

September 2013

Free Edition

United Nations 68th General Assembly Commenced



Angela Merkel Won third Term in Germany

National Food Security Law



India's first Marine Eco Sensitive Zone Declared

Worlds Largest Solar Power Project in Rajasthan



India's First Defence Satellite G-Sat 7 Launched

Tomtato Plant Variety Launched in UK

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PREFACE

The Current Affairs eBook September 2013 includes the happenings of September Month. Current Affairs plays an important role in making people aware of the happenings of the world and it also acts as a guide for candidates engaged in preparation of different levels of competitive exams. The eBook that we provide has been drafted to meet the requirements of different level of exams including IAS|PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA as well as Board Exams of CBSE and State Boards.

Each and every event, compiled in the eBook is followed by the date of its occurrence in different sections. Before being included in the magazine, the events have been evaluated using genuine methods and represented in a way that it meets the requirements of the readers in the best way. Presentation of the offered material is planned in a way that it lasts longer in the memories of the readers and perceived in a better way. The perception of the stories allows a candidate to apply the theories behind the making of the event and face the challenges during the exams everywhere. Our experts have tried to put in their best efforts to make sure that the content provided remains in the mind of the candidate for a longer period of time and is perceived with its true meaning.

The eBook will provide updates from different sections that includes events and happenings of national and international importance, daily affairs of corporate world and economy, advancements on the frontiers of science and technology as well as environment and ecology, sports happenings and issues of different states of the country. It also provides details related to the personalities who have been in news, important awards and many more things.

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PICK OF THE MONTH

Elections results for Bundstag, The Germany's Parliament

The elections results came for the Bundstag, The Germany's Parliament in the last week of the September. Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Union bloc - the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) won 41.5 percent of vote, but finished just short of an absolute majority. The apponents SPD got only 23 percent.

Angela Merkel won the third term as the chancelor of Germany. She is only third post war chancellor to win three successive elections. Angela Dorothea Kasner, better known as Angela Merkel, was born in Hamburg, West Germany, on 17 July 1954. Trained as a physicist, Merkel entered politics after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

Final results gave the CDU/CSU 311 seats, the Social Democrats 192, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) 64 seats and the ecologist Greens 63 seats.

About Bundstag

- The Bundstag (Federal Diet) is a constitutional and legislative body in Germany.
- In Practice, The country is governed by a Bicameral legislature, but not by Bicameral Elections.

Tony Abbott Sworn in as Australia Prime Minister



Tony Abbott was sworn in as Australia's new Prime Minister on 18 September 2013. Tony Abbott is the 28th Prime Minister of Australia.

Tony Abbott, 55, took the oath at Government House in Canberra in front of Governor-General Quentin Bryce. His Conservative Party defeated former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's centre-left Labor Party in 7 September 2013 elections. Tony Abbott has immediately ordered the scrapping of Australia's carbon tax and the halting of asylum-seeker boats after being sworn in as Prime Minister.

About Elections in Australia

- According to the constitution of Australia Parliament consists of The House of the Representatives, the Senate and Queen of Australia
- The Senate is one of the two houses of the Parliament Australia. It consists of 76 senators, twelve from each of the six states and two from each of the mainland territories. It shares the power to make laws with the other House of the Parliament, the House of Representatives.
- Each state of the Australian federation, regardless of its population, has an equal number of senators. Twelve senators represent each state, and the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are represented by two senators each.
- Tony Abbott was Born in England in 1957 to an Australian mother and an English-born father and he graduated in economics and law from Sydney University.
- Leader of Liberal Party and main opposition Liberal-National coalition.
- Tony Abbott became Leader of the Opposition on 1 December 2009.

G20 Summit 2013 took Place in St. Petersburg, Russia

The G20 Leaders' Summit took place in St.Petersburg on 5-6 September 2013 presided by Russia. The G20 nations discussed ways to ensure economic growth and financial stability, create jobs and combat unemployment, stimulate investment and promote multilateral trade, international development and anti-corruption. The members of the Group of Twenty (G-20) are: Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, European Union, India, Indonesia, Italy, Canada, China, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, USA, Turkey, France, South Africa, Republic of Korea, and Japan. The presidency of the G20 rotates annually among its members.

The G20 Leaders took notice of the final recommendations that the Business 20, Civil 20, Labour

20, Think 20 and Youth 20. To continue and expand dialogue, the G20 Leaders met with the representatives of business community and trade unions on the sidelines of the Summit.

A number of round table discussions were held in the Summit's International Media Centre (IMC), including: Experts' vision of the significance of the G20, G8 and BRICS for Russia; Issues of Development of the Global and Russian Economy on the G20 Agenda; G20 Initiatives to Reform the International Monetary System and Financial Regulation: Problems and Solutions; Fighting unemployment and creating jobs - a universal goal for the G20 countries; and The G20 Efforts on Fighting Protectionism and Trade Barriers. The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international cooperation on the most important issues of the global economic and financial agenda.

The G20 brings together finance ministers and central bank governors from 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America plus the European Union, which is represented by the President of the European Council and by Head of the European Central Bank.

The G20 was formally established in September 1999 when finance ministers and central bank governors of seven major industrial countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) met in Washington, D.C. in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 1997-1998, which revealed the vulnerability of the international financial system in context of economic globalization and showed that key developing countries were insufficiently involved in discussions and decisions concerning global economic issues.

Finance ministers and central bank governors started to hold annual meetings after the inaugural meeting on December 15-16, 1999, in Berlin.

The first meeting of the G20 Leaders took place in Washington, D.C., on November 14-15, 2008, where the Leaders agreed to an action plan to stabilize the global economy and prevent future crises.

The objectives of the G20 refer to:

1. Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
2. Promoting financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises;
3. Modernizing international financial architecture.

G20 members represent almost:

1. 90% of global GDP.
2. 80% of international global-trade.
3. 2/3 of the world's population lives in G20 member countries.
4. 84% of all fossil fuel emissions are produced by G20 countries.

At the Leaders' level, Mexico was the second episode, following the Republic of Korea, that an emerging country held the Presidency of the Group.

At their first meeting in Washington, the G20 Leaders achieved general agreement amongst the G20 on how to cooperate in key areas so as to strengthen economic growth, deal with the financial crisis and agreed upon three key objectives:

- *restoring global economic growth;*
- *strengthening the international financial system;*
- *reforming international financial institutions.*

Land Acquisition Act, 2013

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill 2013, received assent of the President of India on 27 September 2013. The bill has now become law.

The Bill was passed in the 2013 Monsoon Session of Parliament. (The Lok Sabha passed the bill on 29 August 2013 and Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 4 September 2013)

Under the new Land Acquisition law, farmers and landowners are entitled to get compensation of up to four times of the market value for land acquired in rural areas, and two times the market value in urban areas.

The consent of 80 per cent of land owners is mandatory for acquiring land for private projects and of 70 per cent landowners for public-private projects. The law also brings transparency in the process of land acquisition and lays down measures for rehabilitation of those displaced.

Aim of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2013

The aim of the bill is providing fair compensation to people whose land has been taken away for setting up the buildings or factories. The aim of the bill is to bring in more transparency to the process of land acquisition, thereby bringing assurance of rehabilitation to the affected people.

Primary Features of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2013.

World's Largest Solar Power Project in Rajasthan

The Union Government of India on 20 September 2013 finalised setting up of the Ultra- Mega Green Solar Power Project in Rajasthan in the SSL (Sambhar Salts Limited; which is a subsidiary of Hindustan Salts Limited - a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises) area close to Sambhar Lake, about 75 kms from Jaipur. The overall capacity of this project would be 4000 MW, thereby making it the largest solar power project of the world.

