

Current Affairs

October 2013

Free Edition

Western Ghats declared as Ecologically Sensitive Area



Manmohan Singh visited Russia, China and Indonesia



Minamata Convention on Mercury Adopted



Global Gender Gap Report 2013



Sachin announced Retirement from Test Cricket

Nobel Prize 2013

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PREFACE

The Current Affairs eBook October 2013 has been designed to provide latest updates of events that occurred in the month of October 2013. The eBook October 2013 covers each and every important happening of the month that made news and carries any probability of being asked in different types of competitive exams like IAS|PCS, SSC, Banking, LIC, Railway and all others.

The happening in the sections like International (bilateral and India's relation with the world), National, Economy, Science and Technology, Environment and Ecology, Corporate, State, Sports, Important Personalities, Books and Authors, Awards and Honours, Important Dates, Reports and Surveys and more all are covered in detail.

Representation of verified facts and figures along with fine-tuned analysis makes the events easy to understand and perceive. The aspirants of competitive exams will definitely be benefitted by the content of the eBook.

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PICK OF THE MONTH

1/3rd of Western Ghats declared as Ecologically Sensitive Area

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forest on 16 October 2013 decided to turn approximately 60000 square kilometres of the Western Ghats (37 percent of the Western Ghats) across six States into an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The decision bans mining, quarrying, thermal power plants and polluting industries over the entire range. All other projects would be permitted only with the prior approval of gram sabhas (village councils) in the zone. Townships and buildings over 20000 square metres in the region will not be permitted.

However, the government left areas with high-density of population out of this regulated zone's ambit. Construction of windmills will be allowed in the ecologically sensitive area only though environment regulations. Hydro-electric projects will be allowed in the ESA only after adhering to strict regulations that the Kasturirangan-led panel has recommended which includes maintaining ecological flows in the rivers.

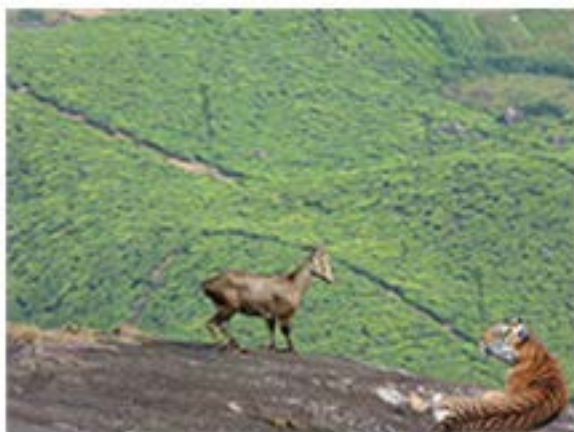
The decision was taken by the ministry as a follow-up on the two reports on the Ghats, one headed by ecologist Madhav Gadgil and the other by Planning Commission member K. Kasturirangan. The decision once notified, will turn the identified region of the Western Ghats complex the largest protected forests in India which has a range over 1500 km linear distance from the Tapti River in the north to Kanyakumari in the south.

What is ESA?

An ecological sensitive area (ESA) is a bio-climatic unit (as demarcated by entire landscapes) in the Western Ghats wherein human impacts have locally caused irreversible changes in the structure of biological communities (as evident in number/ composition of species and their relative abundances) and their natural habitats.

Western Ghats

The Western Ghats was declared as an ecological hotspot in 1988. A large number of plants,



Major Problems in the Landscape are:

- Habitat Loss and Fragmentation
- Forest Degradation
- Unplanned Tourism and changing land use
- Human-Elephant Conflict
- Timber and Wildlife Poaching/ Trade
- Invasive alien species and forest fires

amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals are endemic to this region. This area has a number of protected areas including 2 biosphere reserves, 14 national parks and several wild life sanctuaries. Besides, many regions are declared as reserve forests. In recent times, due to anthropogenic pressures the intactness of the Western Ghats is getting fragmented day-by-day. Most of the ecosystem, which is outside protected area is now in danger. The habitat of plants and animals is also threatened due to large-scale deforestation and destruction of forests.

Kerala to Set up Committee to Respond to Centre on Western Ghats Report

The Kerala State Government on 21 October 2013 decided to form an expert committee to prepare the State's response on the recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturi Rangan panels on protecting biodiversity in the Western Ghats. Western Ghats are spread over six states, including Kerala.

Setting up of the expert panel was announced by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy after an all-party meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on 21 October 2013.

Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) on 18 October 2013 approved a proposal for Western Ghats development prepared by K Kasturirangan-led panel. The Union Forest and Environment Ministry (MoEF) had also sought the State's response on the matter.

The WGEEP Report

The WGEEP (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel) led by Madhav Gadgil designated entire Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area. The panel in its report classified the 142 taluks in the Western Ghats boundary into Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ) 1, 2 and 3.

The report further recommended that no new dams should be allowed in Ecologically Sensitive Zone 1. The report added that Both the Gundia of Karnataka and Athirappilly of Kerala hydel projects should be denied environmental clearance because these sites fall in Ecologically Sensitive Zone 1.

