

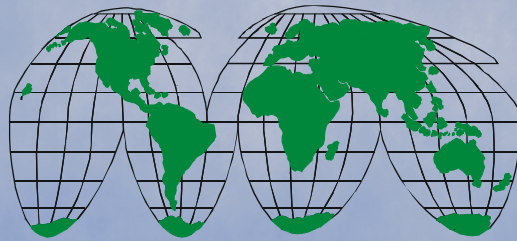
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*presents*

# Aspirants Times



## What's New !

1. An Elaborate And Systematic Plan of Action For CSE
2. Hindi Article
3. Interim Budget 2009-10

## Hot Topics

- (1) ICC indicted Sudanian President
- (2) Successful Intercept Test
- (3) BrahMos Missile Successful Test
- (4) Israel Palestine Crisis

## CSE 2009

- (1) Study Material for Civil Services (Pre) Exam 2009
- (2) Study Notes On :
  - Sports
  - Awards
- (3) Model Test Papers

**FREE MOCK TEST PAPERS  
FOR UPSC 2009 (PRE) EXAMINATION**

**"Dedicated to all IAS aspirants in India specially to those who are from rural areas; you keep us motivated to do something extra, all the time...  
thank you! "  
founder, upscportal.com**

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## New Dimension and New Hope..

With this inaugural issue of 'UPSCPORTAL.COM Aspirants Times' Magazine, We want to take you four years back into my memory lane, when We had launched UPSCPORTAL.COM with the sole objective of providing IAS & UPSC related information online in a central place. So far it's has been a great journey and now we more than 38000+ Members and 1.4 Million Visits a month, We have not only tried our best to give much needed help to IAS and civil services aspirants, but also learnt many things about candidate's problems, challenges, study material and resource related issues. When our Editor observed the question papers of pre and mains of GS and popular subjects, we found that many of them are either have current aspect in traditional basic topics or have basic aspect in current topics. Last year, changes in syllabus also suggest that in each and every topic of not only GS but also in other optional subjects; candidates have to become more current oriented and more applied. Also, adding the negative marking methodology at preliminary stage, UPSC took away the weapon of guessing from the candidates. Now you must be clearer to choose the right answer. So taking above said aspects of civil services exam, we concluded that there is need of greater responsibility to be played from competitive magazines and similar websites. It is very difficult for a single candidate to write the current aspect with basic of topic or vice versa. So we publishers and writers have to play our role with more responsively. When we scrutinize many popular magazines and study materials, we find a great scope of playing a better role.

We have a plan to solve all above mentioned problems. In this magazine, we will provide current news with its all associated facts and analysis. In this way you can keep the facts in your mind for a long time and it will also help you to analyze the issue, which ultimately plays greater role at your Mains Exam and final Interview. At the same time we will also provide you the basic facts with associated topics, so you can easily understand the obstruction of issue in clearer way. We promise you to provide materials in holistic approach, so you can prepare yourself for all stages simultaneously. This will be India's first magazine for civil services examination which will be available in both print and online edition. In this issue we make an effort to provide material in both popular languages English and Hindi. In future it will be elaborated due to which it must be helpful for the students. We want a continued dialogue with each of you, so we would earnestly request to you to participate actively in the shaping of this magazine according to 'your' needs. We would provide the solution of problem as soon as possible; so that you can continue your preparation smoothly without any hindrances. Please always write using email. We will also try our best to solve individual problems related to examination.

Personal from Editor

### ***Hello Aspirants!***

In this issue, you can find materials for IAS preliminary examination 2009. There are some hot topics, which are important to understand. Facts related to current GK are incorporated in very lucid form, so you can easily mug-up important facts within limited time frame. Two models solve papers for preliminary GS 2009; through this you can test yourself and make a practice. Hoping a continued interaction with each of you!

Editor: R. K. Pandey

Best wishes for forthcoming examinations...  
**UPSCPORTAL TEAM!**

## Civil Services Examination Strategy

### An Elaborate And Systematic Plan Of Action For CSE

"In the period of economic recession, when job security has become more important in the deciding of employment, no doubt Civil Services is now on number one. Along with this it provides prestige and power. After the sixth pay commission high salary, allowances and facilities like healthcare, palatial bungalow and blue-red beacon light car make it a lucrative profession. Civil Service is the backbone of the Central and States government machinery."

Civil Services Examination is mother of all exams. Once you compete this, not only your world is changed, but you can change the world. No doubt new generation is more inclined towards private jobs. Availability of professional courses, liberalisation and very high salary are the main inspiration. But you can never comprise any post, any money and any thing with the power hub. Actually Civil Service is in the centre of power in India.

In the period of economic recession, when job security has become more important in the deciding of employment, no doubt Civil Services is now on number one. Along with this it provides prestige and power. After the sixth pay commission high salary, allowances and facilities like healthcare, palatial bungalow and blue-red beacon light car make it a lucrative profession. Civil Service is the backbone of the Central and States government machinery.

They constitute all the departments which runs the administration. A highly competitive and challenging area, it involves a variety of jobs in different departments and different levels.

To fulfill such big aspiration, you have need many things-determination, very hard work, a well planned approach etc. You can succeed through years hard work. After having above said all qualities, only few-one amongst hundreds of thousands succeed. Why? Because winners have some different approach, they choose the path according to changing scenario.

So you must become alert. Recent changes in syllabus is not a such change, which you can fulfill only through new study materials, books etc but this demands changes in your methodology, changes in your guides, magazines etc. Alas, many magazines, many guides are following the same old path. Who can never support your destination. So open your eyes, now

we are with you, with changed strategy which suits you and we promise to fulfill all your needs in future.....

#### Nine Papers of Main Examination

Paper I - One Indian language (selected by the candidate) 300 marks

Paper II - English 300 marks

Paper III - Essay 200 marks

Paper IV&V - General Studies 300 marks each

Paper VI-IX - Any two subjects (optional papers to be selected by the candidate) with two papers each 300 marks for each

#### List of Optional Papers:

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Commerce, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Geography, Geology, Indian History, Law, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Medical Science, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics, Zoology.

#### Be Familiar of the Examination

Civil Services Examination comprises of two successive stages-preliminary and main examinations. There are two parts in main-written and personality test. Preliminary examination is of objective type screening test, through which suitable candidates are selected for main Examination. Main examination (written) is conventional descriptive test, which assess the overall depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory. The written exam is consists of nine papers – two language papers of qualifying nature, two papers in General Studies and two papers each of 2 optional subjects.

Marks of all papers, except language papers are added and play decisive role in final merit of selection.

Each paper is of 3 hours duration. Second part of mains and final stage of Civil Services examination is personality test. It carries 300 marks and play very important role in the final selection.

In our inaugural issue, we are going to provide all information regarding first stage of exam ie. Preliminary Test.

### The First Stage

All India Combined Competitive Examination is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) at different centers spread all over the country for Preliminary test. A Notification for the civil services examination is published by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in all the daily newspapers and the Rozgar Samachar/ Employment News by the end of December each year. UPSC provides the application form along with an Information Brochure containing general instructions for filling up the form, an acknowledgement card and an envelope for sending the application through the designated Head Post Offices/ Post Offices throughout the country against a specified cash payment.

### List of Optional Subjects

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Commerce, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Geography, Geology, Indian History, Law, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Medical Science, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics, Zoology.

### The First Cut

Preliminary test is the first battle, in which candidate must survive to remain in long war of civil services examination. Its objective is to select the serious candidates for the main examination. At this level, approximately 12 to 13 times the total number of seats to be filled in particular year are selected for main examination. Preliminary Examination consists of two papers of Objective type (multiple choice questions) and carry a maximum of 450. Paper first is of general studies in which 150 objective type questions of each one mark is asked. It is compulsory for all candidates. The candidate has to choose paper second is from a selected list of optional subjects for preliminary

examinations. In the second paper, 120 objective type questions of each two and half marks are asked. Both question papers are set in Hindi as well as in English. Each paper is of two hours duration.

You have few attempts for civil service exam ie 4 attempts for general category candidate and when you appear at prelim, your one attempt is counted. So you should be very prepared in your first attempt. So take it seriously.

There may be few students around you, who were weak and insincere and without studying much, they qualified for main. You can also think that without any efforts, you also can do. It may be, but if you are serious about your exam, keep away such logic and misconception. Only you can do good for you that you get mastery in General Studies and on of your optional subject within a time frame.

### Good Steps to Success

We are giving you some tips, if you follow them surely you will be succeed at preliminary level easily.

### Syllabus of CSP General Studies- Preliminary

- General Science.
- Current events of national and international importance
- History of India and Indian National Movement
- Indian and World Geography
- Indian Polity and Economy
- General Mental Ability

Questions on General Science will cover general appreciation and understanding of science including matters of everyday observation and experience, as may be expected of a well educated person who has not made a special study of any particular scientific discipline. In current events, knowledge of significant national and international events will be tested. In History of India, emphasis will be on broad general understanding of the subject in its social, economic and political aspects. Questions on the Indian National Movement will relate to the nature and character of the nineteenth century resurgence, growth of nationalism and attainment of Independence. In Geography, emphasis will be on Geography of India.

Questions on the Geography of India will relate to physical, social and economic Geography of the country, including



the main features of Indian agricultural and natural resources. Questions on Indian Polity and Economy will test knowledge of the country's political system and Constitution of India, Panchayati Raj, Social Systems and economic developments in India. On general mental ability, the candidates will be tested on reasoning and analytical abilities.

**Relevant Study Material and Strategy:** There is need of right balance in the selection of books, guide. Coaching and coaching notes etc. For the optional subject, candidates must read basic books related to the syllabus. Keep in the mind that there is no shortcut to success. Keep a guidebook, past years unsolved paper to test yourself. Note down important facts on separate sheets, so you can revise them easily. You can also highlight important facts are underlined them in your books. So you can recall them easily. If your optional is one of two optional, which you have kept at main, then you should make the proper notes of those areas which form the common portion in the syllabus of preliminary and main examination. If you find some friends having the same optional, my be advantageous. Make a group and solve the question papers, discuss the issue and topics which some one is feeling difficult.

Always give the importance over your weak portion. Some candidates leave the easy portion for last moment and always engaged in difficult portion of the syllabus and some other leave the difficult portion for the last moment. Both are not good. Avoid yourself from the such extremes and make a good balance in the study of easy and difficult portion of the syllabus.

### Keep in Your Mind

- Test yourself with the revision-type Model Test Papers.
- Do be nervous by initial low score.
- Give emphasis and do hard on weak-section.
- Have analytical approach.
- Regular revision
- Keep the patience and live in calm mental state.

General Studies (GS) is very vast subject which includes almost all the subjects. Indian History, Polity, Indian Economy, India and World Geography, General Science and Current Events are main components. For the GS always read NCERT and other school books for basic facts. Read daily news paper, competitive magazine and see various news channel. Don't make lopsided study. Always read all the

portion of syllabus. Like optional, here also you can write important facts on separate sheets or in a copy, so you can revise them easily. You can also highlight important facts are underlined them in your books for quick revision. You should concentrate on basics and acquire as much facts about basics as possible but avoid the element of excess in preparations.

**Key Words :** Note down the key words of important topics, sub topics and make a good practice to recall all the associated facts through the key words. Try to make an image in the mind which will reflect the details.

**This Article is Available Online Also**



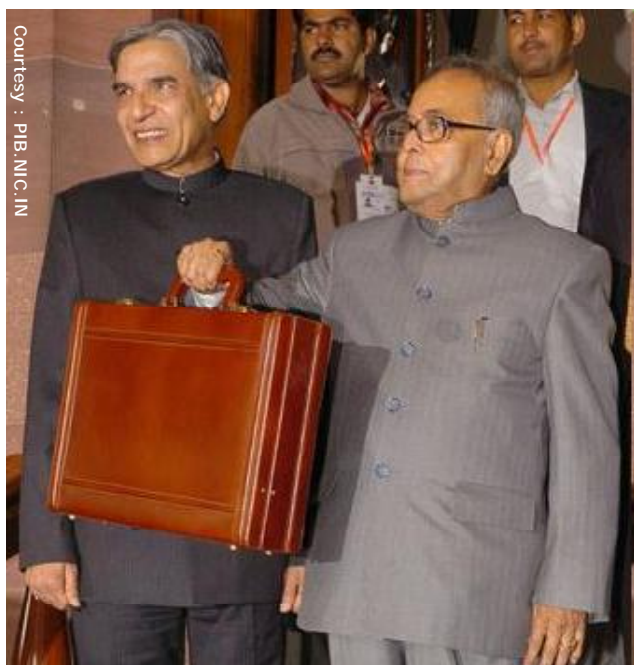
<http://upscportal.com/civilservices/mag/vol-1/tips/Civil-Services-Examination-Strategy-2009-10>

## SECTION : 3

### Interim Budget 2009-10

#### Focuses On Rural Economy

**“The Interim Budget focuses on rural economy. Keeping forthcoming elections in mind, the government tried to shield the economy from a global credit crunch and stem job losses. Rs 30100 crore was allocated to Government’s flagship rural employment programme and many other schemes in a bid to counter the economic recession.”**



External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee presented the Interim Budget 2009 in the Lok Sabha on February 17. Interim Budget is spending plans for the 2009-10 fiscal year from April to July, to take care of essential spending during and in the immediate aftermath of general elections. As an acting Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee presented the budget after a gap of 25 years. It was sixth budget of UPA Government. The final budget will be presented only after the forthcoming general elections. First time in history Budget speech was interrupted for 10 minutes after JD(S) MP Virendra Kumar fell ill inside the house.

The Interim Budget focuses on rural economy. Keeping forthcoming elections in mind, the government tried to

shield the economy from a global credit crunch and stem job losses. Rs 30100 crore was allocated to Government’s flagship rural employment programme and many other schemes in a bid to counter the economic recession. To enhance expenditure on schemes to provide employment and economic development, the interim Budget for 2009-10 planned a total expenditure of Rs 953231 crore comprising Rs 285149 crore in plan and Rs 668082 crore in non-plan spending. Rs 141703 crore was allocated for defence sector, which is Rs 9000 crore more. The Budget provided Rs 95579 crore for major subsidies including food, fertiliser and petroleum.

According to External Affairs and Finance, there is a clear need for contra-cyclical policy and it calls for a substantial increase in expenditure in infrastructure development where a large gap and in rural development where the programmes such as Bharat Nirman and NREGS are playing a vital social role in the current environment. Touching on the revised estimates for 2008-09, the total expenditure has been revised to Rs 900953 crore against Rs 750884 crore, an increase of Rs 150069 crore.

The plan expenditure for 2008-09 was placed at Rs 243,386 crore in the Budget estimate which went up to Rs 282957 crore in the revised estimates. The additional plan spending of Rs 39571 crore is on account of increase in the central plan by Rs 24174 crore and an increase of Rs 15397 crore in central assistance to state and UT plans.

#### Main Focus On Interim Budget 2009-10 :-

- Two new schemes-indira gandhi national widow pension and indira gandhi national disability pension schemes launched.
- Rs. 131317 crore allocated to flagship programmes
- GDP records sustained growth of over 9 per cent for 3 consecutive years
- Rs. 953231 crore expenditure proposed for 2009-10.
- Revenue deficit for 2009-10 estimated at 4 per cent and fiscal deficit 5.5 per cent of GDP
- Fiscal Deficit down from 4.5 per cent in 2003-04 to 2.7 per cent in 2007-08.