About the Sambhar Ultra -Mega Green Solar Power Project

- Praful Patel, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, had earlier asked the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) to initiate the process of setting up the Sambhar Ultra -Mega Green Solar Power Project in the 23000 acre area of SSL.
- The first phase of the project, which will be of 1000 MW capacity, is likely to be commissioned in three years i.e. by the end of 2016.
- The first phase of the project will be implemented through a joint venture (JV) company to be formed with equity from BHEL, Solar Energy Corporation of India, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., SJVN, SSL and REIL.
- The rest of the capacity of this project will be implemented through a variety of models.
- After complete commissioning of the 4000 MW of project, there will be a generation of 6000 million units of power per annum.
- The project will supply power to the distribution companies of various States through the National Grid.
- Being the first project of this scale anywhere in the world this project is expected to set a trend for large scale solar power development in the world.

National Food Security Act, 2013



The National Food Security Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 10 September 2013. With this assent, the National Food Security Bill 2013 became the Act.

It is important to note that the Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, on 19 March 2013 approved the National Food Security Bill.

Lok Sabha on 26 August 2013 passed the National Food Security Bill 2013. The Upper House of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha on 2 September 2013 passed this Bill.

The primary objective of the National Food Security Bill 2013 is to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach. This will be done by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people so that they can live a life with dignity and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President

of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

India's First Marine Eco-Sensitive Zone declared

The Ministry of Environment and Forest on 9 September 2013 declared India's first marine eco-sensitive zone around Marine National Park in Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat. This decision prohibits any industrial activity in the area. It will apply stringent environmental regulations in the region for developmental works in 36 villages and 31 rivers flowing into the Arabian Sea.

The ministry declared 313 sq km around the park as an eco-sensitive zone through a notification. Of this, 208 sq km is land while the remaining is on the seaside.

The notification says that land use for recreational, commercial or industrial development will not be permitted in the area except for residential purpose. Mining, including fresh water mining, and release of polluted water and waste will also be prohibited. The ministry even disallowed fishing by trawlers.

The ministry has also directed the government to prepare a zonal ecology conservation master after consulting the inhabitants of these 36 villages. The plan should restore denuded areas as well as existing water bodies. The plan should also have provision for management of catchment areas, watershed management, ground water and soil conservation.

China Launched First Ever Deep UV Laser Device

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on 10 September 2013 launched a Deep UltraViolet (DUV) solid-state laser device. The Deep UV Laser Device would help to detect the biological, chemical agents and explosives.

The device marks the world's first-ever output of 1064-nanometer's 6 harmonic frequency multiplication, shortening the diode-pumped solid-state laser (DPL)'s wavelength to 177.3 nm.

China is the first-ever country in the world to possess such technology.

About Deep UV laser device

A DUV wave refers to the light wave whose wavelength is shorter than 200nm. Synchrotron radiation and gas discharge are among the main non-coherent light sources to produce DUV lasers. A KBBF prism coupling device-based DPL source features a smaller size, higher energy resolution and higher photon influx density.

Potassium beryllium fluoro borate (KBBF) is a non-linear optical crystal that can transform laser light into DUV for use in solid state lasers.

Applications of Deep UV Laser Device

- Improved detection of airborne chemical and biological agents.
- Enhanced detection of explosives and explosive residuals.
- Significant improvement in the ability to inspect microchips with solid state metrology.
- Advanced research and development of new semiconductor materials and applications.
- Deep ultraviolet (UV) light can be used to sterilise bacteria and viruses, decontaminate drinking water and in fluorescence sensors to detect chemicals.

Thomas Bach: President of Inter. Olympic Committee

Thomas Bach of Germany on 10 September 2013 was elected as the ninth President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He is the successor of Jacques Rogge of Belgium, who headed the IOC, since 2001 to 10 September 2013. He was the eighth President of IOC.

He was elected as the President of IOC after two rounds of votes at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The President is elected by the IOC members by secret ballot for a term of eight years, with the possibility to stand for re-election for a second, four-year term. IOC is a 119 years old sport's governing body.

About Thomas Bach

- Bach is the first Olympic Champion to head International Olympics Committee as its President.
- He joined IOC in 1991 and has held many influential roles in the organization
- Bach aged 59 is a former executive of Adidas

His Sports Career

- He has been an Olympic champion in fencing (foil) team at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976 and 1977 world champion fencing foil team
- Winner of the 1978 European Cup of Champions; numerous national championship titles

Positions held by him in IOC

- Member (1996-2000) of the IOC Executive Board
- Vice-President (2000-2004) and was re-elected as Vice-President (2006-2013)

He has been the Chairman of the following Commissions:

- Evaluation for the XIX Olympic Winter Games (1994-1995)

- Evaluation for the Games of XXVIII Olympiad (1994-1997)

He has served as the member of the following Commissions:

- Athletes' (1981-1988)
- Press (1985-1988)
- Juridical (1993-2001)
- Olympic Collectors (1994-1997)
- Olympic Movement (1996-1999)
- Sport and Law (as Athletes' representative, 1995-2001)
- TV Rights and New Media (2002)
- OC 2000 Reform Follow-up (2002)
- Remuneration Working Group (2004)

Bach was chosen as the President over fellow Presidential candidates namely; Sergey Bubka (Ukraine), Richard Carrion (Puerto Rico), Ser Miang Ng (Singapore), Denis Oswald (Switzerland) and Ching-kuo Wu (Chinese Taipei).

Serena Williams Won 5th US Open Title 2013



Serena Williams on 8 September 2013 won the Women's Single Title at US Open 2013 and the pair of Leander Paes and Radek Stepanek secured the Men's Doubles Title 2013 at the same tournament. Serena Williams on 8 September 2013 emerged as the winner of the US Open Tennis Tournament 2013 by defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during the women's singles final at New York. Serena defeated the second seeded, Azarenka with 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-1 points.

With this win, top-seeded, Serena Williams secured her fifth US Open title and 17th Grand Slam title of the overall career.

On the other side, in the Men's Doubles Championship of the US Open tennis tournament 2013 at New York's Arthur Ashe stadium, the pair of Leander Paes of India and Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic emerged as winners by defeating the Alexander

Peya of Austria, and Bruno Soares of Brazil in the final match with 6-1, 6-3 win.

With this win, Leander Paes secured his eighth Men's doubles Grand Slam title and 14th overall. Paes has earlier won the US open title two times and both the titles came while playing with Chez partners, namely Martin Damm in 2006 and Lukas Dlouhy in 2009.

Earlier, the fourth seeded Indo-Czech pair of Paes and Stepanek won the Winston Salem Open and this is their second major title playing together after the Australian Open in 2012.

In the 2012 US Open, the Indo-Chez pair lost to Bryan Brothers and ended their race in the tournament as a runner-up.

It was third US Open title for 40-year-old Paes and the previous two had also come with Czech partners. In 2006, the Indian won with Martin Damm and in 2009 with Lukas Dlouhy.

GSAT-7, India's First Defence Satellite Launched

India's advanced multi-band communication satellite GSAT-7, launched from Kourou, French Guiana on 30 August 2013, was successfully placed in the Geosynchronous Orbit with an altitude of about 36000 km above Earth's surface on 3 September 2013. French Guiana is an overseas region of France on the North Atlantic coast of South America.