Kerala's Stand

Kerala's consistent position has been that ecologically sensitive areas identified in the reports are densely populated. The mainstream parties in Kerala have expressed concern over difficulties to be faced by the farmers, if the report is implemented. Hilly districts of Idukki and Wayanad have hundreds of small and marginal farmers living there for generations.

MoEF approved Kasturirangan Panel Report on Western Ghats

Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) on 18 October 2013 approved a proposal for Western Ghats development prepared by K Kasturirangan-led panel.

Kasturirangan Panel has recommended a ban on development activities in 60000 sq km ecologically sensitive area spread over six states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Kasturirangan Panel Report

- The 10-member high-level working group (HLWG), headed by Kasturirangan, was constituted in August 2012 to examine the Western Ghats ecology expert panel report (WGEEP) prepared under the leadership of eminent ecologist Madhav Gadgil.
- The Kasturirangan panel had submitted its report to the MoEF on 15 April 2013 and it was put in public domain and also disseminated to all stakeholders for feedback and comments.
- Kasturirangan Panel has recommended a ban on development activities in 60000 sq km ecologically sensitive area spread over six states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- According to the report, roughly 37 percent of the total area defined as the boundary of the Western Ghats is ecologically sensitive.
- Over this area of some 60000 sq km, spread over the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the working group has recommended a prohibitory regime on those activities with maximum interventionist and destructive impact on the environment.

Major landscapes in Western Ghats

- Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats Landscape
- Southern Western Ghats Landscape

Western Ghats: Facts

The Western Ghats or the Sahyadri hills constitute a mountain range along the western side of India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight “hottest hotspots” of biological diversity in the world.

- Elevation: 2695 metres
- Area: 160000 km²
- Highest point: Anamudi
- Country: India
- Passes: Palakkad Gap, Naneghat, Kasara ghat

The WGEEP Report

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The report further recommended that no new dams should be allowed in Ecologically Sensitive Zone 1. The report added that Both the Gundia of Karnataka and Athirappilly of Kerala hydel projects should be denied environmental clearance because these sites fall in Ecologically Sensitive Zone 1.



Back Ground

In view of the environmental sensitivity and ecological significance of the Western Ghats region and the complex interstate nature of its geography, as well as possible impacts of climate change on this region, the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India has constituted, by an order in March 2010, a Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP).

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INTERNATIONAL

India and Peru Signed MoUs to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation

India and Peru signed 4 documents/Mous on during the official visit of the Vice President of India, Mohammad Hamid Ansari to Peru on 29 October 2013. The Vice President of India visited Peru to celebrate the 50th year of establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The Vice President of India held detailed discussions with the President of the Republic of Peru, Ollanta Humala Tasso and the first Vice President of Peru, Marisol Espinoza and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Ms. Eda Rivas Franchini.

India and Peru signed documents in the field of education, defence cooperation, in the fields of Museum Development, Conversation of Movable Cultural Property and Dissemination and Promotion of Cultural Heritage.

Sr.No	Document	Gist of the agreement/document
1	Exchange Programme in the field of Education	The exchange programme encourages exchange of research material, teaching aides; organization of joint conferences, training programmes; twining of institutions ; setting up chairs on contemporary studies; providing of scholarships for higher education
2	Agreement on Defence Cooperation	Aims at enhancing cooperation in the prevention of spread of weapons of mass destruction and tackling non-conventional threats like drugs & piracy; exchange of training expertise and personnel for military courses and collaborate in the spheres of defence equipment exports for mutual benefit
3	MoU between Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Republic of Peru on Establishment of a Joint Commission	India and Peru agree to establish a Joint Commission which will be an intergovernmental consultation mechanism at the Foreign Ministerial level to promote, strengthen and diversify bilateral relations
4	Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry Culture of the Republic of Peru for Cooperation in the fields of Museum Development, Conversation of Movable Cultural Property and Dissemination and Promotion of Cultural Heritage	Agree to create specific cooperation programmes for exchange of experiences and training of specialists in the Museum sector; organizing international temporary exhibitions for dissemination of information on cultural heritage of both countries

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NATIONAL

Co-Operative Societies out of the Ambit of RTI: SC

The Supreme Court of India on 15 October 2013 ruled that co-operative societies do not fall within the ambit of Right to Information (RTI).

While ruling the judgment a bench of justice KS Radhakrishnan and justice AK Sikri told that mere supervision or regulation of a body by government would not make that body a public authority.

Observations of the Supreme Court of India

- Societies are of course subject to the control of the statutory authorities like Registrar, Joint Registrar and the Government. But cannot be said that the state exercises any direct or indirect

control over the affairs of the society which is deep and all pervasive.

- Supervisory or general regulation under the statute over the co-operative societies, which are body corporate, does not render activities of the body so regulated as subject to such control of the State so as to bring it within the meaning of the State or instrumentality of the State.
- The mere supervision or regulation as such by a statute or otherwise of a body would not make that body a public authority within the meaning of Section 2(h)(d)(i) Right to Information Act. In other words just like a body owned or body substantially financed by the appropriate government, the control of the body by the appropriate government would also be substantial and not merely supervisory or regulatory.