- 32.4 billion US dollar FDI received in 2007-08.
- Foreign trade at 35.5 % of GDP in 2007-08.
- Custom duties rates steadily reduced.
- Gross domestic savings rate increased from 29.8% in 2003-04 to 30.7% in 2007-08.
- Tax to GDP ratio increased from 9.2% 2003-04 to 4.5% 2007-08.
- Total expenditure for fiscal 2009-10 estimated at Rs.9,53,231 crore. Plan expenditure estimated at Rs.2,85,149 crore and Non-Plan expenditure at Rs.6,68,082 crore.
- Budgetary support in Plan B.E. 2009-10 in comparison to B.E. 2008-09 increased for Department of Rural Development, Department of Road Transport & Highways, Railways, Ministry of Power, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Department of Information Technology to meet the requirements of rural and infrastructure development along with higher allocation for Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Ministry of Culture to ensure adequate resources for hosting of the Commonwealth Games.
- Allocations to flagship programme which directly impact 'Aam Aadmi' fully protected.
- Rs.30,100 crore allocated for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for the year 2009-10. In 2008-09 employment of 138.76 crore person days covering 3.51 crore household already generated.
- About 98 per cent habitations covered by primary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Allocation for this programme increased by 571 per cent between 2003-04 and 2008-09. Allocation of Rs.13,100 crore proposed for 2009-10.
- Rs.8,000 crore allocated for Mid-day Meals Scheme for the year 2009-10.
- Allocation of Rs.6,705 crore proposed for Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for the year 2009-10. New WHO child growth standards adopted for monitoring growth of children under ICDS.
- 386 projects amounting to Rs.39,000 crore sanctioned till December 31, 2008 under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Allocation of Rs.11,842 crore proposed for the year 2009-10.
- Rs.7,400 crore allocated for Rajiv Gandhi Rural Drinking Water Mission, Rs.1,200 crore for Rural Sanitation Programme, Rs.12,070 crore for National Rural Health Mission, Rs.40,900 crore allocated for Bharat Nirman for the year 2009-10.
- A provision of Rs.100 crore in the Annual Plan 2009-10 made for Unique Identification Authority of India.
- RIDF-XV proposed with a corpus of Rs.14,000 crore. Separate window for rural roads to continue with a corpus of Rs.4,000 crore.
- Interest subvention of 2 per cent on pre and post shipment credit for certain employment oriented sectors i.e. Textiles (including handlooms & handicrafts), Carpets, Leather, Gem & Jewellery, Marine products and SMEs extended beyond March 31, 2009 till September 30, 2009 involving an additional financial outgo of Rs.500 crore.
- Government to recapitalize the public sector banks over the next two years to enable them to maintain Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 12 per cent.
- Major subsidies including food, fertilizer and petroleum estimated at Rs.95,579 crore.

- For the fiscal 2009-10, with Centre's net tax revenue estimated at Rs.5,00,096 crore and Revenue expenditure at Rs.8,48,085 crore, revenue deficit is estimated at 4 per cent of GDP and fiscal deficit at 5.5 per cent of GDP.
- Rs. 141703 crore including Rs.54,824 for Capital Expenditure for defence in The Interim Budget. Spending up by 31%.
- Rural infrastructure development fund corpus increased to Rs. 14000 crore in 2008-09
- 60.12 lakh houses for weaker sections constructed under indira awaas yojana.
- Farm credit disbursements up 300 per cent- touch Rs. 2.5 lakh crore in 2007-08
- Rs 65,300 crore debt waiver and relief given to 3.6 crore farmers.
- 15 Central Universities established, 6 new iits start functioning; two more to commence in 2009.
- Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Scheme to be substantially expanded.
- Financial sector reforms strengthen regulatory mechanism of securities market.
- Farmers to get loan upto 3 lakhs at 7%.
- 60.4 lakh houses constructed in a year.
- Farmer's debt waiver: Rs. 65300 crore till now.
- 55 loss making PSUs as against 72 when UPA took over.
- No tax changes in the Interim Budget.
- Food, fertiliser, petroluem subsidies to go up.
- Rs 1200 crore for Total Sanitation Programme.
- Rs 40000 crore relief extended through tax cuts.
- Rs 8300 crore for mid-day meal scheme.
- Infrastructure spending to be 9% of GDP by 2014.
- Economy grew at 9% for straight 3rd year.
- Baharat Nirman programme gets rupees 40,900 crore.
- Foodgrain production increased by 10 million tonnes each year to all time high of 230 million tonnes in 2007-08.
- Widows to get priority in ITI.
- Six new IIMs to be operational by 2010.
- 2 more IITs in MP, HP to start ops in '10.
- Outlay on higher education increased 900%.



**This Article is Available Online Also**

<http://upscportal.com/civilservices/mag/vol-1/article/Interim-Budget-2009-10>

## Central Plan 2009-2010

### **Rural Development**

**National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme :** Rs 30100 crore for providing 100 days of wage employment to each rural household opting for it. All the Districts covering rural areas have been brought under NREGA with effect from 1st April, 2008.

**Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana :** Rs 2350 crore for establishing micro-enterprises in rural areas. Activity clusters and group approach are the two key components of the programme. At least 50% of the Swarozgaries will be SCs/STs, 40% women and 3% disabled.

**Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana:** Rs 10000 crore for providing connectivity to eligible unconnected rural habitations through good all-weather roads.

**Rural Housing :** Rs 8800 crore for providing assistance to rural BPL households for construction of houses (and upgradation of Kuchcha houses). As per Indira Awaas Yojana guidelines, the houses are allotted in the name of the female member of the household or in the name of husband and wife. 60% of total allocation is to be utilised for construction of houses for BPL families of SCs/STs.

### **Drinking Water Supply**

**Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme :** Rs 7300 crore for supplementing the States in their effort to provide safe drinking water to all rural habitations.

**Rural Sanitation :** Rs 1200 crore for Total Sanitation Programme.

### **Agriculture and Cooperation**

Rs 1100 crore for National Horticulture Mission.

Rs 1100 for National Food Security Mission.

Rs 950 crore for Macro Management of Agriculture.

RS 400 ctore for Micro Irrigation.

Rs 644 crore for National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

Rs 320 crore for Integrated Oilseeds, Oil Palm, Pulses and Maize Development .

### **Land Resources**

**Integrated Watershed Management Programme:** Rs 2021crore for Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Watershed Management Programme.

**National Land Records Modernisation Programme :** Rs 270 crore for land records modernisation.

### **Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries**

Rs 271 crore for Veterinary Services and Animal Health.

Rs 100 crore for Cattle Development.

Rs 75 crore for a Special package for farming population in 31 suicide prone districts in the country.

### **Agricultural Research and Education**

Rs 300 crore for research issues in Crop Sciences.

Rs 345 crore for Agricultural Education to improve the quality of human resource, upgrade infrastructure and educational reforms.

Rs 282 crore for Agricultural Extension programmes to disseminate frontline technologies.

Rs 252 crore for World Bank Aided National Agricultural Innovation Project.

### **Environment and Forests**

Rs 617 crore for Ecology & Environment and National River Conservation.

Rs 883 crore for Forestry and Wildlife and National Afforestation and Eco-Development.

### **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

Rs 144 crore for Credit Support Programme to provide Guarantee cover to banks for extending loans to Small/Tiny units without collateral.

Rs 823 crore for Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme to provide subsidy to beneficiaries' meeting cost of training and to meet residual/ committed liabilities under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana/Rural Employment Generation Programme.

### **School Education and Literacy**

Rs 13100 crore for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Rs 8000 crore for National Programme of Mid Day Meals in Schools.

Rs 1354 crore for Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

Rs 750 crore for National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme.

**Higher Education**

Rs 3440 crore for University Grants Commission - includes provision for implementation of the recommendations of Oversight Committee.

Rs 3185 crore for Technical Education, including a provision for implementation of the recommendations of Oversight Committee.

Rs 552 crore for National Mission on Information and Communication Technology.

**Health**

Rs 11930 crore for National Rural Health Mission.

Rs 3650 crore for Health Sector.

**Fertilisers**

119.34 lakh tonnes of Nitrogenous fertiliser production targeted.

38.42 lakh tonnes of Phosphatic fertiliser production targeted.



**This Article is Available Online Also**

<http://upscportal.com/civilservices/mag/vol-1/article/Interim-Budget-2009-10/Central-Plan>

## Budget Glossary

### **Annual Financial Statement**

According to article 112 of the Constitution of India, the government has to present to Parliament a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure in respect of every financial year -April 1 to March 31. This statement is the annual financial statement.

The annual financial statement is usually a white 10-page document. It is divided into three parts, consolidated fund, contingency fund and public account. For each of these funds, the government has to present a statement of receipts and expenditure.

**Consolidated Fund:** This is the most important of all government funds. All revenues raised by the government, money borrowed and receipts from loans given by the government flow into the consolidated fund of India. All government expenditure is made from this fund, except for exceptional items met from the Contingency Fund or the Public Account. Importantly, no money can be withdrawn from this fund without the Parliament's approval.

**Contingency Fund:** As the name suggests, any urgent or unforeseen expenditure is met from this fund. The Rs 500-crore fund is at the disposal of the President. Any expenditure incurred from this fund requires a subsequent approval from Parliament and the amount withdrawn is returned to the fund from the consolidated fund.

### **RIDF Corpus**

The corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund(RIDF), which is the main instrument of the Government to channelise bank funds for financing rural infrastructure, has been increased from Rs. 5500 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 14,000 crore for the year 2008-09 ensuring greater availability of funds for its activities. A separate window for rural roads was created under RIDF with a corpus of Rs. 4,000 crore for each of the last three years. Against the target of 60 lakh houses which were to be constructed for the weaker sections in rural years under the Indira Awaas Yojana by 2008-09, 60.12 lakh houses have already been constructed between 2005-06 and December 2008.

### **Plan Allocation for Agriculture**

While the plan allocation for agriculture has gone up by 300 percent between the period 2003-04 and 2008-09, the agriculture credit disbursement too has increased from Rs 87,000 crore to Rs 2,50,000 crore upto 2007-08. To strengthen short-term credit structure, revival package in 25 states involving financial assistance of about Rs 13,500 crore is also being implemented by the government. The government will continue to provide interest subvention in 2009-10 to ensure that farmers get short-term crop loans upto Rs 3 lakhs at seven per cent per annum.



**Public Account:** This fund is to account for flows for those transactions where the government is merely acting as a banker. For example, provident funds, small savings and so on. These funds do not belong to the government. They have to be paid back at some time to their rightful owners. Because of this nature of the fund, expenditure from it are not required to be approved by the Parliament.

For each of these funds the government has to present a statement of receipts and expenditure. It is important to note that all money flowing into these funds is called receipts, the funds received, and not revenue. Revenue in budget context has a specific meaning. The Constitution requires that the budget has to distinguish between receipts and expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure. So all receipts in, say consolidated fund, are split into Revenue Budget (revenue account) and Capital Budget (capital account), which includes non-revenue receipts and expenditure

**Revenue receipt/Expenditure:** All receipts and expenditure that in general do not entail sale or creation of assets are included under the revenue account. On the receipts side, taxes would be the most important revenue receipt. On the expenditure side, anything that does not result in creation of assets is treated as revenue expenditure. Salaries, subsidies and interest payments are good examples of revenue expenditure.

**Capital receipt/Expenditure:** All receipts and expenditure that liquidate or create an asset would in general be under capital account. For example, if the government sells shares (disinvests) in public sector companies, the receipts from the sale would go under capital account. On the other hand, if the government gives someone a loan from which it expects to receive interest, that expenditure would go under the capital account.

In respect of all the funds the government has to prepare a revenue budget (detailing revenue receipts and revenue expenditure) and a capital budget (capital receipts and capital expenditure). Contingency fund is clearly not that important. Public account is important in that it gives a view of select savings and how they are being used, but

not that relevant from a budget perspective. The consolidated fund is the key to the budget.

**Customs:** Taxes imposed on imports. While revenue is an important consideration, Customs duties may also be levied to protect the domestic industry or sector (agriculture, for one), in retaliation against measures by other countries.

**Union Excise Duty:** Duties imposed on goods made in India.

**Service Tax:** It is a tax on services rendered. Telephone bill, for instance, attracts a service tax.

**Direct Tax:** Traditionally, these are taxes where the burden of tax falls on the person on whom it is levied. These are largely taxes on income or wealth. Income tax (on corporates and individuals), FBT, STT and BCTT are direct taxes.

**Indirect Tax:** In case of indirect taxes, the incidence of tax is usually not on the person who pays the tax. These are largely taxes on expenditure and include Customs, excise and service tax.

**Non-tax revenue:** The most important receipts under this head are interest payments (received on loans given by the government to states, railways and others) and dividends and profits received from public sector companies.

**Corporation Tax:** Tax on profits of companies.

**Taxes on Income other than corporation tax:** Income tax paid by non-corporate assesses, individuals, for instance.

**Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT):** The taxation of perquisites or fringe benefits-provided by an employer to his employees, in addition to the cash salary or wages paid, is fringe benefit tax. It was introduced in Budget 2005-06. The government felt many companies were disguising perquisites such as club facilities as ordinary business expenses, which escaped taxation altogether. Employers

have to now pay FBT on a percentage of the expense incurred on such perquisites.

**Securities Transaction Tax (STT):** Sale of any asset (shares, property) results in loss or profit. Depending on the time the asset is held, such profits and losses are categorised as long-term or short-term capital gain/loss. In Budget 2004-05, the government abolished long-term capital gains tax on shares (tax on profits made on sale of shares held for more than a year) and replaced it with STT. It is a kind of turnover tax where the investor has to pay a small tax on the total consideration paid / received in a share transaction.

**Banking Cash Transaction Tax (BCTT):** Introduced in Budget 2005-06, BCTT is a small tax on cash withdrawal from bank exceeding a particular amount in a single day. The basic idea is to curb the black economy and generate a record of big cash transactions.

**Grants-in-aid and contributions:** The third receipt item in the revenue account is relatively small grants-in-aid and contributions. These are in the nature of pure transfers to the government without any repayment obligation.

**Revenue Deficit:** The excess of disbursements over receipts on revenue account is called revenue deficit. This is an important control indicator. All expenditure on revenue account should ideally be met from receipts on revenue account; the revenue deficit should be zero. When revenue disbursement exceeds receipts, the government would have to borrow.

**Public Debt:** Public debt receipts and public debt disbursements are borrowings and repayments during the year, respectively. The difference is the net accretion to the public debt. Public debt can be split into internal (money borrowed within the country) and external (funds borrowed from non-Indian sources). Internal debt comprises treasury bills, market stabilisation schemes, ways and means advance, and securities against small savings.

**Treasury Bills (T-bills):** These are bonds (debt securities) with maturity of less than a year. These are issued to meet short-term mismatches in receipts and expenditure. Bonds of longer maturity are called dated securities.

**Market stabilisation Scheme:** The scheme was launched in April 2004 to strengthen RBI's ability to conduct exchange rate and monetary management. These securities are issued not to meet the government's expenditure but to provide RBI with a stock of securities with which it can intervene in the market for managing liquidity.