GSAT-7 was placed in the Geosynchronous Orbit after successfully completing the last of the three orbit-raising manoeuvres commanded from ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan. Later, on the same day, the communication antennae of GSAT-7, including the UHF Helix antenna, were deployed successfully. Thereafter, the GSAT-7 was put in its final orbital configuration, stabilised on its three-axis by the momentum wheels.

The GSAT-7 Satellite would reach its assigned orbital slot of 74 degree East longitude in the Geostationary Orbit within the next 10 days. It is planned that on 14 September 2013, the communication transponders in UHF, S, C and Ku bands will be switched on.

The GSLV Vehicle assembly and checkout would be completed at the Vehicle Assembly Building by the first week of December 2013 and the launch would take place by December 2013.

What is Geosynchronous Orbit?

Geosynchronous Orbit is also abbreviated as GSO. It is the orbit around Earth which has the orbital period of one sidereal day or around 23 hours 56 minutes and 4 seconds. This sidereal day matches the Earth's sidereal rotation period.

About GSAT-7

- It is an advanced communication satellite that will help by providing low bit rate voice to high bit rate data communication.
- Payload of the GSAT-7 is designed to provide communication capabilities to users in distant oceanic regions.
- Its solar arrays generate 2900 W of electrical power.

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INTERNATIONAL

UNSC Voted to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weapons

The United Nations Security Council on 27 September 2013 approved unanimously a resolution with binding obligations on the Syrian government to eliminate its chemical weapons.

The resolution was passed by a voice vote by all 15 members of UN Security Council that paved the way for dismantling the weapons of mass destruction in Syria.

The UNSC resolution enshrines the plan approved by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, making it legally binding.

The agreement allows the start of a mission to rid Syria's regime of its estimated 1000-tonne chemical arsenal by mid-2014, significantly accelerating a destruction timetable that often takes



years to complete. The resolution makes it legally binding for Syria to comply with the US-Russia plan on elimination of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal.

The resolution also asks the organisation for Prevention of Chemical weapons Director General and the U.N. secretary-general to report non-compliance to the Security Council. If there is non-compliance, the Security Council by another resolution impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter which allows for sanctions and or use of military force.

According to estimates Syria has more than 1000 tonnes of Sarin, Mustard and VX gases which have to be destroyed by Mid 2014.

UN Signed a Declaration Against Sexual Violence

The 68th session of General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2013 signed a declaration pledging new action to end sexual violence in conflict zones. The declaration was titled 'Time To Act'. Ministers from 113 countries signed the declaration in General Assembly of the United Nations held in New York.

It also declared that it will adopt a new International Protocol in 2014 to help and ensure that evidence collected can stand up in the court.

The declaration adopted in the background of recent increase in the number of rape cases and sexual violence against women.

About General Assembly of the United Nations

- It the deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.
- It has all 193 Members of the United Nations.
- It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.

Egypt Court Banned Muslim Brotherhood

The Egypt Court on 23 September 2013 banned the Muslim Brotherhood from carrying out any activities in the country.

The court also ordered the interim government to seize the Brotherhood's funds and form a panel to administer its frozen assets until any appeal has been heard.

The administrative court gave the ruling after a lawsuit was filed by the leftist Tagammu Party to review the Islamist group's status as a non-governmental organisation.

The 85-year-old Islamist movement was banned by Egypt's military rulers in 1954, but registered itself as an NGO in March 2013.

The Brotherhood also has a legally registered political wing, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), which was set up in 2011 as a “non-theocratic” group after the uprising that forced President Hosni Mubarak from power.

On 2 September 2013, Egypt’s State Commissioners Authority, a body that advises the government on legal issues, recommended the Brotherhood’s dissolution after claims circulated of its links to armed militias. The authority’s recommendations, which are non-binding, were made in accordance with an Egyptian law that prohibits non-government organisations and institutions from forming paramilitary groups.

Egyptian authorities launched a crackdown against the group following the ouster of president Morsi, who hails from the group, by the military on July 3 after mass protests against him and the group.

About Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood movement is the country’s oldest and largest Islamist organisation, meaning its ideology is based on the teachings of the Koran.

Founded by Hassan al-Banna in 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood - or al-Ikhwan al-Muslimun in Arabic - has influenced Islamist movements around the world with its model of political activism combined with Islamic charity work.

The movement initially aimed simply to spread Islamic morals and good works, but soon became involved in politics, particularly the fight to rid Egypt of British colonial control and cleanse it of all Western influence.

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NATIONAL

The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 23 September 2013.

Highlights of The Waqf (Amendment) Bill

- The Bill amended the Waqf Act, 1995. It strengthened the Waqf Council powers, currently an advisory body at the central level. It can now issue directions to waqf boards, who administer waqfs in each state.
- The Bill also changed the composition of Waqf boards. It also established the procedure for

removal of a chairperson of a waqf board.

- Those states which have not yet established a waqf board must do so within one year. Further, state-funded surveys of waqf properties must be carried out.
- The Bill restricted the kinds of powers that can be delegated by a waqf board to the chairperson or any other individual, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.
- Under the Bill, the sale, gift, or total transfer of a waqf property will be treated as invalid. The Bill extends the maximum period of lease or mortgage of such properties, while establishing a more restrictive procedure by which leases or mortgages are approved by waqf boards.
- The Bill provided for imprisonment for those who occupy waqf property without authorisation.
- The Bill restricted the circumstances under which state governments can issue directions to waqf boards. Boards cannot be superseded unless there is prima facie evidence of financial irregularity.

Lawmaking Procedure in India

The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

The RP(Amendment and Validation) Act, 2013

The Representation of the People(Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2013 received the assent of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 23 September 2013. The Rajya Sabha on 27 August 2013 unanimously passed the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2013 to amend the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951.

The bill will turn over the order of Supreme Court to ban the people in custody or jail from contesting the elections.

Lawmaking Procedure in India

The legislative proposals are brought before either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha in the form of a bill. The bill is actually a draft of the legislative proposal. After being passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the Bill is sent to the President of India for assent. After receiving the assent from the President of India, a bill becomes an Act of the Parliament.

Rajya Sabha Passed the Representation of the People (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2013

Foundation Laid for HPCL Refinery in Rajasthan

The UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi laid the foundation stone for HPCL Rajasthan Refinery and Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra in Barmer district on 22 September 2013.

The refinery-cum-petrochemical complex to be set up with an estimated cost of 37230 crore rupees, the refinery is likely to start production by 2017-18.

The total capacity of refinery is 90 lakh metric tonnes per year. After completion, this refinery will generate an income of 8 lakh 78 thousand crore rupees and provide employment to one lakh forty thousand people.

Setting up of the refinery facilitates direct and indirect economic benefit to the economy of Rajasthan, which shall, besides industrialization, result in substantial increase in income, output, employment and tax earnings of the State.

The refinery which is considered to change the entire scenario of Rajasthan will also prove instrumental in development of drastic, automotive, pipe, tyre and other industries in the State.



About HPCL Refinery

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) would setup the refinery as a Joint Venture (JV) with Government of Rajasthan under the name HPCL-Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL).

The proposed refinery will be a subsidiary of HPCL with its equity of 74 percent to be held by HPCL and 26 percent to be held by the Government of Rajasthan. The cost of the project is estimated at 37230 crore Rupees. The project cost is proposed to be sourced with a debt or equity ratio of 1.5:1. In this regard HPCL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 14 May, 2013 with Government of Rajasthan. HPCL has subsequently also signed a Joint Venture agreement with Government of Rajasthan on 11 July, 2013 on these terms for setting up the refinery as a joint venture. The proposed refinery will process 4.5 MMT of Mangala Crude and 4.5 MMT of Arab or other crude oil. The Union Cabinet on 20 September 2013 approved setting up of refinery-cum-petrochemical complex by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in Barmer, Rajasthan.

