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Current Affairs

November 2013

Free Edition

ISRO LAUNCHED

MANGALYAAN

COP-19 CONCLUDED IN WARSAW

BHARAT RATNA TO PROF. C N R RAO AND SACHIN TENDULKAR

IRAN CONCLUDED NUCLEAR DEAL WITH P5+1 GROUP

22ND CHOGM SUMMIT CONCLUDED IN COLOMBO

VISHWANATHAN ANAND DETHRONED

VIRAT KOHLI CREATED WORLD RECORD

UNION CABINET APPROVED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN ASSAM

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PREFACE

The Current Affairs eBook November 2013 includes the happenings of November 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 competitive exams including IAS|PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA. 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 include 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

ISRO successfully launched Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan)

Indian Space Research Organisation on 5 November 2013 successfully launched Mars Orbiter spacecraft by using PSLV C-25 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, and Andhra Pradesh.

Mars Orbiter Mission is India's first interplanetary mission to planet Mars with an orbiter craft designed to orbit Mars in an elliptical orbit.

The satellite is scheduled to reach the Mars orbit in September 2014 and is designed to circle the Red Planet in an elliptical orbit of 366 km X 80000 km.

Mission Objectives

One of the main objectives of the first Indian mission to Mars is to develop the technologies required for design, planning, management and operations of an interplanetary mission.

A. Technological Objectives:

- Design and realisation of a Mars orbiter with a capability to survive and perform Earth bound manoeuvres, cruise phase of 300 days; Mars orbit insertion / capture, and on-orbit phase around Mars.

- Deep space communication, navigation, mission planning and management.

- Incorporate autonomous features to handle contingency situations.

B. Scientific Objectives:

- Exploration of Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and Martian atmosphere by indigenous scientific instruments.

Payloads

1. Lyman Alpha Photometer (LAP)

2. Methane Sensor for Mars (MSM)

3. Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA)

4. Mars Colour Camera (MCC)

5. Thermal Infrared Imaging Spectrometre (TIS)

About Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)

Primary objectives of the Mars mission are to demonstrate India's technological capability to send a satellite to orbit around Mars and conduct meaningful experiments such as looking for signs of life, take pictures of the red planet and study Martian environment.

The main aim of MOM to be to seek whether there is methane, considered a precursor chemical for life, on the red planet. Methane sensor, one of the five payloads (scientific instruments) on board the spacecraft, would look to detect the presence of methane.

The spacecraft subsequently is planned to enter into a 372 km by 80000 km elliptical orbit around Mars.

About Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

1. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) caters to the requirements of launching satellites into Sun-Synchronous and Low Earth Orbits.

2. PSLV is a four stage vehicle with alternate Solid and Liquid propulsion stages. The booster stage along with the strap-on motors and the third stage are solid motors while the second and Fourth stages use liquid engines.

1. PSLV has the capability to launch 1750 kg class satellites into 600 km Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO) and 1425 kg satellites into Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub GTO) of 284 km X 21000 km. The vehicle has provision to launch multiple satellites.

2. PSLV has successfully accomplished 2 developmental and 21 operational Missions in a row. It has established itself as a work horse operational launcher of ISRO and has a demonstrated reliability of 0.96.

3. Currently two variants of PSLV are operational, namely PSLV-XL (with six extended strap-on motors attached to the First stage) and PSLV-Core Alone (without strap-on motors). PSLV-C25/ Mars Orbiter Mission employs the PSLV-XL version which has already been used in four earlier Missions.

4. PSLV-C25, the 25th mission of PSLV and 5th in the XL configuration, will carry the Mars Orbiter Satellite (1337 kg) into a 250 km x 23500 km elliptical orbit. The Satellite will be further navigated to a hyperbolic departure trajectory and thereafter it traverses an interplanetary cruise trajectory before reaching the intended orbit around the Mars.

The main features of the Mars mission are as following:

- The main objective of the mission is to develop the technologies required for design, planning, management and operations of an interplanetary mission.

- The main objective of the mission is to explore Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and search for methane in the Martian atmosphere using indigenous scientific instruments.

- The satellite carries instruments such as Lyman Alpha Photometer, a methane sensor, a composition analyser, a camera and an imaging spectrometer for studying the atmosphere, particle environment and surface imaging.

- The satellite is scheduled to reach the Mars orbit in September 2014 and is designed to circle the Red Planet in an elliptical orbit of 366 km X 80000 km.

ISRO's Mars orbiter sent first pictures of earth
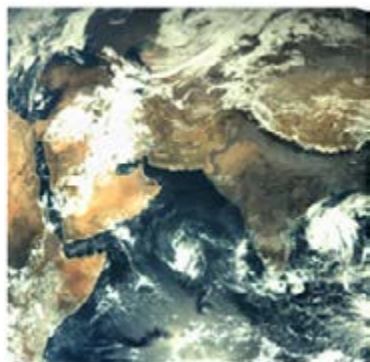
The Mars Orbiter Mission also known as Mangalyaan has beamed back the first set of pictures of Earth on 21 November 2013 that was captured by Mars Color Camera fitted on Mars Orbiter spacecraft. The picture of earth has captured the Indian subcontinent and parts of Africa.

The camera has also captured the cyclonic storm Helen that is heading towards Andhra Pradesh coast. The Picture was taken on 19 November 2013 from an altitude of 67975 km with a resolution

of 3.53 km. This is the first time after launch that an instrument on board has been checked for its operation.

Earlier, ISRO had performed all five orbit raising manoeuvres planned on the Mars Orbiter and raised the apogee of the spacecraft to over 1.92 lakh km.

ISRO Performed last orbit Raising Manoeuvre on its Mars Mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 16 November 2013 performed the last of the five orbit-raising manoeuvre on its Mars Orbiter, raising the apogee (farthest point from Earth) of the spacecraft to over 1.92 lakh km.

In the series of five orbit raising manoeuvre with a supplementary operation after the fourth one, the space agency had raised the apogee of the spacecraft to over 1.92 lakh km.
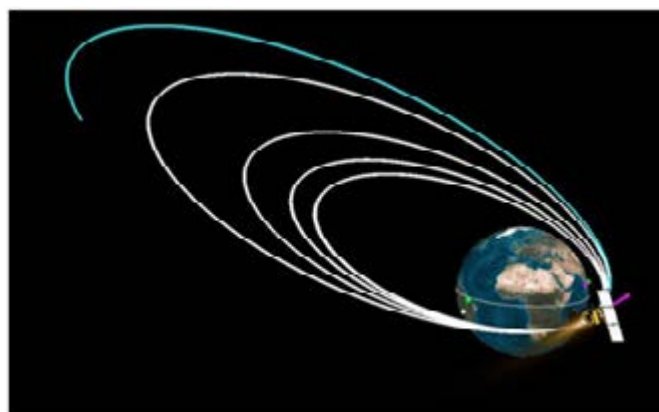
After the successful completion of these operations, the Mars Orbiter mission is expected to take on the crucial event of the trans-Mars injection around 12.42am on 1st December 2013. It will reach the orbit of the red planet by 24th September, 2014 after taking on a voyage of over 10 months.

ISRO's PSLV C 25 on 5 November 2013 successfully injected the 1350-kg 'Mangalyaan' Orbiter (Mars craft) into the orbit around the earth, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pra desh.

NASA Launched MAVEN Mission to study Mars Atmosphere

The US space agency NASA on 18 November 2013 launched its MAVEN orbiter Mission to Mars planet. The orbiter mission was launched on an Atlas V rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 18:28 GMT.

The probe will have a 10-month cruise to the Red Planet- Mars. MAVEN is going to study Mars' atmosphere. During the course of the long cruise, Maven will perform four trajectory corrections, with the first scheduled to occur on 3rd December 2013.

About MAVEN Mission

The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile EvolutioN (MAVEN) mission is part of NASA's Mars Scout program. The mission will explore the Red Planet's upper atmosphere, ionosphere and interactions with the sun and solar wind.

The trip to Mars takes 10 months, and MAVEN will go into orbit around Mars in September 2014.

MAVEN will be the NASA's first spacecraft mission dedicated to exploring the upper atmosphere of Mars.

Scientists will use MAVEN data to determine the role that loss of volatile from the Mars atmosphere to space has played through time, giving insight into the history of Mars' atmosphere and climate, liquid water, and planetary habitability. The entire MAVEN mission cost 671 million US Dollars.

MOM & Maven will complement each other in Mars findings

ISRO and NASA will coordinate functions of their Mars Orbiters-Mangalyaan and MAVEN once both get into orbit of the Mars planet in September 2014. This was announced by ISRO scientists.

ISRO scientists also stated that the findings of ISRO' Mars Orbiter mission and NASA's Maven would complement each other.

NASA's Mars-bound spacecraft, the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile EvolutionN (MAVEN) was launched aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V 401 rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida, US on 18 November 2013.

MAVEN is the second mission for NASAs Mars Scout Program and is likely to obtain critical measurements of the Martian upper atmosphere to help understand the climate change over the red planet-Mar's history.

MAVEN carries eight instruments Neutral Gas and Ion Mass Spectrometer, Imaging Ultraviolet Spectrograph, Magnetometer, Solar Wind Electron Analyzer, SupraThermal And Thermal Ion Composition, Langmuir Probe and Waves antenna, Solar Energetic Particles and Solar Wind Ion Analyzer.