**Miscellaneous Receipts:** These are receipts from disinvestment in public sector undertakings. Capital account receipts of the consolidated fund - public debt, recoveries of loans and advances, and miscellaneous receipts and revenue receipts are receipts of the consolidated fund.

**Central Plan:** Central or annual plans are essentially Five Year Plans broken down into annual instalments. Through these plans, the government achieves the objectives of the Five Year Plans.

**Plan Expenditure:** This is essentially the budget support to the central plan and the central assistance to state and union territory plans. Like all budget heads, this is also split into revenue and capital components.

**Non-plan Expenditure:** This is largely the revenue expenditure of the government. The biggest items of expenditure are interest payments, subsidies, salaries, defence and pension. The capital component of the non-plan expenditure is relatively small with the largest allocation going to defence. Defence expenditure is non-plan expenditure.

**Fiscal Deficit:** When the government's non-borrowed receipts fall short of its entire expenditure, it has to borrow money from the public to meet the shortfall. The excess of total expenditure over total non-borrowed receipts is called the fiscal deficit.

**Primary Deficit:** The revenue expenditure includes interest payments on government's earlier borrowings. The primary deficit is the fiscal deficit less interest payments. A shrinking primary deficit indicates progress towards fiscal health. The Budget document also mentions deficit as a percentage of GDP. This is to facilitate comparison and also get a proper perspective. Prudent fiscal management requires that government does not borrow to consume in the normal course.

**FRBM Act:** Enacted in 2003, Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act require the elimination of revenue deficit by 2008-09. Hence, from 2008-09, the government will have to meet all its revenue expenditure from its revenue receipts. Any borrowing would only be to meet capital expenditure. The Act mandates a 3% limit on the fiscal deficit after 2008-09.

**Cess:** This is an additional levy on the basic tax liability. Governments resort to cess for meeting specific expenditure. For example, both corporate and individual income is at present subject to an education cess of 2%. In the last Budget, the government had imposed another 1% cess-secondary and higher education cess on income tax-to finance secondary and higher education.

**Export Duty:** This is a tax levied on exports. In most instances, the object is not revenue, but to discourage exports of certain items. In the last Budget, for instance, the government imposed an export duty of Rs 300 per metric tonne on export of iron ores and concentrates and Rs 2,000 per metric tonne on export of chrome ores and concentrates.

**Finance Bill:** The proposals of government for levy of new taxes, modification of the existing tax structure or continuance of the existing tax structure beyond the period approved by Parliament are submitted to Parliament through this bill. It is the key document as far as taxes are concerned.

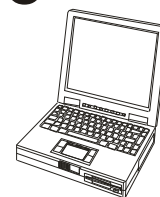


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## Israel - Palestine Crisis

### Towards Demolition Of Human Rights

According to a recent report to U.N. Human Rights Council prepared by United Nations investigators, Israel violated a range of human rights during its invasion of Gaza, including targeting civilians and using a child as a human shield. It called for an urgent end to Israeli restrictions on humanitarian supplies to Gaza and a full international investigation into the conflict.

"The origins of the Palestine problem as an international issue, however, lie in events occurring towards the end of the First World War. From 1948 there have been wars and destruction, forcing millions of Palestinians into exile, and engaging the United Nations in a continuing search for a solution to a problem which came to possess the potential of a major source of danger for world peace."

Civilian targets, particularly homes and their occupants, appear to have taken the brunt of the attacks, but schools and medical facilities have also been hit. Report describes that an Israeli soldier shot a father after ordering him out of his house and then opened fire into the room where the rest of the family was sheltering, wounding the mother and three brothers and killing a fourth. United Nations investigators made accused the Israeli army of using an 11-year-old boy as a human shield during its recent Gaza offensive.

The report says troops ordered the boy to walk in front of them for several hours under fire, entering buildings and opening suspect packages. In another case, on January 15, 2009, at Tal al Hawa south-west of Gaza City, Israeli soldiers forced an 11-year-old boy to walk in front of them for several hours as they moved through the town, even after they had been shot at. The UN team responsible for protection of children in war zones says it found "hundreds" of similar violations. Israel denied the charges. The report also drew attention to alleged violations of international law committed by Israeli forces, yet largely failed to acknowledge Israel's right to self-defense and to protect its citizenry and territory.

No Government could be expected to tolerate violence against its citizens and territory, and the United States once again condemned the use of Gaza as a base from which to attack Israeli citizens. Israel's ambassador to the UN criticised the report as 'unable or perhaps unwilling' to address attacks against its civilians by Palestinian militants. Israel had made clear that it rejected this biased and politicized agenda item that diminished the very credibility and legitimacy of the Council while it offered the region nothing more than empty political rhetoric. For eight years the citizens of southern Israel, innocent civilians, had suffered the trauma of more than 8,000 missile attacks from Gaza.

No country in this chamber, no country in the world, would permit such attacks against its citizens. Yet when Israel acted merely in self-defense to stop the relentless onslaught of rockets and terrorism, wild accusations were made and history was turned on its head. In the general debate, speakers condemned the war crimes committed by Israel in Gaza and called for those responsible to be held to account. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority were urged to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, and all parties had responsibilities as regarded preventing, investigating and remedying human rights violations, including while fighting terrorism.

Israel should facilitate access to Gaza for investigations into violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and all parties should fully cooperate with such investigations. Speakers recognised the right of Israel to defend its civilians against the indiscriminate rocket attacks from Gaza, however, this right had to be exercised in accordance with international law. Support was expressed for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, with the objective of two States living side by side in peace and security in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and as laid out



in the Road Map drawn by the Quartet. Palestinians had to have their own sovereign state, with East Jerusalem as the capital. Israel also continued to defy international legislation in occupying the Syrian Golan.

It was important to keep both the humanitarian concerns of the Palestinian people and the security of Israeli citizens in mind when considering this complex situation. Both sides bore a responsibility to, at a minimum, ensure against the targeting of civilians as such, and to comply with international law.

### **Palestine's Point:**

Jerusalem was the political capital of Palestine, the sacred city for Palestinians and any attempt to change the Islamic and Christian sites in Jerusalem with the building of the Wall was evidence that Israel's discriminatory practices to Judaize those areas had failed. Israel was attempting to change the demographic composure of East Jerusalem by building settlements in East Jerusalem and closing the city off from Palestinians by building the Separation Wall. The United Nations recognized East Jerusalem as part of the Occupied Territories and building settlements in this area was contrary to those laws.

### **Syria's Opinion:**

The whole world, and in particular the delegations in the Human Rights Council, remained inactive facing the human rights violations taking place in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Occupied Syrian Golan. It appeared as though Israel was above the law, and accountable to none. The occupation of Syrian lands continued - Israeli identity was imposed on Syrian inhabitants, and water was diverted from the lands to be made available to Israeli citizens. Racial and religious discrimination continued. An end should be put to Israeli occupation of all Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan, and the Human Rights Council should put an end to the suffering of Syrian citizens in the Golan.

### **Understanding the Problem:**

The origins of the Palestine problem as an international issue, however, lie in events occurring towards the end of the First World War. These events led to a League of Nations decision to place Palestine under the administration of Great Britain as the Mandatory Power under the Mandates System adopted by the League. In principle, the Mandate was meant to be in the nature of a transitory phase until Palestine at-

tained the status of a fully independent nation, a status provisionally recognized in the League's Covenant, but in fact the Mandate's historical evolution did not result in the emergence of Palestine as an independent nation. The decision on the Mandate did not take into account the wishes of the people of Palestine, despite the Covenant's requirements that "the wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory".

This assumed special significance because, almost five years before receiving the mandate from the League of Nations, the British Government had given commitments to the Zionist Organization regarding the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine, for which Zionist leaders had pressed a claim of "historical connection" since their ancestors had lived in Palestine two thousand years earlier before dispersing in the "Diaspora". During the period of the Mandate, the Zionist Organization worked to secure the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. The indigenous people of Palestine, whose forefathers had inhabited the land for virtually the two preceding millennia felt this design to be a violation of their natural and inalienable rights.

They also viewed it as an infringement of assurances of independence given by the Allied Powers to Arab leaders in return for their support during the war. The result was mounting resistance to the Mandate by Palestinian Arabs, followed by resort to violence by the Jewish community as the Second World War drew to a close. After a quarter of a century of the Mandate, Great Britain submitted what had become "the Palestine problem" to the United Nations on the ground that the Mandatory Power was faced with conflicting obligations that had proved irreconcilable.

At this point, when the United Nations itself was hardly two years old, violence ravaged Palestine. After investigating various alternatives the United Nations proposed the partitioning of Palestine into two independent States, one Palestinian Arab and the other Jewish, with Jerusalem internationalized. The partition plan did not bring peace to Palestine, and the prevailing violence spread into a Middle East war halted only by United Nations action.

One of the two States envisaged in the partition plan proclaimed its independence as Israel and, in a series of successive wars, its territorial control expanded to occupy all of Palestine. The Palestinian Arab State envisaged in the partition plan never appeared on the world's map and, over the



following 30 years, the Palestinian people have struggled for their lost rights. The Palestine problem quickly widened into the Middle East dispute between the Arab States and Israel. From 1948 there have been wars and destruction, forcing millions of Palestinians into exile, and engaging the United Nations in a continuing search for a solution to a problem which came to possess the potential of a major source of danger for world peace.

In the course of this search, a large majority of States Members of the United Nations have recognized that the Palestine issue continues to lie at the heart of the Middle East problem, the most serious threat to peace with which the United Nations must contend. Recognition is spreading in world opinion that the Palestinian people must be assured its inherent inalienable right of national self-determination for peace to be restored. In 1947 the United Nations accepted the responsibility of finding a just solution for the Palestine issue, and still grapples with this task today. Decades of strife and politico-legal arguments have clouded the basic issues and have obscured the origins and evolution of the Palestine problem, which this study attempts to clarify.

#### **Peace Efforts:**

A Peace Conference on the Middle East was convened in Madrid on 30 October 1991, with the aim of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement through direct negotiations along 2 tracks: between Israel and the Arab States, and between Israel and the Palestinians, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) (the "land for peace" formula). A series of subsequent negotiations culminated in the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian People, and the signing by the two parties of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington on 13 September 1993, as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, which led to several other positive developments, such as the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces, the elections to the Palestinian Council and the Presidency of the Palestinian Authority, the partial release of prisoners and the establishment of a functioning administration in the areas under Palestinian self-rule. The involvement of the United Nations has been essential to the peace process, both as the guardian of international

legitimacy and in the mobilization and provision of international assistance. In 2000 and 2001, Israelis and Palestinians held talks on a final status agreement, which proved inconclusive.

The controversial visit by Ariel Sharon of the Likud to Al-Haram Al-Sharif (Temple Mount) in 2000 was followed by the outbreak of the second intifada. A massive loss of life, the reoccupation of territories under Palestinian self-rule, military incursions, extrajudicial killings of suspected Palestinian militants, suicide attacks, rocket and mortar fire, and the destruction of property characterized the situation on the ground. Israel began the construction of a West Bank separation wall, located within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which was ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004. In 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1397 affirming a vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side within secure and recognized borders. In 2003, the Middle East Quartet (US, EU, Russia, and the UN) released a detailed Road Map to a two-State solution, endorsed by Security Council resolution 1515. In 2005, Israel withdrew its settlers and troops from the Gaza Strip as part of its "Disengagement Plan," while retaining effective control over its borders, seashore, and airspace.

Following the Palestinian Legislative Council elections of 2006, the Quartet concluded that future assistance to the Palestinian Authority would be reviewed by donors against the new Government's commitment to non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements.

**FACT SHEET****Israel:-**

**Area:** Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics cites 22,072 sq km (8,522 sq miles), including Jerusalem and Golan

**Population:** 7 million (UN, 2008)

**Seat of government:** Jerusalem, though most foreign embassies are in Tel Aviv

**Major languages:** Hebrew, Arabic

**Major religions:** Judaism, Islam

**Life expectancy:** 79 years (men), 83 years (women) (UN)

**Palestine:-**

**Area:** Palestinian Ministry of Information cites 5,970 sq km (2,305 sq miles) for West Bank territories and 365 sq km (141 sq miles) for Gaza

**Population:** 4 million

**Intended seat of government:** East Jerusalem

**Major language:** Arabic

**Major religion:** Islam

**Life expectancy:** 72 years (men), 75 years (women) (UN)



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# आंतरिक सुरक्षा और भारत

## विशेष रणनीति एवं विधानी उपाय

" वैश्विक आतंकवाद की पृष्ठभूमि में भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा का प्रश्न निःसंदेह बहुत ही संवेदनशील है। नवंबर २००८ के मुंबई हमले ने सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से कमजोरी एवं अव्यवस्था का खुलासा कर दिया। ऐसे में राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी का गठन तथा त्वरित रूप से किए जा रहे अन्य उपाय यह सिद्ध करते हैं कि सरकार ने इस दिशा में कुछ करने का संकल्प लिया है। "

वर्ष २००८ के नवंबर माह में देश की वित्तीय राजधानी मुंबई में कायरतापूर्ण हमलों ने देश को झकझोर दिया। इन हमलों के कारण लोगों में न केवल जागरूकता पैदा हुई अपितु परिणामोन्मुख तरीके से सुरक्षा उपकरणों को और अधिक सशक्त बनाने की आवश्यकता महसूस हुई। नई दिल्ली में आंतरिक सुरक्षा के बारे में आयोजित मुख्यमंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में आतंकवादी खतरे से निबटने की रूपरेखा तैयार की गयी। उन्होंने राष्ट्र के लिए दो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए। पहला दिनोंदिन बढ़ती जा रही अत्याधुनिक आतंकवादी घमकी से निबटने के लिए तैयारी का स्तर ऊंचा करना और दूसरा, किसी आतंकवादी खतरे या आतंकवादी घमकी की अनुक्रिया की गति या निर्णयात्मकता को और अधिक बढ़ाना। इन दोनों लक्ष्यों को हासिल करने के लिए मुंबई की घटनाओं के बाद सरकार ने अनेक कदम उठाए हैं।

### आपराधिक दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता (संशोधन) अधिनियम 2008

अन्य बातों के अलावा राज्य सरकारों द्वारा पीड़ितों के लिए क्षतिपूर्ति की एक व्यापक योजना बनाई गई है ताकि ऐसे अपराधों में, जिसमें सात वर्ष तक कारावास दंड दिया जाता है, मामलों के बार-बार स्थगन के कारण मुकदमों के शीघ्र निबटान की कठिनाइयों, श्रद्धा-दृश्य माध्यमों के जरिए पुलिस द्वारा अभियुक्त और गवाहों के बयानों की रिकार्डिंग के प्रावधान को उपलब्ध कराने और वीडियो कान्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से न्यायिक हिरासत में अभियुक्त को और अधिक समय तक रखे रहने जैसी परेशानियों से क्षतिपूर्ति के लिए योजना बनाने का प्रावधान है।