Govt. of India Approved Proposal for Setting up BRLF

The Union Government of India on 3 September 2013 approved the proposal for setting up of the Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) as an independent charitable society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

About Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF)

- The role of BRLF is to facilitate and upscale civil society action in partnership with Government for transforming livelihoods and lives of rural households, with an emphasis on women, particularly in the Central Indian Tribal Region.
- BRLF will provide financial grants to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in order to meet their human resource and institutional costs for up-scaling of proven interventions
- It will also facilitate to invest in institutional strengthening of smaller CSOs and capacity building of professional resources working at the grassroots.
- Projects supported by BRLF would be able to reach 10 lakh poor families by the end of the fifth year.
- BRLF will also additionally support the capacity building of 1000 CSO professionals and institutional strengthening of a significant number of smaller CSOs within the above time frame.
- BRLF will have the country-wide mandate, but for the start-up the initial focus of the organisation will be on the Central Indian Tribal Region, centered on blocks having significant tribal population across 170 districts in the States of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Formation of Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF)

- The Union Government of India will release 500 crore Rupees for creation of the corpus fund of the new Society, in two tranches.
- BRLF will be constituted as a partnership between Government on the one hand and private sector philanthropies, private and public sector undertakings (under Corporate Social Responsibility) on the other hand.
- The proposal was, at first considered by the Union Cabinet on 18 April 2013. It was then referred to the Group of Ministers under chairmanship of the Finance Minister. The GoM eventually held its meeting on 21 August 2013 and recommended the proposal.

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India and Latvia signed agreement on DTAA

The Government of India on 18 September 2013 signed an agreement with Latvia on Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income. The Agreement and the Agreed Note were signed by Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of India and Mr. Edgars Rinkevics, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.

Latvia is the third Baltic country with which DTAA has been signed by India. Earlier DTAA's were signed with Lithuania and Estonia.

The DTAA provides that business profits will be taxable in the source if the activities of an enterprise constitute a permanent establishment (PE) in the source state. The Agreement provides for fixed place of permanent establishment (PE), building site, construction or assembly PE, service PE, Off-shore exploration/exploitation PE and agency PE.

About Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) is a bilateral agreement between two countries. The main objective of DTAA is to avoid taxation of income in both countries (means double taxation of same income).

Double Tax Avoidance Agreement contains following provisions

- Dividends, interest and royalties and fees for technical services income will be taxed both in the country of residence and in the country of source. The low level of withholding rates of taxation for dividend, interest and royalties and fees for technical services (10 percent) will promote greater investments, flow of technology and technical services between India and Latvia.
- The Agreement incorporates provisions for effective exchange of information between tax authorities of the two countries in line with latest international standards, including exchange of banking information and supplying of information without recourse to domestic interest.
- The Agreement included an article on assistance in collection of taxes. This article also included provision for taking measures of conservancy. The Agreement incorporates anti-abuse (limitation of benefits) provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreements are availed of by the genuine residents of India and Latvia.
- The Agreement will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Latvia. It will also facilitate mutual economic cooperation between India and Latvia.

The Government Notified Changes in the FDI Policy

The Union Government of India on 10 September 2013 notified changes in the FDI policy under FEMA regulations, paving the way for larger overseas investments in sectors, such as multi-brand retail and telecom. It is effective from 22 August 2013. As per the revised guidelines, the government relaxed norms for multi-brand retail trading and eased the mandatory 30 per cent local sourcing norms for companies. It has also widened the definition of the term control for mergers and acquisitions, involving overseas companies, a move that will provide more clarity to foreign investors. The government notification



follows the Cabinet decision of 2 August 2013 to relax overseas investment norms.

As per the notification, control will include the right to appoint a majority of directors or to control the management or policy decisions including by virtue of their shareholding or management rights or shareholders agreement or voting agreements.

The expanded reach of the term control will help calculate the total foreign investment; direct and indirect in Indian companies. Prior to this, control was considered the entity with the power to appoint the majority of directors in a company.

Finance Ministry to control Forward Markets Commission's

The administrative control of Forward Markets Commission (FMC), the chief regulator of Forwards and Futures Commodity Markets in India on 9 September 2013 was transferred to Ministry of Finance following the orders of Government of India. Earlier, the FMC was under the control of the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Food.

With this decision, the regulators of financial sector like SEBI, RBI, IRDA and PFRDA, all have been brought under one roof and that is Ministry of Finance.

The Government notified its decision to bring the commodity markets regulator Forward Markets Commission (FMC) under the ambit of the Finance Ministry on 6 September 2013. The proposal to this effect was moved in August 2013 in the wake of the alleged scam in the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) of 5600 crore rupees. NSEL stopped its functioning in the month of August 2013 following the Governments orders which were issued in the wake of violation of certain rules.

About Forward Markets Commission (FMC)

Forward Markets Commission (FMC) headquartered at Mumbai, is a statutory body set up in 1953 under the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952. It is a regulatory authority which was overseen by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India. Recently, with the decision of Government of India the administrative control of FMC was shifted to Union Finance Ministry.

FMC under its ambit regulated futures trading on 21 commodity bourses that includes MCX and NCDEX.

Comment

The Government's decision on FMC would help in increasing the coordination between the market regulators. It will also be helpful for the government in resolving the NSEL payment crisis of 5600 crore rupees.

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NGT banned Digging of Earth across the Country

The National Green Tribunal on 28 September 2013 banned digging of earth across India for making bricks and roads without prior environment clearance. A bench headed by Justice P Jyothimani directed the Chief Secretaries of all states and union territories to ensure that its interim order is adhered to. The tribunal issued notice to Uttar Pradesh seeking its response on a plea to direct the state government to stop extraction of earth for making bricks and roads, allegedly going on in violation of a Supreme Court decision and directions of the Environment Ministry to all states.

The ban on brick earth mining comes one-and-a-half months after the National Green Tribunal banned sand mining from river beds, without environment clearance, across the country.

What is National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18 October 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.



The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts. The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same. Initially, the NGT is proposed to be set up at five places of sittings and will follow circuit procedure for making itself more accessible. New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other 4 place of sitting of the Tribunal.

Scientists Decoded the Genome of the Tigers

The South Korean scientists from the Personal Genomics Institute in Suwon, on 17 September 2013 unveiled that they carried out first ever DNA analysis of the tiger as well as four other great felines. The DNA analysis was carried out in the project for helping the critically-endangered cats for their survival.

The team of scientists led by Yun Sung Cho at the Personal Genomics Institute, Genome Research Foundation in Suwon, South Korea, in their research, sequenced the genome of a Siberian tiger. The genome of this tiger was then compared with the genome of white Bengal tiger, the snow leopard, the African lion and white African lion. The comparison revealed that the genes highlighted shared characteristics among all these close, yet distinct species of cats. All these kinds of tigers included common genes which hinted towards extreme muscle strength as well as the ability to metabolise hypercarnivorous diet.