After having successfully completed five orbit raising manoeuvres on its Mars Orbiter, ISRO is expected to perform the crucial event of trans Martian injection of the spacecraft in the early hours of 1 December 2013

The spacecraft will reach the red planet's orbit by 24 September 2014 after an over 10 month voyage.

ISRO's PSLV-C25 successfully injected 1350-kg Mangalyaan Orbiter (Mars craft) into orbit around Earth some 44 minutes after launch at 2.38 PM from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on 5 November 2013 marking the successful completion of the first stage of the 450 crore Rupees mission.

Prof. CNR Rao and Sachin Tendulkar Selected for Bharat Ratna Award

The Government of India on 16 November 2013 decided to confer, the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award on eminent scientist Prof CNR Rao and cricket player Sachin Tendulkar.

Sachin Tendulkar is the first sports person to win the Bharat Ratna Award.

The Bharat Ratna award so far, given only to eminent personalities from the field of dance, music, art, literature and the social sector. In the year 2011, the Government of India modified the eligibility criteria for Bharat Ratna Award - to enable eminent Sports-persons to receive the Nation's highest civilian award.

About Prof. CNR Rao

Prof. Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao (CNR Rao) was born on 30 June 1934, Bangalore, India. He is an eminent scientist and a well recognized international authority on solid state and materials chemistry.

He has published over 1400 research papers and 45 books. Prof. CNR Rao's contributions have been recognized by most major scientific academies around the world through conferment of memberships and fellowships. He has been honoured with several national and international awards, including Padma Vibhushan in 1985.

Prof. CNR Rao is Honorary President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India.

Prof, CNR Rao is presently serving as the head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India.The Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister is the uppermost body that deliberates on various policy issues, pertaining to Science & Technology and also on the role it can play in the upliftment of the Indian economy.

About Sachin Tendulkar

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar is an Indian Batsman who is considered one of the greatest batsmen of the cricket world.

Sachin Tendulkar who belongs to Mumbai Maharashtra made his appearance in six world cups for India and was the member of the 2011 World Cup winning squad of the nation.

Sachin Tendulkar made his Test debut against arch-rival Pakistan at Karachi in 1989. He made his ODI debut against Pakistan in 1989 in Gujranwala. He currently holds the record for most hundreds in both Tests and One Day Internationals.

In 198 Test matches, Sachin Tendulkar scored over Fifteen Thousand Eight hundred runs at an average of 53.86. He slammed 51 Test centuries and an unbeaten 248 against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 2004 was his best ever.

He made 49 hundreds in the one-day format, including a double hundred which is the first in this form of cricket and 96 half centuries.

In 2012, Sachin Tendulkar became the first player to score 100 international centuries.

Sachin Tendulkar announced his retirement from Test cricket after playing his landmark 200th Test match against the West Indies on 15 November 2013. Earlier, Sachin Tendulkar announced retirement form one day cricket on 23 December 2012 and from Twenty20 cricket format on 26 May 2013.

Sachin Tendulkar appointed as UNICEF's first brand ambassador for South Asia

Indian Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar on 28 November 2013 appointed as UNICEF's first brand ambassador for South Asia.

Sachin Tendulkar will work for promoting hygiene and sanitation in the South Asian region for two years. Sachin Tendulkar was already involving with the UNICEF campaigns for polio and global hand washing.

According to UNICEF, almost half the population in India defecates in the open and 681 million people practice open defecation in South Asia.

 Children under five years of age are the most vulnerable to the effects of poor sanitation and annually more than half a million children in South Asia die of diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, poor hygiene and lack of sanitation.

After sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia is the region with the highest number of under-five deaths, accounting for 2.3 million in 2011.

Around 39 percent of children under five are stunted in this region which is also the worst in terms of lack of toilets; over 680 million people do not use toilets.

What is UNICEF?

The United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF (Est. 1946) - works for children's rights, their survival, development and protection, guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

UNICEF insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress. It is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.

UNICEF's work is carried out in more than 190 countries through country programmes and National Committees. Some 88 per cent of the organisation's approximately 7200 posts are located in the field. There are eight regional offices and 126 country offices worldwide, as well as a research centre in Florence, a supply operation in Copenhagen and offices in Tokyo and Brussels. UNICEF headquarters are in New York.

BCCI launched 'Thank You Sachin' campaign on Twitter

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 6 November 2013 launched Thank you Sachin campaign on social networking site Twitter. This Campaign will allow fans worldwide to connect and say thank you to Sachin Tendulkar on his retirement.

The campaign offers fans across India and the world a rare opportunity to receive a personalised picture of Sachin Tendulakar.The Board of Control for Cricket in India launched this campaign in collaboration with Twitter and Digigraph.

During the Test series between India and the West Indies(6 to 18 November 2013), all Twitter users who send an appreciative message for Sachin to the BCCI handle with the ThankYouSachin will instantaneously receive a Tweet from BCCI with a momentous picture of Sachin, including a personalised message and signature in his handwriting.

Sachin Tendulkar on 10 October 2013 announced his decision to retire from Test cricket after playing his landmark 200th Test match against the West Indies in November 2013.

Mumbai Cricket Association Felicitated Sachin Tendulkar; Renamed Kandivili Ground

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on 11 November 2013 held a grand felicitation ceremony to honour Sachin Tendulkar, also known as Little Master. Sachin Tendulkar is scheduled to play his last test match soon.

Sachin Tendulkar, in the meanwhile, explained that MCA was one of the best platforms for the next generation for learning cricket with right coaching and facilities. In the meanwhile, the MCA also formally renamed the Kandivili ground as the Sachin Tendulkar Gymkhana Club.

Legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar on 10 October 2013 announced his decision to retire from Test cricket after playing his landmark 200th Test match against the West Indies in November 2013. Previously, Sachin Tendulkar announced retirement form one day cricket on 23 December 2012 and from Twenty20 cricket format on 26 May 2013.

Sachin Tendulkar's Career Statistics:-

Tests		One –Day Internationals		Twenty 20	
Matches	200	Marches	463	Matches	96
innings	329	Innings	452	Innings	96
Not out	33	Not out	41	Runs	2,797
Runs	15,921	Runs	18,426	Highest	100*
Average	53.78	Highest	200*	Average	32.90
Highest	248*	Average	44.83	Strike rate	121.08
100s	51	Strike rate	86.23	100s	1
50s	68	100s	49	50s	16
Sixes	69	50s	96	Fours	359
Catches	115	Sixes	195	Sixes	38
wickets	46	Catches	140	Catches	28
Best figures	3/14	wickets	154	wickets	2
Economy	3.52	Best figures	5/32	Best figures	1/12
		Economy	5.10	Economy	7.93

About Bharat Ratna award

- Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian Award of the country was instituted in the year 1954.

- It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.

- The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President.

- The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

- The last recipient of Bharat Ratna award is Pandit Bhimsen Joshi in 2009.

- The first three Indians, who received the Bharat Ratna were Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari and Sarvapali Radhakrishnan in 1954.

- There is no written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only.

- The award has been conferred to a naturalised Indian citizen Mother Teresa (1980) and to two non-Indians Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Nelson Mandela (1990).

- The award does not carry any monetary grant. In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.

Bharat Ratna Awardees List:-

LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF BHARAT RATNA		
S. No.	NAME	AWARDED IN
1	Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878-1972)	1954
2	Dr. Sarvapali Radhakrishnan (1888-1975)	1954
3	Dr. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (1888-1970)	1954
4	Dr. Bhagwan Das (1869-1958)	1955
5	Dr. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861-1962)	1955
6	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 -1964)	1955
7	Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant (1887-1961)	1957

8	Dr. Dhondo Keshave Karve (1858-1962)	1958
9	Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (1882-1962)	1961
10	Shri Purushottam Das Tandon (1882-1962)	1961
11	Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1884-1963)	1962
12	Dr. Zakir Hussain (1897-1969)	1963
13	Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane (1880-1972)	1963
14	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Posthumous) (1904-1966)	1966
15	Smt. Indira Gandhi (1917-1984)	1971
16	Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri (1894-1980)	1975
17	Shri Kumaraswami Kamraj (Posthumous) (1903-1975)	1976
18	Mother Mary Taresa Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa) (1910-1997)	1980
19	Shri Acharya Vinobha Bhave (Posthumous) (1895-1982)	1983
20	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1890-1988)	1987
21	Shri Marudu Gopalan Ramachandran (Posthumous) (1917-1987)	1988
22	Dr. Bhim Rao Ramji Ambedkar (Posthumous) (1891-1956)	1990
23	Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (b-1918)	1990
24	Shri Rajiv Gandhi (Posthumous) (1944-1991)	1991
25	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Posthumous) (1875-1950)	1991
26	Shri Morarji Ranchhodji Desai (1896-1995)	1991
27	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Posthumous) (1888-1958)	1992
28	Shri Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata (1904-1993)	1992
29	Shri Satyajit Ray (1922-1992)	1992
30	Shri Gulzarilal Nanda (1898-1998)	1997
31	Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali (Posthumous) (1909-1996)	1997
32	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (b-1931)	1997
33	Smt. Madurai Sanmukhavadivu Subbulakshmi (1916-2005)	1998
34	Shri Chidambaram Subramniam (1910-2000)	1998
35	Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan (Posthumous) (1902-1979)	1999
36	Professor Amartya Sen (b-1933)	1999

37	Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi (Posthumous) (1890-1950)	1999
38	Pandit Ravi Shankar (b-1920)	1999
39	Sushri Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar (b-1929)	2001
40	Ustad Bismillah Khan (1916-2006)	2001
41	Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi (1922-2011)	2009
42	Prof. CNR Rao (b-1934)	2013
43	Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar (b-1973)	2013

22nd CHOGM Summit ended with adoption of three declarations

The 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 15-17 November 2013 on the theme Growth with Equity: Inclusive Development ended. The event concluded with the adoption of the independent declarations - on Youth, International Trade and Inclusive Development and the release of Summit Communiqué.