The ruling was given by the Supreme Court of India while quashing a circular by Kerala government. According to the Kerala government circular to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in May 2006 all institutions formed by laws made by State Legislature is a public authority and therefore, all co-operative institutions coming under the administrative control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies are also public authorities.

About Cooperative societies

Cooperative Societies is a state subject under entry 32 state list of the Seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution.

According to the Constitutional (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 forming a Cooperative Society is a fundamental right under article 19(1)(i).

Constitutional (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 added the words “or co-operative societies” after the word “or unions” in Article 19(1)(i) and insertion of article 43B i.e., Promotion of Co-operative Societies and added Part-IXB i.e., The Co-operative Societies.

About Right to Information Act, 2005

It is an act to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

According to the Section 2(h) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 Public authority means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted-

- by or under the Constitution
- by any other law made by Parliament
- by any other law made by State Legislature
- by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any—

- Body owned, controlled or substantially financed
- Non-Government organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.
- iNon Government organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government

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ECONOMY

SEBI Proposed New Measures for Stock Exchanges

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 9 October 2013 proposed new range of measures for stock exchanges in order to deal with the fraudulent trading activities in the securities market. These measures include time-bound approach as well as well-defined parameters.

SEBI announced the measures in the backdrop of at least four instances of incorrect trades which in turn disrupted the market in the recent past. The latest one includes placement of incorrect orders on the National Stock Exchange in February 2013.

SEBI, for this purpose, released the discussion paper on policy in context with the incorrect trades. SEBI explained that the objective of this is to have a uniform policy for trade annulment. The stock exchanges shall adopt the transparent and time-bound approach in order to decide the

cases related to annulment of trade, before the final settlement is made. SEBI also announced that cancellation should take place only in certain exceptional situations. These exceptional situations include market manipulation and fraud.

The discussion paper said that in order to facilitate certainty to trades executed on the stock exchange's trading platform, the trades should not be annulled under normal circumstances. Trade annulment should come only under certain circumstances which include regulatory action, error which impacts the sanctity of price discover, market manipulation as well as fraud.

Apart from all this, the SEBI also proposed that the bourses should analyse the impact of trade annulment. SEBI, after releasing the discussion paper explained that prevention of the practices like these was a crucial part of the risk management framework of stock exchanges. The stock exchanges also have online surveillance mechanisms for the purpose of preventing market manipulations.

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ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Mining within 1 km of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Goa banned

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on 24 October 2013 banned mining within one kilometer area of the national parks and sanctuaries of Goa, anymore. The decision was taken to take the state one step closer to restart iron ore excavation mining in a regulated style. The issued order was released to resolve the issues that require a solution to restart regulated mining in the coastal state.

As per the order the area up to one kilometer beyond the boundaries of the National Parks and Sanctuaries in Goa can be declared as the Ecologically Sensitive Zone under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and mining activities can be banned as per the Act.

As per the Justice Shah Commission's report the mining activities in the state across the national

parks and wildlife sanctuaries were started without the clearance from the standing committee of the National Board of Wildlife that had been mandated by the Supreme Court. At present the Supreme Court of India is hearing the case related to the suspension of mining works in the state.

Even, the Environment Ministry has started re-evaluating each and every mine for its environmental clearances under the green laws after suspending the works. The Goa state Government has also sent the proposals to the union government to declare the Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around the protected

wildlife area, following the earlier order of Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court of India has ordered the central and the state governments to decide the boundaries of the ESZs across the protected wildlife areas or as per the Court in the area of 10 kilometers periphery around them was to be accepted as the ESZs by default.

As per the State Government, the boundaries of the six wildlife areas can be used as the limit of the ESZs because of the features. To study the proposals, the Ministry constituted a committee with Rajesh Gopal as its Chairman. But the committee in its report suggested that in many cases the natural features across the boundaries of the ESZ ended within few hundred meters of the parks. The committee also recommended creation of the zone of the no-mining across the boundary up to 1 kilometer. The committee also recommended the ministry that the mining activities across the area should be banned in future. It also recommended that around two of the six sanctuaries should be phased out over the time to ensure that there was no loss of livelihood of people.

The Ministry had also accepted the report of the committee and as per the recommendation the Bhagwan Mahaveer and Netravali Wildlife Sanctuaries mining, which can be phased out on the basis of the State Governments' Plans. The draft notifications about the sanctuaries will be released by the ministry following the decision of the Supreme Court of India, as still the case is on in the Supreme Court.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Australian Researchers discovered Gold in the Eucalyptus Trees

Researchers from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Perth, in the month of October 2013 revealed that they found tiny particles of gold in the eucalyptus trees. The researchers explained that the discovery of hidden gold in trees can help the future prospectors to find out more about the precious metal.

The Australian researchers explained that the trees were on the top of gold deposits which were rooted deep in the ground. In order to search for the moisture, these trees suck more of gold. The Geochemist at CSIRO, Melvyn Lintern explained that seeing the gold particles in leaves was surprising. Certain trees on which the research was done, brought the gold from a depth of 30 metres, which is equal to the 10-storey building.

