Iran, Pakistan and India were also present at the summit. Leaders across the participating nations held a broader discussion over the issues like Afghanistan crisis and the Iranian nuclear programme.

The member states of the SCO adopted 10 agreements on the concluding day of the summit.

The agreement includes the Declaration on Building a Region with Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity, the Strategic Plan for the Medium-Term Development of the SCO, and the SCO Regulations on Political and Diplomatic Measures and Mechanism of Response to Events Jeopardizing Regional Peace, Security and Stability. The SCO also decided to grant Afghanistan observer status and accept Turkey as a dialogue partner.

Chinese President Hu Jintao offered a 10 billion U.S. dollars loan to the SCO which will be used to promote the development of SCO members. The SCO, an intergovernmental mutual security organization, was founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. The group has six full time members at present namely China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Central Asian nation Kyrgyzstan will host the 2013 summit of SCO.

US DEFENCE SECY LEON PANETTA VOWED TO STRENGTHEN TIE WITH INDIA

US defence secretary Leon Panetta arrived India on a two-day visit on 5 June 2012. The visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral strategic and defence cooperation between the two nations. US specified the Indian role in the world politics and its significance as a link between East and West Asia and how the United States views India as a net provider of security from the Indian Ocean to Afghanistan and beyond.

Panetta visited India as the part of his week-long visit to Asia to formulate a new US defence strategy to allies and partners in the region. The strategy, which was released in January 2012, calls for a shift in US strategic focus to the Asia-Pacific. India over the past one decade has emerged as the key US ally in the Asian continent. As the time for the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan is nearing, America seeks to establish a stronger strategic and defence tie with India, so that it could keep a tab on the region's geopolitics even after the withdrawal of its troops.



The growing Chinese hegemony in the region has also prompted the two distant nations to come together in order to tackle any possible threat from the communist China. Many analysts believe that the Panetta's visit is the part of Pentagon's policy to team up with India against the growing Chinese assertiveness in the global politics. But many foreign policy experts are of the contrary view as they felt that India has always opted for a policy of non-alignment and this time too India will not compromise with the fundamental principles of its foreign policy.

Panetta's visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral strategic and defence cooperation between the two nations.

There may be some starkly differing voices among the experts over the India's future course, but one thing that remains very clear that India's interest lie with both China and US and given the present circumstances

in the world politics it cannot risk its relationship with any of them. Hence, it will be wise for India to pursue a neutral and non-confrontational outlook with respect to both the super powers.

US DRONE STRIKE KILLED AL-QAIDA'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND ABU YAHYA AL-LIBI

A US drone strike in northwest Pakistan killed al-Qaida's second-in-command Abu Yahya al-Libi on 5 June 2012. The killing of al-Libi is the most significant victory for the US forces since the death of Osama bin Laden.

The Libyan-born al-Libi was considered charismatic leader with religious credentials who was helping preside over the transformation of a secretive group based in Pakistan and Afghanistan into a global movement.

Earlier the US had captured al-Libi a decade ago but he managed to flee from the US' captivity in 2005 in an embarrassing security breach. He was a regular in Al Qaeda videos in which he talked about the lessons he learned while watching his captors, whom he described as cowardly, lost and alienated. Al-Libi was promoted to al-Qaida's No. 2 spot after Ayman al-Zawahri replaced bin Laden as al-Qaida's topmost leader. As al-Qaida's no. 2, he was responsible for running the group's day-to-day operations in Pakistan's tribal areas and managed outreach to al-Qaida's regional affiliates. He was influential and popular within al-Qaida given his scholarly credentials, street cred from having escaped from Bagram, charisma and his easygoing, tribal speaking style.

PAKISTAN CONDUCTED TEST OF NUCLEAR CAPABLE BABUR MISSILE

Pakistan successfully test-fired the indigenously developed Hatf-VII (Babur) cruise missile on 5 June 2012. Hatf-VII is capable of carrying both nuclear and conventional warheads. The missile is highly accurate Pakistani-developed cruise missile with a range of 700 km.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement, the missile was launched from a multi-tube Missile Launch Vehicle (MLV). The missile significantly enhances the targeting and employment options of the Babur weapon system in both the conventional and nuclear modes. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani praised the scientists for the successful test.



Earlier on 29 May 2012 Pakistan had successfully carried out the test of indigenously developed Short Range Surface to Surface Multi Tube Missile Hatf IX (NASR) followed by the test of nuclear-capable cruise missile Hatf-VIII (Ra'ad) whose test was conducted on 31 May 2012.

BOEING MD83 AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN NIGERIA, KILLED ALL 153

A boeing MD83 aircraft crashed in Lagos, the largest Nigerian city on 3 June 2012. All 153 people on board were killed in the worst air disaster of Nigeria in nearly past two decades. The flight was traveling from Nigeria's central capital of Abuja to Lagos in the nation's southwest.



Scores others were killed and injured on the ground where the plane was crashed. President Goodluck Jonathan later declared three days of national mourning in Nigeria. The recent crash is the worst for Nigeria since September 1992, when a military transport plane crashed shortly after takeoff from

Lagos, killing nearly 163 army soldiers, relatives and crew members on board.

Nigeria, home to more than 160 million people, is Africa's most populous nation. The oil-rich nation has long been struggling with widespread state-sponsored corruption and malpractices. Barring past twenty years, the nation has time and again suffered from horrible aviation disasters. In August 2010, the U.S. had given Nigeria the Federal Aviation Administration's Category 1 status, its top safety rating, which permits the Nigerian's airlines to have a direct flight to the U.S.

NATIONAL

UNION MINISTRY OF DEFENCE APPROVED 20000 CR RUPEES PROPOSAL

The Union Ministry of Defence (MoD) on 22 June 2012 approved defence proposals worth over 20000 crore rupees for the procurement of defence equipments for the Indian army. The proposals were given the nod of the government in a meeting chaired by Defence Minister AK Antony.

The government in the meeting cleared an IAF proposals worth over 8500 crore rupees for procuring 14 Dornier aircraft and setting up a nationwide communication network and guns for navy and the coast guard ships. Besides, the proposal for procuring eight regiments of QR-SAMs worth over 10000 crore rupees was also approved by the defence ministry.

The decision to accelerate the defence procurements came following the former Army Chief Gen VK Singh's letter to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in which he had raised serious questions over the preparedness of India's defence system. In his letter to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the former Army Chief had blamed the extensive process for arms procurement for the poor operational capabilities of the 1.13 million-strong Indian army. General Singh had pointed out that 97 per cent of the equipment with the Army Air Defence was outdated.

IT'S MANDATORY TO LABEL GM FOODS: MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs in its gazette notification published on 5 June 2012 made it mandatory to make labeling of every package containing genetically modified food from 1 January 2013. The ministry in the notification noted that every package containing the genetically modified food shall bear at the top of its principal display panel the words 'GM'.

The ministry's move will affect the numerous GM products which enter into the Indian market for sale. The move is aimed at educating consumers and make them aware of GM products, much in the manner that there is labeling to distinguish non-vegetarian food from vegetarian.

Under the current practice Importers or exporters rarely display the GM label on the product. Under the new rule the consumers will have the liberty to make a choice on whether they want to buy the GM products or not.

Genetically Modified foods or GM foods

Genetically Modified foods also known as GM foods or biotech foods are foods derived from genetically modified organisms. The process includes the introduction of certain specific changes into the DNA of Genetically modified organisms by genetic engineering techniques. The GM foods were first introduced in the market in year 1996.

EC NOTIFIED DATE FOR 14TH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The Election Commission of India on 11 June 2012 notified the date for the 14th Presidential election. In accordance with the sub-section (1) of section (4) of the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections Act, 1952, the Election Commission of India fixed the following schedule for the presidential election 2012:

Date for the issue of notification for the Presidential poll	16 June 2012
last date for the nomination	30 June 2012
Date for the scrutiny of nomination papers	2 July 2012
last date for the withdrawal of candidatures	4 July 2012
Date of Election	19 July 2012
Announcement of Results	22 July 2012

Article 52 of the Indian constitution states that there shall be a President of India. The executive powers of the Union shall be vested in the President. He, as the head of a state, symbolises the nation. Article 55 (3) of the Indian Constitution provides for the manner of the Presidential election in India. The presidential election is held in accordance with the system of Proportional representation by means of Single transferable vote method. The Voting takes place by secret ballot system.

Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Presidential and Vice –Presidential Elections Act, 1952, and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974 vests the superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of election to the office of the President of India in the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission is



mandated to ensure that the election to the office of the President of India, which is the highest elective office in the nation, must be a free and fair election and the Commission is taking all necessary steps for discharging its constitutional responsibility. However, in case of any dispute regarding the Presidential election, the Supreme Court of India decides the matter.

As per the article 54 of the Indian constitution, the President is elected by Electoral College comprising the elected members of both Houses of Parliament, and elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all States including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of the States cannot participate in the election.

The Electoral College for the Presidential poll 2012 is 4896. A total of 776 Members of Parliament and 4120 Members of Legislative Assemblies will participate in presidential election 2012.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE?

An electoral college is a set of electors who collectively elect the President of India. It consists of elected members of both Houses of Parliament, and elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all States including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

WHAT THE TERM PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM MEANS?

In the ordinary straight voting system a candidate who secures the highest number of votes is declared elected, while under the Proportional Representation system any member who secures the necessary quota of votes is declared elected. There are several ways of finding out the quota, but the most common method is to divide the total number of valid votes cast by the total number of seats in the constituency plus one and adds one to the quotient.

Single Transferable Vote System

The Single Transferable Vote means that each elector has only one vote, irrespective of the number of seats to be filled up. For instance, if there are six seats to be filled up, the elector does not cast six votes but indicates six successive preferences, by marking his first preference and the succeeding preferences with the appropriate numerals against the name of candidates printed on his ballot paper.

SC REFUSED UNION GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL SEEKING STAY ON ANDHRA PRADESH HC ORDER

The Supreme Court of India on 11 June 2012 refused to entertain the Union Government's petition seeking a stay on an Andhra Pradesh high court order which quashed a 4.5 per cent sub-quota for minorities in educational institutions and government jobs in the existing OBC quota.

The two-judge Supreme Court bench of Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and J.S. Khehar refused to stay the Andhra Pradesh High Court order as it observed the government did not present any material to show how it had arrived at a figure of 4.5 percent reservation. As per the bench's directions the reports by the Union Government are to be produced on 13 June 2012.

The Congress-led UPA government on 22 December 2011, ahead of the key assembly polls in the five states including UP in February-March 2012, had announced the 4.5 per cent sub-quota for socially and educationally backward minority communities. It envisaged carving this sub-quota out of the existing 27 per cent quota for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

On 28 May 2012, an Andhra Pradesh High Court's division bench had struck down the government's sub-quota for minorities, and held that the Centre acted in a "casual manner". The High Court said that the government Office Memorandum (OM) creating the sub-quota was based on religious grounds and not on any other intelligible consideration.

UGC SET GUIDELINES FOR FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES ENTERING INDIA

According to the new set of Grants Commission (UGC) universities will be allowed The new guidelines set the aspiring to enter into for offering education



University Grants Commission

As per the new guidelines tie-ups with Indian partners 500 by the Times Higher Education World University Ranking or by Shanghai Jiaotong University of the top 500 universities.

guidelines approved by University on 2 June 2012, only global top 500 to start their operation in India. norms for the foreign universities agreement with Indian universities programmes in the country.

the foreign varsities entering into should be ranked among the top 500 by the Times Higher Education World University Ranking or by Shanghai Jiaotong University of the top 500 universities.

Institutes who fail to abide by the new UGC guidelines would be suitably penalised which also includes stoppage of grants from the UGC. The UGC came up with the new guidelines following the rising concerns among the educationists in the country over the quality of foreign institutions which is tying up with Indian colleges offering separate education programmes.

UNION GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TO CONSTITUTE PANEL ON IMPLEMENTAION OF DHARMADHIKARI COMMITTEE REPORT

The Union Government of India on 1 June 2012 announced to constitute an implementation panel to look into the ways of implementing the Dharmadhikari committee report on Air India and earstwhile Indian Airlines merger. The implementation panel will suggest the government of ways to implement the recommendations of Dharmadhikari Committee on issues including pay, allowances and career progression structure.

The implementation committee will submit its report within 45 days of its constitution. The committee will also be given the task of 'level mapping' of employees of Air India and erstwhile

Indian Airlines. The four-member Dharmadhikari committee on integration of nearly 29000 employees of Air India and Indian Airlines was headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice D. M. Dharmadhikari. The committee had submitted its report in January 2012. The committee had consulted all the concerned parties including pilots and management staffs before submitting its findings. The committee was constituted in March 2011.

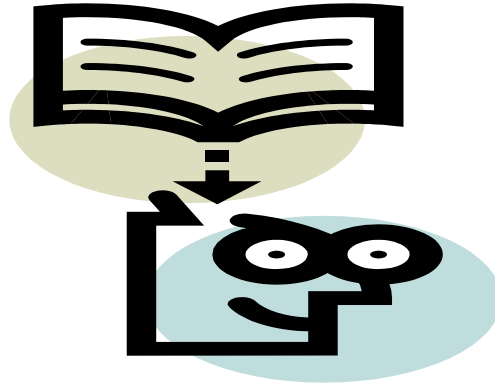
SOME OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF *DHARMADHIKARI COMMITTEE* ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Air India should continue to maintain two separate lines of seniority for pilots belonging to the pre-merger Indian Airlines and Air India
- Pilots of both erstwhile carriers must be allowed to fly aircraft of all types
- A 10-15 per cent salary cut for pilots and engineers to bring their salaries on par with industry standards
- Uniform salaries for both sets of pilots
- Cross-utilisation of pilots, which means Indian Airlines pilots can fly Dreamliners, and Air India pilots can fly Airbus aircraft after obtaining requisite endorsements and training

The four-member Dharmadhikari committee on integration of nearly 29000 employees of Air India and Indian Airlines was headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice D. M. Dharmadhikari.

The Government of India in 2007 announced the merger of Air India with Indian Airlines. Subsequently a new company called the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was established, into which both Air India (along with Air India Express) and Indian Airlines (along with Alliance Air) was merged. On 27 February 2011, Air India and Indian Airlines merged along with their subsidiaries to form Air India Limited. The merger did not go down well with the national carrier as it got trapped under a huge debt of 10 billion dollar. Besides the post merger days have also been marred with the reports of controversies and rifts among the management. The pilots of Air India have been on indefinite strike since 8 May 2012

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZZES



1. Which of these is a Lombrosian term for the phenomenon of a person being an "evolutionary throwback"?

- a) atavism
- b) maladaptation
- c) vestigiality
- d) spandrel

The correct answer is **a) Atavism**

2. Which team set a Major League record by hitting 264 home runs in a season?

- a) New York Yankees
- b) Seattle Mariners
- c) New York Giants
- d) Houston Astros

The correct answer is **b) Seattle Mariners**

3. Who was the first deceased player inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame?

- a) Honus Wagner
- b) Christy Mathewson
- c) Babe Ruth
- d) Walter Johnson

The correct answer is **b) Christy Mathewson**

4. How did East Germany name itself on its postage stamps?

- a) Deutsche Demokratische Republik
- b) Deutschland
- c) Deutsche Bundespost
- d) Deutsche Reichspost

The correct answer is **a) Deutsche Demokratische Republik**

5. Which country uses the abbreviation RSA on its stamps?

- a) South Africa
- b) Syria
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Solomon Islands

The correct answer is **a) South Africa**

6. What was the name of Robert Fultons first steamboat?

- a) New Orleans
- b) Clermont
- c) Hudson
- d) Livingston

The correct answer is **b) Clermont**

7. Which of the following did James Watt invent?

- a) Steamboat
- b) Incandescent Light Bulb
- c) Electric Motor
- d) Steam Engine

The correct answer is **d) Steam Engine**

8. Which of these terms describes applying the natural sciences to the social sciences and/or social issues?

- a) Criticalism
- b) Classicalism
- c) Radicalism
- d) Positivism

The correct answer is **d) Positivism**

9. Cesare Lombroso was one of the most famous believers of biologically determined criminality. Which of these "schools" was he the founder of?

- a) Postmodernist School
- b) Chicago School
- c) Italian School
- d) Neo-Classical School

The correct answer is **c) Italian School**

10. Which monument was built to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Bombay?

- a) India Gate
- b) Gateway of India
- c) Victoria Terminus
- d) Elephanta Caves

The correct answer is **b) Gateway of India**

11. Which famous monument was built by Mohammed Quli Qutab Shah in 1951 to commemorate the end of Plague?

- a) Charminar
- b) Jama Masjid
- c) Mecca Masjid
- d) Toli Masjid

The correct answer is **a) Charminar**

12. Hottest planet of our solar system:

- a) Mars
- b) Earth
- c) Mercury
- d) Venus

The correct answer is **d) Venus**

13. Heaviest satellite (natural) of our solar system:

- a) Ganymede
- b) Sinope
- c) Moon
- d) Deimo

The correct answer is **a) Ganymede**

14. Ted Bundy was an American serial killer who was convicted on the basis of which type of forensic evidence?

- a) DNA fingerprinting
- b) Ballistics
- c) Latent fingerprinting
- d) Bite marks

The correct answer is **d) Bite marks**

15. If you know what to look for, you can tell a male from a female skull. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- a) The male skull is usually larger
- b) The male skull has a more prominent brow ridge
- c) The male skull has a heavier jaw
- d) The male skull has a more rounded chin

The correct answer is **d) The male skull has a more rounded chin**

16. What is the name of the light source that is commonly used in Forensic Investigation?

- a) PoliLight

- b) PoliLuminescence
- c) LaserLight
- d) LaserLumination

The correct answer is **a) PoliLight**

17. A polysaccharide made from seaweed used to culture bacteria and fungi.

- a) agamete
- b) agar
- c) agglutin
- d) agent

The correct answer is **b) agar**

18. A generator, it normally creates direct current electricity.

- a) durain
- b) dyad
- c) duramen
- d) dynamo

The correct answer is **d) dynamo**

19. Which of the following was invented by Hiram Maxim?

- a) The silencer
- b) The automatic pistol
- c) The sniper rifle
- d) The assault rifle

The correct answer is **a) The silencer**

20. The operational jet fighter was invented during this war.

- a) World War I
- b) World War II
- c) The Spanish Revolution

d) The Korean War

The correct answer is **b) World War II**

21. They are the size of medium domestic dogs and their latin name is *Lycaon pictus*. They have large, rounded ears and dark brown circles around their eyes. They can live for up to 10 years.

a) Prairie Dog

b) African Wild Dog

c) Mexican Wolf

d) Swift Fox

The correct answer is **b) African Wild Dog**

22. They are the largest member of the dolphin family. Their black bodies are marked with white patches on the underside and near the eyes.

a) Killer Whale

b) Spinner Dolphin

c) Beluga Whale

d) Sperm Whale

The correct answer is **a) Killer Whale**

23. Now a days, the Academy Awards are presented at

a) Metro Theatre

b) Shine Theatre

c) Hollywood Theatre

d) Kodak Theatre

The correct answer is **d) Kodak Theatre**

24. Blackface is a breed of which animal?

a) Sheep

b) Hen

c) Pig

d) Cow

The correct answer is **a) Sheep**

25. The first Filmfare awards function was held at

- a) Metro Theatre of Mumbai
- b) Thane Theatre of Mumbai
- c) Ashoka Theatre of Mumbai
- d) Sane Theatre of Mumbai

The correct answer is **a) Metro Theatre of Mumbai**

ECONOMY

E-VOTING MANDATORY FOR TOP 500 LISTED COMPANIES OF BSE & NSE: SEBI

The capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 26 June 2012 made it mandatory for top 500 listed companies to hold e-voting with an objective to widen shareholder participation in key decisions. SEBI's decision on e-voting is to be implemented in a phased manner. The implementation will begin by subjecting the top 500 listed companies at the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange based on market capitalization to e-voting. The structural changes like scrutiny of audit reports as well as e-voting are expected to benefit the capital market in the medium term.



Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

SEBI also decided to create a Qualified Audit Report review Committee (QARC) represented by accounting regulator ICAI (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) and stock exchanges. The committee would be responsible for processing qualified annual audit reports filed by the listed entities with stock exchanges. The committee will be expected to study reports where accounting irregularities have been pointed out by Financial Reporting Review Board of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI-FRRB).

The regulator relaxed norms for Offer for Sale (OFS). OFS is a new route introduced by SEBI in early 2012 to help companies increase their public shareholding. A minimum gap of two weeks between two OFS issuances was permitted by SEBI.

SEBI made it easier for promoters of listed companies to dilute their stake and comply with public holding rules by 2013. As specified by SEBI, private sector companies and also the state-owned corporations is required to have a minimum public holding of 25% by August 2013. In the SEBI board meeting, the regulator also announced a simpler share auction mechanism that would help listed companies to attract investors. It provided institutional investors with the option of applying for shares either with 100% margin or with a lesser margin to be fixed by

stock exchanges. However in case of the lesser margin being fixed by the stock exchange the bids cannot be changed.

With regards to fulfilling public holding norms, the board decided that issuers will be required to disclose the floor price a day before the share auction. The floor price may or may not be a part of the notice given by companies on the offer. Investors were barred from modifying or cancelling bids during the last 60 minutes from the close of the bidding session in the auction. Exchanges are required to display the indicative price during the last 60 minutes of the close of bidding session irrespective of the book being built.

GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES FIRM NOMURA SLASHED INDIA'S GDP PROJECTION

Nomura, the global financial services firm, on 26 June 2012 slashed the country's growth forecast for the fiscal year 2012-13 to 5.8 per cent, from 6.7 per cent earlier. Nomura also cut down India's GDP forecast for 2013-14 to 6.6 per cent from the earlier 6.9 per cent.

The government in its budgetary projection of GDP growth estimated the growth rate to be around 7.6 per cent in the fiscal year 2012-13. India's economic growth rate slipped to 6.5 per cent in 2011-12, while it had registered 8.4 per cent growth in the previous two financial years.



The global financial services firm also hiked fiscal deficit forecast for India to 5.8 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal from 5.2 per cent. Government in its budget projections aimed fiscal deficit to bring down to 5.1 per cent in 2012-13 from 5.76 per cent in the previous fiscal.

PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS MINISTRY DISCARDED GAS ALLOCATION OF DMICDC

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry on 25 June 2012 discarded Gas allocation of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC). The gas allocation was of 8 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) gas from two of DMICDC power projects, to provide gas at reasonable rate.

The request was neglected because as per Petroleum Ministry there is additional demand of fertilizer about 22 mmscmd and any allocation of gas to DMICDC projects was not possible. Delhi-Mumbai Industrial

Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) is a mega infra-structure project of 90 billion dollar. It has the financial & technical help of Japan. It is covering the length of 1483km

**Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor
Development Corporation (DMICDC)**

between Delhi and Mumbai. DMICDC strains on expanding the manufacturing and services base and to develop DMIC as the Global Manufacturing and Trading Hub.

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE REINSTATED 'STABLE' CREDIT RATING OUTLOOK FOR INDIA

In a big respite to the troubled Indian economy, Moody's Investors Service, the leading credit ratings provider, on 25 June 2012 reinstated the **STABLE** credit rating outlook for India. The

What does Sovereign rating B3 or BBB means?

Sovereign ratings B3 are judged to be medium-grade rating and subject to moderate credit risk and possess certain speculative characteristics.

Moody's decision mirrors its view that the prevailing economic slowdown in India is not going to last longer and the country will soon come out of the gloomy economic state.

Moody's in its latest report named **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT INDIA'S SOVEREIGN RATING** pointed out that India's B3 or BBB rating already comprises challenges including a weak fiscal performance of the government, high inflation and an uncertain investment policy

environment, which have characterized the economy for decades.

The other credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Fitch had earlier revised India's credit outlook to negative in their separate report on country's sovereign credit rating. The Standard & Poor's move came on 24 April 2012, followed by Fitch which had downgraded India's rating to negative on 18 June 2012. In its latest report the Standard & Poor's had threatened to put India into the junk (speculative) category from investment category.

RBI HIKED FOREIGN INVESTMENT LIMIT IN GOVT BONDS BY 5 BILLION \$

In a move aimed at arresting the unrelenting fall of Indian rupee, India's central bank the Reserve Bank of India on 25 June 2012 hiked the limit of foreign investment in government bonds by 5 billion dollar to 20 billion dollar. The bank also raised limit of external commercial borrowing (ECB) to 10 billion dollar.

External Commercial Borrowings (ECB)

External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) refer to commercial loans [in the form of bank loans, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, securitised instruments availed from non-resident lenders with minimum average maturity of 3 years.

Currently, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are allowed to invest upto 20 billion dollar in Indian corporate bonds. While the limit in government bonds is at 15 billion dollar, FIIs are barred to invest in infrastructure bonds upto 25 billion dollar. The central bank also cut down the time period for the maturity of government securities (g-secs) to three years from earlier five years.

WHAT ARE GOVERNMENT BONDS OR GOVERNMENT SECURITIES?

Government bonds are the bonds issued by the Government of a country in its own currency. The bond helps the government to raise money which is used to finance various activities like building roads, hospitals, infrastructure etc. Hence, the government bonds are a kind of loan against which the government of a country receives a certain amount of money, for a certain amount of time, on a certain interest rate.


CAPITAL MARKETS REGULATOR SEBI NOTIFIED NORMS FOR LISTING OF STOCK EXCHANGE



Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 21 June 2012 notified new rules for ownership and governance of stock exchanges to encourage the setting up of new bourses and enable exchanges to get listed. The amendments were announced following the legal tussle between the regulator and MCX Stock Exchange, which had earlier sought approval to start an equity platform.

The new norms require the recognised stock exchange to have a minimum net worth of Rs 100 crore at all times and at least 51 per cent of stake has to be held by public. The ownership of a single investor was capped at 5% with an exemption for stock exchanges, depositories, insurance and banking companies and public financial institutions, which has been permitted to hold up to 15 per cent. The shareholders who hold stake in excess of the new limits would have to comply with new norms within a period to be decided by SEBI and such period could be of up to three years.

SEBI also specified that direct and indirect exposure to any stock exchange will be considered while calculating the prescribed shareholding limit. The new rules permits stock exchanges to list on any recognised stock exchange other than itself and its associated stock exchanges, within three years of commencing operations. It was highlighted that for a stock exchange that is not listed, an FII may acquire shares through transactions outside of a recognised stock exchange provided it is not an initial allotment of shares. For listed bourses, the FIIs can transact through the exchange where the shares are listed. The market regulator had earlier in April 2012 approved changes to the Manner of Increasing and Maintaining Public Shareholding (MIMPS) in recognised stock exchanges at a board meeting.



**Manner of Increasing and
Maintaining Public
Shareholding (MIMPS)**

SEBI is currently in the process of formulating minimum listing standards for listing of companies on stock exchanges. A Conflicts Resolution Committee or CRC will be formed by SEBI with a majority of external and independent members to deal with all issues concerning conflicts of interest with respect to listing of companies. The CRC will first consider matters of

policy and guidelines involving conflict issues and then recommend standards relevant to the areas of potential conflict in exchanges.

With respect to listing the market regulator mentioned that a recognised stock exchange may apply for listing of its securities on any bourse other than itself and its associated stock exchange, provided they comply with the new regulations of ownership and governance and also has completed three years of continuous trading operations and has got SEBI's approval. The shares of a recognised stock exchange and a recognised clearing corporation is required to be in demat form, while clearing corporation cannot hold any right, stake or interest in an exchange.

RBI KEPT KEY POLICY RATES UNCHANGED IN MID-QUARTERLY MONETARY POLICY REVIEW



The Reserve Bank of India in its mid-quarterly monetary policy review on 18 June 2012, decided to keep the cash reserve ratio and the policy repo rate unchanged at 4.75 per cent and 8.0 per cent respectively. The reverse repo rate remains unchanged at 7.0 per cent. The marginal standing facility rate and the Bank Rate are to stand at 9.0 per cent.

Further reduction in the policy rate at the time when the inflation is still above the comfort level of the people is likely to aggravate the inflationary pressures. The RBI while announcing its monetary policy opined that there are several other factors other than policy rates, which are affecting the growth and investment activities in the country.

The slowing pace of the economy (India's March quarter economic growth stood at 5.3 per cent, lowest in past 9 years) and weakening investment sentiments had prompted industry leaders to urge RBI to take a call on policy rate cuts. International credit rating agency Standard & Poor's had warned that India could be the first BRIC nation to lose its investment-level credit rating due to its fragile outlook of economy and frozen policy reforms. The RBI did not however pay much heed to the industry's concerns of sinking growth and concentrated on taming the unrelenting inflation. India witnessed inflation figure rose to 7.55 percent in May 2012, which is the highest among industrialised countries and the BRIC group of nations.

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WORLD BANK PROJECTED INDIAN ECONOMY TO GROW BY 6.9 % IN 2012-13



The World Bank in its report named **GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS** released on 12 June 2012, projected Indian economy to grow by 6.9% in the financial year 2012-13. The World Bank report predicted India's growth increasing to 6.9 per cent, 7.2 per cent and 7.4 per cent in fiscal years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, respectively.

Blaming fragile monetary policy, long paused reforms, persistent inflation and widening fiscal deficit for the country's poor growth in 2011, the multi-lateral agency advised India to take some corrective measures to improve the sinking growth. Indian economy grew by 6.5 per cent in 2011-12, the lowest in the past nine years. The economy had registered an impressive 8.4 per cent growth in the previous two years.

The Indian government had projected the economy to grow at 7.6 per cent in the fiscal year 2012-13, but given the prevailing economic and political situations in the country, the projected growth rate could be hard to achieve. The World Bank report estimated the global economy to expand 2.5% in the fiscal year 2012-13. The multi-lateral agency also cautioned the developing nations of the bumpy ride ahead.

UNION COMMERCE MINISTRY UNVEILED NEW TRADE POLICY TO BOOST INDIA'S EXPORT

The Union Government of India on 5 June 2012 announced a **NEW TRADE POLICY** aimed at achieving 20 per cent increase in exports to 360 billion dollar in the fiscal year 2012-13. India's exports grew by 21 per cent and touched 303.7 billion dollar in 2011-12, while the trade deficit during the same period expanded to 185 billion dollar.

The government also announced to come out with new guidelines to restore Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and Export Oriented Unit (EOU) schemes to further boost the shipments. As the part of the new trade policy, the Union Commerce Ministry had added seven new markets to the focus market scheme (FMS) and an equal number of new markets to the special FMS. Countries like Algeria, Aruba, Austria, Cambodia, Myanmar, the Netherland Antilles and Ukraine

have been added to FMS; while countries including Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Morocco and Uruguay have been added to special FMS. The FMS and SFMS scheme will help India to explore new markets and promote the product diversification.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW TRADE POLICY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Government set the export target for 2012-13 at 20 per cent
- 2 per cent interest subsidy scheme extended till March 2013
- Government to announce new guidelines to promote SEZs
- Incentives for exports from north-eastern states
- Shipments from Delhi, Mumbai through post, courier or e-commerce to get export benefits
- Foreign Trade Policy document to be more users friendly
- 13 shows abroad to promote Brand India
- Single revolving bank guarantee for different export deals
- Seven new markets added to Focus Market Scheme
- Market linked focus product scheme extended till March'13 for apparel export to USA and EU

OIL MARKETING COMPANIES SLASHED PETROL PRICES BY 2.02 RUPEES

The state-run oil marketing companies on 2 June 2012 announced to slash the petrol prices by 2.02 rupees a litre. The decision came in the wake of global fall in crude prices. The reduction took effect from past midnight 2 June 2012. The decision to cut the prices came following a fortnightly review meeting of the oil companies.

The current reduction in petrol prices means now it will cost 71.16 rupees in Delhi, 76.45 rupees in Mumbai, 75.81 rupees in Kolkata, 75.40 rupees in Chennai. The next revision in petrol prices is due on 16 June 2012.



All the state owned oil marketing companies on 24 May 2012 had raised the petrol prices by 7.54 rupees a litre, citing massive loss incurred by them as the reason. The 7.54 rupees hike was steepest in the history of the country, which subsequently created lots of public fury. Political parties across the country also called a bandh on 31 May 2012 in the protest of jacked up petrol prices.

The 7.54 rupees increase was based on an average

gasoline price of 124.37 rupees a barrel and the rupee-dollar exchange rate of 53.17 rupees in the first fortnight of May. However, the gasoline price has since then dipped to 115.77 dollar in the second fortnight, but the exchange rate has worsened to 54.96 rupees.

IOC (Indian Oil Corporation), BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Ltd) and HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Limited) are three government-run oil marketing companies which have consistently been crying hoarse over their mounting loss figure. The three companies had recorded the collective loss of 138541 crore rupees in revenue during the fiscal year 2011-12. Their loss in the fiscal year 2012-13 is expected to touch the figure of 193880 crore rupees. Petrol prices in 2011-12, were revised five times in order to bring domestic prices in line with those in the international market. The rates were raised on three occasions and lowered on two.

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES PLUNGED BY 1.74 BILLION \$ TO 290 BILLION \$

According to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 2 June 2012, India's foreign exchange reserve plummeted by 1.74 billion dollar to 290 billion dollar for the week ended 25 May 2012. The RBI data displayed a sharp decline in the country's forex reserves for the fourth consecutive week. The forex reserves had dropped by 1.80 billion dollar, 1.37 billion dollar and 2.18 billion dollar, respectively, in the previous three weeks.



The drop in forex reserve is largely due to sale of dollar by the central bank to defend consistently falling rupee. The Indian rupee plunged to a record low in recent weeks and stood 55.54 against a dollar on 1 June 2012. The rupee fall for the nine consecutive weeks is the longest losing streak since the 2008 economic crisis. RBI had reportedly sold dollars to arrest the further fall of Indian rupee. The value of gold reserves of the country for the week ended 25 May 2012 remained unmoved at 26.61 billion dollar.

BIHAR TOPPED IN STATE GDP WITH 13.1 PER CENT GROWTH IN 2011-12

According to data released by Ministry of Statistics of India on 1 June 2012, Bihar emerged as the state with highest economic growth rate in the country. The state which until recently was synonymous with poverty, recorded an impressive 13.1 per cent growth in 2011-12. Bihar topped the list for second consecutive year. The state's economy even surpassed the Punjab on the back of four years of double-digit growth.



The state was closely followed by Delhi and Puducherry. Chhattisgarh and Goa were the other two states in the list of top five states. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, the two highly industrialized states registered the growth of 9.4 per cent and 9.1 per cent respectively in the fiscal year 2011-12.

Punjab, leading food grain producing state of India, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, both the heart of the IT sector of the country, and Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state, registered growth of 6.5% in 2011-12, lower than India's GDP growth.

With the Bihar government taking numerous measures to attract investment in the state, the result is quite visible with the growth number rising on constant basis. An improved law and order situation and developing infrastructure in the state are apparently boosting the investment sentiments of the industrial houses in the country which are now coming ahead with proposals to set up factory in the state. Agricultural productivity has also taken a quantum jump in the state apparently contributing to the overall growth of the state. A slew of development measures have also been put into place by the government to ensure enhanced education and medical facilities in the state.

STATE

ASSAM GOVT RELEASED VISION DOCUMENT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



Assam government on 12 June 2012 released the vision document for the state's women and children. The government in the vision document announced to come out with various measures to address the issues like high Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate in the state.

The vision document consists numerous provisions, which can be stated as follows:

- Reducing Infant mortality rate from 58 to 38 per 1000 live birth
- Reducing maternal mortality rate (MMR) to 210 per 100000 live birth
- Reducing total fertility rate to 2.1 per cent.
- Improving child sex ratio
- Reducing the percentage of anaemia in children and women
- Reduce the percentage of underweight children (0-5 years) by 30 per cent.

Assam, the largest of the north-eastern states, has introduced a number of social welfare measures to benefit women and children in the state. Some of the major government welfare schemes include, the *Integrated Child Development Services Scheme*, *Kishore Sakti Yojana*, *Sawayamsidha*, *Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls*. The schemes have benefited nearly 1.5 lakh women and children of the state. The government under a separate scheme also provides 4000 rupees to pregnant women to go for institutional delivery.

ANNUAL 2012-13 PLAN OUTLAY FOR TAMIL NADU FIXED AT 28000 CRORE RUPEES

The central planning commission finalized the annual outlay for Tamil Nadu for financial year 2012-13 at 28000 crore rupees. The allocation was finalized during a meeting held between the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha and the Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia in New Delhi on 4 June 2012.

Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)

The current outlay is nearly 19 per cent higher than the previous year's figure, as the government had allocated 23535 crore rupees for the state in the fiscal year 2011-12. The services sector in Tamil Nadu contributed 65.8% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at 2004-05 prices followed by the Industry sector and the Agriculture sector which accounted for 26.5% and 7.7% respectively during 2011-12. The share of the Agriculture & Industry sectors in Tamil Nadu's GSDP has been gradually falling over the years, whereas the share of services sector has been rising.

Compound Annual Growth Rate) CAGR

The real per capita income of the state also witnessed a rise at (Compound Annual Growth Rate) CAGR of 9.54% during 2004-05 to 2010-11 while the all-India per capita income rose at CAGR of 6.84% during the corresponding period.

UTTAR PRADESH CM AKHILESH YADAV TABLED REVENUE DEFICIT BUDGET FOR YEAR 2012-13

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on 1 June 2012 presented the state budget for the fiscal year 2012-13. The 200110.61 crore rupees budget did not comprise any new tax provision. For the first time in the state's history the Budget size has crossed the figure of 2 lakh crore rupees.

FOLLOWING ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET 2012-13:

- Gross revenue receipts 158847.86 crore rupees and capital receipts 35479.32 crore rupees
- Gross projected budget deficit of 21570.26 crore rupees
- 1000 rupees per month as unemployment allowance, 1100 crore rupees allocated for this purpose
- 2721.24 crore rupees allocated for giving tablets and laptops to the class 10th and 12th pass students

- 446.35 crore rupees earmarked to promote higher education among girls
- 350 crore rupees for the Kisan Accident Insurance Scheme, insured amount raised from 1 lakh to 5 lakh rupees
- 33263.39 crore rupees allocated for the improvement in education sector
- 7033.86 crore rupees given to enhance medical amenities in the state
- 14950.62 crore rupees earmarked for social welfare schemes
- 500 crore rupees proposed for farmers' loan relief scheme

INDIA DIARY



1 June 2012

- The Prime Minister has approved the setting up of an Investment Tracking System to address the issue of major investment projects being delayed for a variety of reasons
- Air Marshal Arup Raha AVSM VM took over as AOC-IN-C, Western Air Command, IAF.
- Annual Plan for the year 2012-13 for the state of Gujarat was finalised. The plan size has been agreed at Rs.51000crore
- Air India introduced a new Crew Management System under the directions of Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ajit Singh

3 June 2012

To concretize the operational contours of the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), the Government established a Manufacturing Industry Promotion Board (MIPB) for matters pertaining to the implementation of the National Manufacturing Policy



4 June 2012

- Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur took the oath as Supreme Court judge on 4 June 2012
- Legendary Indian cricketer **Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar** sworn in as the member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament on 4 June 2012.

5 June 2012

- Government of India on 5 June 2012 nominated Vice Admiral Devender Kumar Joshi as the new Navy chief.
- The Central Planning Commission of India approved 10500 crore rupees annual outlay plan for Assam for the fiscal year 2012-13. The outlay was finalized on 5 June 2012
- In a rare space event, Venus, the second closest planet from the sun, passed in front of the sun on 5 June 2012.

6 June 2012

- World IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) Launch Day held globally on 6 June 2012

7 June 2012

- Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi on 7 June 2012 won their second Grand Slam title together and first French Open trophy
- Electronic Equipments major Samsung Electronics on 7 June 2012 named Kwon Oh-hyun as its new chief executive officer.

8 June 2012

- Two new boys' hostels namely Girnar and Udaigiri were inaugurated at IIT Delhi today.

9 June 2012

- IIT Kharagpur declared that it is ok with the proposed joint entrance exam

10 June 2012

- Ace Indian Badminton player Saina Nehwal clinched her 16th career title as she defeated Thailand's Ratchanok Inathon in the Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold title in Bangkok on 10 June 2012.

11 June 2012

- The Election Commission of India on 11 June 2012 notified the date for the 14th Presidential election.
- India's batting great Sachin Tendulkar was conferred upon the Wisden India Outstanding Achievement award for completing a century of 100 international hundreds, in Dubai on 11 June 2012.

12 June 2012

- Nokia launched **Pure view 808 Smart phone** on 12 June 2012 for India at a price of 33899 rupees in Delhi.
- Assam government on 12 June 2012 released the vision document for the state's women and children.
- The World Bank in its report named Global



Economic Prospects released on 12 June 2012

13 June 2012

- During April - May, 2012 Coal India Ltd.(CIL) registered a growth of 5.6% in coal production.

14 June 2012

- As per the export-import data released by the Commerce Ministry on 14 June 2012, India's export dropped by 4.16 per cent at 25.68 billion dollar in May 2012.

15 June 2012

- As part of the Child Survival Call to Action Forum co-convened by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Sh. Ghulam Nabi Azad along with Ms. Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, in the US, the participating countries pledged to recommit themselves to child survival.

16 June 2012

- Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah mentioned that India is committed to increasing the share of renewable power in the electricity mix to 15 per cent by the year 2020

17 June 2012

- Sequoia, the US super computer, was crowned the fastest computer in the world on 17 June 2012.

18 June 2012

- Dipankar Mukherjee, National Secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU), passed away on 18 June 2012
- International credit rating agency Fitch revised the credit outlook of India to negative on 18 June 2012.



19 June 2012

- **Shekhar Basu** was appointed as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 19 June 2012.
- According to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 19 June 2012, the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in India dipped nearly 8 per cent to 7.8 billion dollar during January-April 2012

20 June 2012

- The second meeting of the Geoscience Advisory Council (GAC) held under the chairmanship of Shri Dinsha J.Patel, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Mines today.

21 June 2012

- India and Russia set US\$ 20 BN bilateral trade target by 2015

22 June 2012

- Calcutta High Court holds Singur Land Rehabilitation and Development Act, 2011 as unconstitutional.
- Sensex loses 92 points in afternoon trade; Rupee falls to all time low of 57.30 against the dollar in intra-day trade.

23 June 2012

- Karnataka Law Minister Suresh Kumar resigns owning moral responsibility over allegations of having received a plot of land in Bangalore; Chief Minister refuses to accept the resignation.
- Monsoon lashes eastern and terai districts of Uttar Pradesh.

24 June 2012

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the annual Amarnath yatra begins amid tight security
- Prime Minister assures of effective policy measures to enhance economic growth rate.

25 June 2012

- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry on 25 June 2012 discarded Gas allocation of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC).
- In a big respite to the troubled Indian economy, Moody's Investors Service, the leading credit ratings provider, on 25 June 2012 reinstated the stable credit rating outlook for India.

26 June 2012

- B.K.Roy Burman passed away on 26 June 2012. He was anthropologist and social scientist. B.K. Roy was born in Bangladesh in the year 1922.
- In a path breaking development, a team of scientists at Boston Children's Hospital invented an easy technique that will help doctors to diagnoses autism in children earlier. The pioneering technique will pave the way for an early detection and better treatment of the brain disorder in young children. The work detail of the new technique was published in journal BMC Medicine on 26 June 2012
- Pranab Mukherjee, resigned as the Union Finance Minister on 26 June 2012

27 June 2012

- The Haryana Government decided to develop Rural Water Policy on 27 June 2012.

28 June 2012

- Uttar Pradesh Government decided to increase the tax on Tobacco Products on 28 June 2012.

- India and South Korea decided to cooperate in the areas of civil nuclear energy and space, including the launch of Korean satellites by India. Both of them met in New Delhi on 28 June 2012 during their second foreign policy and security dialogue.
- The Union Home Ministry appointed **Neeraj Kumar**, the 1976-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, as the 18th Commissioner of Delhi Police on 28 June 2012.



29 June 2012

- As per the latest data released by the commerce and industry ministry on 29 May 2012, the eight core sectors registered a higher growth rate of 3.8 per cent in May 2012.

30 June 2012

- The morning of 30th Jun 2012 witnessed 216 newly commissioned officers receive their first salute from their juniors as they marched to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne' at the end of the parade, marking their successful graduation from the Air Force Academy at Dundigal, Hyderabad

CORPORATE

SPICE JET LAUNCHED DAILY FLIGHTS TO DUBAI FROM DELHI AND MUMBAI

Spice Jet, low-fare airline on 26 June 2012 launched daily airline to Dubai from Delhi and Mumbai for the expansion in international markets. Spice Jet's Boeing 737-800s took off its first flights from Dubai's Terminal 1 to Delhi and Mumbai on 25 June 2012.

Dubai destination from Delhi and Mumbai is the third international route of Spice Jet after its two international routes from Delhi to Kathmandu and Chennai to Colombo. It has India's second largest budget carrier by market share. Spice Jet is working on number of routes which will give more choices to national and international customers.

Currently, Spice Jet operates around 275 daily flights to connect 34 Indian cities with a fleet of 42 aircrafts. There were around 40 thousand passengers flying per day. Spice Jet has acquired 7 new Bombardier Q400 aircraft for better connectivity to Tier II and Tier III cities. As per Spice jet CEO Neil Mills, it is planning to connect Kochi, Chennai and Hyderabad with Dubai and Riyadh, capital of Gulf Saudi Arabian to expand into international market that leads to add more aircraft in the fleet.

Spice Jet is partnered with Sharaf Travel, Dubai for booking tickets. In June 2012, it has introduced inaugural fare starting from Dh377 (without taxes). It began its services in May 2005

and by 2008. Spice Jet selected Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad as the first and primary base for its new fleet of Bombardier Q-400 NextGen aircraft in April 2011.

SHERYL SANDBERG FIRST FEMALE AND EIGHTH MEMBER ON FACEBOOK'S BOARD

Chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg is the first female and eighth member on the Facebook Board of Directors announced by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on 26 June 2012. The promotion praised by The California State Teachers' Retirement System which holds 36922 shares of Facebook. It is the second-largest pension fund in US.



She had taken part in the growth at Facebook. She maintained the revenue 3.7 billion dollar in 2011, but not able to validate its 70 billion dollar valuation in public markets. She was involved in the recent Facebook's IPO (initial public offering). She also helped to build the company in online ad business.

Including Sandberg, Facebook board has seven men. They include Facebook CEO Zuckerberg, W Breyer (venture capitalists James), Marc Andreessen and Peter Thiel (Washington Post Co chairman), Donald E Graham, Reed Hastings (Netflix CEO) and Erskine Bowles (a former White House chief of staff and the University of North Carolina president emeritus).

Sandberg joined Facebook as a Chief Operating Officer after Google Inc. in 2008. She is ranked no. 12 on the Fortune Most Powerful Women list.

Sandberg joined Facebook as a Chief Operating Officer after Google Inc. in 2008. She is ranked no. 12 on the Fortune Most Powerful Women list. She was also named in 25 Most Influential People on the Web by Business Week.

LESSORS OCCUPIED 34 AIRCRAFT OF VIJAY MALLAY'S KINGFISHER AIRLINES

Lessors occupied 34 aircraft of Kingfisher Airlines from March 2012 to June 2012 announced on 26 June 2012 due to the non-payment of lease rentals of about 1000 crore rupees to the lessors. As per Kingfisher the aircraft were willingly returned, not by lessors force.



Kingfisher is left with 15 aircraft for the emergency purposes and 15 planes to carry out its operations. In the 15 aircraft, eight are ATRs, one A319, four A320s and two A321s. Currently, Kingfisher Airline functions on

around 100 odd flights with these aircraft. It pulls out its name from international operations as well. The airline is not in profit since its launch. The airline is not able to pay its dues to oil companies and airports. The airline is also failure to pay service tax and TDS to the government. Kingfisher is not giving salaries to its employee from February 2012, about 200 engineers are protesting against the delay in salary payments.

Kingfisher Airlines Limited is a n airline group based in India. It was established in 2003, owned by United Breweries Group, Bengaluru. The airline is also the sponsor of F1 outfit, Force India. It had the second largest share in India's domestic air travel market but due to the financial crisis currently it has the lowest market share currently.

HARSHA VIJI APPOINTED AS NEW MD OF SUNDARAM MUTUAL



Fourth generation of TVS family, Harsha Viji appointed as new Managing Director (MD) of Sundaram Mutual on 26 June 2012 after T.P. Raman. T.P. Raman is retired on 30 June 2012. He is working with the company from 16 years and will serve the company as its Non-Executive Director. Harsha will take the responsibility of MD of Sundaram Mutual from 1 July 2012.

Harsha joined the company Sundaram Mutual in 2010 as a Deputy Managing Director. Earlier, he worked in McKinsey & Co, New York, and Price water house Coopers in Chennai. He is also Director, Strategy and Planning at Sundaram Finance, where his father Viji Santhanam is the Chairman.

AIRTEL RISING STAR TALENT HUNT LAUNCHED BY AIRTEL & MANCHESTER UNITED

Airtel launched AIRTEL RISING STAR in association with Manchester United, England on 25 June 2012 to provide exposure to young footballer's talents. The talent hunt also strengthens brand positioning and appeal to youth to enhance football in countries like India.

The three month talent hunt is starting from mid of July. It would likely to have 9500 Under-16 players. Including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the hunt will be conducted in 16 cities in India (including Mumbai, Delhi, Goa, Kolkata, Bangalore, Calicut, Chandigarh and Jaipur) with the support of the State and District Football Associations of the cities.

The best three players from each of the 16 cities will be sent to attend a final six-day camp-cum-selection trial which is conducted by coaches from Manchester United. All the 48 players will be divided into four teams. Each team has 12 players. Then the 4 teams will be screened on all parameters like physical attributes, individual skills, match situations and on their performances in actual matches. Then the selected 12 best players will be sent to Manchester United for a week, where they are trained by the Manchester United Academy team, England. Finally, three players will be chosen and given support to enhance their skills further. This would likely to be the once-in-lifetime opportunity for the youngsters.

SOM MITTAL REMAINED AS NASSCOM PRESIDENT TILL EARLY 2014

Som Mittal remained Nasscom (National Association of Software and Service Companies) President as per the announcement of IT trade association executive council on 25 June 2012. The agreement was extended till early 2014. He was assigned as Nasscom President in January 2008.

The appointment was extended because IT exports expected to grow at a lower rate of 11-14 percent in 2012 as compared to 2011. But the expansion was 17 per cent. Nasscom

(National Association of Software and Service Companies) was founded in 1988. It is the 1200 member trade association, of which over 250 are global companies from the US, UK, EU, Japan and China. Nasscom represents India's 100 billion dollar IT services industry.

NASSCOM: National Association of Software and Service Companies

HP LAUNCHED ENVY ULTRABOOK AND SLEEKBOOK IN INDIA

Hewlett-Packard (HP) launched Envy Ultrabooks and Sleekbooks on 20 June 2012. The Envy Ultrabook range is available at starting range of 57990 rupees and Envy Sleekbook at 41990 rupees. The HP Envy Ultrabook and Sleekbook are available in 14 inches display size Envy 4 and Envy 6 of 15.6 inches diagonal display size. It has Intel and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) chips with Intel Core processors of third generation. It has the battery life of 8-9 hours. They are portable as compared to netbooks having 1.1 kg and older notebooks of 2.5 kg.



Currently in India, HP has AMD Trinity-based normal laptop. The Pavilion G6-2005AX of 2.5 kg has low battery life of 3-4 hours. It costs about 32600 rupees. However new HP Envy Ultrabook and Sleekbook has long battery life of 8-9 hours, light in weight with advanced devices. The Ultrabook has mSATA solid state drive with Intel Rapid Start, Intel Identity Protection Technology, Intel Smart Response and Intel Smart Connect technologies.

Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) is a multinational technology corporation in US. It provides products, technologies, software and services to consumers. It was founded by William regington Hewlett and Dave Packard in 1935. HP is Personal Computer Manufacturer Company.

NTPC SIGNED MOU WITH IIT DELHI FOR M TECH PROGRAMME

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had signed Memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 20 June 2012 with IIT Delhi for M Tech programme for employees. The MoU was signed for higher qualification and to develop research skill in NTPC employees.

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)

The MoU was signed by S. P. Singh, director HR NTPC, and R. K. Shevgaonkar, director, IIT Delhi. The MoU was launched in the year 1998. Currently, 255 NTPC engineers were awarded M Tech from IIT Delhi through this initiative.

NTPC is the largest power utility of the country. It has the total installed capacity of 39174 MW.

Memorandum of understanding (MoU)

It has 16 coal-based, seven gas-based power and seven joint venture/subsidiary power projects in India. NTPC's core business is engineering, construction and operation of power generating plants and providing consultancy to power utilities in India and abroad.

BLACK BERRY MAKER RIM LAUNCHED PORSCHE DESIGN P'9981 SMART PHONE

Black Berry maker Research in Motion (RIM) on 20 June 2012 had launched Porsche Design P'9981 Smart Phone in India. It costs around 1.39 lakh. Porsche Design P'9981 came with an exclusive Porsche Design UI and a modified World Browser.

P'9981 has the stainless steel frame, leather back cover, sculpted Qwerty keyboard and crystal clear touch display. It has a premium and exclusive PIN. The PIN differentiates the Porsche Design P'9981 user form Black Berry user.



It has the 1.2 GHz processor and Liquid Graphics technology for fast and smooth graphics. It also has HD video recording, 24 bit high resolution graphics, advanced sensors and built-in support for NFC (Near Field Communications). It has 8 GB on board memory which is expandable up to 40 GB with a micro SD card.

Porsche Design P'9981 has a build-in facility for emailing, messaging and social applications. It has a fast web browsing. It has a preloaded application that connects the users easily. BlackBerry is a smartphone which is designed and developed by Research In Motion (RIM). The first BlackBerry was released in 1999 as a two-way pager in Munich, Germany. The name BlackBerry was given by Lexicon Branding, a marketing company. A smartphone is a mobile phone with developed computing ability and connectivity than a featured phone. Smartphones are featured by Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

MAHINDRA LAUNCHED NEW RODEO RZ SCOOTY OF 125CC



Mahindra launched women oriented new Rodeo RZ Scooty on 14 June 2012 in Mumbai. The new Rodeo RZ launched with new printed images and bright colour options. Currently, the Peppy scooter came in 7 colour in addition to 2 new colours- Flame orange and Electric Green.

The new Rodeo RZ Scooty is more user, city and road friendly. It has dual mapping ignition system for improving fuel efficiency. According to

Automotive Research and Development of India (ARAI), Rodeo RZ is proficient of returning 59kmpl. Its efficiency is around 40-45kmpl on road. Rodeo RZ has the fuel efficiency of 53kmpl. It is 3kmpl more than the latest 125cc scooter Suzuki Swish. It does the 0-60 dash in 9.35 seconds while Swish can do the dash in 9.4 seconds while Activa takes 11.6 seconds. Without rider, Rodeo RZ is 154mm high where Activa and Swish were 150mm and 140mm high.