Before the end of the CHOGM, the leaders continued the discussions at the retreat, which was followed by an executive session, where the decisions taken at the meetings were formalized.

CHOGM 2013 concluded with the adoption of the independent declarations - on Youth, International Trade and Inclusive Development and the release of Summit Communiqué.

Year	Date	Country	Town	Chairperson
1971	14–22 January	Singapore	Singapore	Lee Kuan-Yew
1973	2–10 August	Canada	Ottawa	Pierre Trudeau
1975	29 April – 6 May	Jamaica	Kingston	Michael Manley
1977	8–15 June	United Kingdom	London	James Callaghan
1979	1–7 August	Zambia	Lusaka	Kenneth Kaunda
1981	30 September – 7 October	Australia	Melbourne	Malcolm Fraser
1983	23–29 November	India	Goa	Indira Gandhi
1985	16–22 October	Bahamas	Nassau	Lynden Pindling
1986	3–5 August	United Kingdom	London	Margaret Thatcher
1987	13–17 October	Canada	Vancouver	Brian Mulroney
1989	18–24 October	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Mahathir bin Mohamad
1991	16–21 October	Zimbabwe	Harare	Robert Mugabe
1993	21–25 October	Cyprus	Limassol	George Vasiliou
1995	10–13 November	New Zealand	Auckland	Jim Bolger
1997	24–27 October	United Kingdom	Edinburgh	Tony Blair
1999	12–14 November	South Africa	Durban	Thabo Mbeki
2002	2–5 March	Australia	Coolum	John Howard
2003	5–8 December	Nigeria	Abuja	Olusegun Obasanjo
2005	25–27 November	Malta	Valletta	Lawrence Gonzi
2007	23–25 November	Uganda	Kampala	Yoweri Museveni
2009	27–29 November	Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	Patrick Manning
2011	28–30 October	Australia	Perth	Julia Gillard
2013	15–17 November	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Mahinda Rajapaksa
2015	To be announced.	Malta	TBA	TBA
2017	To be announced.	Vanuatu	TBA	TBA
2019	To be announced.	Malaysia	TBA	TBA

Three Declaration

1. Heads of Government adopted the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development.

2. Heads of Government adopted the Kotte Statement on International Trade and Investment.

3. Heads of Government adopted the Magampura Declaration of Commitment to Young People.

The participant leaders of the CHOGM unanimously agreed on the proposal to host the next CHOGM in 2015 in Malta. Before this, Malta hosted a Commonwealth Summit in 2005. Whereas, Mauritius had withdrawn its earlier offer to host the event.

The Indian delegation to CHOGM to Sri Lanka was led by the Foreign Minister of India, Salman Khurshid after Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India decided to skip the event. Apart from this, 27 heads of Government had attended the event from the 50 member Countries. The highlight of the Opening Ceremony was an addressed by his royal highness, the Prince of Wales, who represented the Head of the Commonwealth.

Malta to Host Next Commonwealth Summit in 2015

Malta, a Southern European country was on 17 November 2013 unanimously chosen as the host of the next Commonwealth summit in 2015.

The decision was made at the retreat session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Colombo, Sri Lanka after Mauritius withdrew as host of the 2015 Commonwealth summit as a result of its prime minister's boycott of the Colombo summit over Sri Lanka's human rights concerns.

This is second time for Malta to host the Commonwealth summit. Before this, Malta hosted a Commonwealth Summit in 2005.

About CHOGM 2013

The 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 15-17 November 2013 on the theme Growth with Equity: Inclusive Development. The event concluded with the adoption of the independent declarations - on Youth, International Trade and Inclusive Development and the release of Summit Communiqué.

The Commonwealth Business Forum Inaugurated by the President of Sri Lanka

The Commonwealth Business Forum was inaugurated by the President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa in Colombo on 12 November 2013. The Commonwealth Business Forum is a side event being hosted alongside Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

In the Commonwealth Business Forum, an 11-member high-level Business Mission from India will take part. The delegation is led by S. Gopalakrishnan, President of CII and also includes Rahul Bajaj, who presided over the first session of the forum on The Commonwealth, Indian Ocean and SAARC: Building New Partnerships.

About the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF)

- The Commonwealth Business Forum is the two-day forum that started on 12 November 2013 and will conclude on 14 November 2013.

- It is organised in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

- The forum is the business event in Commonwealth, which will bring together Heads of Government, Ministers, and top business leaders from around the world.

- The CBF is co-organised by the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) and the Government of Sri Lanka.

National Tiger Conservation Authority approved fifth tiger reserve in Maharashtra

The National Tiger Conservation Authority on 28 November 2013 approved the fifth tiger reserve of Maharashtra in Nagzira. The Nagzira tiger reserve will be developed between Bhandara and Gondia districts, which will be the home of surplus tigers of the state.

The tigers, who wander outside the Tadoba reserve territory, will go in Nagzira-Navegaon tiger reserve. The Nagzira sanctuary, which was of 150 square kilometer and the Navegaon National Park, was of 130 square kilometer, which has been increased to 700 square kilometer to form a new tiger reserve.

The four tiger reserves in Maharashtra are Melghat, Tadoba, Pench and Sahyadri. The state Government has issued a notification for the tiger reserve in Maharashtra.

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INTERNATIONAL

NATO launched Cyber Defence Exercise ''Cyber Coalition 2013''

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on 26 November 2013 launched a three-day cyber defence exercise "Cyber Coalition 2013"in Estonia.

The defense exercises are based at the NATO's cyber defense centers in Estonia, Russia and will be held from 26 to 28 November 2013.

The Cyber Defence Exercise is aimed at training technical personnel and their leadership as well as testing the capability of NATO and its partners to coordinate their efforts in foiling multiple simulated cyber attacks.

The exercises involve participants from more than 30 countries across Europe, including five non-NATO nations: Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, and Switzerland. New Zealand and the European Union have observer status.

According to NATO, around 300 cyber defense experts will take part in the operation from their home countries and partner nations while an additional 80 experts will work from the military training facility in the Estonian city of Tartu.

About NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, is an intergovernmental military alliance of 28 European and North American countries, ranging from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Canada to Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey. It was formed in 1949 as deterrence against the Soviet bloc armed forces in Eastern Europe.

UNESCO suspended the Voting Rights of US and Israel

UNESCO on 8 November 2013 suspended the voting rights of the United States (US) and Israel. The suspension happened as the two countries stopped paying the dues to the United Nations (UN's) cultural arm from two years in the protest over the grant of full membership to the Palestinians.

The funding to UNESCO started in October 2011 because of the laws of US, which prohibits it to pay the dues to any UN agencies giving recognition of the Palestinians demand for their own state. The fund from Israel was pulled out because it objected the one-sided attempts of Palestinians to be recognized of its statehood.

The voting rights of the two nations were suspended as they both failed to provide a justification for non-payments of the dues within deadline.

UNESCO

In 1945, UNESCO was created in order to respond to the firm belief of nations, forged by two world wars in less than a generation that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace. Peace must be established on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity.

UNESCO strives to build networks among nations that enable this kind of solidarity, by:

- Mobilizing for education: so that every child, boy or girl, has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development.

- Building intercultural understanding: through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity. UNESCO created the idea of World Heritage to protect sites of outstanding universal value.

- Pursuing scientific cooperation: such as early warning systems for tsunamis or trans-boundary water management agreements, to strengthen ties between nations and societies.

- Protecting freedom of expression: an essential condition for democracy, development and human dignity

Emomali Rahmon Reelected as the President of Tajikistan

Central Election Commission (CEC) of Tajikistan on 6 November 2013 declared that Emomali Rahmon was re-elected as the President of Tajikistan.

Emomali Rahmon belongs to People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan (PDPT).

The President of Tajikistan is elected by popular vote. The term of the office is 7 years.

The term of the President of Tajikistan is limited to not more than two terms. However, a constitutional amendment passed in 2003 allows President Imomali Rakhmon to run for a third term which, if he prevails, would keep him in office until 2020.

About Emomali Rahmon

- Emomali Rahmon was born as Emomali Sharipovich Rahmanov to a peasant family in Kulob, Kulob Oblast (present-day Khatlon province) in Tajikistan.

- He was served in the Soviet Armed Forces from 1971-74.

- He has served as Tajikistan's head of state since 1992 and as President since 1994.

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NATIONAL

VVPATS used on large-scale for 1st time in Mizoram Polls

Election Commission used Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) on a large-scale for the first time in the country in the Mizoram Assembly polls on 25 November 2013.