This gold was found in resource-rich Kalgoorlie region of Western Australia, which, in late 1800s was a primary site of the major gold rush. In order to analyse the extremely small particles at the high resolution, the scientists made use of CSIRO's Maia detector at Australian Synchrotron in Melbourne for X-ray imaging. The scientists found out that gold particles with the diameter one-fifth of a human hair were present in the trees.

Melvyn Lintern also explained that the eucalyptus acts as a hydraulic pump. The roots of these trees extend to tens of metres into the ground. Because the gold is toxic for the plants, therefore, it eventually moved into the leaves as well as the branches where it can be shed to ground. The researchers made use of the technique called biogeochemical sampling in order to give indication of gold's presence beneath the surface.

The same method can also be used for finding out other metals like copper and zinc. The researchers also explored the gold in leaves of other trees like Acacia Mulga.

The latest discoveries of gold fell by 45 percent in past 10 years. In the year 2011, the US Geological Survey revealed that there was around 51000 tonnes of gold remaining in reserve of the world.

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Priyanka Chopra, the Bollywood Actress became the Global Brand Ambassador of Guess



Priyanka Chopra, the Bollywood actress became the global brand ambassador of American fashion brand Guess in the last week of October 2013. She will endorse the brand from 2014. With this, Priyanka Chopra, who started her filmy career with the Tamil film *Thamizhan*, joined the league of Paris Hilton, Drew Barrymore and Claudia Schiffer as the brand ambassadors of Guess.

Bryan Adams, Canadian rock star and a photographer

also shot the first campaign of Priyanka Chopra for Guess in its signature black and white collection. This will be released in November 2013.

Only other Indian actors who have been signed by the global brands as international brand ambassadors include Shahrukh Khan for Tag Heuer and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan for L'Oreal.

Apollo Hospitals Group Signed Partnership with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts

The Apollo Hospitals Group on 28 October 2013 announced a group-level partnership with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR), an American private equity fund.

According to the partnership KKR, together with its affiliates and select investors will invest 550 crore Rupees in the Apollo Hospitals Group. The investment is in the form of 5 year callable security that consolidates existing debt at PCR and initiates a partnership in the healthcare sector across the two firms.

According to the agreed partnership, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR) would raise 550 crore Rupees long term investment for the Apollo Hospitals Group.

Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Group told that this transaction is the culmination of very involved deliberations with the clear intent of working together to create long-term value for the group, and reflects our philosophy of partnering with players who have a long-term view and deep understanding of the healthcare space.

About Apollo Hospitals Group

- The Apollo Hospitals Group was founded by Dr. Prathap C Reddy in 1983. The first hospital of Apollo Hospitals Group was established at Chennai.
- Apollo Hospitals Group is an integrated private healthcare organization which owns hospitals, diagnostic clinics, dispensing pharmacies and consultancy services.
- The Government of India honoured the pioneering spirit of the Apollo Hospitals Group with the release of a commemorative Postage Stamp on 3 November 2009.
- Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Founder Chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Group was conferred with second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan in March 2010 in Trade and Industry discipline for his contribution to the private health care sector.

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SPORTS



Serena Williams defeated Li Na to win the WTA Championships



Serena Williams, the world number one tennis player on 27 October 2013 won the TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships at Istanbul after defeating Li Na 2-6, 6-3, 6-0. With this win, she managed to retain the WTA Championships title with her. This was her overall seventy eighth title and eleventh title of this year.

Serena Williams with 78 wins out of 82 matches in 2013 will finish as the top ranked player after 2002 and 2009 for the

third time. This is the fourth success of Serena Williams in the WTA Championships. With this win, she became the first player to retain the title after Justine Henin in 2007.

This win also made her the eighth female player, who has won 11 or more titles in a year. Martina Hingis won 12 titles in the year 1997.

About Serena Williams

- Serna Williams is the professional tennis player from America. She is ranked as number 1 player at present in the Women's singles tennis
- For the first time she became the world's number one player in singles in the year 2002 and in the year 2013, she regained the spot of player number 1 for sixth time
- At present she is the oldest number 1 player in WTA's
- She was also Gold-Medalist at the 2000, 2008 and 2012 Olympics. During 2012 Olympics she won a Singles and Doubles Gold medal
- She has won a title in all four Grand Slam tournaments
- Serena was born September 26, 1981 in Saginaw, Michigan

The WTA Championships

- The WTA Championships is a tennis tournament that is played at the end of the season annually. This championship is an event for the top-ranked players on the WTA (Women's Tennis Association) tour
- The WTA Tour Championships is considered to be the fifth most prestigious event of Women's tour as it is placed just after the four grand slams
- The Championships was first played in 1972 and since then has been held at different venues

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STATE

Madras High Court released new norms to designate Senior Advocates

The Madras High Court on 24 October 2013 issued certain norms to designate advocates as senior advocates. As per the issued new norms, it will be mandatory for an advocate to have a professional experience of minimum 15 years at the court, with consideration of the services rendered as judicial officer.