### केन्द्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (संशोधन) अध्यादेश 2009

निजी और संयुक्त उद्यम के उद्योगों ने अर्थव्यवस्था की वृद्धि में पर्याप्त योगदान किया है, लेकिन आतंकवादी तत्वों की बढ़ती हुई गतिविधियों के कारण भी सुरक्षा का आश्वासन चाहते हैं। इसलिए सीआईएसएफ अधिनियम 1968 के सम्बद्ध अंशों में संशोधन किया गया है जिससे लागत पुनर्भुगतान आधार पर निजी क्षेत्र और संयुक्त उद्यमों को भी सुरक्षा के लिए सीआईएसएफ को तैनात करने के प्रावधान को लागू किया जा सकता है। इससे घमकी का अनुमान लगाकर उसके अनुसार निजी और संयुक्त क्षेत्र के उद्यमों के लिए सीआईएसएफ की तैनाती का प्रावधान शामिल किया जाये।

### बहु-माध्यम केन्द्र

जनवरी १, २००९ से वर्ष २००९ में बनाए गये बहु-माध्यम केन्द्र ने कार्य प्रारम्भ किया और अब राज्यों तथा केन्द्रशासित प्रदेशों की सरकारी की एजेंसियों के साथ खुफिया जानकारी का आपस में आदान-प्रदान करने के लिए वह बाध्य है। इसी प्रकार अन्य सभी एजेंसियां बहु-माध्यम केन्द्र के साथ खुफिया जानकारी का आपस में आदान-प्रदान करने के लिए बाध्य हैं। कई राज्यों में बहु-माध्यम केन्द्र की सहायक शाखाएं भी कायम की गयी हैं। केन्द्र और राज्य स्तरों पर पूर्ण विश्वसनीय सम्पर्क कायम करने के लिए कार्रवाई शुरू कर दी गयी है।

### विधायी उपाय

राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी अधिनियम, गैर-कानूनी गतिविधियां (निरोधक) संशोधन अधिनियम तथा आपराधिक दंड - प्रक्रिया (संशोधन) अधिनियम बनाए गए हैं। सरकार ने केन्द्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (अधिनियम) अध्यादेश भी जारी किया गया है। यह भी प्रावधान किया गया है कि जहां भी ऐसी कोई गिरफ्तारी या बरामदगी होगी, इस तरह की व्यक्तियों/वस्तु/दस्तावेजों को जब्त किया जाता है, बगैर देरी किए, ऐसे निकटतम पुलिस थाने में में जमा कर दिया जाए जो कानून के प्रावधानों के अनुसार उस पर कार्रवाई करे। आतंकवादी अधिनियम की परिभाषा व्यापक बनाई गई है और एआरसी की सिफारिशों को ध्यान में रखते हुए इसके तहत अनेक अतिरिक्त विशिष्ट अपराधों को विभिन्न अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नियमों आदि, आतंकवाद के सिलसिले में, प्रशिक्षण और आतंकवाद के लिए वित्त उपलब्ध कराने सहित प्रावधानों आदि को शामिल किया गया है।

### तटवर्ती भागों की सुरक्षा

मुम्बई में हुए आतंकवादी हमलों ने देश की समुद्री तट रेखा की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था की ओर ध्यान और अधिक आकृष्ट किया है। जनवरी, 2005 में मंत्रिमंडल समिति ने एक तटवर्ती सुरक्षा स्कीम तैयार करके उसकी स्वीकृति दी थी, उस पर पांच वर्षों से अधिक समय तक 400 करोड़ रुपये का गैर-आवर्ती व्यय तथा ईंधन, जहाजों की मरम्मत एवं रख-रखाव तथा जहाजों की मरम्मत और कार्मिकों के प्रशिक्षण पर 151 करोड़ रुपये की आवर्ती व्यय का प्रावधान किया गया है। समुद्रतटीय सुरक्षा स्कीम के अंतर्गत 73 तटीय सुरक्षा स्कीम 73 तटवर्तीय पुलिस थाने, 97 चेक पोस्ट, 58 आउटपोस्ट तथा 30 संरचनात्मक बैरकों के निर्माण की स्वीकृति दी गई है। पुलिस थाने को 204 गश्ती बोट उपलब्ध कराई जाएंगी जो आधुनिक नौवहन तथा समुद्री जहाज और सम्बद्ध उपकरणों से सज्जित होगी। 153 जीपों तथा 312

मोटर साइकिलों के लिए भी अनुमोदन कर दिया गया है। प्रत्येक पुलिस के लिए कम्प्यूटरों और अन्य उपकरणों के लिए 10-10 लाख रुपये की एकमुश्त रकम उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी। हाल में सम्बद्ध राज्यों एवं मंत्रालयों/एजेंसियों के साथ अनेक उच्चस्तरीय समीक्षा बैठकें कराई गईं जिनमें समुद्रतटीय सुरक्षा और मजबूत बनाने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाने और अंतर्राज्यीय गिरोहों की पहचान करके उन्हें पूरा करने के लिए उनके खिलाफ जरूरी कार्रवाई करने का निश्चय किया गया। इनमें मछली पकड़ने वाले तथा अन्य जहाजों एवं नौकाओं का अनिवार्य रूप से पंजीकरण कराने, मछुआरे के लिए पहचान पत्र जारी करने तथा टोही जहाजों और निगरानी प्रणालियों की व्यवस्था आदि शामिल हैं।

### राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा गार्ड व्यवस्था

देश के विभिन्न भागों में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा गार्ड की व्यवस्था कायम करने का केन्द्र सरकार का प्रस्ताव है। कोलकाता, मुम्बई, चेन्नई और हैदराबाद में मुख्य केन्द्र स्थापित किए जाएंगे। कुछ अन्य नगरों में रक्षाबलों द्वारा प्रशिक्षित आतंकवाद-विरोधी बल उपलब्ध कराये जाएंगे। उदाहरणार्थ, बंगलुरु को सेना की विशिष्ट यूनिटों की सुविधा दी जाएगी। राज्य सरकारों से आग्रह किया गया है कि इस मामले में अपने यहां के आतंकवाद-निरोधक बलों का कुछ योगदान करके आवश्यक पूर्ति करें। ऐसे कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति एवं प्रशिक्षण के मामले में केन्द्र सरकार राज्यों की सहायता करेगी। देश के विभिन्न भागों में 20 उपद्रव-विरोधी तथा आतंक-विरोधी स्कूलों की स्थापना का कार्य प्रगति पर है इनमें राज्य पुलिस बलों की कमांडो यूनिटों को प्रशिक्षण देने का कार्यक्रम चल रहा है।

सरकार तैयारियों के स्तर में वृद्धि के लिए और उपाय कर रही है और आतंकवाद की चुनौती का सामना करने के लिए और भी आवश्यक कार्रवाई कर रही है। लेकिन इन सभी उपायों का अपेक्षित परिणाम तभी मिल सकेगा जब इस दिशा में मिलजुलकर समग्र प्रयास किया जाए। राज्य सरकारों, गैर-सैनिक सामाजिक संगठनों तथा सभी लोगों को एकजुट होकर यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि आतंकवादियों के मंसूबे पूरे न होने पाएं। मुम्बई में हुए आतंकवादी हमलों की प्रतिक्रियास्वरूप एकजुटता और बढ़े और आतंकवादियों के खिलाफ मोर्चा अत्यधिक प्रभावशाली हो

### रेल सुरक्षा

रेल मंत्रालय ने आतंकवादी, नक्सली तथा विघटनकारी ताकतों के खतरे को ध्यान में रखकर रेलवे स्टेशनों और गाड़ियों में सुरक्षा बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया है। चैन्ने, दिल्ली, कोलकाता और मुम्बई मेट्रो शहरों के स्टेशनों और भारतीय रेल के अन्य 140 संवेदनशील स्टेशनों पर एक एकीकृत सुरक्षा प्रणाली को लागू किया जा रहा है। इस प्रणाली में निम्नलिखित प्रमुख क्षेत्र शामिल हैं -

1. वीडियो विश्लेषण सहित सीसीटीवी आधारित इंटरनेट प्रोटोकाल
2. पहुंच नियंत्रण
3. व्यक्ति और सामान की स्क्रीनिंग प्रणाली
4. विस्फोटकों को ढूंढना और निपटान प्रणाली

रेल मंत्रालय ने रेल सुरक्षा बल (रेसुब) द्वारा प्रयोग किए जाने वाले सुरक्षा उपकरणों की खरीद के लिए 60.76 करोड़ रुपये आबंटित किए हैं। रेल सुरक्षा बल का आधुनिक सुरक्षा उपकरणों जैसे इनसास 5.56 मि.मी. राइफल, एके-47, एसएलआर 7.62, कार्बाइन 9मि.मी., बुलेटप्रूफ जैकेटों और हेलमेटों, वाकी-टाकी, हैंड हेल्ड मेटल डिटेक्टर, डोर फ्रेम मेटल डिटेक्टर, डॉग स्कवाड आदि से उन्नयन किया गया है। रेलवे के लिए एक संयुक्त योजना तैयार करने के लिए रेलवे बोर्ड द्वारा रेल, रेल सुरक्षा बल, आसूचना ब्यूरो, केन्द्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल, दिल्ली पुलिस और नेशनल सिक्वोरिटी गार्ड के अधिकारियों को शामिल करके एक समिति गठित की है। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है। रेलवे की सुरक्षा प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए इसे चालू किया जा रहा है।



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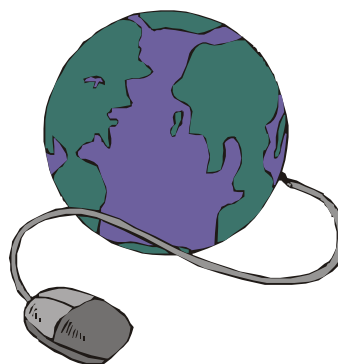
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## Successful Intercept Test

### Preparation of Missile Defence System

India tested a missile intercept test on March 6, 2009 as part of a plan to build a defence system against incoming ballistic missiles by 2010. THE Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) prowess in advanced software that goes into the making of interceptor missiles was proved convincingly on March 6 when a Prithvi interceptor missile achieved a direct hit-to-kill on an "enemy" missile. The interception took place at an altitude of 80 kilometres when a modified Dhanush missile, launched from the naval ship INS Subhadra in the Bay of Bengal, was in its descent phase and hurtling towards Wheeler Island, off Orissa's coast.

Dhanush was simulating the final phase of the trajectory of ballistic missiles with a range of 1,500 km, such as Pakistan's Ghauri missile. At the end of over five minutes of heightened suspense at the Launch Control Centre (LCC) on Wheeler Island, the Prithvi interceptor missile cut into the path of the incoming "Dhanush" missile, knocked it out and also pulverised the latter with its new manoeuvrable warhead. Such was the accuracy of the interception that those scanning the plot-boards at the LCC celebrated like never before. India was finally on the way to acquiring a ballistic missile defence shield to thwart enemy attacks. In terms of strategic importance, the success established India's capability to intercept Pakistan's Hatf and Ghauri missiles.

It was the third successful test since 2007 of an air defence system capable of detecting, intercepting and destroying medium- and long-range ballistic missiles, in Orissa capital Bhubaneswar. It tasted success in its first mission on November 27, 2006, when a Prithvi missile intercepted a Prithvi-II missile at an altitude of 48 km in what is called the exo-atmosphere. It was a direct hit.

The interceptor was called Prithvi Air Defence (PAD-01). Again, on December 6, 2008, an Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missile shot down a modified Prithvi missile at an altitude of 15 km in what is called the endo-atmosphere when the "attacker" was in the final stage of its flight. It was a direct hit too. With the March 6 direct hit, the DRDO has achieved a hat-trick.

The shield will be capable of high-speed interceptions of missiles launched 5000 kilometres away. India also test-fired a supersonic cruise missile it has jointly developed with Russia since 2001. The latest test near rival Pakistan's borders involved a modified BrahMos with a range of 290 kilometres. The Indian army has already acquired the missile, which carries conventional warheads but can be fired from mobile launchers. India, which has also built an array of nuclear-capable missiles, hopes to test-fire an inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) before the end of next year.

The Agni-V will have an ICBM range in excess of 5,000 kilometres. The success of the DRDO's March 6 test means that India will have a ballistic missile defence shield ready for deployment in four years. If the interception on March 6 took place at an altitude much higher than in the

previous missions, there are distinct advantages to it. The debris will take longer to fall through the atmosphere and become cinders because of re-entry heat. In an actual war, this will reduce the effect of any fallout of the debris of a nuclear warhead and the risks associated with radiation.

The software of the guidance, control and navigation systems, which was generated by DRDO scientists in Hyderabad, is practically the high watermark of the technology of our ballistic missile defence system. It will not be out of place to say that while many countries have been struggling for many years to get this kind of performance, it is to the credit of the young team at the DRDO that it made this mission a success. As far as the programme is concerned, this is a major milestone in proving the capability of our ballistic missile defence shield." The computer controlled, navigated and guided the vehicle towards its target, besides performing a series of mission-sequencing tasks. Besides, the interceptor had a special software to discriminate the terminal phase of



Courtesy - blog.alcam

the enemy missile's flight. Interceptions would take place in the terminal phase.

### **India's Missiles**

**Agni :** It is an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile. Agni-I used solid propulsion booster and a liquid propulsion upper stage, derived from Prithvi, essentially to prove the re-entry structure, control and guidance. The strap-down inertial navigation system adopts explicit guidance, which has attempted for the first time in the world. It uses all carbon composite structure for protecting payload during its re-entry phase. The first flight conducted in May 1989, established the re-entry technology and precise guidance to reach the specific target. Agni-I flight trials having proved the long-range technologies, an operational version of agni with solid-solid propulsion system was test fired in April 1999, which is Agni-II with mobile capability.

**Agni-II Missile:** The range for Agni-II is performance, repeated guidance more than 2000 km. The salient features of performance capability and salvo firing the test firings are mobile launch capability, capability. With the completion of above multi-staging, state-of-the-art control and flight trials, the design and development of guidance, re-entry technology and the Trishul Missile is complete. sophisticated on-board packages including (g) Nag Missile: Nag is a third generation anti-advanced communication. Agni-II has also tank missile with "top-attack" and "fire and been inducted into Services. forget" capability.

**Akash :** Akash System is a medium range Surface to Air Missile with multitarget engagement capability. It uses high-energy solid propellant for the booster and ram-rocket propulsion for the sustainer phase. The propulsion system provides higher level of energy with minimum mass, compared to conventional solid/liquid rocket motor, that has better performance with minimum weight of the missile. It has a dual mode guidance, initially on command mode from a phased array radar and later radar homing guidance with unique software developed for high accuracy. The phased array radar provides capability for multiple target tracking and simultaneous deployment of missiles to attack four targets at the same time, in each battery. Multiple batteries constitute a group centre. The system is highly mobile and has gone through a number of flight trials providing the command guidance.

**Brahmos :** BRAHMOS is a supersonic cruise missile and can be used against ship and land targets. It has a range of upto 300 kms. The missile is uniquely configured for installing in ships, submarines & aircraft and on ground vehicles. It has been flight tested twice during June 2001 and April 2002 meeting all mission objectives.

**Pinaka :** Multi-Barrel Rocket System PINAKA, an area weapon system to supplement the existing artillery gun at ranges beyond 30 kms, having quick reaction time and high rate of fire has been accepted by the user after extensive trials .