The VVPAT is a machine attached to EVMS which allows voters to verify that their vote has been cast in the way they wished. As soon as the voter casts his vote, the VVPAT will show a small slip in a glass

covered screen with the symbol and the candidate he has voted for in a form of a small ballot paper, which after 3 to 4 seconds would automatically fall into an attached closed box.

The VVPATs are being used in only ten assembly constituencies of Aizwal District of the total 40 assembly segments in Mizoram.The VVPAT system was first experimented in the Noksen Assembly bypoll in Nagaland on 4 September 2013 and Mizoram would be the first state where it would be introduced on a large scale.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail System (VVPAT)

1. The VVPAT system is a new initiative of the Election Commission to ensure free and fair elections.

2. The VVPT will enable electors to see a printout of their ballot -displaying the name, election symbol and serial number of the chosen candidate. However the voter cannot take the printout home.

3. In case there is a dispute about the voting and a petition is filed, the votes can be tallied electronically and physically with the ballot slips that fall into the compartment.

4. The cost of each VVPAT, manufactured by Bharat Electronic Ltd and Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL) is estimated at about 12000 rupees.

5. At present, EVMs are used for voting and counting is based on the results in the machines. In comparison the VVPAT will print a voter's selection, thus also allowing for physically verification of the vote.

Election Commission of India with an objective of free and fair polls, the VVPAT System is introduced. This new voting system is a step towards winning the public trust in election process.

VVPAT system will also help to resolve the election disputes by providing physical verification of the votes in EVMs. For introducing VVPAT systems throughout the country would cost around 2000 to 3000 crore rupees.

Gurgaon's Rapid Metro-India's First Metro Service on Public Private Model

Rapid Metro-India's First Private Metro service started operation from Gurgaon, Haryana on 14 November 2013. Rapid Metro is India's first fully privately financed Metro system connecting NH-8 to Delhi Metro via Cyber City, Gurgaon.

Rapid Metro, with an elevated route and six stations

with a frequency of every four minutes, can carry 800 passengers in each trip. The 5.1 km long route covers six stations-Sikanderpur, Phase-2, Belvedere Towers, Cyber City, Moulsari Avenue and Phase 3. The Rapid Metro is using a common ticketing system with Delhi Metro.

The launch of Rapid Metro Gurgaon will boost connectivity within Cyber City, which is the corporate and the retail hub of Gurgaon -nearly one lakh people work or visit the hub each day.

About Rapid Metro Rail System

Rapid Metro is a metro rail system in the Indian city of Gurgaon, Haryana, linked with the Delhi Metro system's Yellow Line. Built and operated by Rapid MetroRail Gurgaon Limited (RMGL), the system is India's first fully privately financed metro.

It was built at a cost of 1100 crore rupees and construction was completed in 30 months. Originally planned to open in 2012, the first phase of the system opened on 14 November 2013.

The Rapid Metro is the country's first metro service to built on the public-private partnership model. The Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) provided the land and the infrastructure was built by Rapid Metro, a partnership between IL&FS and construction major DLF. The project has been leased to Rapid Metro for 99 years.

India declared itself free from Bird Flu

India on 12 November 2013 declared itself free from Notifiable Avian Influenza (H5N1), commonly called bird flu and notified the same to World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

India notified the outbreak of the Avian Influenza (H5N1) at poultry production unit, College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Anjora, Durg and Government Poultry Farm, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh on 05th August, 2013.

The control measures adopted in the outbreak was taken in form of stamping of the entire poultry population and it included the destruction of eggs, litters, feed and other infected materials within the radius of one kilometer around the location of the outbreak, restriction of the poultry movement, disinfection and cleaning up of the infected premises and subsequently issuing of the Post Operation Surveillance Plan (POSP). On 12 August 2013 the POSP was issued. Although India is free from the bird flu, but regular surveillance will be continued across the country especially in the vulnerable areas that is bordered by the infected countries and in areas which are visited by migratory birds.

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ECONOMY

National Innovation Council got approval of 75 percent Innovation Fund Corpus

The National Innovation Council (NIC) on 20 November 2013 got approval of 75 percent of the 500 crore rupees initial corpus of the upcoming India Innovation Fund (IIIF), which is an Indian model of innovation.

IIIF will have contributions from Ministry of Finance, public sector banks (PSBs) and multilateral agencies and is being mobilized by NIC. The main objective of IIIF is to finance Enterprises focusing on the bottom of the pyramid that is, firms delivering goods and services to the poorest of the country. Multilateral agency, PSBs and financial institutions already gave commitment of 375 crore rupees and additional commitments to council, which mentioned in NIC annual "Report of the

People 2013". The launch date not yet decided though it is in its final stage of launching the fund. Minimum 50 percent of advances from the fund would be to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the first close. The fund will not invest more than 15 percent of the corpus in any single company to ensure spread of investment. The fund intends to partner with public R&D programmes and laboratories to support the commercialization and deployment of socially relevant technologies and solutions.

The fund would be registered with Securities and Exchange of India (SEBI). A pipeline of the potential investment prospects has been identified. A specialised core team is also expected to be in place before the first closure. It is expected that the fund would be operational by the beginning of 2014. The fund may increase eventual size of 5000 crore rupees in the long term.

About National Innovation Council (NIC)

The National Innovation Council (NIC) was set up by the Prime Minister under chairmanship of Sam Pitroda, an adviser to PM on public information infrastructure and innovations (PIII).

NInC will provide mutually reinforcing policies, recommendations and methodologies to implement and boost innovation performance in the country.

The task of the National Innovation Council include formulating Roadmap for innovation for 2010-2020 and creating framework for evolving an Indian model of innovation, with focus on inclusive growth, encouraging central and state governments , universities and R&D institutions to innovate and to encourage the multi-displinary and globally competitive approaches for innovations and others.

The Council will also promote the setting up of State and Sector Innovation Councils to help implement strategies for innovation in Stated and Specified sectors.

Industrial production grew by 2 percent in September 2013

The Industrial Production output grew by 2 percent in September 2013 mainly on account of better performance by power and mining sectors. The growth in the output of the industrial production is showing the signs of recovery. The factory output was measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had contracted by 0.7 per cent in September 2012.

Meanwhile, the IIP for August 2013 has revised to 0.43 percent from the provisional estimate of 0.6 percent.

The industrial output for April-September 2013 was 0.4 percent, when compared to 0.1 percent in the same period in 2012-13 as per the data released by the Government. Whereas, the power generation displayed the growth of 12.9 percent in September 2013 and the expansion in power generation was 5.9 percent in April to September 2013, when compared to 4.6 percent in the same

time in 2012-13.

The mining sector grew by 3.3 percent in September 2013, whereas in September 2012 it was 2.2 percent. The output during April to September shrank by 2.5 percent in 2013 against the contraction of 1.1 percent in 2012. The mining sector is about 14 percent in the IIP.

The manufacturing sector grew by 0.6 percent in September 2013, which was against the decline of 1.6 percent in September 2012. During the time period of April to September 2013 the output of the sector grew by 0.1 percent against the decline of 0.3 percent in the same time period of 2012. The manufacturing sector constitutes over 75 percent of the index.

FDI inflows into the Service Sector declined by 47.5 Percent

As per the data released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on 4 November 2013, Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the service sector declined by 47.5 percent to 1.19 billion US dollars during the April-August 2013 period. The service sector, which includes banking, insurance, outsourcing, R&D, courier and technology testing, had received FDI (foreign direct investment) worth 2.28 billion US dollars in April-August 2012 period.

The services sector contributes over 60 percent to India's GDP. In 2012-13, foreign investment in the segment declined to 4.83 billion US dollars from 5.21 billion US dollars in 2011-12.The other sectors where foreign inflows declined during the first five months of this fiscal as compared to the previous year include construction development (township and housing), power and metallurgical industries. On the whole, during the April-August 2013 period, FDI has increased by only 4 per cent to 8.46 billion US dollars, from 8.16 billion US dollars in the same period last fiscal.

Foreign investments are considered crucial for India, which needs around 1 trillion US dollars in the next five years to overhaul its infrastructure sector such as ports, airports and highways to boost growth.

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ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Four New Catfish species discovered in Kerala State

Four new species of freshwater catfish recently discovered in Idukki and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala.

All the four species, namely Horabagrus melanosoma, Mystus heoki, Mystus indicus and Mystus menoni were discovered from the Manimala river by Mathews Plamoottil, Assistant Professor in Zoology, Government College, Chavara, and Nelson P. Abraham, Associate Professor, St. Thomas College, Kozhenchery.
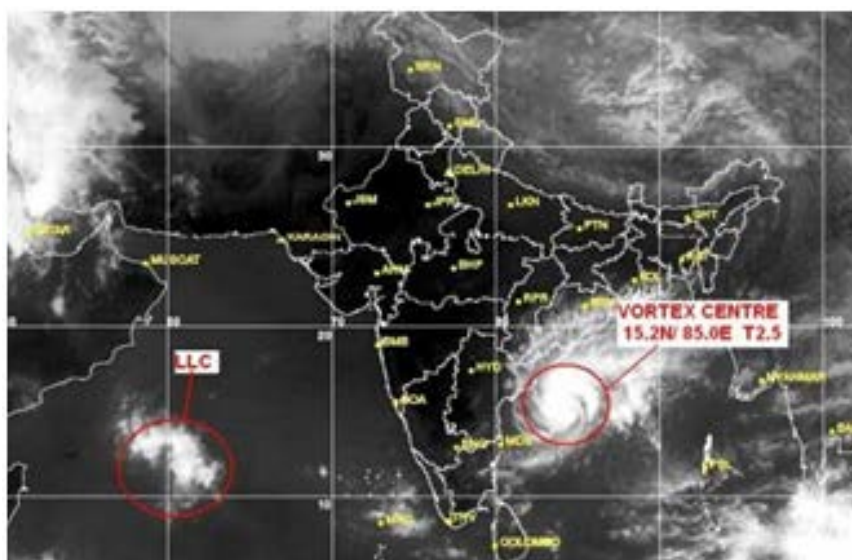
The researchers have published their findings in the latest issue of two prominent scientific journals, Biosystematica and the International Journal of Pure and Applied Zoology. The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) has also approved the names given by the researchers to the new species.