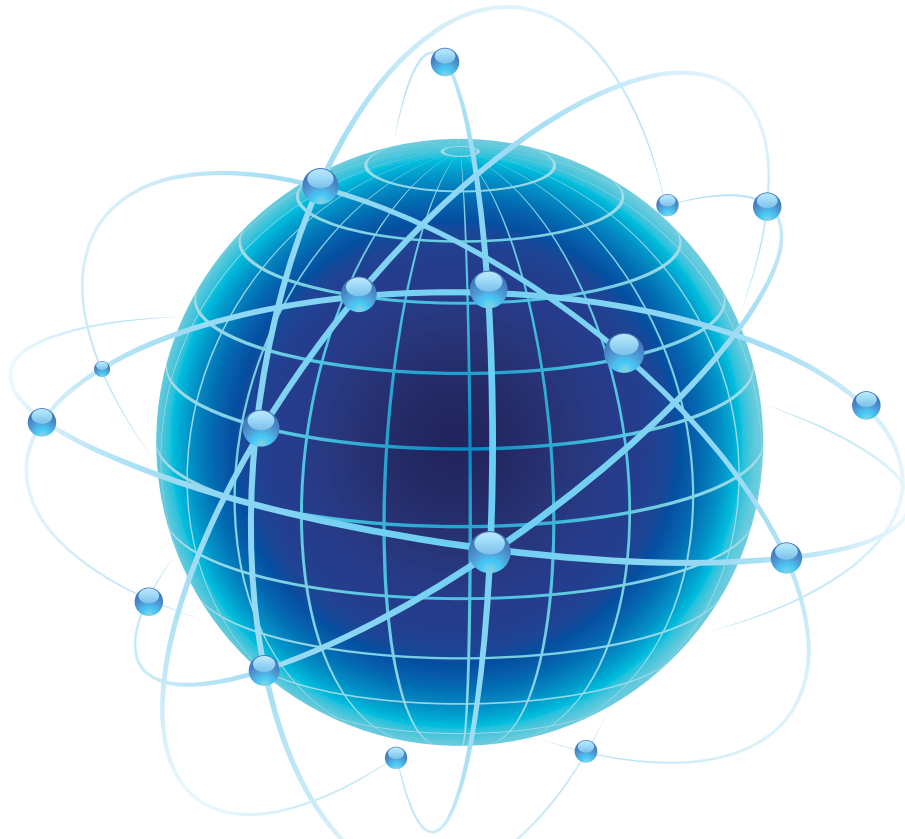
There were variants which accounted for certain differences such as fur colour. In case of the gene revealed about the characteristic of snow leopard's ability to adapt to high, icy habitats.

The genomes therefore indicated about the diverse and crucial data source which can be used for conservation of these tigers. Out of the overall nine subspecies of tiger, the scientists revealed that

four of them were already extinct in previous century. These four extinct species included Javan, Balinese, South China and Caspian tigers.

It is estimated that at present the number of wild tigers range from just 3050 to 3950. The conservationists believe that in the absence of conservation measures, all the tigers will become extinct from the wild soon.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Origin Scientists discovered Universal Flu Vaccine

A team led by a scientist of Indian origin made a roadmap to develop universal flu vaccine. The influenza virus that causes flu is considered to be one of the world's most rapidly changing organisms. Flu vaccines tend to be ineffective after every season and can't cure cough, cold and other complications. Therefore, scientists planned new vaccines with new strains of the virus each year.

A team led by professor Ajit Lalvani from the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College London used a 2009 pandemic virus strain to analyse why some people appear to resist severe illness, to create the world's first universal flu vaccine. The volunteers were asked to donate blood samples just as the swine flu pandemic was in progress so that their response could be analysed over the next two flu seasons.

The scientists discovered those who avoided severe illness had more CD8 T cells in their blood at the start of the pandemic. CD8T cells are a type of virus killing immune cell. A vaccine that stimulates the body to produce more of these cells could be effective at preventing flu viruses, including new strains that infect humans from birds and pigs.

The immune system produces these CD8 T cells while responding to usual seasonal flu. Unlike antibodies, they target the core of the virus, which doesn't change, even in new pandemic strains. This provided the blueprint for developing a universal flu vaccine.

Scientists planned to stimulate the immune system to make CD8 T cells by vaccination.

The flu vaccines make the immune system produce antibodies that identify structures on the surface of the virus to stop infection with the most common circulating strains. However they have to be replaced each year as new viruses with different surface structures evolve.

Tuberculosis Originated in Humans; Not in Animals

An international team of researchers led by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) revealed in the month of September 2013 that the origins of human tuberculosis traced back to the African hunter-gatherers who lived around 70000 years ago.

The study conducted by the international team of researchers suggested that the origin of Tuberculosis (TB) was not in the animals that lived around 10000 years ago, as it is believed commonly. It is important to note that TB is one of the deadliest infectious diseases of humans and it kills 50 percent of the individuals who are left untreated. In the developing countries, it is found that even today, TB leads to 1-2 million deaths. The major threat in fighting against the disease is multidrug-resistance.

The researchers have now identified about the origin in space and time of this disease. The researchers made use of the whole-genome sequencing of 259 Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains, which were collected from various parts of the world. These were used for determining the genetic pedigree of the deadly bugs. The comparison of the genome indicated that TB mycobacteria originated around 70000 years ago in Africa.

During the study, the researchers compared the genetic evolutionary trees of mycobacteria and humans alongside. The phylogenetic trees of humans and the TB bacteria had a lot of similarity. The evolutionary paths of TB as well as humans had a striking similarity.

The researchers explained that TB bacteria and humans did not emerge in same region of the world but they migrated outside Africa together. Both these, thereafter, expanded across the world. It was the migratory behaviour of modern humans, along with their lifestyle changes, that led to favourable conditions for TB. The researchers also explained that because of this, the diversity of tuberculosis bacteria enhanced remarkably when the expansion of human population took place.

Human expansion is also known as Neolithic Demographic Transition (NDT) period. This NDT is combined with the new human lifestyles which lived in the larger groups as well as village-like structures, which in turn would have created the conditions for human-to-human transmission

of TB. The results also pointed out towards the fact that it is unlikely that TB would have been communicated from the domesticated animals to the humans, like in the case of other infectious diseases.

Voyager-1 Space Probe entered into Interstellar Space

NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft on 12 September 2013 officially became the first human-made object to venture into interstellar space. The 36-year-old probe is about 12 billion miles (19 billion kilometers) from our sun.

During its journey Voyager 1 has travelled through plasma or ionized gas, present in the space between stars for about one year. At present the Voyager is in the transition region, outside of the solar bubble. This transition region still has evidences of the effects of the sun.

The Voyager NASA mission is at a distance of 19 billion kilometer from home and thus a radio signal sent from the voyager takes 17 long hours to reach its receivers on the earth. Launched in 1977, Voyager was sent initially to study the outer planets, but then just kept on going.

For the first time, the increased pressure of the interstellar space on the heliosphere (the bubble of charged particles surrounding the sun that reaches far beyond the outer planets) was detected by the Voyager 1 in 2004.

Due to the lack of working plasma sensor on Voyager 1 scientists took the support of the coronal mass ejection (massive burst of solar wind and magnetic fields) that erupted from sun in March 2012 to measure the spacecraft's plasma environment to make a definitive determination of its location. After spacecraft's interstellar arrival the plasma around the spacecraft started vibrating like the strings of the violin and the pitch of the oscillations helped the scientists to determine the density of the plasma.

This exceptional oscillations provided clues that the spacecraft was bathed in plasma more than 40 times denser than what they had encountered in the outer layer of the heliosphere. Density of this sort is to be expected in interstellar space.