Along with this, the gross income of the advocate from the profession should not be less than seven lakh rupees annually for the past three years. It will be also mandatory that the advocate should be an income tax assesses for 10 years preceding the date of consideration.

The Madras High Court to designate the senior advocate should have also declared the main criteria for the same. The advocate can be designated as the senior advocate following his caliber,

merit, ability and academic distinction of the advocate concerned. The court has also made it necessary for the advocate to practice in the High Courts of Madras, Madurai Bench and courts subordinate to it including Tribunals.

The Court has also described its procedure according to which an advocate can be designated as the senior advocate. The court mentioned that their shall be select committee that comprises of ten honourable judges of High Court, preferably representing different facets of law, which would identify such of those advocates, who by their ability, conduct,

standing at the bar or special knowledge or experience in law and distinction are eligible to be designated as Senior Advocates in terms of Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961. In the procedure the court has also cleared that if any advocate wants to be designated at senior advocate should furnish information in a format that has been prescribed by the court in an annexure on being invited by the high court.

The information presented by the advocate will be further verified by the Select Committee, which will recommend and forward the names to the Chief Justice for approval by the high court. The decision of the Chief Justice shall prevail, if there is no consensus in the Select Committee, while recommending name or names of advocates for designation as Senior Advocates.



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Person in news

Shah Rukh Khan appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for South Korea



Shah Rukh Khan, the Bollywood actor, was on 23 October 2013 appointed as the goodwill ambassador for South Korea. He was appointed as the public diplomat as well as an ambassador of India's soft power.

Shah Rukh Khan will visit South Korea before the maiden visit to The President of South Korea-Park Geun-hye. It is important to note that India and South Korea have signed a civil nuclear

agreement already but it is still not operational.

Shah Rukh Khan was also invited by the Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak on his first visit to India at the formal dinner with the prime minister. In the year 2008, Shah Rukh Khan was given the title of Datuk, which is equivalent to the British Knighthood. This title was given to him by the Governor of Malaysia's southern Malacca state, Mohamad Khalil Yaacob.

International Recognition and Honour for Shah Rukh Khan

- In the year 2007, he was awarded the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of the Arts and Literature) by the French government.
- In 2008, the magazine Newsweek named him as one of the 50 most powerful people of the world. He was ranked at number 41.
- In 2009, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in arts and culture by the Great Britain's University of Bedfordshire. In the same year, he was awarded a Black Belt Honorary in taekwondo by the South Korean government.
- In 2010, he was recognised as the icon of religious unity by experts from all across the world at a conference in Vienna University. The same year, he also became the first Indian actor to be honoured with the opportunity of signing the guest book at Berlin's Town Hall.
- In 2011, he was honoured with L'Etoile d'Or by Mohammed VI of Morocco the King of Morocco during Eleventh International Film Festival of Marrakech. He was the first Indian to be given this honour.
- In the year 2012, he was conferred upon the Morocco's highest honour- Wissame Al Kafa Al Fikria (award of intellectual merit). This was given to him at the 12th International Film Festival of Marrakech by Prince Moulay Rachid.
- Finally, in the year 2013, he was appointed as the goodwill ambassador by the Government of South Korea.

Who is a Goodwill Ambassador?

- Goodwill Ambassador is actually a collective term which is basically a title of honor for an Ambassador of Goodwill.
- It is primarily a job position which is given to an individual from a country.
- The role of Goodwill Ambassadors is to deliver the goodwill or promote the ideals from one place or entity to another.
- The goodwill ambassador may be an individual from one nation who lives or travels to another nation in a diplomatic mission or an international friendship mission.

Person Appointed

Government of India decided to appoint Arup Raha as Chief of the Indian Air Force

The Government of India on 29 October 2013 decided to appoint Air Marshal Arup Raha as the next Chief of the Air Staff.

He will take the charge after the retirement of present Chief of the Air Staff NAK Browne on 31 December 2013. Air Marshal Arup Raha is presently the Vice Chief of Air Staff.

About Air Marshal Arup Raha

- Arup Raha was born on 26 December 1954.
- Arup Raha was commissioned into the IAF on 14 December 1974 in the Fighter Stream of the Flying Branch. During a career spanning over nearly 39 years, he has held various command, staff and instructional appointments.
- He has served as Air Attache at the Embassy of India, Ukraine. Besides various technical courses, Air Marshal Raha has done National Defence College, Staff College, Strategic Nuclear Orientation Course and Junior Commanders' Course.
- He has commanded Central Air Command and Western Air Command. He is one of the Honorary ADCs to the Supreme Commander.

Person Resigned

Shreekant Javalgekar resigned as the Managing Director and CEO of MCX

Shreekant Javalgekar resigned as the Managing Director and CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on 19 October 2013.

Multi Commodity Exchange is the only commodity exchange in India which is listed on a stock exchange.

Multi Commodity Exchange was promoted by Jignesh Shah-led Financial Technologies India Ltd (FTIL), which also promoted the now-defunct National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL).

Jignesh Shah Managing Director and CEO of the Financial Technologies India Ltd also resigned from the board on 9 October 2013.