Cyclone Helen Struck Andhra Pradesh Coast

The Cyclonic storm Helen on 22 November 2013 struck Andhra Pradesh coast near Machilipatnam, triggering heavy rains and strong gales, killing eleven people and causing massive damage to the crops in the coastal region. Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari and Guntur districts and part of Krishna district were the worst affected due to the cyclone. The cyclone also brought heavy to very heavy rains in the Krishna district and its nearby districts.

Andhra Pradesh Government has made arrangements of relief camps wherever required and to evacuate people to safety.The sea conditions were rough and the sea water at some places flushed out for a few metres over land.

Name	Date		Place
	Arrival	**Dissipation**	
Thane	25 December 2011	31 December 2011	Southern India, Srilanka
Sandy	22 October 2012	31 October 2012	Greater Antilles, Bahamas, Eastern United States, Bermuda, Canada
Nilam	31 October 2012	1 November 2012	Srilanka, South India (Nagapattinam, Cuddalore)
Bopha	25 November 2012	9 December 2012	Micronesia, Mindanao island of Philippines, Palau

Phailin	4 October 2013	14 October 2013	Thailand, Myanmar, Indian States like Andhra Pradesh, Odissa
Wipha	16 October 2013	17 October 2013	Coastal areas of Izu Oshima near Tokyo
Haiyan	3 November 2013	11 November 2013	Micronesia, Philippines, South China, Vietnam
Helen	19 November 2013	23 November 2013	India (Machilipattnam, Srikakulam, West Godavari Districts)

The high-speed wind has damaged coconut, banana and paddy crops, and dealt another blow to farmers who are still recovering from the heavy damage caused by last month's cyclone Phailin and accompanying heavy rain.

The practice of naming storms (tropical cyclones) began years ago in order to help in the quick identification of storms in warning messages because names are presumed to be far easier to remember than numbers and technical terms. Many agree that appending names to storms makes it easier for the media to report on tropical cyclones, heightens interest in warnings and increases community preparedness.

Experience shows that the use of short, distinctive given names in written as well as spoken communications is quicker and less subject to error than the older more cumbersome latitude-longitude identification methods. These advantages are especially important in exchanging detailed storm information between hundreds of widely scattered stations, coastal bases, and ships at sea.

In the beginning, storms were named arbitrarily. An Atlantic storm that ripped off the mast of a boat named Antje became known as Antje's hurricane. Then the mid-1900's saw the start of the practice of using feminine names for storms.

In the pursuit of a more organized and efficient naming system, meteorologists later decided to identify storms using names from a list arranged alpabetically. Thus, a storm with a name which begins with A, like Anne, would be the first storm to occur in the year. Before the end of the 1900's, forecasters started using male names for those forming in the Southern Hemisphere.

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization. The original name lists featured only women's names. In 1979, men's names were introduced and they alternate with the women's names. Six lists are used in rotation. Thus, the 2008 list will be used again in 2014.

The only time that there is a change in the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity. If that occurs, then at an annual meeting by the WMO Tropical Cyclone Committees (called primarily to discuss many

other issues) the offending name is stricken from the list and another name is selected to replace it. Infamous storm names such as Katrina (USA, 2005), Mitch (Honduras, 1998) and Tracy (Darwin, 1974) are examples for this.

## Procedure of Naming Tropical Cyclones

There is a strict procedure to determine a list of tropical cyclone names in an ocean basin(s) by the Tropical Cyclone Regional Body responsible for that basin(s) at its annual/biennial meeting. There are five tropical cyclone regional bodies, i.e. ESCAP/ WMO Typhoon Committee, WMO/ ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, RA I Tropical Cyclone Committee, RA IV Hurricane Committee, and RA V

Category	Sustained Winds
Super Cyclonic Strom	>222 Km/h
Very Severe Cyclonic Strom	118-221 Km/h
Severe Cyclonic Strom	88-117 Km/h
Cyclonic Strom	62-87 Km/h
Deep Depression	52-61 Km/h
Depression	<51 Km/h

Tropical Cyclone Committee. For instance, Hurricane Committee determines a pre-designated list of hurricane names for six years separately at its annual session. The pre-designated list of hurricane names are proposed by its members that include National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the North/Central America and the Caribbean. Naming procedures in other regions are almost the same as in the Caribbean. In general, tropical cyclones are named according to the rules at a regional level.

It is important to note that tropical cyclones/hurricanes are named neither after any particular person, nor with any preference in alphabetical sequence. The tropical cyclone/hurricane names selected are those that are familiar to the people in each region. Obviously, the main purpose of naming a tropical cyclone/hurricane is basically for people easily to understand and remember the tropical cyclone/hurricane in a region, thus to facilitate tropical cyclone/hurricane disaster risk awareness, preparedness, management and reduction.

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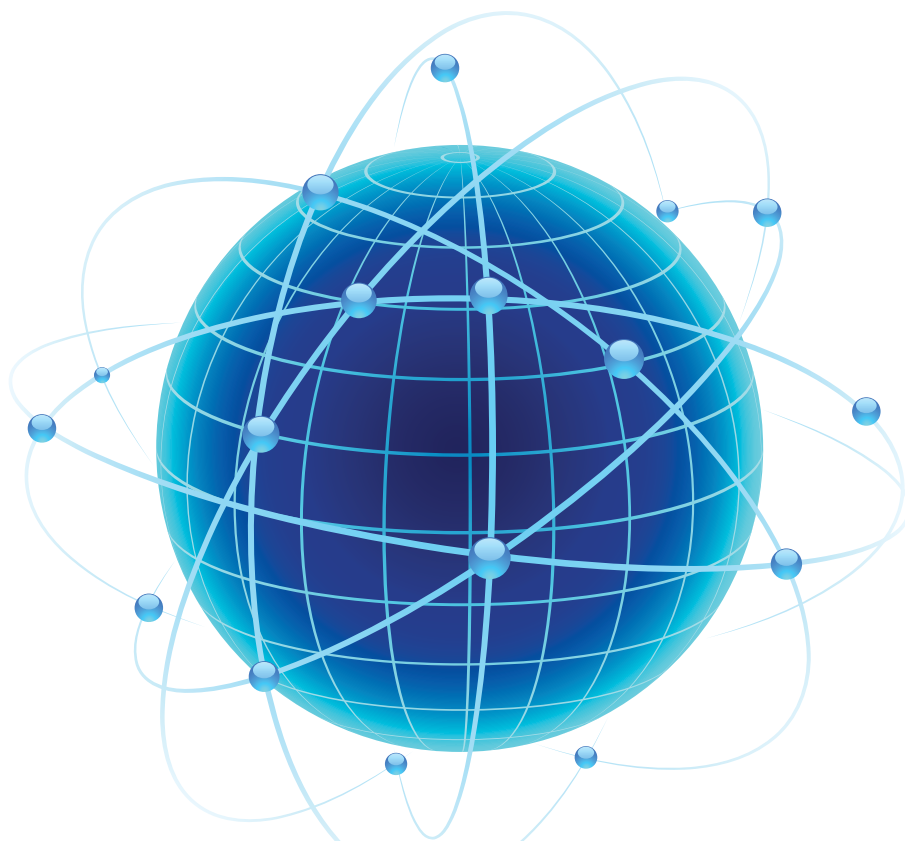
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

World's First Green Helicopter Tested in Germany

Germany's aviation company e- Volo on 17 November 2013 successfully tested the first helicopter which is noiseless and emission-free named- Volocopter.

The Volocopter is an environmentally friendly and emission-free private helicopter.

About the Green Helicopter

The helicopter, named Volocopter, developed by the German company e-volo, two seat prototype made it earlier voage in kalsruhe, Germany.

The volocopter uses eighteen electrically driven rotos propel instead of one combustion engine which is environmentally friendly and emission-free.

The emission free Volocopter is a vertical take-off and landing manned aircraft, with rich features and incredibly quiet sound, absolutely no noticeable vibrations, new spring strut landing gear and extremely calm rotor plane that replace conventional aircraft

Microsoft developed New Sign Language Translator-KINECT

US software company Microsoft recently developed a new cost-effective sign language translator that converts signs into spoken and written language - and vice versa.

In collaboration with researchers in China, Microsoft created the Kinect Sign Language Translator, a prototype system that understands the gestures of sign language and converts them to spoken and written languageand vice versa.

The translator uses a computer and a Kinect camera that recognises signing gestures, then gives a spoken and written translation of languages for people who can hear.