Rodeo RZ is the only scooter that came with digital speedometer, front fuelling, illuminated underseat with 22 liters fuel tank, mobile charger and a 4-in-1 anti theft key. While Wego has rear fuelling with 20 liters fuel tank like Swish. Dio and Activa have 18 liters of petrol fuelling. In Wego the mobile charger is optional.

Rodeo RZ price would likely to be hiked about 1-4%.

MERCEDES-BENZ LAUNCHED NEW C CLASS AMG PERFORMANCE COMPACT PREMIUM CARS

Mercedes-Benz on 15 June 2012 launched the new C Class AMG Performance premium cars. Mercedes-Benz are German luxury carmakers. The new C Class sedan is priced at 3462609 rupees in Mumbai.



Mercedes-Benz had decided to set up its own high-tech paint shop. It is likely to be effective in the second half of 2012. It will have an annual capacity of 20 thousand units. The company is also offering Star Lease. Star lease is a self leasing option that permits consumers to drive a Mercedes-Benz without any initial investment.

The company had also launched its third generation M-Class SUV in India on 9 March 2012. It was launched in two options. One is 3L diesel and second is 3.5L Petrol.

It cost around 56.9 lakh rupees to 66 lakh rupees.

Mercedes-Benz was the second largest car seller after BMW in India in 2011-12. It sold about 7430 cars in the year 2011-12 and BMW sold more than 9400 cars in India. Mercedes-Benz sold around 2500 cars in India in January to April 2012 period.

MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LTD DECIDED TO MERGE WITH SUZUKI POWER TRAIN INDIA LTD

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd decided to get into a merger with Suzuki Powertrain India Ltd. This initiative will help them prepare and meet the increasing demand for diesel vehicles. Suzuki Powertrain is a 30:70 ratio joint venture between Maruti and its Japanese parent Suzuki Motor Corp. The merger is expected to increase Suzuki's stake in its Indian subsidiary by 2 percentage points to 56.2%.



Maruti proposes to make a fresh issue of 13.17 million shares to Suzuki in lieu of its 70% holding in Suzuki Powertrain. The auto industry is slowly shifting towards dieselization and has reached a diesel to petrol ratio of 1:1. The proposed merger aims to bring in constructive growth and synergies in areas such as finance, capital structuring and administration.

In March 2012, the board of Maruti set up a committee of directors to advise on restructuring options to strengthen the firm's business. Once the merger is approved, the books of accounts of Suzuki Powertrain will be merged with Maruti with effect from 1 April 2012.

Maruti Suzuki India Limited is a subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan. Maruti Suzuki India Limited, is known to be the first company in India to produce and sell more than a million cars. Maruti Suzuki has been the leader of the Indian car market for over two and a half decades.

NOKIA LAUNCHED PUREVIEW 808 SMART PHONE FOR INDIA AT 33899 RUPEES

Nokia launched Pureview 808 Smart phone on 12 June 2012 for India at a price of 33899 rupees in Delhi. Pureview 808 comes only in black and white colour. The phone will be available from the July 2012 in Indian market. The Pureview 808 has a 4 inch wide screen and runs on Symbian Belle (operating software). It has 41 MP sensor and advanced imaging innovation featuring and Carl Zeiss optics. Carl Zeiss optics makes it best among the other smartphones available in India.

Nokia Pureview 808 had Dolby Digital Plus and Dolby Headphones technology. It has sound recorder to make videos and audio recording. This feature is excellent for the music lovers. Earlier, this facility was possible with external microphones.

It is the heaviest phone as compared to all other Smart Phones. It has a 16GB internal storage which is expendable up to 32GB with a Micro SD card. It has full HD 1080p video recording and

playback with 4X lossless zoom. It has excellent camera to create 41 MP photos to a 5MP. It has new pixel technology, low light performance and ability to save file in compact sizes for sharing in email, MMS to share photos on social networking sites. It can capture high quality in any conditions. The users can also modify images. All images will be stored in jpeg format.

Pureview ensures a good performance because it has a single core 1.3 GHz microprocessor and one for camera function. Nokia had also planned to launch many accessories for the device. The accessory includes a tripod and an extended battery pack. The price of Nokia Pureview is cheaper than Samsung S III (Rs 43,180) and HTC One(42,999). Nokia is based in Finland.

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS NAMED KWON OH-HYUN AS ITS NEW CEO



Electronic Equipments major Samsung Electronics on 7 June 2012 named Kwon Oh-hyun as its new chief executive officer. The head of the Samsung's components business at present, he will replace Choi Gee-sung, at the top-notch position. In addition to his previous works, Kwon as the CEO, will now also look into the corporate affairs of the company.

Choi will retain his seat on Samsung Electronics board and assume the role of the head of Samsung Group Corporate Strategy Office to focus on future growth engines for the entire Samsung group of companies. Jay Lee, the son of Samsung Electronics chairman Lee Kun-hee, will continue serving as chief operating officer of the Korean company.

SPORTS

F1 RACER SEBASTIAN VETTEL DEFEATED LEWIS HAMILTON TO WIN EUROPEAN GRAND PIX 2012



Formula One (F1) racer Sebastian Vettel defeated Lewis Hamilton by 1minute 38.086 seconds and won European Grand Pix 2012, Valencia on 24 June 2012. Vettel became the first F1 repeat winner of the season. Vettel is from Red Bull's team and Hamilton is from McLaren.

There were 57 numbers of Laps on the Valencia Street Circuit in European Grand Pix 2012. The circuit length was 5.419 km had the race distance of 308.883 km. There were 12 teams participated in European Grand Pix 2012.

Sebastian Vettel is a German Formula One racer. He was born on 3 July 1987. He won the World Championship in 2012 and 2011. Vettel also won youngest-ever World Drivers' championship runner-up. He also secured Red Bull's first pole position and race win in the team's history.

TINTU LUKA WON GREENKO 52ND NATIONAL INTER-STATE SENIOR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Athletic Tintu Luka won Greenko 52nd National Inter-State Senior Athletic Championship on 24 June 2012 by defeating her competitor Sinimole Paulose. She won the championship in women's 800 meters. She is India's best athletic in the two-lap race.

Tintu timing was 2m 01.36s. The timing was near to her National record of 1m 59.17s, which was set in Brussels in 2010. Sinimole won silver with the timing of 2:03.71 where S R Bindu was third in 2:09.53. Athlete Tintu Luka is the National Record Holder in 800 meter race. She is trained by P.T.Usha at Usha School of Athletics which is holded by Olympics Gold Quest.

LONDON OLYMPICS 2012: AITA ANNOUNCED 2 TEAMS FOR MEN'S DOUBLES

The All Indian Tennis Association (AITA) on 21 June 2012 announced to send two men's doubles team for London Olympics 2012. The team involves top player Leander Paes with low-ranked Vishnu Vardhan and second ranked Mahesh Bhupathi with third ranked Rohan Bopanna.

The team involves top player Leander Paes with low-ranked Vishnu Vardhan and second ranked Mahesh Bhupathi with third ranked Rohan Bopanna.

The hassle started when AITA decided to send two teams in London Olympics 2012 which were not acceptable by Paes. Earlier, AITA announced Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi as a team for India's doubles entry for the London Olympics 2012. But Bhupathi refused to play with Paes because of differences of their opinions. He appealed to be paired with Rohan Bopanna. Bhupathi and Bopanna showed their strong hope to play together.

Moreover, AITA announced Paes to play with Tennis player Sania Mirza in the mixed doubles tournament at the Olympics. Sania Mirza will get the wildcard entry on 28 June 2012.

FIRST TIME DRESS CODE INTRODUCED IN WIMBLEDON



Dress Code was introduced for the first time in Wimbledon by the organiser All England Club on 24 June 2012. All England Club has been hosting tennis championships from last 150 years. The guidelines for the dress code were escorted by the picture of a male and female model. The pictures would likely to differentiate in between acceptable dress and unacceptable dress.

The Acceptable dresses were lounge suit or tailored jacket, shirt, tie, trousers and dress shoes. Boys under 11 were not required to wear a jacket or a tie. Ladies would wear the similar standard dress.

The Unacceptable dresses were T-shirts, jeans and trainers, bare midriffs, jeans and flip flops. For Women, Strapless tops and shorts, zipper jackets, casual or scuffed shoes, hoodies, pumps and short skirts.

THINGALAYA MARKED AN INDIAN RECORD AT ATHLETICS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Siddhanth Thingalaya is 21 years old athlete from Mumbai. He marked the record in 110 metre hurdles with a timing of 13.65 seconds

Indian Athlete Siddhanth Thingalaya marked an Indian Record on 18 June 2012 at Belgium Athletics National Championship in Brussels. He marked the record in 110 metre hurdles with a timing of 13.65 seconds.

At Beligum, when he approached the ninth hurdle on 18 June 2012 he felt pain in the hamstring. The pain placed him behind the Adrien Deghelt of Belgium with a timing of 13.64 seconds.

He was disqualified for the Olympic 2012, as the Olympic qualification mark of 13.60 seconds and Siddhanth took 13.65 seconds to finish the championship. He was disqualified for Olympics 2012 qualification by five hundredth second. After 1964, he was the first Indian hurdler to compete in Olympics Games. Siddhanth Thingalaya is 21 years old athlete from Mumbai. He improved his own national record of 13.77 seconds marked at Kolkata meet in September 2011.

INDIAN HOCKEY GOALKEEPER D'SOUZA SUSPENDED FOR 1 YEAR

Indian Hockey Goalkeeper Adrin D'Souza was suspended on 18 June 2012 for his anti- doping rule violation during World Series Hockey (WSH) tournament 2012. The sample was collected on 21 March 2012 after WSH match in between Mumbai Marines and Sher-E-Punjab at Jalandhar. He was the captain of Mumbai Marines. In the test, D'Souza was tested positive for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is a metabolite of marijuana.



According to the statement of Kaithavalappil, D'Souza had smoked cigarettes which were binded with marijuana and he offered the same cigarettes to the players as well. Adrian Albert D'souza was born 24 March 1984 in Mumbai. He is a field hockey Indian goalkeeper. He made international debut for Men's National Team in January 2004 during the Sultan Azlam Shah Hockey Tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He also represented India at the FIH World Cup 2006 in Monchengladbach, Germany and India at the Doha Asian Games 2006 in Doha, Qatar.

World Series Hockey (WSH) is an association for hockey competition in India. It is organized by Indian Hockey Federation and Nimbus Sports. There were 8 teams participated in the tournament. WSH is the first hockey tournament to live all the matches online on Google video and You-Tube.

TEJASWINI MULE WON SILVER MEDAL AT INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Tejaswini Mule won Silver medal at International Junior Shooting Championship in Suhl, Germany on 17 June 2012. She won the silver medal in the 50 metre rifle prone women's event. She shot around 592 and was occupied in a three-way tie with Jaqueline Orth of Germany and Jennifer Messaggio of Italy. Tejaswini was closer to 10 shots and won silver medal. The gold medal was won by Jolyn Beer of Germany and Orth won bronze medal.

HARMEET DESAI WON UNDER- 21 MEN'S FINAL BRAZIL OPEN TABLE TENNIS

Harmeet Desai won under- 21 Men's Final Brazil Open Table Tennis on 17 June 2012. He had defeated Belgian Cedric Nuytin by 4-2 and won gold medal. He became first Indian to achieve such an accomplishment.

Desai won by 11-3, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9, 5-11, 11-6. Previously, the fourth seed had defeated his compatriot Soumyajit Ghosh by 10-12, 11-8, 6-11, 11-1, 11-4, 11-4 in the semi-final. After that he was competed with with Nuytin. Desai was up to his rival tricks in the decider and won the title with three straight points.

SAINA NEHWAL BEAT CHINA'S XUERUI LI TO WIN HER 3RD INDONESIA OPEN TITLE

Ace Indian badminton player Saina Nehwal clinched her third Indonesia Open Super Series title after beating China's Xuerui Li in title clash in Jakarta on 17 June 2012. With this victory, the fifth seed, Saina took the total number of her title in the calendar year 2012 to 3. The Olympic-bound shuttler had won the Thailand Open on 9 June 2012.



22-year-old Saina had earlier claimed the Indonesia Open title in 2009 and 2010.

Prior to the final clash of Indonesia Open Saina had suffered defeat at the hands of Xuerui Li on four occasions and had registered victory on just one occasion in year 2010.

INDU CHAUDHARY & SAKSHI MALIK WON GOLD MEDALS IN ASIAN JUNIOR WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

Indu Chaudhary and Sakshi Malik won gold Medals in Asian Junior Wrestling Championship 2012 at Almaty, Kazakhstan on 13 June 2012. Indu Chaudhary and Sakshi Malik are from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana respectively. The former won the gold medal in 44 Kg and latter in 63 kg.

In addition, Pooja Danda won the silver by lifting 59kg of weight. In addition, Lalit, Seema, Ruby Chaudhry, Ritu and Kiran won bronze medals by lifting the weight of 51 kg, 67 Kg, 48 Kg, 55 Kg and 72 Kg respectively.

In the freestyle section of boys Satender, Bajrang and Somveer won the silver medals by lifting the weights of 120kg, 60kg and 84kg respectively. Whereas, the bronze medal won by Devi Singh, Praveen Rana, Deepak and Yudhvir by 50kg, 66kg, 74kg and 96kg respectively. Asian Junior Wrestling Championship 2012 held at championship held at Kazakhstan from 30 May 2012 to 3 June 2012.

RUSSIAN TENNIS PLAYER MARIA YURIEVNA SHARAPOVA WON FRENCH OPEN 2012

Maria Yuryevna Sharapova won French Open 2012 on 9 June 2012. She defeated Saria Erani from Italy by 6-3 and 6-2. Sharapova is a Russian Lawn Tennis Player. She won French open for the first time in her career. French open was held at Roland Garros in Paris. French Open 2012 was a sixteen-day long tournament. The tournament consists of both men's and women's singles and doubles and as well as a mixed doubles events. Moreover, Sharapova was the winner of Wimbledon in 2004, the US Open in 2006 and the Australian Open in 2008.



French Open tournament runs by the International Tennis Federation (ITF)

RAFAEL NADAL BEAT NOVAK DJOKOVIC TO CLAIM HIS 7TH FRENCH OPEN SINGLES TITLE

Spaniard Rafael Nadal on 11 June 2012 defeated Serbian Novak Djokovic to clinch French Open Singles Title 2012. Second seeded Nadal beat top seed Djokovic in a final clash which lasted four sets. With this victory the Spaniard also surpassed the Legend Bjorn Borg's 6 French Open title feat. Earlier Nadal had defeated Daid Ferrer in the Semi Finals to make to the finals of the tournament; While Djokovic had overwhelmed Swiss Roger Federer.

The French Open title marked his 11th Grand Slam in a career marked by 16 Grand Slam finals. Currently he is one short off Roy Emerson, three off Pete Sampras and five title away from the arch rival Roger Federer's record 16 grand slam titles.

SAINA NEHWAL CLINCHED THAILAND OPEN GRAND PRIX GOLD TITLE

Ace Indian Badminton player Saina Nehwal clinched her 16th career title as she defeated Thailand's Ratchanok Inathon in the **THAILAND OPEN GRAND PRIX GOLD TITLE** in Bangkok on 10 June 2012. The Thailand Open Grand Prix is Saina's second title in the year 2012. Earlier, in April 2012 she had won the Swiss Open Title.

The World No. 5 Saina Nehwal is India's one of the biggest hopes for the London Olympics 2012. Saina had reached the women singles quarterfinals round at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, which made her the first Indian woman shuttler to reach the singles quarterfinals at the Olympics. She is also the first Indian to win the World Junior Badminton Championships. Saina Nehwal created a history on 21 June 2009, when she became the first Indian to win a Super Series tournament, by clinching the Indonesia Open Title in Jakarta.

SANIA MIRZA & MAHESH BHUPATHI WON MIXED DOUBLES TITLE OF THE FRENCH OPEN

Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi on 7 June 2012 won their second Grand Slam title together and first French Open trophy after beating Santiago Gonzalez of Mexico and Klaudia Jans Ignacik of Poland in the mixed doubles final, in Paris. Playing their third Grand Slam final together, the seventh seeded Indian pair scored a 7-6, 6-1 win over the Polish-Mexican pair in one hour and 13 minutes at the Court Philippe Chatrier.



It is the second career Grand Slam title for Sania, while the 12th Major trophy for Bhupathi, who now has won eight mixed doubles trophies. Sania and Bhupathi had won the 2009 Australia Open and it is their first Grand Slam title since then. Sania had become the first woman tennis player from India to win a Grand Slam with that Australian Open trophy.

TIGER WOODS CLAIMED MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT, WON HIS 73RD PGA TOUR TITLE



Former world no. 1 golfer Tiger Woods defeated Spencer Levin and Rory Sabbatini to win his 73rd PGA Tour title by two shots at the Memorial tournament on 4 June 2012. The Memorial tournament victory is Wood's second PGA Tour victory in the current season. Now the ace golfer will be seen competing in the US Open from 14-17 June 2012.

Born on 30 December 1975, Woods started his professional golf career in 1996. His first major victory came in 1997 when he claimed the 1997 Masters

Tournament. He first reached the top of the world rankings in June 1997. Wood's present world ranking is 4. Considered to be the all time great of golf, he has been awarded PGA Player of the Year a record ten times.

NZ BEAT ARGENTINA TO WIN SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

New Zealand beat Argentina 1-0 to win Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament at Ipoh, Malaysia on 3 June 2012. Andy Hayward scored the only goal for New Zealand in the summit clash, which prevented Argentina, the 2008 winner, to reclaim the trophy.

In a clash for the third spot and bronze medal, India defeated Great Britain 3-1. From Indian side Shivendra Singh, Sandeep Singh and Tushar Khandekar scored goals at 42nd minute, 52nd minute and 69th minute respectively. Ashley Jackson struck the only goal for the Great Britain at 35th minute of the game. Earlier the Great Britain had outshined the Indian squad in their round robin league encounter.

In another clash for the fifth position the South Korean team defeated hosts Malaysia 3-2 to earn the fifth position. Pakistan for the first time in the history of the tournament ended with the 7th position, bottom most the in the table.