Joseph Massey Managing Director and CEO of the MCX-SX also resigned from the board on 9 October 2013.

About Shreekant Javalgekar

- He has 30 years of rich experience in diverse fields of derivatives, corporate finance, capital markets, investor relations, accounting, treasury and fund management.
- He was also acted as the Indian advisor to Nexgen Financial Solutions, a financial derivatives house promoted by Singapore Technologies.
- He was worked with corporates such as Larsen and Toubro, Crompton Greaves and Toyo Engineering, mainly in areas of Finance and Treasury management.
- He is the former Director of Finance, Investor Relations and Communications, Financial Technologies (India) Limited.
- He was also worked as the Managing Director of Lazard India.

Person Died

Abraham Nemeth, the Creator of the Nemeth Code Died

Abraham Nemeth, the creator of the Nemeth Code, a form of Braille, passed away on 2 October 2013 at his home in Southfield, Mich. He was 94 years old. He died because of congestive heart failure. The Nemeth Code improved the capabilities of visually-impaired to study complex Mathematics.

Life History of Abraham Nemeth

- Abraham Nemeth was an American mathematician and inventor born on 16 October 1918 at New York City on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.
- He himself was visually impaired from birth.
- He was the Professor of Mathematics at the University of Detroit Mercy in Detroit, Michigan.
- He got his Master's in psychology from Columbia in the year 1942.

- He received his doctorate in mathematics from Wayne State University in Detroit.
- He also started studying computer science in the 1960s and later initiated the University's computer science program.
- He started his experiments with the six-dot cell which is also the foundation of Braille.
- In 1940s, he worked at the shipping department of the American Foundation for the Blind and came up with customized Braille code for math.
- He created symbols for basics of subtraction and addition as well as complexities of differential calculus.
- He also created the Braille slide rule.
- In the year 1950, he presented this to American Joint Uniform Braille Committee.
- By 1950s, his Nemeth Code was adopted by the national groups as well as also included in the textbooks.
- In the year 1955, he was hired by University of Detroit to teach Mathematics to sighted students.
- During his career at the University of Detroit, he learnt to write in the straight lines despite being visually impaired. Additionally, he developed the long memory.
- He retired from his work in the year 1985.
- During his career, he also served as the Chairman of the Michigan Commission for the Blind.
- During his lifetime, he created the Braille versions of Jewish texts which also helped in proofreading the Braille Hebrew Bible in the 1950s.
- He was also the creator of MathSpeak, a method which is used for communication of Mathematics orally.

Person on Visit

Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban visited India

Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary visited India on 16-17 October 2013. During his visit, India and Hungary signed several important agreements to further strengthen cooperation which includes a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of traditional Indian medicine systems.

Earlier this year, India's Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid had visited Hungary where he discussed



regional, bilateral and international issues with his Hungarian counterpart Janos Martonyi.

Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is situated in the Carpathian Basin and is bordered by Slovakia to the north, Ukraine and Romania to the east, Serbia and Croatia to the south, Slovenia to the southwest and Austria to the west.

Places in News

Moscow hosted the 14th India-Russia Annual Summit

Moscow, the Capital of Russia hosted the 14th India-Russia Annual Summit on 21 October 2013. Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin co-chaired the summit.

During the summit both nations discussed priority areas of bilateral cooperation on current international and regional issues. Both nations emphasised their continued commitment to promote and strengthen their special and privileged strategic partnership.

India and Russia signed many bilateral Documents including transfer of Sentenced Persons, in the Field of Energy Efficiency, in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology, in the Fields of Science and in the area of Biotechnology during the summit.

Awards | Honours

Lata Mangeshkar was presented the First National Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar was presented the first national Yash Chopra Memorial Award at a star studded function in Mumbai on 19 October 2013 by the Ministry for Information and Broadcasting. The award is a tribute to the legendary filmmaker Yash Chopra on the eve of his first death anniversary.

The award carries a cheque of 1 million rupees and a citation. Yash Chopra the memorial award will be given annually to people in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the field of art and



culture. The Yash Chopra Memorial Award has been instituted by the TSR Foundation of T. Subbarami Reddy. Yash Chopra was a victim of dengue in Mumbai on 21 October 2013.

Lata Mangeshkar was conferred several national and international honours, including Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, three national film awards and the One Time Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2008 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of India's Independence.

Lata, had started her singing career in 1942.

She has continued singing for over seven decades, which includes over a thousand Hindi movies. Moreover, She has given her voice in 36 Indian and foreign languages.

Exhibition | Fare

International Tourism Mart started in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

The second International Tourism Mart (ITM) started in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on 18 October 2013. It was officially inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh on 19 October 2013. It is the three-day event which will end on 20 October 2013. The International Tourism Mart is organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the North-Eastern States and West Bengal.

About the International Tourism Mart (ITM)

- The International Tourism Mart (ITM) is the second one to be organised in the North Eastern region with the objective of highlighting the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.
- The ITM will bring together the tourism business fraternity and entrepreneurs from the eight North Eastern States of India and West Bengal.
- The event has been planned and scheduled to facilitate interaction between buyers, sellers, media, Government agencies and others.
- International buyers and media delegates from countries around the world and from different regions of the country are participating in the Mart and will engage in business-to-business meetings with sellers from the North East Region and West Bengal.