The system captures a conversation both sides: the deaf person is shown signing, with a written and spoken translation being rendered in real-time, while the system takes the hearing person's spoken words and turns them into accurate, understandable signs. The system takes a person's spoken words and translate them into accurate signs carried out by an on-screen avatar.

The Kinect's sensors read a user's body position and movements and, with the help of a computer, translate them into commands. The project was collaboration between the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing Union University, and Microsoft Research Asia.

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CORPORATE

Google has set up election portal in India

Google on 28 November 2013 setup an election portal in India, the largest democracy of the world. The portal will provide polls and politics related news to users in India. The launched search engine will also provide information on the political parties.

This portal will help the voters of India to get the answers on elections and voting-related queries to make an informed decision. Initially, during the first phase of the launch will cover the videos and information related to state elections in Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Mizoram. It will cover news from leading publications and broadcasters both in English and Hindi.

Contents hosted by YouTube partners on elections and links to Hangouts done by political representatives in the recent past, will be available for the users.

Sunita Sharma appointed as the MD and CEO of the LIC Housing Finance

Sunita Sharma was on 6 November 2013 appointed as the managing director and chief executive director of the LIC Housing Finance. She is the first women MD and CEO of the company since its inception in 1989.

She succeeded V K Sharma who was elevated to the post of managing director of LIC.

About Sunita Sharma

- Before being elevated to the MD and CEO of the LIC Housing Finance Sunita Sharma was executive director of investments at LIC.

- She has 30 years experience in insurance field.

Bharti Airtel signed an Agreement with the Warid Group

Bharti Airtel on 5 November 2013 entered into an agreement with the Warid Group to acquire its Congo operations with the objective of strengthening its stronghold in the African market. The acquisition will make Airtel the largest mobile operator in the Republic of Congo with around 2.6 million customers. At present, Airtel is the second largest operator in that country with over 1.6 million customers, while Warid is the third largest with around one million customers.

This is the second acquisition by Airtel in African continent. It had acquired Warid's Uganda operations earlier in 2013. The agreement will bring together the strengths of Airtel and Warid in Congo Brazzaville. It will benefit customers in the form of affordable tariffs, superior 2G/ 3G network and affordable voice and data services.

Airtel had over 66 million customers at the end of September 2013 in the region with its presence across 17 African countries. Bharti Airtel is ranked fourth largest mobile operator at world level with operation in 20 countries and had over 280 million customers at the end of September 2013.

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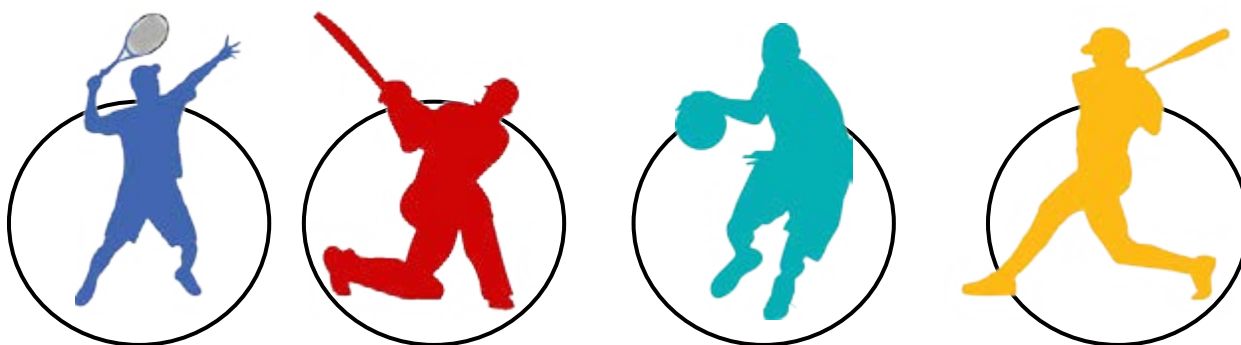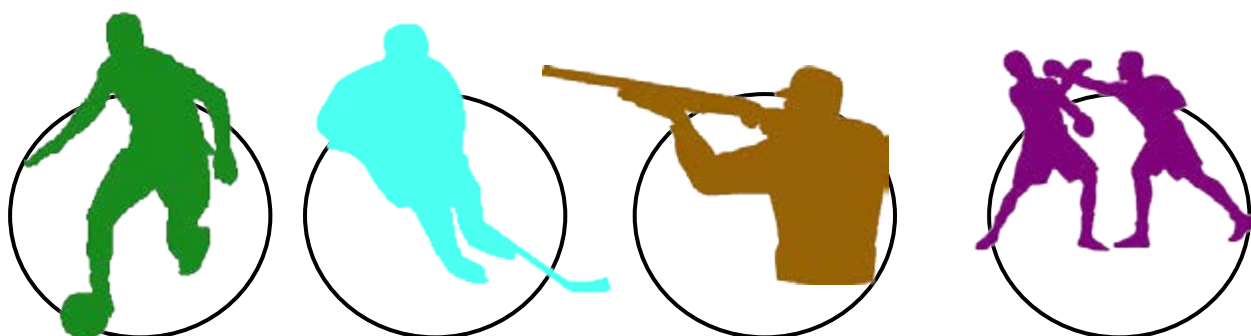
Virat Kohli became Fastest Batsman to Score 5000 Runs in ODIs

Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to score 5000 runs in one-day internationals when he scored 86 against the West Indies in the first ODI in Kochi on 21 November 2013.

Virat Kohli achieved the feat in just 120 matches and 114 innings. He has so far scored 5005 runs, which included 17 centuries and 27 fifties in his short career.

In terms of innings, Virat Kohli has equalled the record of Sir Viv Richards of West Indies, who

also achieved the feat in 114 innings way back in 1987 but it was Viv's 126th match.

Before Kohli, former captain Sourav Ganguly was the fastest to achieve the feat among Indian batsmen in 131 matches and 126 innings. From India, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (135 innings), Gautam Gambhir (135 innings) and Sachin Tendulkar (138 innings) are the next fastest batsmen to reach the 5000 runs in ODIs.

Batsman	Opposition	Match Date	Matches	Innings
Virat Kohli (India)	West Indies	21 Nov 2013	120	114
Viv Richards (WI)	England	30 Jan 1987	126	114
Brian Lara (WI)	South Africa	3 Nov 1997	120	118
Gordon Greenidge (WI)	Pakistan	13 Nov 1990	122	121
AB de Villiers (SA)	England	28 Aug 2012	129	124
Sourav Ganguly (India)	Pakistan	25 Jan 2000	131	126

Virat Kohli became No. 1 ranked ODI batsman

Virat Kohli on 3 November 2013 became the number 1 batsman in one day International cricket rankings after scoring 344 runs in the series against Australia, that India won by 3-2. In the series Kohli scored 61 in Pune, 100 in Naipur, 68 in Mohali, 115 in Nagpur and 0 in Bengaluru at an average of 114.66. The 344 runs in the series gave 38 rating points to him, which helped him to jump three points to top in the ICC ranking tables. He achieved the top position on the ODI rankings for the first time. He also became the third Indian to hold number 1 position after Sachin Tendulkar in 1996 and MS Dhoni in 2006.

Tendulkar claimed the number 1 position for the first time from Brain Lara in February 1996 and for the last time he achieved the position in March 2008. Dhoni reached the number 1 position for the first time from Ricky Pointing in April 2006 and for the last time in July 2010.

In the latest list released by the ICC, the other players who changed their rankings were George Bailey, Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma. The captain of Australia during the series against India skipped six places and claimed third position in rankings released. This was the first time for Bailey in the career to achieve the third position.

Shikhar Dhawan broke into the top 20 list for the first time by jumping 12 places to stand at 11th ranking in the list. Rohit Sharma achieved 15th position in the rankings list after scoring 491 runs at an average of 122.75, which includes the score of 209 runs in the final. Rohit Sharma became the fifth batsman to feature inside top 20 along with Kohli (first position), MS Dhoni (sixth position), Dhawan (eleventh position) and Suresh Raina (nineteenth position).

Sports Ministry signed MoU with Department of AIDS Control

The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on 29 November 2013 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of AIDS Control.

The MoU was signed between Secretary, Department of Sports Ajit M Saran, and Secretary, Department of AIDS Control, Lov Verma, in New Delhi.

The MoU's objective is to "reach a large number of youth engaged in sports activities" at village, district and state level with information on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and related services.

Other objectives included building the capacity of sports educators, administrators and coaches on "Minimizing the risk of HIV transmission on and outside the sports field, involve youth organisation, sports federations in HIV/AIDS prevention activities, promote awareness generation through hoarding and banners at eminent places and sports infrastructure during state/national events and tournaments, and involve eminent sports personalities for addressing social stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS.

For fulfillment of objectives of MOU, the Department of Sports would issue directives to Sports Authority of India (SAI), National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), Lakshmibai National University of Physical Education (LNUPE), National Sports Federations (NSFs) and other sports bodies for creating awareness.

The Department of AIDS Control provide technical support in capacity building on HIV/AIDS for sportspersons, trainees and staff of sports organisations and federations, by sharing of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials for awareness generation activities.

Nepal and UAE qualified for ICC Twenty20 World Cup 2014

Nepal and the UAE on 27 November 2013 qualified for the ICC T20 World cup which will be held in Bangladesh in 2014.