AWARDS

While the Fairplay Trophy was given to Great Britain, Sardar Singh of India was awarded with the trophy of the Best Player of Tournament. Kyle Pontifex of New Zealand was chosen the Best Goalkeeper for the tournament. Kyle Pontifex of New Zealand was awarded with the Man of the Final trophy. Ashley Jackson of Great Britain emerged the top scorer of the tournament

FINAL TABLE

- 1 **New Zealand**
- 2 **Argentina**
- 3 **India**
- 4 **Great Britain**
- 5 **South Korea**

- 6 Malaysia
- 7 Pakistan

KEVIN PIETERSEN ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT FROM LIMITED-OVERS EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL CRICKET



Ace England Batsman Kevin Pietersen announced to retire from limited-overs edition of International cricket. He, however, will continue to play test cricket for the country. Pietersen who had made his international debut in 2004 has played a total of 127 one-day internationals and 36 Twenty20 internationals. South Africa-born Pietersen has scored 4184 one-day international runs at an average of 48.14. He is the sixth highest rungetter from England. With 176 runs at 37 he is also the only England player to cross four-digit mark in the T20 format of the game.

Pietersen decided to retire as the England Cricket Board had put forth a selection policy under which any player deciding to retire from either of the one-day formats, will be considered retire from both formats.

WORLD DIARY

1 June, 2012

- A white man accused of murdering the Indian student Anuj Bidve in a suspected racist attack in Salford, Greater Manchester, last December admitted killing him but denied murder
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina voiced her strong resolve to work together with India for mutual development
- The beleaguered Pakistan People's Party-led coalition government tabled its fifth budget making history by becoming the first democratically-elected dispensation to present five consecutive budgets

2 June 2012

- Russia backed the Syrian government's stand on massacre in the region of **Houla** saying the bloodshed was the result of foreign assistance to rebels
- A Chinese intelligence official detained on suspicions of spying for the United States
- U.S. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta visited India. His visit to New Delhi would focus on



building a strong security relationship with India

3 June 2012

- At least 153 people on board an aircraft killed when the plane crashed into a building in a residential area of Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos
- US Drone strike killed 9 militants in Pakistan

4 June 2012

- The Supreme Court of Pakistan suspended Interior Minister Rehman Malik from the Senate (the Upper House of Parliament) for failing to produce the necessary documents to establish that he had given up his British nationality
- The CIA-operated drones killed over a dozen terrorists in North Waziristan, the strong hold of the Afghan Taliban
- Chinese officials played down differences with India ahead of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna's arrival

5 June 2012

- Pakistan successfully tested the nuclear-capable Hatf VII cruise missile with a range of 700 km. This was the fifth missile test done by Pakistan since late last month
- The Australian Government raised objections to the environmental clearance given by a provincial government to the GVK Group's 10 billion dollar Alpha Coal mine project in Galilee Basin, Queensland
- Renowned Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jehangir said the powerful security establishment was planning to get her killed using one of the many jihadi outfits operating in the country

6 June 2012

- Syria allowed international relief agencies to deliver badly needed aid to around a million people in four major cities



- 22 people dead and at least 50 injured in Kandhar blast
- Sri Lankan President **Mahinda Rajapaksa** forced to cancel a speech in London's business hub, because of security concerns after Tamil activists threatened to hold a large demonstration against alleged human rights abuses in Sri Lanka

7 June 2012

- India announced to back the six-member Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) security grouping to play a greater role in Afghanistan

- India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna met his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi and discussed bilateral issues on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit

- Israel's Prime Minister ordered construction of 300 homes in a West Bank settlement, a move aimed at placating settler anger over the planned demolition of an illegally built outpost nearby



Shanghai Cooperation
Organization (SCO)

8 June 2012

- The commander of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan apologised for civilian deaths in a coalition airstrike on 4 June 2012
- A group of angry Muslim residents of New Jersey filed a lawsuit against the New York Police Department for surveillance and data-gathering activities at mosques and other Muslim community centres
- China lowered prices of petrol by 0.39 yuan (3.40 rupees) a litre and diesel by 0.44 yuan (3.83 rupees) a litre

9 June 2012

- The United Nations monitors in Syria have recorded evidence of an atrocity in a Syrian hamlet near the embattled city of Hama
- Syrian Army shelling and gunfire killed at least 28 civilians in protest hubs, including 17 in the flashpoint city of Daraa
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) ruled in China's favour after Beijing contested anti-dumping measures imposed by the U.S. on imports of frozen Chinese shrimp

10 June 2012

- A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives outside a church in central Nigeria as gunmen attacked another church in the nation's northeast, killing at least three people and wounding dozens of others
- An earthquake registering 6 on the Richter scale hit the Turkish Mediterranean resort of Fethiye
- As per the British government's order only those British nationals or residents with an annual income of at least 16 lakh rupees will be able to bring spouses to the U.K. from the Indian sub-continent and other countries outside the European Union. The new restriction will come into force 9 July 2012

11 June 2012

- US exempted India and six other countries from financial sanctions because they have significantly cut purchases of Iranian oil
- The Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan began talks on the military standoff in Siachen

- Libyan authorities jailed four members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on suspicion of spying

12 June 2012

- Tens of thousands of Russians came on the streets in Moscow to protest against President Vladimir Putin's rule
- US announced to pull out its negotiators from the prolonged deliberations with Pakistan over reopening NATO supply lines
- As many as 100 people are feared dead in an earthquake and landslide that buried more than 20 houses in northern Afghanistan

13 June 2012

- Iran commenced work on designing a nuclear submarine engine by pooling in elements of domestically developed technologies and using them for wider applications
- At least 65 people were killed and more than 200 wounded in a bomb blast in Iraq
- The U.N.'s food agency said this year's forecasts for global food production were positive overall but warned that some areas would likely to struggle due to armed conflict and displacement



14 June 2012

- Myanmar's pro-democracy leader, **Aung San Suu Kyi**, kicked off her first visit to Europe after nearly a quarter of a century
- Germany banned ultraconservative Islamic organization
- Despite pressure from international courts, NATO and rights groups, the Libyan authorities refused to release a lawyer from the International Criminal Court and three members of the court's staff

- Egypt's Supreme Court dissolved the popularly elected Parliament and allowed the toppled government's last prime minister to run for president, escalating a struggle by remnants of the old elite to block Islamists from coming to power

15 June 2012

- US Industrial production slipped by 0.1 per cent in May 2012, with the manufacturing sector down 0.4 per cent
- India partially lifted the ban on emigration to Libya, more than one year after the country was rocked by a deadly violence

- Rajat Gupta the director of Goldman Sachs and one of the most successful businessmen in US was held guilty in inside trading case by the Manhattan Court.

16 June 2012

- Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi received her Nobel Peace prize in Oslo. Suu Kyi was conferred the Nobel Prize for her battle for democracy in Burma in 1991
- Gambian lawyer Fatou Bensouda appointed the Chief Prosecutor of International Criminal Court. She is the first African to take over as the Chief Prosecutor of International Criminal Court.
- China sent its first woman into space by successfully launching the much-awaited Shenzhou-9 spacecraft
- 24 people were killed and score others left injured in a bomb blast in Khyber tribal agency in Pakistan
- Russia agreed to send warships and troops to Syria to protect its logistics base in Tartous in Syria
- Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud died

17 June 2012

- At least 25 people and score others left injured as the suicide bombers rocked four churches in a series of attacks in northern Nigeria
- World powers resumed crisis talks with Iran as they expect Iran to reconsider its nuclear drive amidst a crippling oil ban and pressure from host Russia
- The Taliban, through a press release, in North Waziristan declared a ban on the polio vaccination programme in the tribal agency as long as drone attacks continue in the region

18 June 2012

- An important military commander Maj. Gen. Salim Ali Qatn in Yemen was assassinated on Monday in the southern port city of Aden
- Saudi Arabia's Prince **Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud**, was officially named crown prince of Saudi Arabia, making him the heir apparent to the 88-year-old King Abdullah
- Muslim Brotherhood claimed victory for its presidential candidate Mohamed Morsy in the Presidential elections
- G20 summit started in Los Cabos in Mexico



19 June 2012

- Pakistan Supreme Court disqualified Yusuf Raza Gilani as the Prime Minister of the country. The court also debarred him as the member of National Assembly in the contempt of court case.
- The six world powers and Iran agreed to hold another round of talks in Beijing, giving hope that a diplomatic solution to Tehran's nuclear programme may eventually be worked out
- A popular Pashto singer, Ghazala Javed, was gunned down in Peshawar
- An appeals court ordered the government to investigate the 1976 assassination of an American, Ronni Moffitt, by Chilean police secret agents in Washington

20 June 2012

- WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange sought political asylum at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London after Britain's Supreme Court dismissed his final appeal against extradition to Sweden to answer allegations of sexual assault
- Greek conservative party head Antonis Samaras was sworn in as Prime Minister of Greece
- Pakistani security officials arrested a French-born al-Qaeda activist in Balochistan from near the border the province shares with Iran
- The health condition of former Egyptian President Hosne Mubarak deteriorated further as he slipped into coma

21 June 2012

- A non-bailable arrest warrant was issued against Pakistan Prime Minister-designate Makhdoom Shahabuddin
- The Fokker F-27 turboprop plane crashed into homes in the capital Jakarta in Indonesia on during a routine training flight, at least six people were killed in the plane crash
- The Egyptian election authority deferred the announcement of the presidential poll results

**22 June 2012**

- Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader **Raja Parvez Ashraf** appointed the 17th Prime Minister of Pakistan
- At least 18 people were killed in a brutal terror attack by the Taliban militants on lakeside hotel north of Kabul

- WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said he decided to seek political asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy because his own country, Australia abandoned him
- A large number of protesters gathered at Cairo's Tahrir Square, to vent their anger against the military's grip on power and undermined democratic institutions

23 June 2012

- Paraguay's Senate stripped President Fernando Lugo from office on charges of malfeasance in office, including an alleged role in a deadly confrontation between police and landless farmers that left 17 dead
- Vice-President Federico Franco sworn in as President of Parague
- The leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Spain agreed to push for a growth package of 163 billion dollar ahead of a key EU summit
- The Rio+20 summit on global environment concluded with adoption of the outcome report on sustainable development

24 June 2012

- Supreme Presidential Election Commission of Egypt announced the victory of Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsy in the historic presidential election
- A mild 5.7-magnitude earthquake, which jolted south-western China left at least two people dead and more than a 100 injured
- Tunisia extradited former Libyan leader and Muammar Qadhafi's Prime Minister Al Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmoudi to Libya

25 June 2012

- Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao refused to meet Nepali Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai at Rio de Janeiro on the sidelines of the United Nations conference on sustainable development
- Turkey warned Syria that its military unit approaching its border will be treated as a direct threat and will be suitably punished
- Pakistan's Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf caused another controversy over his plans to build a helipad at his private residence in Punjab province
- Pakistan refused to release Indian prisoner Sarabjeet Singh as it said it was not intended to release Sarabjeet Singh but Surjeet Singh, another Indian prisoner languishing in Pakistani jail.

26 June 2012

- Prime Minister David Cameron tabled a bill to replace the 700-year-old House of Lords with a smaller, elected body, taking on a task that has frustrated political leaders for decades
- A Pakistani court asked President Asif Ali Zardari to disassociate himself from political activities while setting 5 September 2012 as the deadline for the same. The court threatened Zardari of dire consequences if he failed to comply with its order
- At least 100 people died and 250000 left stranded by flash floods and landslides in Bangladesh

27 June 2012



- **Nora Ephron**, the renowned essayist, author and filmmaker passed away
- 43 people died in Tanzania's economic capital Dar es Salaam
- Pakistan freed 315 Indian fishermen, including 20 juveniles, from a Karachi prison

28 June 2012

- Russia suspended its contract with Syria for the supply of deadly anti-aircraft missile systems
- The meeting of European nations began in Brussels in Belgium to discuss the gloomy economic state of the Eurozone nations
- The US Supreme Court upheld the Barack Obama's health care legislation
- A US court freed Union Carbide Corporation and its erstwhile CEO Warren Anderson of all the charges of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

29 June 2012

- The leaders from all 17 Eurozone countries inked a deal to allow emergency measures to aid crisis-hit Italy and Spain, as well as provide billions to boost the economy
- China's first female astronaut and two other crew members returned safely to Earth following a 13-day space mission
- At least 13 people killed in a deadly bomb blast in Balochistan province of Pakistan
- **Julian Assange** ignored the extradition notice served on him ordering him to report to a central



London police station as a prelude to his deportation to Sweden to answer allegations of sexual assault

30 June 2012

- Mohamed Morsy was sworn in as Egypt's first elected President
- Sri Lanka sealed an office from which two pro-opposition news websites operated, arrested nine workers and seized computers and documents
- Hardliner Islamists destroyed ancient tombs of Muslim saints in Timbaktu and threatening to wipe out every religious shrine in the troubled city

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

RIO+20 CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONCLUDED IN RIO DE JANEIRO

RIO+20 THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012. The conference marked the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development



(WSSD) in Johannesburg. The conference also marked four decades of the 1972 Stockholm Conference or the UN Conference on Human Environment.

The global event on Sustainable Development (UNCSA) was organized in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236). The UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Sha Zukang was appointed the UN Secretary-General for the Rio+20 Conference.

Rio+20, saw Heads of 172 States and Government marking their presence at the conference. The summit provided global leaders with a chance to develop a collective framework to meet their poverty eradication goals while not letting the environment get destroyed. The summit, which came after the failure of number of conferences such as Kyoto Summit, Copenhagen Summit, widely focused on the need of sustainable development and green economy by addressing environmental degradation and building a bridge to the future.

OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE

The basic objective of the Conference was to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the

implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges.

THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

The themes for Rio+20 Conference were:

- (1) Green economy in the context of sustainable development poverty eradication
- (2) Institutional framework for sustainable development

FOCUS AREA OF CONFERENCE

The conference focused on seven specific areas which comprise DECENT JOBS, ENERGY, SUSTAINABLE CITIES, FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, WATER, OCEANS AND DISASTER READINESS.

UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) REPORT ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

The United Nations Environment Programme released its food security report **AVOIDING FUTURE FAMINES: STRENGTHENING THE ECOLOGICAL BASIS OF FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS** during Rio+20 conferences. The report noted that food security must be at the top of the priority list of country's policy if the world has to provide food to its seven billion populations - a number expected to cross nine billion mark by 2050.

IUCN RELEASED RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES FOR YEAR 2012



International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on 19 June 2012 released its latest update of the Red List of Threatened Species. The report showed that of the 63837 species assessed, 19817 are threatened with extinction, including 41 per cent of amphibians, 33 per cent of reef building corals, 25 per cent of mammals, 13 per cent of

birds, and 30 per cent of conifers.

From India the IUCN listed 132 species of plants and animals as Critically Endangered, the most threatened category. With as many as 60 different species assessed as Critically Endangered and 141 species as Endangered, plants appeared to be the most threatened life form.

Founded in 1948, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization.

18 species of amphibians, 14 fishes, 10 mammals and 15 varieties of birds were assessed as critically endangered while, 310 species were included in the list of endangered species. The list of endangered species includes 69 fishes, 38 mammals and 32 amphibians. Two plant species namely Euphorbia Mayuranthanii of Kerala were listed in the extinct in the wild category, while a leaf frog species and six plants were reported to be extinct.

On a global basis the IUCN classified 3947 as Critically Endangered, 81 as Extinct, 63 as Extinct in the Wild. In the lower risk categories, there were 5766 species in Endangered, 10104 in Vulnerable and 4467 in Near Threatened categories. Scientific data regarding 10497 species was not available and hence classified as Data Deficient.

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)?

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization. Founded in 1948, today it is the largest professional global conservation network of the world. As of now the organization has more than 1200 member organizations including 200+ government and 900+ non-government organizations. The IUCN Red List is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. Headquartered in Gland near Geneva in Switzerland, IUCN's vision is "a just world that values and conserves nature."

IUCN RED LIST

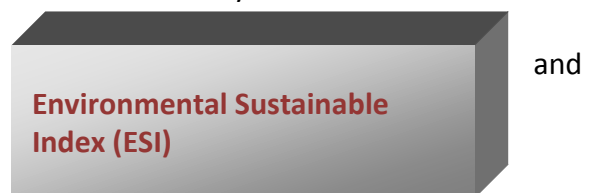
Founded in 1969, IUCN Red List is the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. The goal of the IUCN Red List is to provide information and analyses on the status, trends and threats to species in order to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation.

5 NE STATES & HIMACHAL PRADESH APPRAISED AS MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE STATES

The Environmental Sustainable Index (ESI) 2011 released on 14 June 2012, appraised five northeastern states (Tripura, Sikkim, Manipur, Mijoram, Arunachal Pradesh) and Himachal Pradesh as the most environmentally sustainable states in the country. The index was released by Centre for Development Finance (CDF), affiliated to Institute for Financial Management Research.

Among larger states, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal performed poorly on maximum of environmental indicators while Tamil Nadu,

Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka received high ratings. States with rich natural resources like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar were rated moderate in the chart.



To gauge the environmental quality of the various states, ESI had referred to 41 key environmental indicators which were classified into nine thematic sub indices with respect to policy formulation. The sub indices included air quality and pollution, water quality and availability, land use and agriculture, forests and biodiversity, waste management, energy management, health impact, population pressure and environmental budget.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2012 OBSERVED ACROSS THE WORLD

The world community observed the World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June 2012. The World Environment Day is observed every year on 5 June to raise public awareness on the issues related to global environment. The World Environment Day activities keep going on throughout the year, but culminate on 5 June every year.

Theme for the World Environment Day 2012 is: *Green Economy: Does it include you?* The host for World Environment Day 2012 was the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Theme for the World Environment Day 2011 was *Forests-Nature At Your Service* and India was the global host for the year's events.

World Environment Day 2012 is the 40th edition of the global. The UN General Assembly started observing the day in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

What does Green Economy means?

As per the definition of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a Green Economy is 'one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.'

Green economy widely refers to an economic situation where the economic developments take place without hurting the environment. In the green economy the income of people is driven by the private and public investments which helps in the reduction of carbon emissions and pollution and stimulates energy and resource efficiency, and ultimately helps in the prevention of loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



SCIENTISTS DEVELOPED NEW TECHNIQUE FOR EARLY DETECTION OF AUTISM

In a path breaking development, a team of scientists at BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL invented an easy technique that will help doctors to diagnoses autism in children earlier. The pioneering technique will pave the way for an early detection and better treatment of the brain disorder in young children. The work detail of the

new technique was published in [JOURNAL BMC MEDICINE](#) on 26 June 2012.