**Prithvi :** Prithvi is a Surface-to-Surface Battle field Missile. It uses a single state, twin-engine liquid propulsion system and strap-down inertial guidance with real-time software incorporated in the onboard computer to achieve the desired accuracy during impact. Prithvi has higher lethal effect compared to any equivalent class of missiles in the world. Prithvi is a unique missile today having manoeuvrable trajectory and high level capability with field interchangeable warheads. Its accuracy has been demonstrated in the development flight trials. Flight trails for Air force has been completed. This system is now being configured for launching from ship, increasing its capability as a sea mobile system.

**Trishul :** Trishul is a Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile. It can also be used as an anti-sea skimmer from a ship against low flying attacking missiles. It employs dual thrust propulsion stage using high-energy solid propellant in a maraging steel flow chamber, and is operated on command guidance initially with ka-band gathering and then transferred to the tracking radar. It has necessary electronic counter-counter measures against all known aircraft jammers.

Trishul, with its quickest reaction time, high frequency operation, high manoeuvrability, high lethal capability and multi-roles for three services, is state-of-the-art system providing considerable advantage to the Armed forces. This system has gone through development flight trials for army and sea skimmer trials for navy. The final evaluation is in progress before user trials.



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## ICC indicted President Bashir of Sudan

### International justice for war and crimes against humanity

International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague has issued arrest warrant against President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan for crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur on March 4, 2009. It is viewed as a dangerous precedent by many in the international community. It is the first time that this kind of a warrant has been issued against a any serving head of state, that too under such controversial circumstances.



The warrant came even as the Government of Sudan and the important guerilla factions of Darfur were taking steps towards securing a peace deal in the battle-scarred region. Pre-trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court held that it was satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Omar al-Bashir is criminally responsible as an indirect perpetrator, or as an indirect co-perpetrator, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. He has been indicted with following charges :Pillage as a war crime;

- Murder as a crime against humanity;
- Extermination as a crime against humanity;
- Forcible transfer as a crime against humanity;
- Torture as a crime against humanity; and
- Rape as a crime against humanity;

ICC said that considering that the arrest of Omar al-Bashir appears necessary at this stage to ensure (i) that he will appear before the Court; (ii) that he will not obstruct or endanger the ongoing investigation into the crimes for which he is allegedly responsible; and (iii) that he will not continue with the commission of the above-mentioned crimes;

The government in Khartoum puts the death toll in Darfur since fighting erupted in 2003 at around 10,000. The ICC and many human rights groups put the toll at around 300,000. The ICC has no powers to enforce its arrest warrants, but those indicted by it can be arrested on the territory of those states that have signed up to the ICC statute. Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the ICC prosecutor who first called for an ICC warrant to be issued last year, said that Sudan was obliged under international law to carry out the arrest on its territory. Sudan is not a member of the ICC.

Only the United States and the European Union have expressed support for the ICC's momentous decision. The U.S., China, Russia, India and Israel are among the countries that have not joined the ICC since its creation in 2002. Many African nations rallied round Sudan as Bashir struck a defiant posture. Huge crowds rallied in support of their President in the Khartoum, and other cities in the northern part of the Sudan. Omar al-Bashir urged his countrymen to carry out a jihad against the infidels, pointing out that arrest warrants had not been issued by the ICC against the Israeli leaders who committed crimes against humanity through the recent attack on Gaza.

Many Arab and African leaders have criticised the ICC and voiced their support for the President of Sudan. China too has criticised the move by the ICC. China also opposed any decision that impeded peace in Darfur. India, which has substantial business interests in Sudan, especially in the hydrocarbon sector, has been non-committal on the issue despite its long-standing ties with the country. Egypt also opined that the ICC decision would have dangerous consequences for the Darfur region in particular and Sudan in general. The decision smacked of politicisation and selectivity.

African and Arab states have been lobbying the Security Council to defer the case against Bashir indefinitely so that a solution to the conflict in Darfur could be expedited. China, which has intensive political and economic links with Sudan, could help out as it is a veto-wielding Security Council member.

Sudan has taken a principled stand on many foreign policy issues. It opposed the first Gulf War and has been a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause. Sudan was targeted by

American cruise missiles in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998. Many Sudanese are seeing ICC as an instrument being used by the U.S. to get rid of a government it despises.

On the other hand, the U.S. has been using all its influence to see that Israeli leaders escape international justice. For that matter, the U.S. itself has committed far greater war crimes. The invasion of Iraq led to the death of more than 1.3 million people. The highest estimates of casualties in Darfur amount to only one-fourth of the casualties inflicted by U.S. forces in Iraq. In the so-called global war against terror, the U.S. has routinely resorted to torture, abductions and detention without trial.

### ICC's Bashir Charge Sheet

#### War crimes:

- Intentionally directing attacks against civilians
- Pillaging

#### Crimes against humanity:

- Murder
- Extermination
- Forcible transfer
- Torture
- Rape

**UN Role :** The Security Council has the right to defer the warrant against Bashir. The governments in the region are speaking about the dangerous implications of the arrest warrant. Officials in the U.S. and in the E.U. headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, have also expressed their apprehension that the Sudanese government could once again revert to using military force in Darfur and that the peace deal with southern Sudan, which has been holding for the last three years, may also unravel.

General elections are scheduled to be held in Sudan in 2009, to be followed by a referendum in the south of the country on self-determination. The timing of the arrest warrant could derail these two democratic exercises. In July 2002, the Security Council gave U.S. troops a 12-month exemption from prosecution by the ICC that was renewable every year. The Bush administration had threatened to remove its peacekeepers from Bosnia if the exemption was not granted.

But the Security Council refused to renew the exemption after the atrocities committed by U.S. troops in Iraq came to light in 2004.

**African Union's Point :** The A.U held an emergency meeting after the ICC warrant was issued and stated that it would try to stop the execution of the warrant. The A.U. spokesman said that the organisation was deeply concerned at the far-reaching consequences of the act as it came at a critical juncture in the process to promote lasting peace in Sudan.

Moses Wetangula, Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs, said that the operations of the ICC were very suspect and that some racial undertones could be detected in the manner in which the ICC handled African issues. Since its creation, the ICC has focussed almost exclusively on African leaders and warlords.

**The Arab League' Path :** The A.U. meet was preceded by that of the Arab League. The Arab League emphasised in a statement that the need for a peaceful settlement of the Darfur issue was much more important than the ICC's arrest warrant. Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa met with Bashir after the warrant was issued. He said that the ICC decision had "provoked anger" within the Arab League.

**Agreement :** The Sudanese government and the main rebel group in Darfur, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), signed a goodwill agreement in the third week of February 2009 at a meeting hosted by Qatar. Both sides pledged to implement confidence-building measures (CBMs) in a bid to resolve the conflict. Within Sudan, only opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi and the Darfuri rebel groups supported the ICC's move.



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<http://upscportal.com/civilservices/mag/vol-1/hot-topics/ICC-indicted-President-Bashir-of-Sudan>



### Darfur Conflict, and Peace Efforts

February 2003 - Two rebel groups rise up, saying government neglects arid region and arms Arab militia against civilians.

April 2, 2004 - United Nations says Darfur has become one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

April 8, 2004 - Government, Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebels agree 45-day ceasefire. They later agree to foreign ceasefire monitors from the African Union (AU) and European Union.

*“On 17 July 1998, the international community reached an historic milestone when 120 States adopted the Rome Statute, the legal basis for establishing the permanent International Criminal Court. The ICC is a court of last resort. It will not act if a case is investigated or prosecuted by a national judicial system unless the national proceedings are not genuine, for example if formal proceedings were undertaken solely to shield a person from criminal responsibility. In addition, the ICC only tries those accused of the gravest crimes.”*

May 5, 2006 - Sudan's government and SLA sign new peace deal. Rival SLA faction and the smaller JEM reject the deal.

August 17, 2006 - Britain and the United States introduce a Security Council resolution to send U.N. peacekeepers to Darfur. Sudan's ruling party rejects the draft resolution a week later.

August 31, 2006 - U.N. Security Council votes to create a U.N. peacekeeping force of up to 22,500 U.N. troops and police in Darfur, despite Khartoum's opposition.

January 10, 2007 - Sudan and Darfur rebels agree to a 60-day ceasefire and a peace summit sponsored by the AU and United Nations as steps towards stopping the violence.

Feb 27, 2007 - International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor names first two war crimes suspects in Darfur. Sudan says the ICC has no jurisdiction and later rejects arrest warrants.

The international community has long aspired to the creation of a permanent international court, and, in the 20th century, it reached consensus on definitions of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Nuremberg and Tokyo trials addressed war crimes, crimes against peace, and crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War.

In the 1990s after the end of the Cold War, tribunals like the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda were the result of consensus that impunity is unacceptable. However, because they were established to try crimes committed only within a specific time-frame and during a specific conflict, there was general agreement that an independent, permanent criminal court was needed.



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## BrahMos Missile

### Successful Test Of The Block-II Version

In the presence of CEO of BrahMos A. Sivathanu Pillai and other senior scientists on Mar 29, 2009 successfully test fired the land-attack version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile at the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. A joint venture of India and Russia land attack version of BrahMos block-II was tested from a mobile autonomous launcher at Pokhran test range by the Indian Army. The missile took off successfully and hit the desired target at bull's eye meeting all mission parameters. This was the second launch in the month of March and third this year for the block-II version for the army.

In the first test, the missile failed to hit the target. The army kept the results of the second test under wraps even though DRDO termed it successful. With this launch, the requirement of army for the land attack version with block-II advanced seeker software with target discriminating capabilities has been fully met and this version is ready for induction. The missile will provide an enhanced capability to the army for selection of a particular land target among a group of targets. Cruise missiles fly at low altitudes and have the ability to evade enemy radars and air-defence systems. They are also easier and cheaper to operate.

The army has already begun inducting the land-fired version of the BrahMos, with the first battery entering service in June 2007. Each battery is equipped with four mobile launchers mounted on heavy 12x12 Tatra transporters. The army plans to induct three more such batteries.

The anti-ship naval version has also been inducted into service with its integration on the destroyer INS Rajput, with two other ships of the same class to be similarly equipped. The missiles will also be mounted on the three 7,000 tonne Kolkata class destroyers currently being constructed at Mumbai's Mazagon docks. The missile, which takes its name from the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, has a 300-km range and carries a 300 kg conventional warhead. It can achieve speeds of up to 2.8 Mach or nearly three times the speed of sound.



**Characteristics:** BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land. It is a joint venture between India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya who have together formed the BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited.

The acronym BrahMos is perceived as the confluence of the two nations represented by two great rivers, the Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia. At speeds of Mach 2.5 to 2.8, it is the world's fastest cruise missile and is about three and a half times faster than the U.S.A's subsonic Harpoon cruise missile. A hypersonic version of the missile is also presently under development (Lab Tested with 5.26 Mach Speed).

Though India had wanted the BrahMos to be based on a mid range cruise missile, namely P-700 Granit, instead Russia opted for the shorter range sister of the missile, P-800 Oniks, in order to comply with MTCR restrictions, to which Russia is a signatory. Its

propulsion is based on the Russian Yakhont missile, and guidance has been developed by BrahMos Corp. The BrahMos has been developed as a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia under BrahMos Aerospace. The missile is named after two rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Moskva. Since late 2004, the missile has undergone several tests from variety of platforms including a land based test from Pokhran desert, in which the 'S' maneuver at Mach 2.8 was demonstrated for the Indian Army and a launch in which the land attack capability from sea was demonstrated. 11th test of the army version of BrahMos at a test range in ITR Chandipur. India and Russia intend to make 2,000 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles over the next ten years through their joint venture company, and nearly 50 percent of them are expected to be exported to friendly countries.

**Description:** BrahMos claims to have the capability of attacking surface targets as low as 10 meters in altitude. It can gain a speed of Mach 2.8, and has a maximum range of 290 km. The ship-launched and land-based missiles can carry a 200 kg warhead, whereas the aircraft-launched variant (BrahMos A) can carry a 300 kg warhead. It has a two-stage

propulsion system, with a solid-propellant rocket for initial acceleration and a liquid-fueled ramjet responsible for sustained supersonic cruise. Air-breathing ramjet propulsion is much more fuel-efficient than rocket propulsion, giving the BrahMos a longer range than a pure rocket-powered missile would achieve.

The high speed of the BrahMos likely gives it better target-penetration characteristics than lighter subsonic cruise-missiles such as the Tomahawk.<sup>[4]</sup> Being twice as heavy and almost four times faster than the Tomahawk, the BrahMos has almost 32 times the initial kinetic energy of a Tomahawk missile (although it pays for this by having only 3/5 the payload and a fraction of the range despite weighing twice as much, suggesting a different tactical paradigm to achieve the objective).

Although BrahMos is primarily an anti-ship missile, it can also engage land based targets. It can be launched either in a vertical or inclined position and is capable of covering targets over a 360 degree horizon. The BrahMos missile has an identical configuration for land, sea, and sub-sea platforms. The air-launched version has a smaller booster and additional tail fins for added stability during launch. The BrahMos is currently being configured for aerial deployment with the Su-30MKI as its carrier.

#### About BrahMos II

BrahMos II is a hypersonic cruise missile that has been lab tested with a speed of 5.26 Mach making it the fastest cruise missile in the world. BrahMos II is expected to be ready by 2013-14

#### **Current position**

The missile is in service with the Indian Navy. Talwar class frigate and Shivalik class frigate are frigates of the Indian Navy that can fire the BrahMos. INS Tabar and INS Trishul are Talwar class vessels armed with supersonic BrahMos while INS Shivalik was the first vessel of the Shivalik class to incorporate the BrahMos. The submarine launched version of the missile is ready for testing. The missile was successfully tested with new capabilities for the Indian Army in the deserts of Rajasthan, test range near Pokharan (December 2004 & March 2007). It was inducted into the army on June 21, 2007.

On January 20, 2009, a test of a new BrahMos block II cruise Missile at Pokhran in Rajasthan was conducted with new software. The missile failed to hit the right target among a group of targets. The objective was to hit a small building hidden amongst a group of buildings. According to Brahmos corporation, another test of the new missile will be conducted within one month. which was eventually conducted on 4th March 2009 and was successful.

The air launched version for the Indian Air Force is ready for testing. An expert committee from the DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF) has ruled out any structural modification to the advanced Su-30MKI if it is to be fitted with the supersonic BrahMos. January 10, 2009 it was reported that two Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets have been sent to Russia for a retrofit program that would enable them to launch the aerial version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

The Indian Air Force would get its own version of Brahmos by 2012. Trials and tests will be carried out by 2011 and it is expected to be inducted into the IAF by 2012. In addition, India's 5 Il-38 and 8 Tupolev Tu-142 maritime patrol bombers are also to be armed with the missile. There are reports of efforts towards adding the capability to fire the Indo-Russian Brahmos cruise missile from these aircrafts. Mockups have been displayed with air-launched Brahmos attached to underwing pylons on the Indian Navy aircrafts.

#### INDIAN MISSILES

##### **Anti Ballistic Missiles**

- o Prithvi Air Defence Missile (Exo-atmospheric Anti-ballistic missile)
- o Advanced Air Defense Missile (Endo-atmospheric Anti-ballistic missile)

##### **Tactical Ballistic Missiles**

- o Ashwin Tactical Ballistic Missile
- o Shaurya Missile (Hypersonic Canisterised Tactical Ballistic Missile)

##### **Ballistic Missiles**

- o Prithvi Missile System - Short Range Ballistic Missile

• Prithvi-I SRBM

conti..