Nepal defeated Hong Kong by five wickets in Abu Dhabi on 27 November 2013. Nepal survived a last-over scare to score the required 13 runs, with 10 runs coming from the first two deliveries and a last-ball misfield producing the winning runs.

The UAE has also qualified for the tournament as they defeated the Netherlands by 10 runs.

This will be the first time since the ICC Cricket World Cup 1996 that the UAE and Nepal will make an appearance on the global stage. Four teams have now qualified for the ICC T20 in Bangladesh next year. These include Afghanistan, Ireland, Nepal and UAE.

The 2014 ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Bangladesh from 16 March 2014 to 6 April 2014 and a total of 16 teams are participating in this tournament.

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STATE

Tripura Introduced PVC-Electoral Photo Identity Cards First Time in the Country

Tripura on 30 November 2013 introduced for the first time in the country PVC Electoral Photo Identity Card (PVC EPIC) as mandated by the Election Commission of India.

About PVC Electoral Photo Identity Card (PVC EPIC)

The new PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride- or Plastic) EPIC has many scientific security features to prevent duplication, forging and tampering. Unlike the present paper voter's card, the PVC-EPIC has inserted coded information of the elector. The information and government logos of the new EPIC would be visible only in ultraviolet light.

Tripura is the first state in India to introduce the newly designed EPIC.

The new card will be issued through the Common Service Centre of the central government's Information Technology department. The card was simultaneously introduced in 23 sub-divisions of all the eight districts of the State.

What is PVC?

Plastics are also called synthetic resins and are broadly classified into two categories: thermosetting resins and thermoplastic resins.

The thermosetting resins include phenolic resin and melamine resin, which are thermally hardened and never become soft again. Thermoplastic resins include Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC), polyethylene (PE), polystyrene (PS) and polypropylene (PP), which can be re-softened by heating.

Haryana Launched its First Food Bank at Gurgaon with Support from Cargill

Haryana, on 11 November 2013, launched its first food bank in order to give assistance to the different feeding programmes in Gurgaon as well as nearby areas. The food bank received support by global food major Cargill and India Food Banking Network (IFBN), which is initiated by Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations.

The Haryana Industries Minister, Randeep Singh Surjewala explained that Haryana recently adopted the National Food Security Ordinance in order to ensure that people have adequate quantity as well as quality of food at reasonable prices.

The new Gurgaon Food Bank targets sustained daily feeding of approximately 10000 beneficiaries by 2014 in the Gurgaon region. It is estimated that if replicated on a national level, this model will play a crucial role in eliminating the hunger completely from the country by the year 2020.

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NEWS CAPSULE

Person in news

Abdullah Yameen won Maldives Presidential Polls

Abdulla Yameen, the candidate of Progressive Party of Maldives on 16 November 2013 defeated the former premier, Mohammed Nasheed to win the Maldivian Presidential elections. Election Commission of Maldives announced the result of the election on 16 November 2013, in which Yameen defeated Mohamed Nasheed of Maldivian Democratic Party with a margin of six thousand votes.

Yameen secured 51.39 percent (1 lakh 11 thousand) of votes, whereas Mohamed Nasheed received 48.61 (1 lakh 5 thousand

votes). 45 foreign observers and 22 foreign monitors saw the transparency and credibility of the election. The winning candidate Abdullah Yameen will be sworn in as the President at a special seating of the Majlis, the Maldivian Parliament.

About Abdulla Yameen

- The 54 years old Yameen is an economist and the half-brother of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the former autocratic ruler, who ruled Maldives for 30 years

- He is also known as Yameen Abdul Gayoom

Person Appointed

Satyananda Mishra appointed as Chairman of Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)

Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd on 27 November 2013 appointed Satyananda Mishra as the chairman of MCX's board.

Market Regulatory authority, the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) also approved the appointment of Satyananda Mishra as the independent Director of MCX's board for a period up to 31 March 2016.

The previous chairman of MCX, Venkat Chary, resigned in August 2013 due to the new guidelines of Forward Markets Commission (FMC). The FMC new guidelines stated that the age limit of people on the board should not be more than 70 years.

About Satyananda Misra

Satyananda Mishra is a retired Indian Administrative Services officer (1973 Batch) and has acted as a Chief Information Commissioner from December 2010 to September 2013. He was also Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT).

About Multi Commodity Exchange

The Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), India's first listed exchange, is a state-of-

the-art, commodity futures exchange that facilitates online trading, and clearing and settlement of commodity futures transactions, thereby providing a platform for risk management.

The Multi Commodity Exchange, which started operations in November 2003, operates within the regulatory framework of the Forward Contracts Regulation Act, 1952 (FCRA, 1952).

Person Resigned

Yogesh Agarwal, the Chairman of PFRDA Resigned and Anup Wadhawan Took Over

The Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), Yogesh Agarwal resigned from the post of Chairman on 13 November 2013. He resigned because of the Government's decision to not allow him to be a part of the selection panel for members of the regulator.

In the meanwhile, Joint Secretary Anup Wadhawan was appointed as the new Chairman of PFRDA by the Finance Ministry. It is important to note that Yogesh Agarwal had one and half years more as his tenure of the Chairman.

Inclusion of Chairman in the Selection Panel as Per the PFRDA Act 2013

The selection panel members include Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram, Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Takru, Department of Personnel and Training Secretary Syamal Kumar Sarkar, Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), TS Vijayan, former LIC Chairman S B Mathur. According to the PFRDA Act 2013, the body should include the Chairperson and not more than six members (out of which three should be the full-time members), to be appointed by the Union Government of India.

Term of the Chairman of PFRDA

The Chairman as well as every full-time member of PFRDA holds the office for the term of five years. Also, the Chairman and members are eligible for reappointment. The age limit for a Chairman of PFRDA is 65 years and that of the full-time members is 62 years. Part-time members, in the meanwhile, can hold the office for the term not exceeding five years from the date of joining the office.

Person Died

Doris Lessing, Nobel Prize-Winning Author, Died at 94

British Nobel Prize-winning author Doris Lessing was died on 17 November 2013 at London.She was 94 years old.

Her best-known works are The Golden Notebook, Memoirs of a Survivor and The Summer Before the Dark. In her life time she wrote more than 80 books, including poetry, two operas, short stories, plays and non-fiction. In 2007, the 88-year-old Doris Lessing became the oldest recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature. and only the 11th woman to win the award.

About Doris Lessing

- Doris Lessing was born on 22 October 1919, in Kermanshah, Iran. When she was 3, the family settled in southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

- Her debut novel The Grass is Singing was published in 1950 and she made her breakthrough with The Golden Notebook in 1962. Her first novel, The Grass is Singing is about a woman trapped in a doomed marriage in a troubled country, a stinging critique of racial politics in the former Rhodesia.

Places in News

Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2013 launched in Sydney, Australia

The Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was officially launched on 11 November 2013 in Sydney, Australia by New South Wales, Premier Barry O'Farrell and Overseas Indian Affairs Minister Vayalar Ravi.

The 2013 convention is the first to be held in Australia, marking the contribution the overseas Indian community makes to the development of India.

The convention's objective is to link the vast Indian diaspora and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region with India. The 2013 Convention will be the seventh such conference held outside India.

The Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is organised by the High Commission of India and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. Participation in the convention is expected from all states and territories of Australia and from neighbouring countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Fiji and the Pacific Islands.
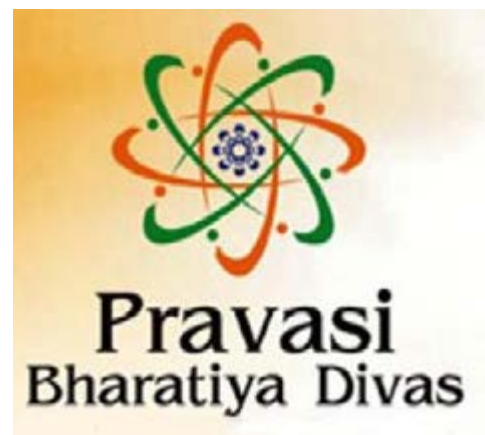
About Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (Overseas Indians Day)

Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas are organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the collaboration of the host Government, the Indian Mission, Prominent Overseas Indians and Organisations catering to the needs of the Indian Diaspora.

The objective is to reach out to those members of the community who have been unable to participate in the annual PBD in India and to provide a platform for the Indian community in Australia and the Pacific to contribute to the relationship between countries of the region and India.

Summit | Conference

11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting held at New Delhi

 The 11th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Foreign Ministers Meeting took place in New Delhi from 11 to 12 November 2013.

This is the first time that India has hosted the biennial ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting since India joined the group in 2007.

The theme of the meeting was "ASEM: Bridge to Partnership for Growth and Development."

The meeting was attended by 34 Foreign Ministers from Asia and Europe, including the High

Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton and the Secretary General of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Le Luong Minh. 11 countries were represented by Deputy Foreign Ministers.

The meeting was chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India, Salman Khurshid.

The issues which were discussed during the meet include economic and financial issues, sustainable development, non-traditional security challenges and regional and global issues. Delegates also assessed the achievements of ASEM in the past 17 years and its future orientation.

In this meet Foreign Ministers agreed to intensify efforts to bring about greater synergy between Asian and European partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) across the three pillars of political dialogue, economic cooperation and socio-cultural exchanges.

About ASEM

- Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was set up in 1996.