Voyager mission controllers still talk to or receive data from Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 every day, though the emitted signals are currently very dim, at about 23 watts -- the power of a refrigerator light bulb.

History

Voyager 1 and its twin, Voyager 2, were launched 16 days apart in 1977. Both spacecraft flew by Jupiter and Saturn. Voyager 2 also flew by Uranus and Neptune. Voyager 2, launched before Voyager 1, is the longest continuously operated spacecraft. It is about 9.5 billion miles (15 billion kilometers) away from our sun.

The report on the analysis of this new data was published in journal Science.

Important Terms to be remembered

Interstellar Space:

The Interstellar Medium exists in the space and it is a matter that lies between the star systems in a galaxy. This is made up of gas in ionic forms, atomic form and molecular form as well as the dust and cosmic rays.

Solar Bubble:

It is also termed as the heliosphere and it is the region that has the effect of the sun and acts in the space as a charged particle bubble across the solar system.

Solar wind:

It is a stream of charged particles that is blown away from the sun and it travels at the Supersonic Speeds like White Arrows

Termination shock:

Termination shocks are felt in the space in the areas where sun begin to slow and clash with matter from deep space

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CORPORATE

AirAsia India Received Nod from the Union Govt.of India



AirAsia India on 20 September 2013 got the all-important no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation to start airline operations in India.

The NoC paves the way for launch of the proposed low-cost passenger airline, which is a joint venture between Malaysian budget carrier AirAsia, Tata Group and Arun Bhatia.

AirAsia India will now need to apply for an operator's permit with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA). The airlines operations expected to start from December 2013 or January 2014.

While AirAsia will hold a 49 percent stake in the proposed airline, the Tata Group will hold 30percent and Arun Bhatia 21percent stake. Earlier, Singapore Airlines and Tata group has applied to Government of India under the name of Tata SIA Airlines Limited.

The Tatas have a long history of association with civil aviation in India. In 1932 JRD Tata had started Tata Airlines, which was later in 1946 renamed as Air India and was subsequently nationalised in 1953.

Earlier in February 2013, Tata group had also announced a partnership with Malaysia's AirAsia for a low-cost carrier in India, wherein Arun Bhatia's Telestra Tradeplace Pvt Ltd is the third partner.

About AirAsia

AirAsia is Asia's leading airline was established in 2001 with the dream of making flying possible for everyone. Air Asia was named the World's Best Low Cost Airline in the annual World Airline Survey by Skytrax for five consecutive years from 2009 to 2013 and has been ranked Top 5 among the most recognized and admired airlines in the Asia Pacific Top 1000 Brands 2008.

With a route network that spans through to over 20 countries, AirAsia continues to pave the way for low-cost aviation through innovative solutions, efficient processes and a passionate approach to business.

SEBI Signed MoU with Argentina

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 16 September 2013 signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Comisión Nacional de Valores, (CNV) Argentina to promote mutual assistance and exchange information related to securities markets in both the countries.

The MoU was signed by U.K. Sinha, Chairman, SEBI and Alejandro Vanoli, Chairman, Comisión Nacional de Valores, Argentina during the 38th IOSCO annual conference being held in Luxembourg.

The MoU between SEBI and CNV seeks to promote mutual assistance and exchange of information with a view to facilitate the development of deeper and broader capital market, enhance greater cross-border activities and attain closer regulatory co-operation between two jurisdictions in a mutually beneficial manner.

The MoU also seeks to establish and implement technical assistance and training program, for an effective development of regulatory framework for securities markets in the two jurisdictions.

About CNV

Comisión Nacional de Valores, (National Securities Commission) (CNV) is an independent agency of Argentina with jurisdiction throughout the Republic.

CNV aimed to provide the public offer by ensuring the transparency of markets and the correct formation of prices in them, and the protection of investors. CNV's action is projected on companies issuing securities to be publicly placed on secondary markets and securities intermediaries in these markets. CNV's action also projected on the public offering of forward contracts, futures and options on their markets and clearing houses, and their intermediaries.

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India Won Bronze in 8th Asia Cup Women's Hockey

India won bronze medal in the 8th Women's Asia Cup 2013 as they defeated China 3-2 via penalty shootout in the 3rd/4th place play-off played at the National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 September 2013.

The two teams had ended 2-2 in the regulation time. Ritu Rani captained Indian side in the tournament, whereas Weilin Mao captained the China team.

India had to win this tournament to qualify for the 2014 World Cup at The Hague, Holland. However, it came at the third place.

Meanwhile, Japan stunned defending champions Korea 2-1 in the final to win the Asia Cup and secure a place in next year's World Cup.

The 8th Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2013 Held at Kualalumpur (Malaysia) from 21 to 27 September 2013.

Sudha Singh won Gold in Women's 3000m Steeplechase

Sudha Singh of Railways won gold medal in women's 3000m steeplechase on the third and penultimate day of the 53rd National Open Athletics Championship on 9 September 2013. She doubled her achievement by improving her own meet mark. Significantly, she is National record holder besides being a silver medallist at Asian Championship. Sudha, clocked 10 minutes 9.04 secs to better her own old meet record of 10:09.56 set in 2010. Her Railways teammate Lalita Babar was second 10:33.40 whereas Kiran Tiwari of Haryana was third in 10:52.75. The championship was held at Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium, Ranchi.

Tokyo Won Rights to Host 2020 Summer Olympic Games

Tokyo on 7 September 2013 won the right to host the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting in Buenos Aires chose the Japanese capital Tokyo, over Istanbul, after Madrid was dramatically eliminated following a first-round tie with the Turkish city. Japan won the right to host Olympic Games for the second time. It had previously hosted the Games in 1964. Olympic is considered world's biggest sporting event.

Concerns over Fukushima, seriously damaged in the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 18000 people, had dogged Japan's bid in the final days. The final result was 60 votes for Tokyo against 36 for Istanbul.

The decision means it will be the fourth time that Japan plays host to the Olympics, having also organized hosted Olympic winter Games in Nagano (1998) and Sapporo (1972). Asia will also see successive Olympics, as the South Korean resort of Pyeongchang is hosting the 2018 winter edition

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STATE.

Rajasthan Govt. to draw water from Chambal Sanctuary

The proposal of the Government of Rajasthan to construct the well for drawing water for Kota from National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary area got approval from National Board of Wildlife (NBWL), the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

The approval came after the assurance of the chief minister Ashok Gehlot regarding measures to be taken up for ensuring conservation of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary. The National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary is spread across three states- Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It is the abode of fish-eating Gharial (a kind of crocodile), which survives on the clean rivers only. Gharial is one of the most critically endangered species of crocodiles. In 1970s, it came almost close to extinction. It is estimated that at present, there are merely 200 Gharials in the forests. Apart from the Gharial, the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary is also home of threatened

Gangetic Dolphins, Indian Skimmers, hundreds of migratory birds and the rare species of turtles. Withdrawal of water from the sanctuary can prove fatal not just for the endangered Gharial but also for the dolphins.

Background

Back on 28 March 2013, the standing committee of NBWL in its 28th meeting chaired by Jayanthi Natarajan, the Environment Minister, rejected proposal of the Government of Rajasthan for constructing intake well near left bank of Chambal river at Kota barrage reservoir. The committee explained that the exploitation of the water of Chambal would have deleterious effect on Gharials found in the river.

In the meanwhile, NBWL also rejected the proposal of Rajasthan Government for setting up Clinker Grinding and Flyash Mixing Unit within 10 km of National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary at Kota, with the same reasons and explanations.