- Prithvi-II SRBM

- Prithvi-III SRBM

- o Agni Missile System

- Agni-I - MRBM

- Agni-II - IRBM

- Agni-III - IRBM

- Agni-V - ICBM (Under Development).

- o Surya Missile System - Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

- Surya-I ICBM (Under Development).

- Surya-II ICBM (Under Development).

- Surya-III ICBM (Under Development).

- o Dhanush Missile - Ship Launched Ballistic Missile

- o Sagarika Missile - Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile

### Surface-To-Air Missiles

- o Trishul

- o Akash

- o Barak NG

- o Maitri Missile - Low Level Quick Reaction Missile (Under Development).

- o Igla (SA-18)

- o 2K12 Kub

- o SA-19 Grison

### Air-To-Surface Missiles

- o AGM-142 Popeye

- o Zvezda AS-10 Karen

- o Aerospatiale AS-30L

- o Hawker-Matra Martel Missile

- o Kolomna AT-6 Spiral

- o Molniya AS-14 Kedge

- o Zvezda AS-17 Krypton

- o BAe Sea Eagle

- o Raduga AS-18 Kazoo

### Air-To-Air Missiles

- o Python

- o Astra BVR

- o Vympel AA-8 Aphid

- o Matra Magic 2

- o Matra Super 530

- o Vympel AA-10 Alamo

- o Vympel AA-11 Archer

- o Vympel AA-12 Adder

### Cruise Missiles

- o Supersonic Cruise Missiles

- Brahmos-I Supersonic Cruise Missile

- o Hypersonic Cruise Missiles

- Brahmos-II Hypersonic Cruise Missile (Under Development).

- o Subsonic Cruise Missiles

- Nirbhay Subsonic Cruise Missile
- 3M-54 Klub Subsonic Cruise Missile
- P-500 Bazalt Subsonic Cruise Missile
- Kh-35 SwitchBlade Subsonic Cruise Missile

o Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles

- P-70 Ametist Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
- Moskit Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
- P-700 Granit Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
- P-15 Termit Anti-Ship Cruise Missile

### Guided Missiles

o Anti-Tank Guided Missiles

- Nag Anti-tank guided missile
- MILAN 2 Anti-tank guided missile
- MILAN ER Anti-tank guided missile
- 9M14 Malyutka (AT-3 Sagger) Anti-tank guided missile
- 9M119 Svir (AT-11 Sniper) Anti-tank guided missile
- Lahat Anti-tank guided missile
- 9M113 Konkurs Anti-tank guided missile
- 9M111 Fagot Anti-tank guided missile
- Helina Air launched Anti-tank m



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## SECTION : 5

### Important Current Relevant Facts

- The violinist Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan, whose majestic bowing widened the circle of rasikas for Carnatic music, passed away in 2008 after a brief illness. He was 73 year old. Vaidyanathan, who had a long association with All India Radio, won several prestigious awards including the Padma Shri, Sangeetha Natak Academy award, Sangeetha Mamani and the Karnataka Isaignani award.

- Mahendra Kapoor who was the veteran playback singer, died after a heart attack in 2008. He was 74 year old. In recent past the Maharashtra government selected him for the Lata Mangeshkar Award for his lifetime contribution in the field of playback music. Mr. Kapoor was born in Amritsar on January 9, 1934, but moved to Mumbai. He was inspired by Mohammed Rafi and won an all-India singing competition early in his career. Mr. Kapoor received the national award for best male playback singing for “Mere Desh Ki Dharti...” in *Upkar*. He was a recipient of the Padma Shri. “Chalo Ek Bar Phirse...” in *Gumrah* won him his first Filmfare Award in 1963. For “Neele Gagan Ke Taley...” (*Humraaz*) in 1967 and “Nahi Nahi Bus Aur Nahi...” (*Roti Kapda aur Makan*) he won the Filmfare Award once again in 1974.

- Eminent industrialist K.K. Birla (90) passed away in August, 2008 at his Birla Park residence after a brief illness, patiently borne. He was born at Pilani in Rajasthan in 1918. He was Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament for 18 years. He was the chairman of a number of Birla companies, including Chambal Fertilizers, Zuari Industries, Texmaco, Oudh Sugar and *Hindustan Times*. He founded the K.K. Birla Foundation, which gives awards for excellence in arts, philosophy, literature, scientific research and sports. His K.K. Birla Academy of Scientific, Historical and Cultural Research is planning a scientific museum.

- Nobel prize-winning Russian author and thinker Alexander Solzhenitsyn died in August, 2008, ending a bitter and illustrious life journey that reflected Russia's tumultuous history through the 20th century at age 89 in Moscow. Solzhenitsyn became famous overnight after his story, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, was published in 1962. For millions of Russians it became an eye-opener

about the horrors of Joseph Stalin's Gulag labour camps. The story recounted the writer's own experiences of spending eight years in Gulag for criticising Stalin in a letter to a friend in 1945 after having served in the army throughout the Second World War.

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1970, but none of his novels — *The Gulag Archipelago*, *The First Circle*, *Cancer Ward* and others, which exposed the cruelty of the Communist regime — was published in the Soviet Union. In 1974 he was arrested on charges of “anti-Soviet activities”, deported from the country and stripped of Soviet citizenship.

- Poornam Viswanathan noted theatre person and character artiste passed away in Chennai after a brief illness. He was 87. He was known for his remarkable performances in Tamil theatre and films. In every role he played, he paid great attention to dialogue delivery and body language.

- Mr. Viswanathan started performing on stage when he was 18. He later moved to New Delhi for a few years, where he was part of the ‘South Indian Troupe,’ with renowned critic Subbudu. Mr. Viswanathan, who worked as news reader at All India Radio there, deemed it a matter of great pride to have announced the news of India obtaining independence in the first news bulletin broadcast on August 15, 1947. Mr. Viswanathan's performance in films such as ‘Varusham 16,’ ‘Keladi Kanmani,’ ‘Aasai,’ ‘Mahanadi’ and ‘Varumaiyin Niram Sivappu’ are unforgettable. He was at ease in both comedy and melodrama.

- Michael Crichton, who was 66 year old, best known author of science fiction novels *Jurassic Park* and its sequel *The Lost World*, *The Andromeda Strain* and creator of TV hit *ER*, died in Los Angeles (America) by critical cancer in November, 2008.

- Eminent film-maker Baldev Raj Chopra, who made immortal classics highlighting socially relevant issues and produced the popular Hindi TV serial ‘Mahabharat,’ died in November, 2008 at Mumbai following prolonged illness. He was 94 year old.



- Mr. B.R. Chopra was known for making films based on powerful off-beat themes such as *Dhool Ka Phool* (1959), *Waqt* (1965), *Naya Daur* (1957), *Kanoon* (1958), *Humraz* (1967), *Insaf Ka Tarazu* (1980) and *Nikah* (1982). In July, 2008 Bollywood filmmaker Yash Chopra was conferred the Officer of The Legion of Honour by the French Government

- In the month of September, 2008 Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan has recommended to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that Justice Soumitra Sen of the Calcutta High Court be removed for misappropriating temporarily Rs. 33 lakh deposited in the court by one of the parties to a dispute. Responding to the Chief Justice's letter, which was forwarded to the Law Ministry. The Chief Justice said in his letter that Justice Sen rejected the advice to resign or seek voluntary retirement after he had been found guilty of the misconduct in an in-house inquiry.

- American Serena Williams defeated second seed Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 7-5 in the women's U.S. Open final in September, 2008 for her ninth career Grand Slam title and the World No. 1 ranking. There was plenty at stake as fourth-seeded Williams received the WTA top ranking, a spot she previously held for 57 weeks beginning in 2002. Williams, playing in her first U.S. Open final in six years, also picked up \$1.5 million in first-place prize money and moved into third on the all-time money list. Williams won her 32nd career singles title and wiped away some of the disappointment of losing to sister Venus in the Wimbledon final earlier 2008.

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research announced the winners of its prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology for 2008. The winners are: Biological sciences – G.P.S. Raghava, Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh; and L.S. Shashidara, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology. Chemical sciences – Pradeep Thalappil, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras; and Jarugu Narasimha Moorthy, IIT, Kanpur. Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences – P.N. Vinayachandran, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Engineering Sciences – Ranjan Kumar Mallik, IIT, Delhi. Mathematical Sciences – Jaikumar Radhakrishnan, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. Medical

Sciences – Ravinder Goswami, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. Physical Sciences – Raghunathan Srianand, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune; and Srikanth Sastry, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research Bangalore. The prize comprises a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh, a citation and a plaque.

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research also announced the winner of the CSIR award for S&T innovations for rural development. It has been won jointly by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, and the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar.

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that some 50 developing countries will remain at risk of being affected through 2009 as a result of hikes in food and fuel prices.

- IMF's updated assessment shows that the impact of food and fuel price increases on developing countries, far from diminishing, has continued to mount since its previous report appeared in June, 2008. As a result, the IMF has projected that net fuel-importing low-income countries are facing an increase in their fuel bill equivalent to 3.2 per cent of their GDP (gross domestic product), or \$60 billion. For the 43 net food-importing countries, the rise in their food bill is 0.8 per cent of GDP, or \$7.2 billion. The updated assessment shows that in 24 countries, the combined fiscal cost from rising food and fuel subsidies is expected to exceed two per cent of GDP. The report also points out that these subsidies are almost always poorly targeted in terms of reaching those people most in need.

- IMF study points to two priorities for the affected countries: First, to bring inflation back under control. This will require a robust monetary policy stance — tightening where necessary — and the avoidance of unsustainable wage increase. Second, a shift to better-targeted social safety net programmes to protect the poor in a more cost-effective manner.

- The Nanavati-Mehta judicial commission has concluded that the fire aboard coach S-6 of the Sabarmati Express at the Godhra railway station on February 27, 2002,



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was a "pre-planned conspiracy" by local Muslims. The report of the commission, appointed by the Gujarat government, is totally at variance with the conclusions of the U.C. Banerjee Committee, appointed by Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, which said the fire was "purely accidental." The report gave a clean chit to Chief Minister Narendra Modi, the members of his then Council of Ministers and police officers. It also ruled out the involvement of any religious or political organisation in the fire. It also rejected the allegations that they failed to comply with the recommendations and directions given by the National Human Rights Commission.

- 'Lakshya,' the indigenously developed micro-light pilotless target aircraft, was successfully test flown at Balasore (Orissa) to check the validity of its engine and duration enhancement in 2008.

- The 5th World Water Forum, the largest water-related event in the world, concluded in Istanbul (Turkey) in 22 March, 2009, or the World Water Day, with firm commitments of tackling global water challenges jointly in the context of sustainable development. The forum, organized every three years by World Water Council (WWC) and the host country, was attended by a record of 25,000 participants from all over the world, including a number of heads of state, more than 90 ministers, 63 mayors, 156 delegations and 148 parliamentarians.

- During the seven-day World Water Forum forum, the attendees agreed that water is an increasingly vital resource in the 21st century, when world is challenged by overpopulation, climate change, ecosystem collapse, urbanization, consumption pattern change and financial crisis.

- According to statistics of the World Water Forum forum, only 2.5 percent of all the water on Earth is freshwater, two-thirds of which is in glaciers and polar ice caps. Therefore, available freshwater represents less than 1 percent of the world's total water stock. Furthermore, a study released at the forum showed that 85 percent of the world's population live on the droughty land of the Earth. More than 1 billion people living in arid and semiarid parts of the world have little access to renewable water sources.

- According to the 3rd UN World Water Development Report released by UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization during the forum, more than 900 million people still have no access to drinking water and 2.5 billion people are still deprived of sanitation. Meanwhile, the world's population, currently estimated at 6.6 billion, is growing by about 80 million each year, which means demand for freshwater is increasing by 64 billion cubic meters a year.

- The U.S. government's controversial restriction on companies from hiring skilled foreign workers with non-immigrant H-1B visas will continue for only two years. As part of a stimulus package passed in October, 2008 for revival of the economy, President Barack Obama signed a new law, named "Employ American Workers Act", which makes it difficult for the companies having received government bailout funds to hire H-1B foreign workers. However, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), in a circular issued with its invitation of H1-B applications for the next fiscal, has now made it clear that the EAWA requirements are not permanent and would "sunset two years from the date of enactment."

- EAWA, which prevents a company from displacing U.S. workers when hiring H-1B specialty occupation workers if the company received stimulus funds, took effect on February 17, 2009 and it applies to any "hire" taking place before February 17, 2011. The Act defines "hire" as an employer permitting a new employee to commence a period of employment; that is, the introduction of a new employee to the employer's U.S. workforce.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) in its fourteenth flight conducted from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota in October 22, 2008 by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C11, successfully launched the 1380 kg Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft into a transfer orbit with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 255 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 22,860 km, inclined at an angle of 17.9 deg to the equator.

- PSLV is a four stage launch vehicle employing both solid and liquid propulsion stages. PSLV is the trusted workhorse launch Vehicle of ISRO. During 1993-2008



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period, PSLV had fourteen launches of which thirteen are consecutively successful. PSLV has repeatedly proved its reliability and versatility by launching 30 spacecraft (14 Indian and 16 for international customers) into a variety of orbits so far.

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, designed and developed PSLV. ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) at Thiruvananthapuram developed the inertial systems. The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), also at Thiruvananthapuram, developed the liquid propulsion stages for the second and fourth stages of PSLV as well as reaction control systems. SDSC SHAR processed the solid propellant motors and carried out launch operations. ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) provided telemetry, tracking and command support.

- Chandrayaan-1 is India's first spacecraft mission beyond Earth's orbit. It aims to further expand our knowledge about Earth's. The primary objectives of Chandrayaan-1 are to place an unmanned spacecraft in an orbit around the moon, to conduct mineralogical and chemical mapping of the lunar surface and to upgrade the technological base in the country. Chandrayaan-1 aims to achieve these well-defined objectives through high-resolution remote sensing of moon in the visible, near infrared, microwave and X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. With this, preparation of a 3-dimensional atlas of the lunar surface and chemical and mineralogical mapping of entire lunar surface is envisaged.

- There are 11 payloads (scientific instruments) through which Chandrayaan-1 intends to achieve its scientific objectives. They include five instruments designed and developed in India, three instruments from European Space Agency (one of which is developed jointly with India and the other with Indian contribution), one from Bulgaria and two from the United States.

- The Indian payloads of Chandrayaan-1 are Terrain Mapping Camera (TMC), a CCD camera that maps the topography of the moon, which helps in better understanding of the lunar evolution process, Hyperspectral Imager (HySI), another CCD camera, is designed for mapping of the minerals on the lunar surface as well as for

understanding the mineralogical composition of Moon's interior, Lunar Laser Ranging Instrument (LLRI) provides necessary data for accurately determining the height of lunar surface features. High Energy X-ray Spectrometer (HEX) is designed to help explore the possibility of identifying Polar Regions covered by thick water-ice deposits as well as in identifying regions of high Uranium and Thorium concentrations. Moon Impact Probe (MIP) demonstrates the technologies required for landing a probe at the desired location on the moon. It is also intended to qualify some of the technologies related to future soft landing missions.