The technique uses EEG scalp scanning equipment used for decades to diagnose epilepsy to spot weaknesses in the brain's wiring. The researchers who carried out tests on more than 1000 children aged between two and 12 years found that it was up to 90 per cent accurate in detecting the disease.

Every two in 1000 children worldwide is suffering from Autism. The symptoms of the disease vary from child to child, however, the disease has some very common and invariable characteristics like difficulty with social interaction, difficulty with communication and a need for routine and repetitive behavior. Since there is no permanent cure of the disease, patients are usually treated by a combination of speech, behavioral and other therapies. Diagnosis of autism is more often a lengthy and complicated process and the average child is not diagnosed until the age of five and a half.

INDIAN SCIENTIST GOT US PATENT FOR CANCER TREATMENT

In a pioneering innovation, the nanotechnology scientist, Rao Papineni and his colleagues invented a cancer treatment system in which a nano-particle carries the payload of anti-cancer drug and releases it only in the cancerous cell, thus protecting healthy cells around. The newly invented system got patented in the USA on 19 June 2012.

The title of the patent is 'High Capacity Non-Viral Vectors.' The non-viral vectors are nano-particles. The nano-particles will allow the drug particle to target the diseased site with pinpoint precision. The nano-particles will allow the drug to be released inside the diseased cell. They will enhance the function of the drug. The nano-particles will carry the drug precisely with minimal collateral damage to healthy tissue. Papineni, along with his fellow researchers applied for the patent in 2009. Papineni is presently the chief scientist and senior principal investigator in medical applications of nanotechnology at Carestream Health, Inc USA.

IBM'S SEQUOIA DECLARED FASTEST COMPUTER IN THE WORLD

Sequoia, the US super computer, was crowned the fastest computer in the world on 17 June 2012. Situated at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, Sequoia is able to make 16.32 quadrillion calculations per second (16.32 petaflops/s). Developed by IBM, the supercomputer belongs from IBM's BlueGene family, which runs on Power processors, chips that are made at IBM's plant in East Fishkill.



The powerful Supercomputing System Sequoia help the United States keep its nuclear stockpile safe, secure and effective without the need for underground testing. The U.S. is the top consumer of high-performance systems. With 253 of 500 systems US holds the highest share of

world's fastest computers. Asia holds 121 systems, with China (68 systems) and Japan (34 systems) leading in that region. Europe has 107 systems with the U.K. (25), France (22) and Germany (20) in a tight race. Top 500 systems also appear in scattered countries such as Israel, Canada, United Arab Emirates and Australia.

THE TOP 10 POWERFUL SUPERCOMPUTERS OF THE WORLD:

1. Sequoia at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California - US
2. K Computer at RIKEN Advanced Institute for Computational Science campus in Kobe - Japan
3. Mira at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois - US
4. SuperMUC at Leibniz Supercomputing Centre in Garching - Germany
5. Tianhe-1A at National Supercomputing Center in Tianjin - China
6. Jaguar at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee - US
7. Fermi at CINECA in Bologna - Italy
8. JuQueen at Forschungszentrum Juelich in Juelich - Germany
9. Curie thin nodes at CEA/TGCC-GENCI in Bruyeres-le-Chatel - France
10. Nebulae at National Supercomputing Centre in Shenzhen - China

WHERE DOES INDIA STAND IN THE LIST OF TOP 500 COMPUTERS?

As per the June 2012 Top 500 Supercomputers list (it is published twice in a year) two supercomputers from India figured in the top 100. The CSIR Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Computer Simulation (C-MMACS), ranked 58, while SAGA-220, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and the IISc, ranked 86.

Earlier in November 2007, India had got nine supercomputers in the Top 500 list. Eka's, developed by the Computational Research Laboratories Ltd (CRL), a unit of Tata Sons, the Hewlett-Packard (HP) system was ranked the world's fourth-largest supercomputer. The system cost around 30 million dollar (around 165 crore rupees) and was built in just six weeks. It was the first time that an Indian supercomputer figured among the world's top 10. Though the system now ranks 129 in the top 500 list.

PARAM 8000 is broadly considered as India's first supercomputer. It was built by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) with Russian collaboration. The University of Mannheim, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville every year prepares the list of TOP 500 supercomputers in the world.

CHINA LAUNCHED ITS FOURTH HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SHENZHOU-9 INTO SPACE

China on 16 June 2012 launched its fourth human spaceflight Shenzhou-9 from the Jiuquan satellite launch centre in north-western Gansu state. The 30.3 feet long and 9.1 feet diameter, Shenzhou -9 spacecraft will conduct the first manned docking mission and set the foundation for Chinese plans to build a space station by 2020.

Shenzhou-9 is expected to take at least 20 days to complete its space mission. In the course of the mission the crew will accomplish automated docking procedure followed by scientific experiments, technical tests and physical exercises conducted in the space lab. The crew will conduct manual docking with the Tiangong-1 or heavenly palace space laboratory module, which has been orbiting the earth since 29 September 2011.



China, notwithstanding its assurance given to the world community that it will not get indulged in space warfare, is spending billions of dollars to accomplish its ambitious space programmes. China, in December 2011, had revealed a five-year space programme, in which it vowed to set up a space lab and collect sample from the moon by 2016. Earlier, the Chinese government had undertaken a mission to get to the moon and set up a manned space station by year 2020.

China, launched its manned space programme in year 1999 with the launch of Shenzhou-1 with no crew on board. In 2001, Shenzhou-2 was blasted off with small animals aboard, and in 2003, China launched its first manned space craft. Since then, it has completed a space walk in 2008 and an unmanned docking between a module and rocket in 2011. The launch of Shenzhou-9 is a testimony to China's determination to develop its technological competence vis-a-vis United States and Russia.

CHINA SENT ITS FIRST WOMAN ASTRONAUT LIU YANG INTO SPACE

Shenzhou-9 space mission also holds significance as its crew members comprise three astronauts including China's first woman astronaut Liu Yang. Yang, a cargo pilot in the People's Liberation Army air force, is the first Chinese female astronaut, who has been sent on the space mission. The other two astronauts on the mission include People's Liberation Army (PLA) pilots, Liu Wang and Jing Haipeng, who after this mission became China's first astronaut to travel into space twice.



THE SOLAR TRANSIT OF VENUS PRESENTED A SPECTACULAR SHOW IN THE SPACE

In a rare space event, Venus, the second closest planet from the sun, passed in front of the sun on 5 June 2012. The rare planetary display began shortly after 2200 GMT on 5 June 2012 in parts of North America. Subsequently, it was visible in Central America, and the northern part of South America. The view at the time the Venus was crossing though the Sun was incredible, as a tiny black dot appeared on the solar surface.

Venus is 100th of the diameter of the sun so while moving across from one side to the other, just a black spot placed over on the disc of the sun. The celestial phenomenon which repeats itself in more than 100 year will now be rewitnessed only in 2117.

The space phenomenon is seen when the Venus passes between the Sun and the Earth. It occurs in intervals of 8, 121½, 8 and 105½ years. The last Transit of Venus occurred on 8 June 2004 and was visible across India. The transit which took place on 5 June 2012 completes the pair of 2004-12. The latest Venus transit is only the eighth since the invention of the telescope, and the last until 10-11 December 2117.

What is the Tarnsit of Venus?

The Transit of Venus occurs when it comes between the sun and earth. Venus is significantly smaller in size than the sun and hence appears like a small dot on a big plate.

WORLD IPV6 LAUNCH DAY ORGANISED BY INTERNET SOCIETY

World IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) Launch Day held globally on 6 June 2012. All the major Internet Service Providers, networking equipment manufacturers and web companies around the world came together on the occasion, to permanently enable IPv6 for their products and services. The day, organized by Internet Society, represents a major milestone in the global deployment of IPv6.

What is IPv6?

IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) is a latest version of the Internet Protocol (IP) which will succeed IPv4, the communications protocol which is currently being used to direct almost all Internet traffic. IPv6 will allow the Internet to support many more devices by greatly increasing the number of possible addresses.

Previous year the World IPv6 Day was observed on 8 June wherein, top websites and Internet Service Providers around the world, had joined together for a successful 24-hour global-scale trial of the new Internet Protocol, IPv6.

World IPv6 Day 2012 was an event sponsored and organized by the Internet Society and several large content providers to test public IPv6 deployment. It was announced on 12 January 2011 with five anchoring companies: Facebook, Google, Yahoo, Akamai Technologies, and Limelight Networks.

ONE LINERS



- Justice took the oath as Supreme Court judge on 4 June 2012.- Madan Bhimrao Lokur
- Legendary Indian cricketer sworn in as the member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament on 4 June 2012.- Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
- Government of India on 5 June 2012 nominated Vice Admiral as the new Navy chief. - Devender Kumar Joshi

- Ace Indian Badminton player Saina Nehwal clinched her 16th career title as she defeated Thailand's Ratchanok Inathon in the **THAILAND OPEN GRAND PRIX GOLD TITLE** in Bangkok on 10 June 2012.
- India's Batting great was conferred upon the Wisden India Outstanding Achievement award for completing a century of 100 international hundreds, in Dubai on 11 June 2012.- Sachin Tendulkar
- The US super computer, was crowned the fastest computer in the world on 17 June 2012.- Sequoia
- The Supreme Court of Pakistan suspended Interior Minister from the Senate (the Upper House of Parliament) for failing to produce the necessary documents to establish that he had given up his British nationality.- Rehman Malik
- Pakistan successfully tested the nuclear-capable cruise missile with a range of 700 km. This was the fifth missile test done by Pakistan since late last month.- Hatf VII
- Renowned Pakistani human rights activist said the powerful security establishment was planning to get her killed using one of the many jihadi outfits operating in the country.- Asma Jehangir
- Sri Lankan President forced to cancel a speech in London's business hub, because of security concerns after Tamil activists threatened to hold a large demonstration against alleged human rights abuses in Sri Lanka.- Mahinda Rajapaksa
- India's External Affairs Minister met his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi and discussed bilateral issues on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.- S.M. Krishna
- An earthquake registering 6 on the Richter scale hit the resort of Fethiye.- Turkish Mediterranean
- As per the British government's order only those British nationals or residents with an annual income of at least rupees will be able to bring spouses to the U.K. from the Indian sub-continent and other countries outside the European Union. The new restriction will come into force 9 July 2012.- 16 lakh
- Bangladesh Prime Minister voiced her strong resolve to work together with India for mutual development.- Sheikh Hasina
- U.S. Defence Secretary visited India. His visit to New Delhi would focus on building a strong security relationship with India.- Leon Panetta
- At least 153 people on board an aircraft killed when the plane crashed into a building in a residential area of Nigeria's commercial capital.- Lagos

- Air Marshal took over as AOC-IN-C, Western Air Command, IAF.- Arup Raha AVSM VM
- To concretize the operational contours of the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), the Government established a Manufacturing Industry for matters pertaining to the implementation of the National Manufacturing Policy.- Industry Promotion Board (MIPB)
- Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi on 7 June 2012 won their title together and first French Open trophy .- second Grand Slam
- Electronic Equipments major Samsung Electronics on 7 June 2012 named their new chief executive officer.- Kwon Oh-hyun

NEWS CAPSULE

PERSON DEAD

DIRECTOR OF TRIBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE BK ROY BURMAN PASSED AWAY

B.K.Roy Burman passed away on 26 June 2012. He was anthropologist and social scientist. B.K. Roy was born in Bangladesh in the year 1922. He served as Director of the Tribal Research Institute.

He was the former visiting faculty of Jawaharlal Nehru University and Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. He was the Professor at Visva-Bharati University. He was an ex-officio Director of the Council of Social Development. Prof. Burman firmly opposed the imposition of the Armed Forces Act in Manipur and Operation Green Hunt. He had written several letters to Dr. Manmohan Singh. Prof. Burman served as the chairman of numerous international, national and State-level committees.

He was associated with non-government organizations and worked for the Scheduled Tribes. In addition, he had worked as the chairman of the Futurology Commission of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. In addition, he was the founder-president of the Network of Practicing Anthropologists and he had served as Deputy Registrar-General of the Census and Officer on Special Duty. He was the head of the Social Studies Division of the Registrar- General of India. He chaired as the Union Planning Commission's Study Group on Land Holding Systems of Tribals and the Union Home Ministry's Committee on Forest and Tribals Backward Classes Unit.

LEGENDARY CUBAN BOXER TEOFILO STEVENSON DIED AT 60

Legendary Cuban Boxer Teofilo Stevenson died of heart attack on 13 June 2012 at the age of 60. An amateur boxer he never turned professional in his 14-year long career. Stevenson, who won his first gold at the 1972 Munich Games, and went on to win two more golds at the 1976 Montreal and 1980 Moscow Games, ruled the game for nearly 14 years. He was the first fighter to win the Olympic gold medal in the same division three times. Stevenson was denied a chance



of a fourth medal after Cuba joined the Soviet boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

The legendary boxer, who quit the game in 1986, had emerged victorious in a record 302 bouts out of 321 that he played. Subsequently, he served as a trainer and official with Cuban boxing federation mentoring Felix Savon, who also like his trainer went on to win three Olympic golds (1992, 1996, 2000).

A fervent patriot, Stevenson refused to contest a highly lucrative bout against then-world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali after the 1976 Montreal Games. He was offered 1 million dollar for that bout, but he did not give up his amateur status.

DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE NATIONAL SECRETARY OF CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNION (CITU) DIED

Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU)

Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) is one of India's largest associations of workers. Founded in 1970, the union is politically associated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Dipankar Mukherjee, National Secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU), passed away on 18 June 2012 in New Delhi at the age of 69. Dipankar Mukherjee was born in June 1943 at Calcutta in West Bengal. A brilliant student throughout his student life, he graduated in electrical engineering from Banaras

Hindu University and started his career as an engineer with BHEL in Bhopal. He also held high position in Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation and Haldia Fertilisers.

Mukharjee joined CITU as its full time member in 1991 and actively participated in trade union movement since then. He was elected National Secretary of CITU in 2003 and represented CITU in various forums. He was CITU representative in Central Board of Trustees of Employees Provident Fund Organisation till his demise.



He was elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament, in April 1994 from West Bengal as a CPI (M) member. During his 12-year stint as the Rajya Sabha member,

Mukharjee played a vital role in intervening effectively on all crucial economic and industrial policy related issues.

FORMER INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO US ABID HUSSAIN PASSED AWAY

Former Indian ambassador to US Abid Hussain passed away at the age of 85 in London on 21 June 2012. Hussain, a member of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), was one of those very few officers who served the Indian Foreign Service despite not being the member of the coveted service.

In his illustrious career with the Indian Administrative Service, Hussain served in various capacities such as the Secretary of Ministry of Heavy Industries, Commerce Secretary and Chairman IIFT. In 1985, he was appointed the Member of Planning Commission of India. Subsequently, he served as Ambassador to the US between 1990 and 1992.



In 1988, Hussain was awarded with Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award given by the Indian Government. Hussain in his long standing career oversaw several important assignments. Some of his notable assignments include, the Member of International Panel on Democracy & Development of UNESCO, Special Rapporteur to UN on Freedom of Opinion and Expression for 9 years, Member of the Constitution Review Commission of India, Member of the Prasar Bharati

Board, and Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York and U.N Adviser on Turkey on Community Development.

NIA FOUNDING DIRECTOR RADHA VINOD RAJU PASSED AWAY

Radha Vinod Raju, the founding director of National Investigation Agency (NIA) died at the age of 62 on 21 June 2012. Raju was also a key member of the special investigation team which investigated the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Born in Kochi on 27 July 1949 Raju started his career as an officer in the Bank of India. Subsequently, in 1975, he joined the J&K cadre of Indian Police Service. In his long illustrious career as an IPS officer, Raju served on various top positions such as, senior superintendent of police of Jammu district, deputy inspector general of South Kashmir Range and inspector general of Jammu.



Raju also headed the special investigation team (SIT) which probed the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991. The SIT headed by him, held LTTE culprit of the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Raju was awarded with numerous medals and awards during his

service with the IPS. Most coveted of the awards that he received includes the Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 1992, the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 1999, a Director-General's Commendation Certificate in January 2000 and the Sher-e-Kashmir Medal for Meritorious Services in 2003.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

National Investigation Agency (NIA), the counter terrorism law enforcement agency of India, was founded on 31 December 2008. The agency was founded amidst the growing incidents of terror attacks in India. The dreadful Mumbai terror attack of 26 November 2011, prompted the Government of India to take some concrete measure to prevent any such incident in the future. The government, consequently, proposed to enact a legislation, to set up the NIA. The agency is entirely dedicated to inspect the acts of terror in the country. Senior IPS officer SC Sinha is the present Director General of NIA.

PERSON APPOINTED

VICE ADMIRAL DK JOSHI NAMED NEW CHIEF OF THE INDIAN NAVY



Government of India on 5 June 2012 nominated Vice Admiral Devender Kumar Joshi as the new Navy chief. Joshi will assume the charge after Admiral Nirmal Verma retires on 31 August 2012. Joshi, 58 is currently the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, the Indian Navy's sword arm.

Born on 4 July 1954, Joshi joined Indian Navy on 1 April 1974. In a career spanning nearly 40 years, Joshi served the Indian Navy in various capacities. Prior to his current appointment, Joshi served as the navy's deputy chief, Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command and Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff.

A graduate of the prestigious US Naval War College and an alumnus of Mumbai's College of Naval Warfare, and New Delhi's National Defence College, Joshi also served as defence advisor in the Indian High Commission in Singapore 1996-99. DK Joshi has been awarded the Param Vishist Seva Medal, the Ati Vishist Seva medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Nau Sena Medal and the Vishist Seva Medal.

VEERAVALLI SUNDARAM SAMPATH APPOINTED AS NEW CHIEF EC OF INDIA

President Pratibha Patil appointed senior-most Election Commissioner Veeravalli Sundaram Sampath as the 18th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. He replaced S.Y. Quraishi on the constitutional position, whose term as the CEC is coming to an end on 10 June 2012.

He took over as Election Commissioner on 21 April 2009. He will carry out his term till 16 January 2015. Election Commissioner is appointed either for six years in the Commission or till the age of 65, whichever comes earlier. H.S. Brahma is the other Election Commissioner.



Chief Election Commissioner is the head of the three-member election commission, which is a constitutional entity responsible for conducting free and fair elections in the country. Article 324 of the Indian constitution provides for the institution of Election Commission of India. The commission was set up on 25 January 1950 with an aim to make electoral process in the world's largest democracy

more transparent and free from any external interference. Sukumar Sen was the first Election Commissioner of India.