The Rajasthan Government nevertheless wrote to the Environment Ministry to reconsider the project and eventually on 19 July 2013, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot assured to ensure that there would be sufficient water at all times for the protection of Gharials. Thereafter, NBWL discussed about the project in two successive meetings on 6 June 2013 and 4 September 2013, eventually bringing green signal for the project.

Bihar Govt. Declared 33 Districts as Drought-Affected

The State Government of Bihar on 18 September 2013 approved the proposal of Disaster Management department for declaring the 33 districts of Bihar out of 38 as drought-hit. This happened because of insufficient rainfall as well as long summer.

The decision about this was taken considering the deficient monsoon of 2013. Bihar received 25 percent less rainfall at 668.6 mm from 1 June 2013 to 11 September 2013 in comparison to annual average rainfall of 892.2 mm. Because of this, there was a decrease in paddy sowing, which adversely affected the paddy cultivation.

Also, the rainfall scarcity depleted the underground water table, thereby creating the drought conditions in 33 districts of Bihar. Employment and cattle rearing has been affected as well. The Government of Bihar, in the meanwhile, has started mobilising the funds from State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

The State Government of Bihar also put on hold, the collection of cess and land rent, electricity bills, irrigation charge as well as cooperative loans from the farmers in affected districts for 2013-14. Apart from this, the Bihar Government decided to take up relief measures for salvaging the standing crops.

The districts which were declared as drought affected are Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Bhojpur, Buxar, Aurangabad, Nawada, Patna, Kaimur, Saharsa, Supaul, Nalanda, Gaya, Samastipur, East and West Champaran, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai, Gopalganj, Vaishali, Siwan, Sheohar, Jamui, Begusarai, Jehanabad, Munger, Bhagalpur, Saran, Purnea, Katihar, Madhepura and Khagaria.

Maharashtra Government Set up Manodhairya

Maharashtra state government on 11 September 2013 announced its scheme Manodhairya to help rape survivors and child victims of sexual abuse. They will be given financial help of 2 to 3 lakh rupees. In 2009 the Code of Criminal Procedure had been amended which made it mandatory for the States of India to set up a victim compensation relief fund for victims of rape and sexual assault and acid attacks.

The scheme will be implemented by the committee to be formed under the District Collector. Victims of acid attacks will get help of 3 lakh rupees, in case of permanent handicap and 50000 rupees will be given for other treatment of other injuries.

In addition to financial help, either victims or their relatives will be provided with services such as counselling, housing, legal aid, education and professional training.

The Maharashtra government also decided to increase the number of counselling centres working within the premises of police stations. Presently, Maharashtra has 90 such centres.

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Person Appointed

Ravindra Kumar Elected as President of the INS

Ravindra Kumar, Editor of The Statesman was elected as President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2013-14 at its 74th Annual General Meeting held in Bangalore on 27 September 2013. Ravindra Kumar succeeded K N Tilak Kumar of Deccan Herald and Prajavani. At the meeting, Kiran B Vadodaria (Sambhaav Metro) was elected as Deputy President and P V Chandran of Grihalakshmi as Vice President.

Sanjay Gupta (Dainik Jagran, Varanasi) was chosen as the honorary treasurer of INS for the year

2013-14. V Shankaran is the Secretary General of the Society. The executive committee of INS represents the current 990 members from newspapers, journals, periodicals and magazines.

About Indian Newspaper Society (INS)

- Indian Newspaper Society (INS) (formerly Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society) acts as the central organisation of the Press of India, an independent body authenticating circulation figures of newspapers and periodicals in India.
- INS is an organization which plays a major role in protecting and promoting the freedom of press in India.
- INS was founded in 1939. Its headquarters are at New Delhi.
- INS membership comprises the owners, proprietors and publishers of print media who discusses and suggest various measures to the government regarding the problems related to the newspaper industry. It is a kind of pressure group which works to protect the interest of newspaper industry in particular and print media in general.

Sri Srinivasan was sworn in as Judge of US Court



Sri Srinivasan was on 26 September 2013 sworn in as judge of the US Courts of Appeal for the District of Columbia Circuit. It is the second most powerful court of the United States. He is the first Indian-American to be on the bench of the US Courts of Appeal for the District of Columbia Circuit. He was administered oath of office by Justice Sandra Day O' Connor. He is 46 years old. He was born in Chandigarh. His parents migrated to the United States in 1970s. He was confirmed by the US Senate by a huge 97-0 vote for this job. Srinivasan was first nominated by US President Barack Obama on 11 June 2012. On 2 January 2013 his nomination was returned to the President, due to the sine die adjournment of the Senate.

On 3 January 2013, Obama re-nominated him for the same office. Prior to this appointment, Srinivasan was the principal deputy solicitor general of the United States. Srinivasan started his legal career by serving as a law clerk for Judge J Harvie Wilkinson on the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 1995 to 1996.

Award

Raghuram Rajan awarded with the Deutsche Bank Prize

Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan was awarded on 27 September 2013 with the Fifth Deutsche Bank Prize for Financial Economics 2013. They gave this award in recognition of his macro economics research which influenced financial and macro-economic policies around the world.

Raghuram Rajan was chosen for the prize from more than 260 nominations from top universities, central banks and research centres in 37 countries.

While presenting the prize Jurgen Fitschen, Co-Chairman of the Management Board explained that Raghuram Rajan revealed the relationship between the financial sector and the rest of the economy is so complex and it is not good enough to simply look at the size of the financial sector in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP), as is done so often at present.

Jurgen Fitschen also explained that Raghuram Rajan also expected the financial crises of 2008 in 2005 three ahead of global financial crises.

About Deutsche Bank Prize

- The Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economic honors outstanding achievements in researching globally relevant questions of financial economics and macroeconomics.
- The Centre for Financial Studies (CFS) awards the prize bi-annually in partnership with Goethe University Frankfurt.
- The Deutsche Bank Prize is sponsored by the Deutsche Bank Donation Fund. It carries an endowment of 50000 Euro.
- The prize is one of the most generously endowed in the areas of financial economics and macroeconomics in Europe.

About Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Bank is a German global banking and financial services company with its headquarters in the Deutsche Bank Twin Towers in Frankfurt, Germany.

About Raghuram Rajan

- Raghuram Govinda Rajan is the current and the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

- He worked as chief economic adviser to India's Ministry of Finance .
- He acted as Chief economist at the International Monetary Fund from 2003 to 2007.
- He co-authored Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists with Luigi Zingales in 2003.
- He wrote Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy published in 2010. For this book he won the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award for 2010.

First Allard Prize Presented to Anna Hazare

The University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law on 25 September 2013 presented Anna Hazare with the inaugural Allard Prize for International Integrity at Vancouver, Canada.

The Allard prize is one of the world's largest awards recognizing efforts to combat corruption and to promote human rights.

About Allard Prize

The Allard Prize established in October 2012 by UBC Law alumnus Peter A. Allard, QC and the Allard Prize is awarded to an individual, movement or organization that has shown exceptional courage and leadership in combating corruption, especially through promoting transparency, accountability and the rule of law. The prize money for the award is 100000 US Dollars.



About Anna Hazare

Kisan Bapat Baburao Hazare born on 15 January 1940, popularly recognized as Anna Hazare, is an Indian social activist who is particularly acknowledged for his contribution in order to the development of Ralegan Siddhi, a village in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra, India and his efforts for establishing it as a model village, for which he was awarded the Padma Bhushan by Government of India, in 1992. He played a large part in the 2011 Indian anti-corruption movement.