- The ITM will enable tourism product suppliers to reach out to international and domestic buyers and promote tourism in the region.
- Besides the foreign delegates, domestic buyers from other parts of the country and sellers from the North Eastern States and West Bengal will be participating in the Mart.
- Representatives of State Tourism Departments of these States will also be present to showcase their tourism destinations and to interact with the delegates.
- Apart from the business meetings, the three day event will include presentations, cultural evenings, sight-seeing visits to local attractions in and around Tawang and press meetings with the media.

The North East Region of India comprising the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim and the state of West Bengal are endowed with diverse tourist attractions and products. The varied topography of the region, its flora and fauna, the ethnic communities with their rich heritage of ancient traditions and lifestyles, festivals, arts and crafts, make it an ideal holiday destination.

More than 55 foreign delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Myanmar, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, U.K., USA and Vietnam are participating in the ITM.

Report | Survey

1.3 Million People died of TB Worldwide in 2012: WHO Report

Global Tuberculosis Report 2013 released by World Health Organization revealed that, Tuberculosis (TB) disease killed 1.3 million people worldwide in 2012, while India alone accounted for 26 percent of total TB cases globally. The Global Tuberculosis Report 2013 released on 23 October 2013 at London.

Tuberculosis, or TB, is an infectious bacterial disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which most commonly affects the lungs.

Global Tuberculosis Report 2013 Highlights

- The report found that global TB deaths decreased to 1.3 million in 2012, which is 100000 less than the previous year.
- Approximately 75 per cent of total TB deaths occurred in the African and South-East Asia Regions in 2012.

- India and South Africa accounted for about one-third of global TB deaths.
- The report also found that the number of people ill with TB fell to 8.6 million in 2012. The largest number of incident cases in 2012 were India (2.0 million-2.4 million), China (0.9 million-1.1 million) and South Africa (0.4 million-0.6 million).
- The majority of TB cases worldwide in 2012 were in the South-East Asia (29 per cent), African (27 per cent) and Western Pacific (19 per cent) regions.
- India also accounted for 31 per cent of the estimated 2.9 million missed TB cases people who were either not diagnosed or diagnosed but not reported to National Tuberculosis Programmes (NTPs).
- WHO also expressed concern over multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) which claimed 170000 lives in 2012. The agency estimates that 450000 people fell ill with (MDR-TB) in 2012, with the highest burden in China, India and the Russian Federation.
- The report also revealed that between 1995 and 2012, 56 million people were successfully treated for TB in countries that had adopted WHO's global TB strategy, saving 22 million lives.
- The new data confirm that the world is on track to meet the 2015 UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of reversing TB incidence, along with the target of a 50 per cent reduction in the mortality rate by 2015 (compared to 1990).



What is Tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB primarily affects the lungs, but it can also affect organs in the central nervous system, lymphatic system, and circulatory system among others. The disease was called “consumption” in the past because of the way it would consume from within anyone who became infected.

Tuberculosis is curable and preventable. TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.

TB is generally classified as being either latent or active. Latent TB occurs when the bacteria are present in the body, but this state is inactive and presents no symptoms. Latent TB is also not contagious. Active TB is contagious and is the condition that can make you sick with symptoms.

TB is a major cause of illness and death worldwide, especially in Africa and Asia. Each year the disease kills almost 2 million people. The disease is also prevalent among people with HIV/AIDS.

Key facts about Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis (TB) is second only to HIV/AIDS as the greatest killer worldwide due to a single infectious agent.
- In 2012, 8.6 million people fell ill with TB and 1.3 million died from TB.
- Over 95 percent of TB deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, and it is among the top three causes of death for women aged 15 to 44.
- .In 2012, an estimated 530000 children became ill with TB and 74000 HIV-negative children died of TB.
- TB is a leading killer of people living with HIV causing one quarter of all deaths.
- .Multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) is present in virtually all countries surveyed.
- The estimated number of people falling ill with tuberculosis each year is declining, although very slowly, which means that the world is on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal to reverse the spread of TB by 2015.
- The TB death rate dropped 45 percent between 1990 and 2012.
- An estimated 22 million lives saved through use of DOTS and the Stop TB Strategy recommended by WHO.

Defence | Security

India developed Surface-to-Surface Missile Pragati

India developed a new tactical surface-to-surface missile Pragati, which has a range between 60-170 km. The missile is on offer to India's friendly countries. The Pragati missile is based on the Prahaar missile and it has been developed by the DRDO for the Army. It was put on display at a defence exhibition at the Seoul International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition (ADEX 2013).

Besides 'Pragati' tactical missile, DRDO showcased, 'Akash' missile system and 'Tejas' LCA and its variants. The LCA is a DRDO project which remains to be completed and the aircraft has not been inducted by the IAF so far. ADEX 2013 hosted more than 300 companies from 33 nations. DRDO's participation in ADX 2013 commemorates the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and South Korea.