- The six international payloads of Chandrayaan-1 are Chandrayaan-1 Imaging X-ray Spectrometer (C1XS), an ESA payload and jointly developed by Rutherford Appleton Laboratory of England and ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore, intends to carry out high quality mapping of the moon using X-ray fluorescence technique for finding the presence of Magnesium, Aluminium, Silicon, Iron and Titanium distributed over the surface of the Moon. Smart Near Infrared Spectrometer (SIR-2), another ESA payload, developed by Max Planck Institute of Germany, aims to study the lunar surface to explore the mineral resources and the formation of its surface features. Sub kiloelectronvolt Atom Reflecting Analyser (SAR), the third payload from ESA, is built by Swedish Institute of Space Physics and Space Physics Laboratory of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram. The aim of this instrument is to study the surface composition of the moon and the magnetic anomalies associated with the surface of the moon.

- Radiation Dose Monitor (RADOM), a payload developed by Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, aims to characterise the radiation environment in a region of space surrounding the moon. Mini Synthetic Aperture Radar (MiniSAR) is one of the two scientific instruments from the USA and is from Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory and Naval Air Warfare Centre, USA through NASA. MiniSAR is mainly intended for detecting water ice in the permanently shadowed regions of the lunar poles up to a depth of a few meters.



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- Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) is an imaging spectrometer from Brown University and Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the US through NASA, is intended to assess and map lunar mineral resources at high spatial and spectral resolution.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia's Federal Space Agency (Roskosmos) have signed an Agreement on joint lunar research and exploration. Mr G Madhavan Nair, Chairman, ISRO, and Mr A Perminov, Director, Roskosmos, signed the Agreement in Moscow on November 12, 2007 during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Russia. This cooperation envisages Chandrayaan-2, a joint lunar mission involving a lunar orbiting spacecraft and a Lander/Rover on the Moon's surface. ISRO will have the prime responsibility for the Orbiter and Roskosmos will be responsible for the Lander/Rover. A few scientific instruments from other space agencies may also be accommodated on these systems. Chandrayaan-2 will be launched on India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) around 2011-12 time frame. This agreement is a major milestone in the long-standing cooperation between India and Russia in the area of outer space.

- The Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand became the world chess champion again when he won the 12-game world chess championship match against Vladimir Kramnik of Russia 6.5-4.5 with one game to spare in October, 2008. Playing with white, Anand drew the 11th game at the Art and Exhibition Hall at Bonn (Germany) to retain his title. In 2000, India's first Grandmaster was the last man standing in the 128-player knockout format. In 2007, Anand won an eight-player double round-robin field that included Kramnik to regain the crown

- The Indian Weightlifting Federation has imposed a life ban on weightlifter Satish Rai. Nineteen months after he tested positive for a second time in his career. Rai had first tested positive for stimulant strychnine at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester and then for a second time at the National Games in Guwahati in February 2007, this time for steroid stanozolol. Rai, a Karnataka lifter and an Arjuna awardee, had represented Andhra Pradesh in the last National Games.

- Thailand's Constitutional Court in December, 2008 unseated politically beleaguered Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat by ordering that his People's Power Party be disbanded for electoral fraud. Mr. Somchai stands disqualified for elective office for five years. With this, the Court in Bangkok has disqualified both leaders to become Prime Minister since the "restoration of democracy" earlier this year under a Constitution that was crafted by coup masters and approved in a "referendum." The Army had toppled Thaksin Shinawatra, a twice-elected leader, in September, 2006.

- Russia's Ksenya Sukhinova was in December, 2008 crowned Miss World 2008 after beating scores of international beauties, including India's Parvathy Omanakuttan who finished first runners up, at a glittering African extravaganza held at Johannesburg (South Africa). More than 100 international beauties participated in this year's Miss World. South Africa, who hosted the event for the sixth time, became the country that has held more Miss World pageants than any other. The event was broadcast to millions of viewers in 187 countries. Beauties from 109 countries were whittled down to 15 semi-finalists with India, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Angola and South Africa named the five finalists.

- The Union Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal inaugurated 'Himadri' the Indian research station at the Arctic at Ny-Ålesund in Norway in the month of July, 2008.

- The India Arab Cultural Centre at Jamia Millia Islamia organised a function to pay homage to the legendary Palestinian freedom fighter and revolutionary poet Mahmoud Darwish who was died in August, 2008. Apart from Vice-Chancellor Mushirul Hasan, Palestinian Ambassador Osama Musa and Chief Representative of the Arab League Ahmad Salem El-Wahishi were also present at the function.

- Bernie Mac, the Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actor and comedian who worked his way to Hollywood success from an impoverished upbringing on Chicago's South Side, died in August, 2008 at age 50. The comedian suffered from sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease that produces tiny lumps of cells in the body's organs



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- He started his comedy career at 8, with a stand-up performance at a church dinner. In 1977, at 20, he took that act to comedy clubs in Chicago. His film career started with a small role as a club doorman in the Damon Wayans movie "Mo' Money" in 1992. Mr. Mac went on to star in the "Ocean's Eleven" franchise with Brad Pitt and George Clooney and his turn with Ashton Kutcher in 2005's "Guess Who?" — a remake of the Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn 1967 classic "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" — topped the box office.

- Goa Governor S.C. Jamir was appointed Governor and Prabha Rau named Himachal Pradesh Governor in 2008.

- On 10th July, 2008 Governor's rule is imposed and the State Assembly dissolved in Jammu and Kashmir.

- Bhutan Prime Minister Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley arrives in New Delhi in year 2008 and signed on a treaty that will take place the treaty of 1949.

- India successfully hosted the PATA Travel Mart 2008 in Hyderabad from September 16 to 19, 2008. Approximately 1,089 trade delegates, comprising 374 global buyers from 324 organizations and 715 Asia Pacific seller delegates from 301 organizations participated in the Travel Mart.

- India accounted for the largest contingent of sellers, representing about 28% of the exhibitors at the Travel Mart, with the remaining 72% being international exhibitors from the Asia Pacific Region. As host destination, India provided the largest single-source market buyer contingent, with strong growth coming from China (PRC), which will host next year's Mart in Hangzhou.

- Veteran Bengali film director Tapan Sinha is selected for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2006.

- The United Progressive Alliance government wins the trust vote in the Lok Sabha by a margin of 19 votes after a two-day debate on 22 July, 2008.

- The Union Cabinet approves merger of the State Bank of Saurashtra with the State Bank of India in 2008.

- In 2008 Three private players HSBC, ICICI Prudential and Reliance Capital to manage EPFO funds along with SBI.

- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has constituted a six-member experts committee headed by Rajendra K. Pachauri, director-general, Tata Energy Research Institute, to look at an alternative alignment, avoiding the Ramar Sethu stretch, for implementing the Sethusamudram Shipping Channel Project in July, 2008.

- Himachal Pradesh Director-General of Police Ashwani Kumar has been appointed CBI director in place of Vijay Shankar, who retired in July, 2008.

- One hundred and forty-six people are killed and over 230 injured in a stampede near the hilltop Naina Devi temple in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh in August 2008.

- India announced the allocation of an additional \$450 million in assistance to the war-torn nation Afghanistan. The announcement came after discussions with visiting Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai. The additional aid, coming on top of the existing commitments totalling \$750 million, will push the quantum of New Delhi's assistance to Kabul above \$1 billion, a sign of the importance India attaches to peace and stability in the newest member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

- Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi of Tamil Nadu on August, 2008 inaugurated the Tuticorin Corporation and laid the foundation stone for 24 development projects to be executed at a cost of Rs.67.42 crore. For this government would provide a grant of Rs.5 crore for implementing 10 projects proposed by the civic body with an outlay of Rs.16.49 crore. Major works planned included improvement of water supply, construction of building for the Corporation office, beautification of 16 'notified parks', desilting of the Buckle Canal and modernisation of two bus stands.

- Ahead of the release of India's economic outlook projections by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC), its chairman C. Rangarajan in August, 2008



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stepped down from the post. He has nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Dr. Rangarajan is to be succeeded by EAC member Suresh Tendulkar.

- The President has approved 124 gallantry awards to the security forces, including two Ashok Chakra to police personnel and Kirti Chakra to all the four Indians who died in the Kabul Embassy suicide bombing. The Ashok Chakra, the country's highest award for gallantry during peacetime, has been conferred posthumously on Pramod Kumar Satapathy of Orissa police and R.P. Diendoh of Meghalaya police. Assistant Commandant Satapathy had rushed with his men to Nayagarh in Orissa on being informed of an attack by over 500 Maoists in areas close to the State capital of Bhubaneswar in February 2008. Besides the four Indians killed in the Kabul attack, five more Kirti Chakra were awarded. In addition, the President approved 18 Shaurya Chakras, one Bar to Sena Medal, 87 Sena Medals, six Nao Sena Medals and one Vayu Sena Medal. The President also approved one President's Tatrakshak Medal, two President's Tatrakshak Medals and two Tatrakshak Medals to Coast Guard personnel.

- In a major liberalisation move, the Union Government in 2008 notified significant changes in the investment pattern for non-government provident funds, superannuation and gratuity funds to provide the trustees of these funds with greater flexibility, autonomy and discretionary powers in terms of investment. According to the notification issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Finance Ministry, the wide-ranging changes by way of revision in investment norms are being effected based on the developments in the financial market and the current economic scenario. The revised investment pattern has to come in to force from April 1, 2009.

- Under the new investment pattern, the Government has decided to permit merger of Central government securities, State government securities and units of gilt mutual funds into a single category while allowing investment up to 55 per cent of the investible funds. From fiscal year 2009-10, trustees of these funds will have the option of a flexible ceiling for various categories of instruments instead of the fixed investment ceiling now. Alongside, the revised investment pattern will

provide a new category of instruments such as rupee bonds of multilateral funding agencies and money market instruments.

- The Union Cabinet clears the policy guidelines for the commercial rollout of Internet Protocol TV services in Aug. 21, 2008.

- The Nation's first poly-silicon solar project is launched in Kolkata.

- Telugu matinee idol Chiranjeevi launched 'Praja Rajyam' at the temple town of Tirupati in 2008.

- The National Stock Exchange kicked off exchange-traded currency futures for the first time in the country in August, 2008.

- The Union Finance Secretary Duvvuri Subba Rao was appointed the RBI Governor in year of 2008.

- Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2006 is presented to Tapan Sinha in absentia. Soumitra Chatterjee bags best actor award and Priyamani gets best actress award.

- V. Vaithilingam took over as the 17th Chief Minister of Puducherry in September, 2008.

- In the year of 2008 India signed a 'historic' agreement with Colombia for cooperation in the entire spectrum of hydrocarbon sector, in New Delhi.

- The country's first frozen egg baby was born in a Chennai hospital.

- Singer Bhupen Hazarika was conferred the 'Asom Ratna'.

- 'Astra,' the indigenous air-to-air anti-aircraft missile was successfully test fired at the Chandipur-on-sea after the Orissa coast in Sept, 2008.

- Nepal and India agreed to set up a three-tier joint water management mechanism as well as to review 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship.



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- Reliance Industries began crude oil production from the nation's first deep sea oil field in the Krishna Godavari basin in sept,2008.

- Arun Ramanathan was appointed Union Finance Secretary in sept,2008.

- India, Russia extend tenure of joint panel on military, technical cooperation by 10 years in year 2008.

- The nationwide ban on smoking in public places came into force on 2nd October,2008

- Tata Motors announced decision to shift the Nano car project out of Singur in West Bengal's Hooghly district and established it (Rs. 2000 crore Nano car project) to Sanand in Gujarat's Ahmedabad district.

- The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a \$20 million grant in budgetary support to the Palestinian National Authority.

- The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh flagged off the first ever train in the Kashmir valley at the Nowgam station on the outskirts of Srinagar in 2008.

- The much-awaited cross-LoC trade the first since 1947 began with the flagging off of 13 trucks carrying goods on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road.

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C11) put Chandrayaan-1, the nation's first spacecraft to the Moon, in its initial orbit after liftoff from the Sriharikota space centre.

- The Lok Sabha passed two bills to declare water stretches in five states, including Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, as national waterways.

- India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement on fishing arrangements that will help put an end to firing on Tamil Nadu fishermen for inadvertently crossing the maritime boundary line in oct.2008.

- The centre granted classical language status to Telugu, Kannada.

- Eminent Hindustani vocalist of the Khirana Gharana Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was chosen for the Bharat Ratna Award

- The Government has decided to declare Ganga a national river and set up a high-power Ganga River Basin Authority to stop its pollution.

- Kashmiri poet Abdul Rahman Rahi was presented the 40th Jnanpith Award by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Delhi in year 2008.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave nod for the first rail link to Sikkim. Integrated checkpoints to come up on borders.

- A rare cardiac surgery to repair an aneurysm is done for the first time in the nation at a Kochi-based hospital.

- In nov, 2008 Shourya, a new surface-to-surface missile was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range at Balasore in Orissa.

- The second summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation BIMSTEC in New Delhi agreed on a pact on combating terrorism.

- The Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 1995.

- The International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei was chosen for the Indira Gandhi prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2008.

- The 39th International Film Festival of India get under way in the Goa capital Panaji.

- Ravindra Rajaram Kelekar eminent Goan writer in Konkani was declared the joint winner of the 42nd Jnanpith award for 2006.

- SBI to enter general insurance business. Formed joint venture with Insurance Australia Group of Australia.



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- Anti-terrorism squad chief Hemant Karkare died while seeking to assist in an anti terrorist operation .Additional Commissioner of Police (East) Ashok Kamte and inspector Vijay Salaskar also laid down their lives. Fiftysix persons are killed and 98 injured in the terrorist rampage at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus. At least 172 persons including 21 foreigners lose their lives in the Mumbai terror attacks. Nine terrorists was killed in the 60-hour gun battle with security forces dubbed Operation.

- Kazakh film director Sergei Dvortsevov's Tulpan bags the Golden Peacock at the 39th IFFI. Dvortsevov also gets the Best Director's award.

- Historian Romila Thapar was chosen for the 2008 Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Humanity.

- India and Russia clinch a mega uranium deal in New Delhi following a summit between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Dmitry Medvedev. Four more nuclear power plants for Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

- "Hand in Hand 2008", the Sino-Indian joint military exercise get under way in Belgaum, Karnataka. in dec. 2008.

- The Government unveiled a stimulus package to shore up economy. Four per cent cut in Cenvat, Rs.20,000 crore set apart for industry, export sectors for the current fiscal.

- Ashok Chavan was sworn in Maharashtra's 24th Chief Minister. Chhagan Bhujbal takes office as Deputy Chief Minister.

- Rajiv Mathur to be new Intelligence Bureau Director announced in dec.,2008.

- Lalthanhawla is sworn in Mizoram Chief Minister and is the first to be elected to head the state for a fourth term.

- Shivraj Singh Chauhan is sworn in Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister. Raman Singh takes office as Chhattisgarh Chief Minister.

- Ashok Gehlot is sworn in Rajasthan Chief Minister

- The government introduced in the Lok Sabha a bill on setting up a National Investigation Agency and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008.

- A postage stamp on Field Marshal Manekshaw was released at a function in New Delhi.in dec 2008.

- Usha Chammar of Gujarat is crowned 'Princess of Sanitation Workers' at the U.N.in july,2008.

- The G8 summit in Toyako, Japan affirmed to stick to the goal of cutting global greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2050.