- ASEM represents over half of the global population and accounts for more than half of the global GDP.

- It held its first summit meeting at Bangkok.

- It is a forum of 46 Asian and European countries. 27 countries are from the EU and 19 countries are from Asia. India has been participating in ASEM meetings since 2007.

- ASEM also comprises two international organisations, i.e. the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union, for expanding political and security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.

- Outside of the government-level meetings, ASEM also brings together, in individual fora, lawmakers, businesses and civil society groups.

- In the key achievements of ASEM, the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) a ground-breaking research and education network connecting researchers in both continents are included.

- The 10th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting held at Godollo, Hungary from 4 to 5 July 2011.

Awards | Honours

Kauwboy won the Golden Elephant Award in International Children's Film Festival

The 18th International Children's Film Festival concluded on 20 November 2013 in Hyderabad. A Dutch Film named Kauwboy, directed by Boudewijn Koole won the Golden Elephant Award for best film in the 'International Live Action' category. The film is about a 10 year old boy and a bird.

The Golden Plaque for second-best film in the same section was won by a German film Das Pferd Auf Dem Balkon or A horse on the Balcony. The Jury Prize for the best artwork was won by a Hindi film Goopi Gawaiya Bagha Bajaiya directed by Shilpa Ranade.

Ernest Et Celestine won the award for the Best Animation Feature and Zarafa won the Golden Plaque for the second best animation film in the International Animation Competition section that has been added in 2013.

During the film festival, Batul Mukthiar received the best director award for his film Kaphal in the International Live Action. The best screenplay award went to Nono-The Zigzag Kid.

The Golden Elephant trophy for Best Little Director category was given to an Indian film Breaking Silence and Tamator Chor. The Golden Plaque for the second best Little Director went to Phoolwati Amma and Mondial World School.

The film festival was organised by the Children's Film Festival India (CFSI), which is an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Andra Pradesh Government. The Festival started on 14 November 2013.

Exhibition | Fare

Exhibition Titled Czech Castles Inaugurated At the Red Fort, Delhi

The Union Culture Minister Chandresh Kumari Katoch along with Jan Kohout, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and Jiri Balvin, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, on 7

November 2013 jointly inaugurated an exhibition titled Czech Castles.

It is for the first time that this exhibition has been organised in India in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India by the National Museum of the Czech Republic and the Embassy of the Czech Republic, New Delhi.

It is important to note that a cultural agreement was signed between India and Czech Republic in the year 1959. At the occasion of inauguration of the exhibition, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the ASI and the National Museum of the Czech Republic at the Red Fort for promotion of cultural exchange and bilateral cooperation. The MoU will form the basis for more active cooperation between the two institutes.

About the Czech Castles Exhibition

- The Czech Castle architecture is an important part of the cultural heritage of the Czech Republic.

- The Exhibition presents a selection of 37 most interesting castles and chateaux of Bohemia and Moravia, two of the historic areas that make up the Czech state.

- The criterion for the selection of the localities has been their historical significance as well as their architectural, artistic, and historical value.

- The exhibition is accompanied by rich cultural program consisting of film shows, art exhibitions, music presentations and other events that will together celebrate the Czech-India Cultural Year 2014.

- The Exhibition will stay at the Red Fort, Delhi till January 2014 and then tour various other cities of India.

- After Delhi, the exhibition will be presented in Leh (Leh Palace, June-July 2014), Kolkata (Currency Building September – October 2014), Mumbai (Nehru Science Centre, November 2014) and Goa –Panaji (Kala Academy, December 2014 – January 2015).

Defence | Security

India and Russia decided to held a Joint Air Force Exercise in 2014

India and Russia on 18 November 2013 agreed to expand the range of strategic partnership in a significant manner in Moscow. The two countries will also hold a Joint Air Force Level exercise for

the first time in 2014.

The decision was taken during the 13th Meeting of the India–Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRITC-MTC) and it was co chaired by AK Antony, the Defence Minister of India and His counterpart of Russia, Sergey Shoigu. This decision was taken by the two countries within two days after commissioning of INS Vikramadatya into Indian Navy.

The Agreements

- The two countries agreed to hold a joint Air Force level exercise for the first time, which will happen in 2014 with a joint Navy Exercise in the Peter the Great Bay in the Sea of Japan. Recently, the armies of the two countries held an Exercise Indra in Rajasthan with a focus on anti-terrorism.

- Agreement was reached between the two ministers on further cooperation at all levels, especially in view of the regional and global challenges and to fight the menace of terrorism jointly. Both sides reviewed the situation in West Asia, especially in Syria and the evolving paradigm in Afghanistan.

- The two sides also agreed on to expand the cooperation not only in product design and development but also to involve various echelons of the Defence establishments in strategizing policies and cooperation in the fast changing global security scenario.

The Indian delegation in Russia also laid a wreath at the World War-II memorial at Poklonnaya Gora (Bow-Down Hill) of the Victory Park. A ceremonial guard of honour was also presented. Shoigu has also assured to India that the Indian pilots will be trained by the Naval Aviation Specialists to take offs and landing on the INS Vikramaditya, which may be held in Goa.

Books & Author

Hamid Ansari released book entitled Maimaar-E-Qaun-Dr A.R. Kidwai

Maimaar-E-Qaun-Dr. A. R. Kidwai edited by Mufti Ataur Rahman Ansari

Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of India on 21 November 2013 released a book entitled Maimaar-E-Qaun-Dr. A. R. Kidwai. The book has been edited by Mufti Ataur Rahman Ansari.

Dr A.R. Kidwai has been compiled in the book creatively. He was a learned scientist and served as

a professor at Aligarh Muslim University. He contributed in the formation of Mewat Development Board in Haryana

About Dr A.R. Kidwai

- Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry; Dean, Faculty of Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (1951-67).

- Chairman and Member, Union Public Service Commission of India (1967-79).

- Two times, he served Bihar as the Governor of Bihar from 1979-85 and 1993-98

- He served West Bengal as its Governor from 1998-99

- He became the member of Rajya Sabha from January 2000 to July 2004.

- He also remained the member of the following Parliamentary Committees:

1. Consultative Committee for the Ministries of Science and Technology, Environment and Forest from 2000-04

2. Standing Committee on Agriculture, Water Resources and Food Processing Industries from 2000-04

3. Committee on Subordinate Legislation from 2000-04

- He assumed the charge as the Governor of Haryana in 2004

Art | Culture

East Timor film 'Beatriz's War 'won Golden Peacock Award at IFFI 2013

East Timor film 'Beatriz's War' bagged Golden Peacock award for Best Film at the 44th International Film Festival of India at Panaji, Goa on 30 November 2013.

The film, directed by Bety Reis and Luigi Acquisto, is a passionate story of one woman's conviction to remain true to the man she loves. The award carries a Golden Peacock, a certificate and a Cash

Prize of 40 lakh Rupees.

Indian Director Kaushik Ganguli bags the award for Best Director for his Bengali film 'Apur Panchali'. The award carries a Silver Peacock, a certificate and a cash prize of 15 lakh Rupees.

Special Jury Award went to Turkish film 'Thou Gild'st The Even', directed by Onur Unlu. The award carries a Silver Peacock, a certificate and a cash prize of 15 lakh rupees.

Best Actor (Male) award went to Alon Moni Aboutboul for his performance in Israeli movie 'A Place in Heaven'. The award carries a Silver Peacock, a certificate and a cash prize of 10 lakh rupees.

Best Actor (Female) award was presented to Boczarska Magdalena for her excellent performance in Polish film 'In Hiding'. The Award carries a Silver Peacock, a certificate and a cash prize of 10 lakh Rupees.

The Special Centenary Award was given to Bengali film 'Meghe Dhaka Tara', directed by Kamaleshwar Mukherjee. The award carries a Silver Peacock, a certificate and a cash prize of 10 lakh Rupees.

Day | Week | Year

Constitution Day was observed across India on 26 November

26 November: Constitution Day

Constitution Day was observed across India on 25 November 2013 to honour the Constitution of India. The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, which came into force on 26 January 1950.

About the Constitution of India

The Constitution of India is a supreme law of India, which lays down the framework that defines the political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of Government institution. It also sets the fundamental rights, directive principles, and the duties of citizens. Being one of the longest constitution in the world, which contains 448 articles in 22 parts, 12 schedules and 118 amendments.

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is regarded as the father of the Indian Constitution.

Miscellaneous

Music Album released to commemorate 150th birth celebrations of Swami Vivekananda

Jitin Prasada, the Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development on 28 November 2013 released a music album to commemorate 150th birth celebrations of Swami Vivekananda. The released album contains original poem of Swami Vivekananda among others.

The poems have been sung by Akshayaa Vibho and Amrutaa Vibho – 11 year old twin sisters from Delhi. Akshayaa Vibho has rendered the song and Amrutaa Vibho has accompanied on the acoustic drums.

Akshayaa learns Hindustani classical vocal from Pandit Sitangshu Chaudhary of Rampur Sehaswan Gharana. She also specializes in rendering of patriotic songs and film songs of Lata Mangeshkar. Whereas, Amrutaa is being trained under the legendary mridanga vidwan Dr. T. K. Murthy, international drum star Shri Sivamani and Shri Chandrakant Mohanti of Bollywood fame. Amrutaa is the only the youngest female drum player in India.

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