The Election Commission was originally a one-member body when it started functioning but the number was later expanded to 3 on 16 October 1989. But the other two members in the body had a very short tenure as they left the office on 1 January 1990. Subsequently, on 1 October 1993 two additional Election Commissioners were appointed. The concept of multi-member Commission has been in operation since then, with decision making power by majority vote. The three-member body is headed by the Chief Election Commissioner who is appointed by the President of India.

Born at Vellore in Tamil Nadu on 16 January 1950, VS Sampath joined the elite Indian Administrative Service in 1973 as the officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre.

The Chief Election Commissioner along with two other Election Commissioners enjoys the official status, salary and perks equivalent to judges of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed only through impeachment by the Parliament. In order of precedence the Chief Election Commissioner stands at 9th position along with the judges of the Supreme Court of India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Chief Election Commissioner of India, Chairman of Union Public Service Commission.

JUSTICE MADAN BHIMARAO LOKUR TOOK OATH AS SC JUDGE



Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur took the oath as the Supreme Court judge on 4 June 2012. Prior to his elevation to the apex court he was serving as the chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The joining of Justice Lokur has taken the total number of the apex court judge to 26, which is still five short of the total strength of 31 judges.

Supreme Court Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia administered the oath to Justice Lokur. This is the first time in the history of the apex court that a judge has sworn in during the summer vacation.

Born on 31 December 1953, Justice Lokur became Additional Judge of Delhi High Court on 19 February 1999 and Permanent Judge of the high court on 5 July 1999. He was appointed as Chief Justice of Guahati High Court on 24 June 2010. He took over as chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on 15 November 2011.

In one of his landmark verdicts as chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, Justice Lokur had voided the Union government's decision to provide 4.5 percent reservation in educational institutions and government jobs for Muslims within the existing reservation quota.

INDIAN AMERICAN PROFESSOR ANJANI JAIN APPOINTED ASSOCIATE DEAN AT YALE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

The Yale School of Management on 18 June 2012 announced the appointment of Indian American professor Anjani Jain as senior associate dean for the full-time MBA programme as part of the school's expansion programme. He will contribute to the Yale SOM curriculum as a senior lecturer.

Anjani Jain a graduate from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad will join Yale on 1 July 2012. He holds a PhD. from the University of California, Los Angeles, Graduate School of Management. Jain spent the last 26 years at Wharton and served as as vice dean of its full-time



MBA programme for ten years. He also worked in the capacity of the vice dean of the MBA programme for executives. He in the past served in multiple leadership roles at the Wharton School of the, University of Pennsylvania.

He taught a range of courses and conducted important research in production and operations management. Jain was recognized for his contributions to African-American students with the Howard E. Mitchell Award.

Within the scope of a senior associate dean for the full-time MBA programme, Jain will focus on Yale's flagship full-time MBA programme. He will be expected to assume lead responsibility for admissions, career development, and student and academic

services.

The Yale School of Management introduced a Master of Advanced Management programme and participated in the launch of the Global Network for Advanced Management, a collective effort by 21 international business schools to understand the challenges posed by complex global markets.

RAJA PARVEZ ASHRAF APPOINTED AS 17TH PAK PM

Raja Parvez Ashraf, the senior Pakistan People's Party leader, was appointed the 17th Prime Minister of Pakistan on 22 June 2012. In a poll held in the Pakistan's National Assembly to elect new Prime Minister, Raja received 211 votes of the total 342 votes while the Opposition PML (N) candidate, Sardar Mehtab Abbasi, bagged only 89 votes.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari administered oath to the new Prime Minister at a special oath taking ceremony held at the Presidency at Islamabad in Pakistan. Ashraf was elected as the Prime Minister following the Supreme Court's verdict to debar Yousaf Raza Gilani from his office on 19 June 2012 in a contempt of court case.

Born on 26 December 1950, in Sanghar town in Sindh province, Ashraf completed his higher education from Sindh University in Pakistan in 1970. A successful real estate businessman Ashraf is considered as a key PPP leader in the Rawalpindi region. He was twice elected to the National Assembly of Pakistan from Gujar Khan Constituency of Rawalpindi District. Before being elected as the Prime Minister of the country, he served as the federal minister for water and power, and information and technology in the cabinet headed by former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

SHEKHAR BASU APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF BARC

Shekhar Basu was appointed as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 19 June 2012. Basu, who earlier served as the Chief Executive of Nuclear Recycle Board of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay succeeded Ratan Kumar Sinha on the top

position. Sinha was appointed as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission on 30 April 2012.

59-year-old Basu, an engineering graduate from Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute (VJTI), joined BARC Training School in 1974. During his 38-year service at BARC, Basu served in various capacities including the Chief Executive of Nuclear Recycle Board. Basu was the Project Director of the Plutonium Recycling Project at Kalpakkam, which built India's first indigenous Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) which is powered by enriched uranium.

PLACE IN NEWS

INDIAN COAST GUARD HOVERCRAFT H-187 COMMISSIONED AT OKHA IN GUJARAT

Indian Coast Guard Hovercraft H-187 was commissioned by Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, the Director General Indian Coast Guard, at Okha in Gujarat on 11 June 2012. Hovercraft H-187 is the first of the series of twelve Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVS) designed and built by Griffon Hoverwork Limited (GHL), UK.



The 21 meters long Air Cushion Vehicle displaces 31 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 45 knots. The ACV is capable of undertaking multifarious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to small boats/craft in distress at sea.

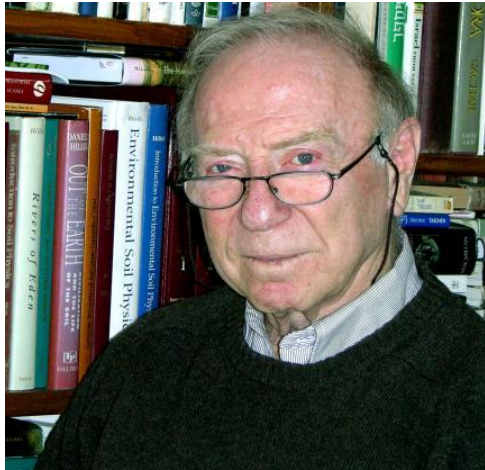
The Air Cushion Vehicle H-187 will be based at Okha under the Administrative and Operational Control of the Commander Coast Guard Region (North-West). The hovercraft has a crew of two Officers and 11 personnel.

RIO+20 SUMMIT HELD IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Rio+20 summits were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The heads of 172 states and government marked their presence at the conference. The basic theme of the conference was **GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POVERTY ERADICATION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**. The world famous beaches Copacabana and Ipanema lies in this beautiful city of the world.

AWARDS

ISRAELI SCIENTIST DANIEL HILLEL WON WORLD FOOD PRIZE 2012



Daniel Hillel won World Food Prize 2012 on 13 June 2012. He is a scientist from Israel. The work and motivation of Daniel Hillel built the bridge between the divisions and to promote peace and understanding in the Middle East by advancing a breakthrough achievement. His work is relevant for agriculture-dominated economies. He applied the method of micro-irrigation, which maximizes the efficiency of water usage in agriculture.

World Food Prize is an international award. This award recognizes the importance of water for agricultural purposes. Dr. Hillel will be formally presented with the cash prize of 250000 dollar award in October 2012 at

United States. This award was recognized by Norman Borlaug in 1987. This award indicates to that person who is pioneer in radical innovative way of bringing water to crops in arid and dry-land regions. Norman Borlaug is a Nabal Prize winner and champion in Green Revolution. The World Food Prize award is chaired by M.S. Swaminathan. He is Indian agricultural scientist Professor and the first World Food Prize laureate.

Dr. Hillel will be formally presented with the cash prize of 250000 dollar award in October 2012 at United States.

Norman Ernest Borlaug was an American agronomist, humanitarian and also known as the the father of the Green Revolution. He won Padma Vibhushan which is the India's second highest civilian honour.

SACHIN TENDULKAR WAS PRESENTED WISDEN INDIA OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

India's batting great Sachin Tendulkar was conferred upon the Wisden India Outstanding Achievement award for completing a century of 100 international hundreds, in Dubai on 11 June 2012. The legendary batsman was presented a trophy at an event organised by FidelisWorld. The trophy was made from crystal, it resembles a cricket ball resting on the open pages of a book.

Tendulkar achieved the incredible feat while playing against Bangladesh in the Asia Cup in March 2012. The batting genius has total 49 One-Day International centuries and 51 Test centuries to his credit.

Tendulkar, while receiving the award spoke on range of aspects of his career, like his favourite innings, the match-winning fourth innings hundred against England at Chennai in December 2008, balancing play and personal life, and the influence that his late father had in shaping his career.

PERSON IN NEWS

YUSUF RAZA GILANI DISQUALIFIED AS PM OF PAKISTAN

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on 19 June 2012 disqualified Yusuf Raza Gilani, Pakistan's 16th Prime Minister, from his office. The court also held him ineligible to be the member of National Assembly, the lower house of the Pakistan's Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament). Gilani was convicted for violating the article 63(1) (g) (contempt of court) of the constitution of Pakistan on 26 April 2012 by the Supreme Court. The court's verdict came following Gilani's refusal to probe cases of corruption against Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari.

Born on 9 June 1952, Gilani, had been the Pakistan's National Multan-IV since 1988. In 2008 he led Pakistan (PPP) to a victory, to 16th Prime Minister Republic of Pakistan.

In 2008 general elections he led Pakistan People Party (PPP) to a victory, to take over as the 16th Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Yusuf Raza member of Assembly from constituency general elections People Party take over as the of the Islamic

Gilani obtained his Bachelor in Journalism in 1970 followed by a Masters in Political Journalism from the University of the Punjab in 1976. Subsequently he joined politics in 1978 under the military government of General Zia-ul-Haq. His father Makhdoom Alamdar Hussain Gilani was a former politician who played a significant role in the Pakistan Movement. Gilani, who was initially associated with the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), was first elected to the Parliament in the non-party elections of 1985, and was appointed minister for housing and works, and later railways. But, political differences with the PML leadership soon prompted him to join the PPP.

Gilani also served prison for five years during the rule of former President Pervez Musharraf after being convicted by a military-controlled anti-corruption agency for misusing his authority when he was the Speaker of the Parliament from 1993 to 1997.

UNION GOVERNMENT SUSPENDED BEML CHIEF VRS NATARAJAN

The Union Government of India on 11 June 2012 suspended VRS Natarajan, the head of the state-run defence enterprise Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML). The government's move came in the wake of CBI's recommendations to remove him from his position given his role in the controversial Tatra truck deal. The investigating agency had accused Natarajan of trying to influence the investigation against him.



The Bangalore based BEML supplies Tatra trucks to the Army. Former Army Chief VK Singh had accused that he was offered a 14 crore rupees kickback to approve the purchase of 600 sub-standard Tatra trucks for the Army. The government had ordered a CBI inquiry in the Army Chief's allegations. The CBI is investigating whether the defence public sector unit violated guidelines in buying and supplying the trucks to the Army.

Natarajan, as the head of the BEML had maintained that the Army Chief's assessment of the trucks was grossly wrong. The legal cell of the Criminal Investigations Department in Hyderabad had also recommended the prosecution of Natarajan for cheating, criminal breach of trust, and falsification of accounts in the same case.

NIK WALLEDA SUCCESSFULLY CROSSED NIAGARA FALLS ON A TIGHTROPE

American Stuntman Nik Wallenda became the first person to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope on 15 June 2012. Wallenda took more than 25 minutes to complete his 1800-foot long precarious journey. No person in the past 100 years has accomplished this daredevilry act. Wallenda started the walk from the U.S. side of the falls and finished it to the Canadian side.



six-time Guinness World Record holder Wallenda was born at Florida in US on 24 January 1979. He has to his credit the world record for the longest distance and greatest height ever travelled by bicycle on a high wire, the record which he created during a stunt in New

Where is Niagra Falls?

The waterfalls of Niagra falls are located on the Niagra River which connects two of the five great lakes: Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The falls consist of three different waterfalls, the American falls, the Bridal Veil Falls in America and the Canadian Horseshoe falls in Canada. The Niagra falls marks the international border between USA and Canada.

Jersey in year 2008. Stunts of any sort were legally prohibited on Niagara Falls for more than 100 years. Nik Wallenda had to wrangle with the US and Canadian authorities for two years to get the permission to perform the daredevil task. On 23 September 2011, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed a bill giving Nik Wallenda final permission to cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

RAO PAPINENI GOT APPROVAL FOR PATENT APPLICATION FOR CANCER TREATMENT

Rao Papineni got the approval for patent Application for cancer treatment on 19 June 2012. He is a nanotechnology scientist. The title of the patent is **HIGH CAPACITY NON-VIRAL VECTORS**. It will help the nano particles to allow the drug to be released inside the diseased cell. This will improve the function of the drug.

Dr. Papineni and Alan Pollack is the chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Miami. In addition, Dr. Papineni is exploring the ability of nano-particles targeted as a drug carrier. Dr. Papineni is a chief scientist and senior principal investigator in medical applications of nanotechnology at Carestream Health, Inc USA.

DAY- WEEK- YEAR

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE WAS OBSERVED ACROSS WORLD



The International Day against **DRUG ABUSE AND PROHIBITED TRAFFICKING** was observed all over the world on 26 June 2012. It aims to increase the awareness about the dangers and problems that prohibited drugs establishes to the society. The main theme of 2012 was **GLOBAL ACTION FOR THE HEALTH, COMMUNITIES WITHOUT DRUGS**.

This day was decided by the General Assembly in United Nations in the year 1987. Their main aim is to convey a message on this day to create an international society free from drug abuse. According to the United Nations, 200 million people (approx) are using prohibited drugs including cocaine, cannabis, sedative hypnotics worldwide. They believe that billions of dollars generated from these illicit drugs. So, it is a unique occasion to take a stand against this problem that affects all the people around the world who are addicted to it.

MISCELLANEOUS

UNEP RELEASED ITS GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY REPORT AVOIDING FUTURE FAMINES

The United Nations Environment Programme released its food security report **AVOIDING FUTURE FAMINES: STRENGTHENING THE ECOLOGICAL BASIS OF FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS** during Rio+20 Summit on sustainable development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20 June 2012 . The report noted that food security must be at the top of the priority list of country's policy if the world has to provide food to its seven billion populations - a number expected to cross nine billion



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

marks by 2050.

The report, based on a study conducted by a team of researchers from Swedish Institute of Food & Biotechnology and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, pointed out that an astounding 1.3 billion tons of food is wasted every year. A staggering 220 million tons of food is wasted every year in North America and Europe alone, the report figured out.



International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The UNEP report seeks to draw the attention of global community on key environmental aspects, which are largely being ignored by economic activities like overfishing, unsustainable water use and other human activities. The report also kicks off a debate with respect to the Green Economy and sought for a food security mechanism which does not undermine the crucial ecosystem services.

- 
- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
 - **World Food Programme (WFP)**
 - **World Resources Institute (WRI)**

The report, which has been written by a team of eleven scientists and experts, covered several areas of expertise including food consumption patterns, agricultural production, marine fisheries and inland fisheries. International organizations including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO), the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), also made their contribution in the first of its kind study, which links global food security to ecological system.

BEATLES CLASSIC- 1968 ANIMATED FILM YELLOW SUBMARINE RE-LAUNCHED ON BLU-RAY AND ITUNES

The Beatles classic- 1968 animated film Yellow Submarine was re-launched on Blu-ray and iTunes for the first time in June 2012. The Yellow Submarines feature cartoons of The Fab Four



(Beatles) battling the evil Blue Meanies and their army of odd monsters in the mythical, peaceful world of Pepperland. The DVD of Yellow Submarine was released in 1999 but went out of circulation.

The re-launched version of the Yellow Submarine includes 15 of the Beatles' most popular songs. Due to the delicate nature of the hand-drawn original artwork, all of the digital clean-up of the film's restored photochemical elements were done by hand, frame by frame. As per the story, an evil-The Blue Meanie reared its ugly head in an imaginary world called

Pepperland located 80,000 leagues beneath the sea. The Blue Meanie and his consort of cohorts: The Butterfly Stomper, the Apple Bonkers, the Snapping Tummy Turks and the Terrible Flying Glove were stripping Pepperland of its color and vibrancy, and filling it with bluedom.

To drive Blue Meanie away, Fred is given command of the Yellow Submarine to go in search of someone who can defeat the Blue Meanie. During his quest, Fred chances upon Ringo, and eventually Paul, John and George, and together they set out on a trippy, time-traveling, phantasmagorical adventure, encountering many strange creatures while trying to find their way back to Pepperland. The Beatles group had a three-picture deal with United Artists and the first two- A Hard Day's Night (1964) and Help! (1965), were worldwide hits.

PRACTICE SETS

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/practice-set-to-test-economy-banking-marketing-current-affairs-knowledge-ii-1339665144-1>

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/solved-practice-question-set-1-on-reasoning-for-ssc-combined-graduate-level-exam-2012-1340627994-1>

Q N A

Q: Will there be any negative marking for SSC Combined Graduate Level Exam to be held in July 2012?

A: Yes, there will negative marking in the SSC Combined Graduate Level Exam to be held in July 2012. There will be negative marking of 0.25 marks for each wrong answer in Tier-I.

Q: I will be sitting for the SSC Combined Graduate Level Examination (Tier I) 2012 and as per my knowledge SSC has recently introduced new pattern OMR Answer sheets for the



same. Can you please inform me about the new pattern OMR sheets?

A: Staff Selection Commission (SSC) introduced new pattern OMR Answer sheets for Combined Graduate Level (Tier-I) Examination, 2012 onwards.

CLICK HERE for the specimen copy of the OMR Answer sheets
(<http://images.jagran.com/jagranjosh/ssc-cgl-tier-1-omr-answer-sheet.pdf>)

Q: Please let me know what will be the stages of examination for the SSC Competitive Graduate Level Examination. What is the scheme of the examination?

A: The examination will be conducted in three tiers as mentioned below-

Tier I: Written Examination (Objective Multiple Choice Type)

Tier II: Written Examination (Objective Multiple Choice Type)

Tier III: Personality Test/ Interview/ Computer Proficiency Test or Skill Test (wherever applicable)

The written examination will consist of one objective type paper which will include 4 segments: General Intelligence & Reasoning, General Awareness, Quantitative Aptitude & English Comprehension

There will be negative marking of 0.25 marks for each wrong answer in Tier-I. Candidates are, therefore, advised to keep this in mind while answering the questions.