India successfully Test-Fired Nuclear Capable Prithvi-II Missile from Odisha

India on 7 October 2013 successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile with a strike range of 350 km from Chandipur Integrated test range in Odisha. The surface-to-surface missile was test fired from a mobile launcher. The last user trial of Prithvi-II was successfully carried out from the same base on 12 August 2013.

Prithvi-II Missile Specifications

- Inducted into India's Strategic Forces Command in 2003, the Prithvi II missile is the first missile to be developed by DRDO under India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Program.
- It is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1000 kg of warheads and thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines, uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory.
- The Prithvi-II missile is equipped with advanced high accuracy navigation system and guided by an innovative guidance scheme.
- The improved Circular Error Probability (CEP) achieved by the missile is a testimony to specify the efficacy of this missile system.
- Prithvi uses an advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring capabilities and comes within metres of its target.

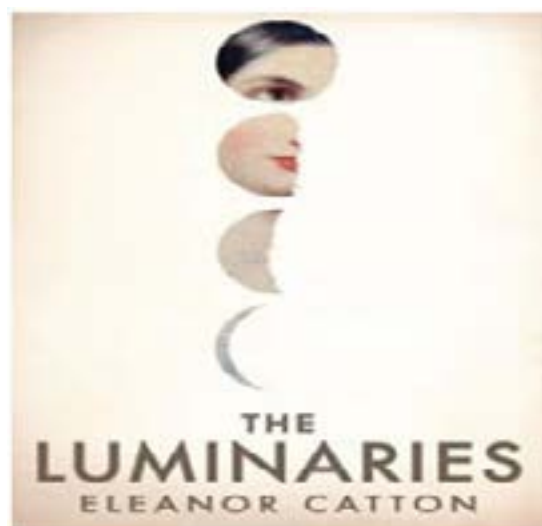
Books & Author

The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton became the Longest Novel to Win the Man Booker Prize

The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton

Eleanor Catton, the New Zealand author, at the age of just 28 years, became the youngest ever winner of the Man Booker Prize for her novel The Luminaries on 15 October 2013 at the London's Guildhall.

Her 832-page novel The Luminaries is the story of 19th-century goldfields, which won 50000 Pound Man Booker Prize 2013 along with a trophy, and Emmanuel Roman. It



is important to note that *The Luminaries* is also the longest work to win this prize in the history of 45 years of Man Booker Prize.

The Luminaries is the longest ever book to win this Prize, beating Hilary Mantel's 672-page *Wolf Hall* which received the Man Booker Prize 2009.

About The Luminaries

- The novel entitled *The Luminaries* is set on the goldfields of New Zealand in 1866. It was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2013 earlier and eventually also won the prize.
- *The Luminaries* is the second novel by Eleanor Catton and was published by Granta in September 2013.
- It is primarily a murder mystery set in New Zealand and has an astrology theme running throughout.
- Robert Macfarlane, Chair of the panel of judges described it as “animated by a weird struggle between compulsion and conversion: within its pages, men and women proceed according to their fixed fates, while gold – as flakes, nuggets, coins and bars – ceaselessly shifts its shapes around them.”
- Eleanor Catton was just 25 years old when she started the book *The Luminaries*.

Day | Week | Year

International Day of the Girl Child observed on 11 October

11 October 2013: International Day of the Girl Child



International Day of the Girl Child observed on 11 October 2013 across the world to recognise the girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

The for the year 2013 is Innovating for Girls' Education

This year's Day focuses on innovating for girls' education.

Smart and creative use of technology, policies, partnerships and, most of all, the engagement of young people, themselves, are important for overcoming barriers to girls' learning and achievement. The International Day of the Girl Child promotes girls' human rights, highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys and addresses the various forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world.

The United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 19, 2011 adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognise girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

UN Data about Girls

- One in three women and girls experience abuse in their lifetime.
- More than half of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16 years of age.
- Globally, more than one in three young women aged 20-24 years are married before

Miscellaneous

Prime Minister of India inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum in Ahmedabad

Prime minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on 29 october 2013 inaugurated the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum

Sarda Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum was established in the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was an Indian freedom fighter.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum has been developed at the cost of 28.54 crore rupees in 36 thousand sq meter area. Eight feet tall statue of Sardar Patel along with Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru is the main attraction of this National museum.

Museum has rich and rare collection of personal belongings of Sardar Patel apart from valuable gifts received by him. Miniature of Sardar Patel's residence, school, jail and other places associated with his life are also created in this museum. Visitors can also see the special 3D film on role of Sardar Patel in India's freedom struggle apart from 14 multimedia interactive displays.

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Sardar Vallabhai Patel was an Indian freedom fighter and one of the great social leaders of India. Vallabhbhai Patel was born on 31 October 1875 in Nadiad, a small village in Gujarat.

He is one of the leaders of the Indian National Congress and one of the founding fathers of the Republic of India. After India's independence, he became the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India. He was the man behind the consolidation of 565 semi-autonomous princely states to form a united India.

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