Person in News

Rahul Dravid named as Brand Ambassador for NTCC



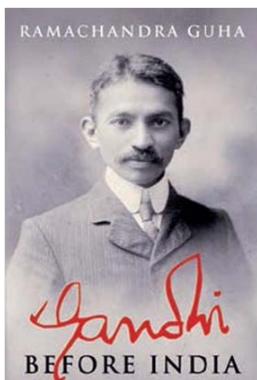
The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 5 September 2013 announced former Indian cricket team captain Rahul Dravid as brand ambassador for its National Tobacco Control Campaign. The national anti-tobacco control campaign has to continue till it achieves desired results. It shows that India is committed towards tobacco control. World Health Assembly aims a target of 30 per cent relative reduction in tobacco use by 2025.

With support from the MoHFW and World Health Organisation, Public Health Foundation of India and Health Related Information

Dissemination Amongst Youth organised the International Conference on Public Health Priorities in the 21st Century: The Endgame for Tobacco from 10 September to 12 September 2013. Nearly 500 participants from over 50 nations participated in fighting the global tobacco epidemic.

Books | Authors

Ramchandra Guha Wrote a Book 'Gandhi Before India'



Gandhi Before India: Ramachandara Guha

Historian and author Ramchandra Guha wrote a book on early years of Mahatma Gandhi. The book titled with Gandhi Before India. The Penguin's publishers told on 25 September 2013 that the book will be available in the market on 1 October 2013.

In this book Ramachandra Guha outlined the life of Mahatma Gandhi from his birth on 2 October 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat to till his return to India from South Africa in 1915.

About Ramchandra Guha

- He is a historian and Author.
- He was appointed the Philippe Roman Chair of International Affairs and History at the London School of Economics for 2011–12.
- He also wrote books titled Patriots and Partisans, Makers of Modern India and India after Gandhi.
- He received Padma Bhushan in 2009.
- He received the Sahitya Akademi award for India After Gandhi in 2011.
- He is also a columnist in the newspapers The Telegraph and Hindustan Times and also pens for the magazines The Caravan and Outlook.

Miscellaneous

Country's First Customized Pin Code Allotted to SC

The Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of India allotted Customized Pin Code to the Supreme Court of India for the first time on 26 September 2013. The Customized Pin Code of the Supreme Court is 110 201.

The event took place on the occasion that marked the completion of 41 years of the introduction of Pin Code in the country. The PIN was introduced on 15 August 1972 in India.

The Department of Posts also started a Locality Based Online Pin Code Search Directory of Delhi on this occasion for the first time in India.

About Postal Index Number (PIN)

Postal Index Number (PIN) or PIN Code is a 6 digit code of Post Office numbering used by India Post.

The PIN was introduced on 15 August 1972.

There are 9 PIN regions in the country.

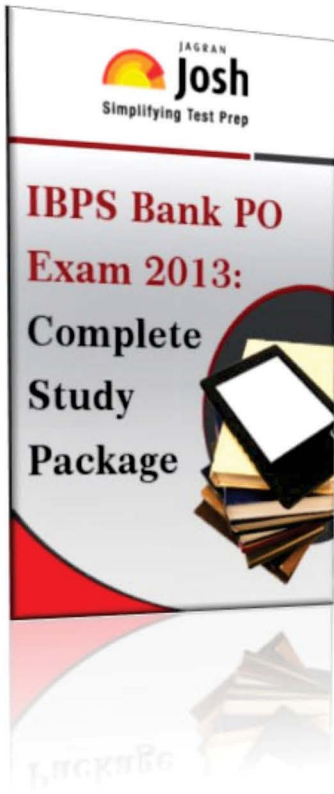
The first 8 are geographical regions.

The digit 9 is reserved for the Army Postal Service.

The first digit indicates one of the regions. The first 2 digits together indicate the sub region or one of the postal circles. The first 3 digits together indicate a sorting / revenue district. The last 3 digits refer to the delivery Post Office.

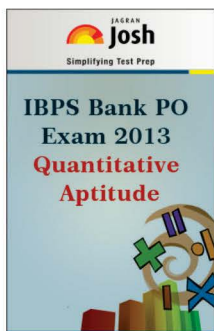
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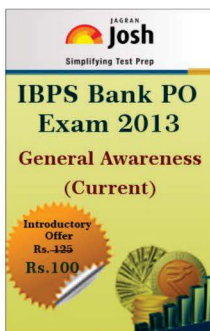


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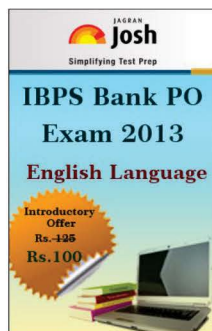
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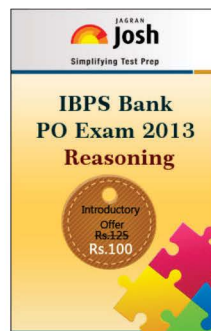
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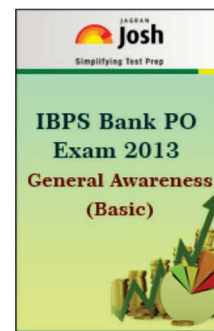
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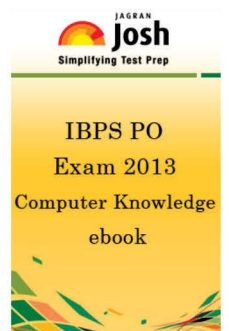
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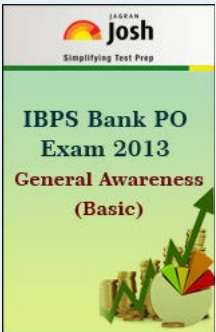
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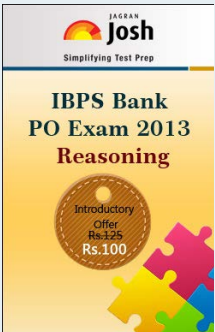


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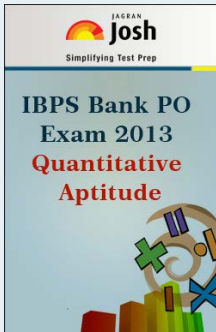
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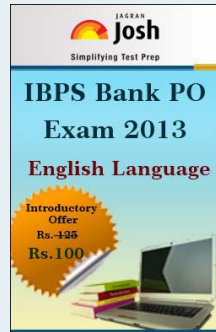
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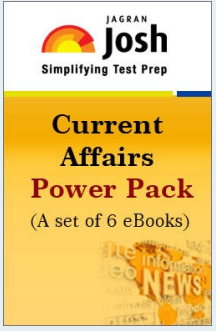
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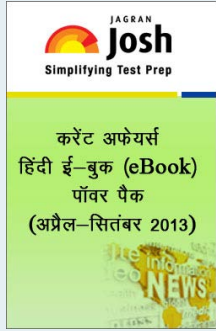
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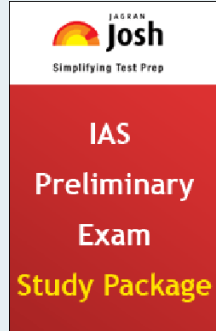
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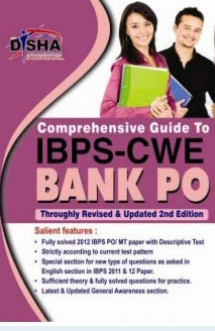
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