The Written Exam Tier II, for those candidates who will successfully clear the Written Exam Tier I, will be held on 15 and 16 September 2012. The Examination will be followed by Computer Proficiency Test/ Interview/ Skill test, wherever applicable as per the Scheme of Examination

Personality/ Test/ Interview/ Computer Proficiency Test or Skill Test (wherever applicable): For posts for which Interview cum Personality Test is prescribed, the Personality Test/ interview will carry a maximum of 100 marks. The interview will be held at the Commission's Regional/Sub Regional Offices of the Commission or at any other place as decided by the Commission. The "Data Entry Speed" Skill Test at 2000 (two thousand) key depressions for a duration of 15 (fifteen) minutes will be of qualifying nature for Tax Assistant. There will be Physical Standard Test for the post of Inspector.

Q: What is the syllabus for the SSC Combined Graduate Level Examination (Tier I) 2012?

A: Staff Selection Commission (SSC) will be conducting Combined Graduate Level Examination (Tier I) 2012 for recruitment to different posts like Assistants, Inspectors, Divisional Accountants and Compiler etc on 1 and 8 July 2012.

The paper will consist of four segments mentioned below:

- **General Intelligence & Reasoning**

- **General Awareness**
- **Quantitative Aptitude**
- **English Comprehension**

The Written Exam Tier II, for those candidates who will successfully clear the Written Exam Tier I, will be held on 15 and 16 September 2012. The Examination will be followed by Computer Proficiency Test/ Interview/ Skill test, wherever applicable as per the Scheme of Examination.

Personality/ Test/ Interview/ Computer Proficiency Test or Skill Test (wherever applicable): For posts for which Interview cum Personality Test is prescribed, the Personality Test/ interview will carry a maximum of 100 marks. The interview will be held at the Commission's Regional/Sub Regional Offices of the Commission or at any other place as decided by the Commission. The "Data Entry Speed" Skill Test at 2000 (two thousand) key depressions for a duration of 15 (fifteen) minutes will be of qualifying nature for Tax Assistant. There will be Physical Standard Test for the post of Inspector.

Q: Kindly brief me about the Selection Procedure for SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier I) Examination 2012?

A: The candidates will be selected on the basis of a three tier Examination system mentioned below:

- **Tier I: Written Examination (Objective Multiple Choice Type)**
- **Tier II: Written Examination (Objective Multiple Choice Type)**
- **Tier III: Personality Test/ Interview/ Computer Proficiency Test or Skill Test (wherever applicable)**

After the Examination and the Interview/ Skill Test/ Computer Proficiency Test, wherever applicable, the Commission will draw up the All India Merit List for each category of post/ State and as many candidates as are found by the Commission to have qualified in the Examination shall be recommended for appointment for each category of post/ State upto the number of unreserved vacancies available, taking into consideration option for the posts

The Commission will recommend the candidates in the Merit List on the basis of the aggregate marks obtained by the candidates in the written examination and interview (wherever applicable) and preference exercised by the candidates in the Application Form for different Posts/ States at the time of Tier II/ Interview/ Skill Test/ Computer Proficiency Test depending on the number of vacancies available.

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTION PAPERS

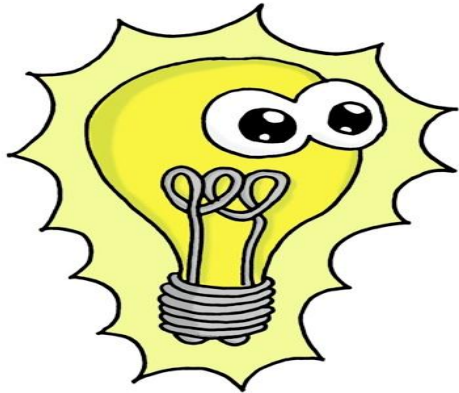
<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/ibps-2012-cwe-for-pomt-quantitative-aptitude-questions-1340877746-1>

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/ibps-2012-cwe-for-pomt-general-awareness-questions-1340876854-1>

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/ssc-combined-graduate-level-tier-i-exam-2010-set1-solved-question-paper-1340177357-1>

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/ssc-combined-graduate-level-tier-i-exam-2010-set2-solved-question-paper-1340194558-1>

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZZES



1. Consider the following statements using the code given below identify the personality with whom these statements are associated

1. He has recently been appointed as the Chairman of Directorate General of Hydrocarbons
 2. He is the first bureaucrat to head the highly technical arm of the Oil Ministry
 3. He is a 1981 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre
 4. He was previously Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in the Ministry of Textiles
- (a) Rajiv Narayan Chaubey
(b) Rakesh Chandra Deo

- (c) Ashok Malik
(d) Pradeep Rungta

Answer: (a)

2. Which one of the following statements is wrong

- (a) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons is a government run organisation controlled by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- (b) It was established in 1993 under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas through Government of India Resolution
- (c) DGH only looks into the implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy
- (d) Objectives of DGH are to promote sound management of the oil and natural gas resources

Answer: (c)

3. Who was appointed the new Managing Director of Hyundai India?

- (a) Bo Shin Seo

- (b) Andrew Mark
- (c) Chan Guangdong
- (d) Ramesh Turrani

Answer: (a)

4. Which of the following Indian financial company sold its stake to Warburg Pincus on 4 June 2012

- (a) Muthoot
- (b) Reliance Capital
- (c) Future Capital
- (d) GE Money

Answer: (c)

5. Who was appointed the CEO of Serco, the FTSE 100 international service company?

- (a) Udayan Mukharjee
- (b) Thomas Dekken
- (c) Susir Kumar
- (d) Tom Riall

Answer: (d)

6. Consider the following statements using the code given below identify the personality with whom these statements are associated

1. He was appointed as the CEO of the German banking giant Deutsche Bank on 28 May 2012
2. At present he heads the Corporate and Investment Bank business of Deutsche Bank
3. He is a non-executive director of Sasol, South Africa's leading oil and gas company.
4. He also served as a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Working Group on Inward Investment in India

- (a) Anshu Jain
- (b) Amulya Sreenivasan
- (c) Vikram Chadok
- (d) KV Kmath

Answer: (a)

7. Which one of the following statements is wrong

- (a) Thomas Cook Group sold its entire 77 per cent holding in the Indian arm to Fairbridge Capital
- (b) Thomas Cook is a U.K.-based travel services provider company
- (c) Fairbridge Capital (Mauritius) Ltd is a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings
- (d) Under the terms of the agreement, Thomas Cook will receive gross cash proceeds of 250 crore rupees for its shareholding

Answer: (d)

8. Which one of the following Indian drug company on 28 June 2012 got the approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to launch Absorica, a patented acne treatment drug

developed by Canadian firm Cipher Pharmaceuticals, in the U.S. market

- (a) Ranbaxy
- (b) Piramal Healthcare
- (c) Dr. Reddy's
- (d) Intas

Answer: (a)

9. Which one of the following Indian IT company started its exclusive delivery centre for Aerospace and Defence in Toulouse in France?

- (a) Wipro
- (b) Mahindra Satyam
- (c) TCS
- (d) HCL

Answer: (b)

10. Which one of the following Indian industrialists was chosen for the leadership award of the India-U.S. bilateral trade promotion organisation U.S. India Business Council?

- (a) Azim Premjee
- (b) Shiv Nadar
- (c) Anand Mahindra
- (d) Ratan Tata

Answer: (c)

11. The Commerce Ministry of India on 14 June 2012 released the export-import data for the month of May 2012. Which of the following given statement are not true according to the data?

- 1. India's export dropped by 4.16 per cent at 25.68 billion dollar in May 2012
 - 2. India's imports also registered a decline of 7.36 per cent at 41.9 billion dollar in May 2012
 - 3. The trade deficit figure also shrank to 16.3 billion dollar during the May 2012, from 18.5 billion dollar in May 2011
 - 4. Import of crude oil witnessed a decline
- a. Only 1
 - b. 3 & 4
 - c. Only 4
 - d. All the statements are true

Answer: (c)

12. The World Bank in its report named Global Economic Prospects released on 12 June 2012, projected Indian economy to grow by what per cent in the financial year 2012-13?

- a. 6.9 per cent
- b. 7.2 per cent
- c. 7.9 per cent
- d. 7 per cent

Answer: (a)

13. According to the IIP figure released on 12 June 2012, India's Industrial output figure rose by what per cent in the month of May 2012?

- a. 0.1 per cent
- b. 3.1 per cent
- c. 4.2 per cent
- d. None of the above

Answer: (b)

14. The World Bank on 12 June 2012 released its report on Global Economic Prospect, which of the following given statements are not true according to the World Bank report?

- 1. Indian economy will grow by 6.9 per cent in the financial year 2012-13
 - 2. The World Bank predicted India's growth 7.2 per cent and 7.4 per cent in fiscal years 2012-13
 - 3. The World Bank report estimated the global economy to expand 2.5% in the fiscal year 2012-13
 - 4. The World Bank report predicted western economy to grow significantly in the fiscal year 2012-13
- a. Only 1
 - b. Only 2
 - c. Only 3
 - d. Only 4

Answer: (d)

15. India's gross direct tax collections grew by what per cent in April-May 2012?

- a. 3.62 per cent
- b. 3 per cent
- c. 2.62 per cent
- d. 4.62 per cent

Answer: (a)

16. The Union Government of India on 5 June 2012 announced a new trade policy aimed at achieving 20 per cent increase in exports to 360 billion dollar in the fiscal year 2012-13. Which of the facts related to this statement is not true?

- 1. 2 per cent interest subsidy scheme extended till March 2013
 - 2. Foreign Trade Policy document to be more user friendly
 - 3. Seven new markets added to Focus Market Scheme
 - 4. Incentives for exports from north-eastern states
- a. Only 1
 - b. 3 & 4
 - c. Only 4
 - d. All the statements are true

Answer: (d)

17. The state-run oil marketing companies on 2 June 2012 announced to slash the petrol prices

by what amount ?

- a. 2.02 rupees
- b. 2 rupees
- c. 3 rupees
- d. 2.20 rupees

Answer: (a)

18. According to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 2 June 2012, India's foreign exchange reserve plummeted by 1.74 billion dollar. According to the data what is India's current forex reserve?

- a. 295 billion dollar
- b. 290 billion dollar
- c. 310 billion dollar
- d. 170 billion dollar

Answer: (b)

19. Ministry of Statistics on 1 June 2012 released data on the states Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)? Which one of the following given facts are not true about the GSDP data?

- 1. Bihar topped the list of the states with highest GSDP 13.1 per cent growth in 2011-12
 - 2. Delhi and Chennai came second and third respectively
 - 3. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, the two highly industrialized states registered the growth of 9.4 per cent and 9.1 per cent respectively in the fiscal year 2011-12
 - 4. The top five states include Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
- a. Only 1
 - b. Only 2
 - c. Only 3
 - d. Only 4

Answer: (d)

20. Indian Rupee plunged to its historic low mark of 55.54 against a dollar on 1 June 2012. Among the following given reasons, what could be the most significant reason behind the fall of Indian rupee?

- a. Purchase of gold by the investors
- b. Purchase of Dollar by the investors
- c. Euro Zone Crisis
- d. Demand of dollar in the world market

Answer: (d)

21. Which of the following regulators on 26 June 2012 made it mandatory for top 500 listed companies to hold e-voting with an objective to widen shareholder participation in key decisions?

- a. IRDA
- b. SEBI
- c. CCI

d. TRAI

Answer: (b)

22. Nomura, the global financial services firm, on 26 June 2012 slashed the country's growth forecast for the fiscal year 2012-13 to what per cent?

- a. 5.8%
- b. 5%
- c. 4.6%
- d. 3%

Answer: (a)

23. In a move aimed at arresting the unrelenting fall of Indian rupee, India's central bank the Reserve Bank of India on 25 June 2012 hiked the limit of foreign investment in government bonds by 5 billion dollar to what amount?

- a. 10 billion dolar
- b. 15 billion dollar
- c. 20 billion dollar
- d. 30 billion dollar

Answer: (c)

24. Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 21 June 2012 notified new rules for ownership and governance of stock exchanges. Which of the following statements given below are not true in this respect?

- 1. The amendments were announced following the legal tussle between the regulator and MCX Stock Exchange, which had earlier sought approval to start an equity platform.
- 2. The new norms require the recognised stock exchange to have a minimum net worth of Rs 100 crore at all times and at least 51 per cent of stake has to be held by public
- 3. The ownership of a single investor was capped at 10% with an exemption for stock exchanges, depositories, insurance and banking companies and public financial institutions, which has been permitted to hold up to 5 per cent
- 4. SEBI also specified that direct and indirect exposure to any stock exchange will be considered while calculating the prescribed shareholding limit.

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

Answer: (d)

25. Ratings agency Fitch on 20 June 2012 revised the outlook on India's financial institutions to negative from stable. Which of the following facts related to the statement are not true?

- 1. The outlook of six government banks, two private banks, two wholly owned government institutions and one infrastructure finance company was lowered by the rating agency
- 2. Major public sector lender, Reserve Bank of India which recently announced its plans to raise \$2 billion from overseas markets will be hit the most by the revision

3. The rating agency listed high customer deposit base, established domestic franchises and adequate capitalisation as the strengths of banks. On the other hand it also mentioned that non-banking institutions are at greater risk because they lack the funding advantage

4. Fitch mentioned that in case sovereign long-term IDR is downgraded, banks with viability rating (VR) of BBB- would also be affected because of these linkages.

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

Answer: (b)

26. Which one of the following cities has been slated to host the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012?

- a) Rio de Janeiro
- b) Buenos Aires
- c) Hawana
- d) Toronto

Answer: (a) Rio de Janeiro

27. NASA on 13 May 2012 launched Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR) on a Pegasus rocket from Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Consider the following given facts related to NuSTAR and chose the right option?

- i) NuSTAR will help scientists find the most subtle and energetic black holes.
- ii) NuSTAR will work in coordination with other telescopes in space, including NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, which observes lower-energy X-rays

Choose the right option:

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

Answer: (d) Both i and ii are correct

28. China on 16 June 2012 launched its spacecraft Shenzhou-9 from the Jiuquan satellite launch centre in north-western Gansu province. Which of the following facts related to Shenzhou-9 is not true?

- i) Shenzhou-9 is China's fourth human spaceflight
- ii) Shenzhou -9 spacecraft will conduct the first manned docking mission
- iii) Shenzhou-9 space mission comprise three astronauts including China's first woman astronaut Liu Yang
- iv) Shenzhou-9 is China's first manned space programme

Choose the right option:

- a) Both i and ii are wrong
- b) Only i is wrong
- c) Only iv is wrong

d) Neither i nor ii is wrong

Answer: (c) Only iv is wrong

29. According to the World Health Organization's cancer agency's report declared on 12 June 2012... is the most probable cause of cancer among the people.

- a) Diesel Fumes
- b) Dust
- c) Petrol exhaust
- d) none of the above

Answer: (a) Diesel Fumes

30. According to a new government report India's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rose by 58 per cent between 1994 and 2007. Greenhouse gases are those gases that can absorb and emit infrared radiation. Which one of the following is not a green house gas?

- a) Nitrogen (N)
- b) methane (CH₄)
- c) nitrous oxide (N₂O)
- d) ozone (O₃)

Answer: (a) nitrogen (N)

31. The World Environment Day was observed across the globe on 5 June 2012. Theme for the World Environment Day 2012 was

- (a) Green Economy: Does it include you?
- (b) Forests-Nature At Your Service
- (c) Water- all we need
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Green Economy: Does it include you?

32. The UN General Assembly started observing the World Environment Day in 1972 to

- i) raise public awareness about the need of better environment.
- ii) to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment

Choose the right option:

- a) Both i and ii are correct.
- b) Only i is correct.
- c) Only ii is correct.
- d) Neither i nor ii is correct.

Answer: (a) Both i and ii are correct.

33. World IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) Launch Day held globally on 6 June 2012. Which of the following facts related to World IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) Launch Day is not true?

- i) The day, organized by Internet Society, represents a major milestone in the global deployment of IPv6.
- ii) Previous year the World IPv6 Day was observed on 8 June
- iii) World IPv6 Day 2012 was an event sponsored and organized by the Internet Society and

several large content providers to test public IPv6 deployment

iv) The day was announced by Google

Choose the right option:

a) Both i and ii are wrong

b) Only i is wrong

c) Only iv is wrong

d) Neither i nor ii is wrong

Answer: (c) Only iv is wrong

34. Scientists discovered eight genes which could pave the way for the development of effective treatments for ankylosing spondylitis which is painful form of_

a) Joint pain

b) Headache

c) Arthritis

d) Cancer

Answer: (c) Arthritis

35. Scientists at the Tomato Genome Consortium (TGC) successfully sequenced the genomes of which of the following vegetables?

a) Tomato

b) Onion

c) Brinjal

d) Potato

Answer: (a) Tomato

36. Consider the following statements using the code given below identify the personality with whom these statements are associated

1. He won the French Open Singles Title 2012

2. It was his seventh French Open Title

3. The French Open title marked his 11th Grand Slam title

4. Now he is five titles short of the arch rival Roger Federer's record 16 grand slam titles

Code

(a) Rafael Nadal

(b) Novak Djokovic

(c) David Ferrer

(d) Juan Del Potro

Answer: (a)

37. Which one of the following statements is wrong ?

(a) Maria Yuryevna Sharapova won French Open 2012 on 9 June 2012

(b) She defeated Sara Errani of Italy

(c) This was Sharapova's first French open title

(d) Sharapova with the French Open Title completed her career grand slam

Answer: (d)

38. Indu Chaudhary and Sakshi Malik won gold Medals in Asian Junior Wrestling Championship 2012. Asian Junior Wrestling Championship 2012 was organised in which of the following country?

- (a) Iran
- (b) China
- (c) Kazakhstan
- (d) South Korea

Answer: (c)

39. Which one of the following Indian cricketers was conferred upon the Wisden India Outstanding Achievement award in Dubai on 11 June 2012?

- (a) MS Dhoni
- (b) Rahul Dravid
- (c) Virat Kohali
- (d) Sachin Tendulkar

Answer: (d)

40. The final UEFA European Football Championship 2012 is being hosted by Poland and Ukraine between 8 June and 1 July 2012. How many nations are participating in the tournament?

- (a) 26
- (b) 18
- (c) 16
- (d) 22

Answer: (c)

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