- Salman Rushdie won the Best of Booker prize for his pathbreaking novel Midnight's Children after a global vote by readers

- Lebanese President Michel Sleiman named Fouad Siniora as the head of a new unity government. in july,2008.

- Miss Venezuela Dayana Mendoza (22) is crowned Miss Universe 2008 in a contest in the Vietnamese city of Nha Trang.

- Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's de facto opposition leader is arrested in Kuala Lumpur on charge of sexually assaulting his male aide and freed on bail.

- In july,2008 Russia and China end decades-old boundary dispute and gave up some of their territorial claims.

- Nepali Congress leader Ram Baran Yadav is elected Nepal's first President. . Paramananda Jha takes oath as Vice-President.

- Indian-origin ICC judge Navanetham Pillay is appointed the United Nations' new Human Rights Commissioner.

- A German medical team performed the world's first transplant of two full arms on a farmer who lost both his limbs in an accident six years ago.



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- Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was tradited from Serbia to stand trial for war crimes at The Hague.

- A group of Russian scientists reached the bottom of Lake Baikal, the world's deepest fresh water lake in Russia's far east, for the first time ever in month of July, 2008.

- Doctor couple Prakash Amte and Mandakini Amte of India, Grace Padaca, a woman Philippines provincial Governor among the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay awardees.

- The International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors meeting in Vienna approves the safeguards agreement with India in Aug, 2008.

- Terrorism "single biggest threat" to stability and progress, said the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the inaugural of the 15th SAARC Summit in Colombo. Nod for SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. The SAARC Summit adopted the Colombo Declaration titled "Partnership for growth of our people." Leaders resolve to jointly fight terror and trans-national organized crime.

- Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom signed and adopts a Constitution that allows multi-party elections.

- Georgia launched a full-scale military assault against South Ossetia and reduces to ruins the capital Tskhinvali.

- Swiss adventurer Yves Rossy maked history by flying across the English Channel from France using a jet-powered wing and

- The ninth India-Euroopean Union summit in Marseille, France welcome India's emergence out of the nuclear denial regime.

- India and France signed a framework agreement for civil nuclear cooperation, after talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris.

- Sarvodaya couple Krishnammal Jagannathan and Sankaralingam Jagannathan share the Right Livelihood Award or "alternative Nobel." An American Journalist, a Swiss-born doctor and an activist from Somalia are the other winners in 2008.

- For the fighting to recession, the U.S. Senate approved a \$700 billion bailout of the financial industry in 2008.

- Germany's Harald Zur Hausen and French researchers Francoise Barre-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier shared the 2008 Nobel Prize for medicine.

- Two Japanese scientists, Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa and a Tokyo-born American citizen Yoichiro Nambu shared the 2008 Nobel Physics Prize for discoveries in sub-atomic particles.

- Osamu Shimomura of Japan and Americans Martin Chalfie and Roger Tsien won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for a fluorescent protein derived from a jellyfish.

- French writer Marie Gustave Le Clezio is awarded the Nobel Literature Prize.

- The U.S. President George W. Bush signed the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Non-proliferation Enhancement Act in Washington in October, 2008.

- Finland's former President Martti Ahtisaari has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for a long career of peacemaking around the world from Namibia to Kosovo.

- India and the US on 10th October, 2008 operationalised the "path-breaking" bilateral nuclear deal as they signed the 123 Agreement insisting that the accord is "legally-binding" on both sides.

- Pope Benedict XVI canonised four Catholic figured, among them Sister Alphonsa, an Indian nun who became the country's first woman saint. she was Born in 1910 as Anna Muttathupandathu, and known as Alphonsa dell'Immacolata Concezione



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- U.S. Economist Paul Krugman is awarded the Nobel Economics Prize for his trade analysis theory.

- Arvind Adiga, the Chennai-born author won the £50,000 Man Booker Prize for his debut novel *The White Tiger*.

- On 22nd October, India and Japan signed a declaration on security cooperation after talks between Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Taro Aso in Tokyo.

- Mohamed "Anni" Nasheed won the Maldivian presidential run-off unseating the incumbent Maumoon Abdul Gayoom at the helm for the past 30 years.

- Rupiah Banda has elected as Zambian President in year 2008.

- Russia and Libya were poised to embark on large-scale projects in the defence and energy spheres in the wake of Libyan leader Muamar Qadhafi's visit to Moscow on October 31 to November 2 in the recent past year.

- Democrat Senator from Illinois Barack Obama an African-American won the U.S. presidential polls defeating Republican John McCain. Barack Obama's runaway victory in the 2008 presidential election begins a new political era in the United States.

- India signed a "landmark" defence agreement with Qatar, besides pact on security and law enforcement in 2008.

- In nov., 2008 Iraq and the U.S. signed troop pullout pact requiring America to withdraw its soldiers by 2011.

- The Malaysian State of Malacca presented 'Datuk' title to Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, making him the first foreign actor to get the honour.

- The long awaited dream of the people of the Kshmir Valley was finally fulfilled when the Prime Minister flagged off the first train service in Kashmir Valley on 11th October 2008. The prestigious project was launched in the year 1998. The DMU train service covers a distance of 66 kilometres and There are nine stations in its entire journey.

The stations are at Budgam, Srinagar, Pampore, Kakapora, Awantipora, Panjgam, Bijbehara, Rajwansher and Anantnag.

- In a bid to make Indian Railways the world's No. 1 Railway network, the Committee on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister has approved the proposal to develop New Delhi Railway Station as a world class station. The Ministry of Railways has decided to constitute a Core Group for monitoring of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects related to development of 26 World Class Railway Stations across the country including New Delhi Railway Station.

- The Government has decided to establish Indian Maritime University (IMU) in Chennai by an Act of Parliament in November, 2008 with campuses at Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam. Formation of IMU will facilitate and promote maritime studies, research and extension work. As there are a sizeable number of private institutions imparting maritime education and training, the University will standardize the quality of such education and training through affiliation and academic supervision. The existing seven maritime training and research institutes (Government and Government aided) will be merged with the IMU.

- In 2008, the Government approved Cruise Shipping Policy which is expected to carve a prominent space in world tourism and it would showcase India as a major source and destination of world tourism.

- The Cruise Shipping Policy was circulated to all the concerned Ministries, stakeholders, Major Port Trusts and Maritime Boards in September, 2008 for taking further necessary steps in implementing the policy.

- The Government conferred the much coveted "Navratna" status on the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) making it the 17th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in the country to join the elite club of 'Navratna PSUs'. Earlier the SCI was "Mini Ratna" Category-I PSU with effect from 24.02.2000.

- The Company has an ambitious ship acquisition programme of ordering/ acquiring 62 new building ships during the 11th Five Year Plan, which forms part of the



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National Maritime Development Programme. Presently the Company has total 29 ships on order at various reputed shipyards. During the year 2008, the SCI has taken delivery of 3 new building ships which have been named as follows: "SCI Chennai" "SCI Mumbai" and "M.T. Desh Viraat".

- A.Raja, Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology announced the detailed guidelines for 3G and BWA services laying down the road map for rolling out these services in the country on 1 August 2008.

- With the introduction of these services, the quality of voice telephony will be improved as 3G spectrum would enable service providers to provide good quality services to a larger number of subscribers. Further, additional value added services will become widely available to the public. BWA services will ensure quick roll out and enhanced penetration of broadband especially in rural areas, where there is problem of last mile connectivity. It will facilitate availability of e-governance services like tele-medicine, e-medicine, e-ticketing, e-education etc, through broadband to the large section of rural population.

- Auctioning of 3G and Broadband spectrum will be done through e- auctioning by a specialized agency separately. New players would also be able to bid thus leading to technology innovation, more competition, faster roll out and ultimately greater choice for customers at competitive tariffs.

- The Law Commission of India has submitted to the Government of India, its 216th Report on "Non-feasibility of introduction of Hindi as compulsory language in the Supreme Court of India". The Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission, Dr. Justice AR. Lakshmanan, former Supreme Court Judge, forwarded the said report to the Hon'ble Union Law Minister, Dr. H.R.Bhardwaj, on 17th December, 2008.

- Committee envisage that Article 348 of the Constitution may be amended to enable the Legislative Department to undertake original drafting in Hindi. After the amendment of Article 348 of the Constitution, High Courts/Supreme Court should be asked to start delivering their judgments and decrees etc. in Hindi so that large number of Government Departments, who are carrying

out judicial/ quasi-judicial functions, could be able to deliver orders in Hindi.

- At present, these departments are unable to pass orders in Hindi, because the appeal against their orders in High Courts/Supreme Court would have to be conducted in English.

- The Union Cabinet on 26 Dec 2008 gave its approval to the Integrated Energy Policy for the country. It also decided to set up a Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary for reviewing the progress of implementation of the policy.

- The Integrated Energy Policy envisions a roadmap for sustainable growth with energy security over a reasonable period of time. India needs to sustain an economic growth of at least 9 percent over the next 25 years if it is to eradicate poverty and meet its larger human development goals.

- Meeting the energy requirements of this growth in a sustainable manner presents a difficult challenge and one that has become more formidable following the steep rise in international energy prices since 2006. It is necessary in this backdrop to evolve an integrated energy policy that provides a coherent framework of policy covering different energy sources in a consistent manner.

- The Union Cabinet in dec,2008 gave its approval to the Scheme of repair, renovation and restoration of wide variety of water bodies all over the country with an approximate cost of Rs. 6,000 crore during XI Plan period.

- The scheme will cover about 23000 water bodies across the country with a Culturable Command Area of 16.8 lakh hectares. When completed, the project will create an additional irrigation potential of 7.5 lakh hectares. The scheme envisages that the States will prepare projects with a sub-basin approach with regard to public water bodies on Government land/ Gram Panchayat / Municipalities / Corporations, Registered Societies in Agriculture and Allied sectors as well as Public Trusts, etc.

- The objective is comprehensive improvement of selected tank systems including restoration, improvement of catchment area of tank commands, increase in storage capacity of water bodies, improvement in agriculture /



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horticulture productivity, increase in recharge of ground water in downstream areas of water bodies, development of tourism, cultural activities, increased availability of drinking water, etc.

- Under the scheme, it will cover about 23000 water bodies having Culturable Command Area of about 16.8 lakh hec. After the completion of the scheme about 7.5 lakh hec. Of additional irrigation potential would be created.

- The Cabinet gave its approval for establishment of "National Meat & Poultry Processing Board" with its Headquarters at Delhi in Dec, 2008. The total funds allocated over a period of three years are Rs. 14.64 crores for the establishment of the Board.

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention ended successfully at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai on 7-9 January 2009. It was organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India in partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Confederation of Indian Industry. The theme of PBD-2009 was 'Engaging the Diaspora – The way forward'.

- Ever since its inception in 2003, this annual convention has been the biggest platform for NRIs/PIOs to engage with the Government and people of India in matters of mutual interest and for networking. These Conventions enable the Government of India to better understand the expectations of the Overseas Indians from the land of their ancestors and to acknowledge their role in India's all-round development.

- A new scheme of urban transport planning has been launched in August, 2008 for providing Central financial assistance up to 80% for taking up traffic and transportation studies and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (limited up to 50% in case of DPR). The scheme covers the wide gamut of urban transport matters for promoting comprehensive and integrated urban transport planning, studies, integrated land use and transport planning, comprehensive mobility plans, preparation of DPR, clean development mechanism (CDM) studies, Intelligent Transport System (ITS) studies, launching of awareness campaign in line with the NUTP, 2006.



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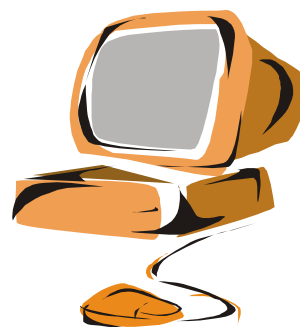


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## SECTION : 6

### STUDY MATERIAL FOR CIVIL SERVICES (PRE) EXAMINATION 2009 PART - 1

• Prime Minister has appointed P. Chidambaram as new Home Minister of country on November 30, 2008. Before taking the charge of 16th Home Minister of India, 63-year-old Palaniappan Chidambaram was Union Finance Minister. Now Prime Minister will hold the finance portfolio. P. Chidambaram succeeded Shivraj V. Patil, who resigned after Mumbai terror attack. Chidambaram was also minister of state in charge of internal security between 1986 and 1989.

• US President-elect Barack Obama has nominated his former rival and wife of former President Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, as his secretary of state. Before the formal decision, Former President Bill Clinton had cleared the way for his wife's appointment by reaching a complicated agreement on his financial arrangements. A senator from New York, Democrats Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton will replace Condoleezza Rice as the secretary of state of US.

• **Other nominations:** Retired General James L. Jones was named national security adviser, while former justice department official Eric Holder was nominated for the post of attorney-general and Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano as secretary of homeland security.

• **Indian Americans in Obama Team :** US President-elect Barack Obama included many Indian-American in his transition team. Some important names are Sonal Shah, Anjan Mukherjee, Preeta Bansal, Nicholas Rathod, Arti Rai, Parag Mehta, Rachana Bhowmik, Subhasri Ramanathan, Natasha Bilimoria, Puneet Talwar. Sonal Shah will be part of a three-person team to coordinate technology, innovation and government reform during the transition. Managing Director of Blackstone Anjan Mukherjee was included on the team leads in Economics and International Trade.

• Srinath Narasimhan of Tata Communications was included in the top 100 influential telecom leaders of the world. The list was published by a telecom trade magazine, Global Telecoms Business. 7 other Indians also have

made it to the list. Following is the list of Indians featured along with their rankings.

- **Srinath Narasimhan :** CEO of Tata Communications (8th)
- **Sunil Mittal :** Chairman of Bharti Group (35th)
- **Manoj Kohli :** CEO of Bharti Group (39th)
- **Sanjay Jha :** CEO of Motorala Mobile services Division (41th )
- **Sanjay Ahuja :** chief of Augere (45th)
- **Vinod Kumar :** Tata communications president of global data and mobility solutions (68th)
- **Arun Sarin :** Former CEO of Vodafone (71th)

• King of Pop Michael Jackson converted to Islam in a ceremony at a friend's house in Los Angeles and changed his name to Mikael on November 21, 2008. Michael went through the shahada, which is the Muslim declaration of belief. Earlier lawyers for Michael Jackson reached a settlement with a Bahraini sheik who claimed the singer owed him 7 million US dollar after breaching a signed contract..

• Famous writer and columnist of Bangladesh Shahriar Kabir was cleared from a sedition case by a Dhaka court on Nov 13, 2008 as the charges brought against him were found fabricated and concocted. He was arrested at Zia International Airport on November 22, 2001 on suspicion after he returned from Kolkata and seized some cassettes and CDs on torture on minority people immediately after the 2001 national election.

• Army decided to initiate court martial proceedings against Lieutenant General (retired) S K Sahni on corruption charges but he got temporary reprieve with the Delhi High Court staying such action. In the first of its kind case, Sahni became the seniormost army officer, serving or retired, who faced such disciplinary proceedings under the Army Act. He served as the Director General (Supplies and Transport) in Army headquarters and retired from that post in 2006. Lt Gen (retd) S

K Sahni and six serving officers including a Major General and two Brigadiers were indicted by a court of inquiry on charges of procuring poor quality pulses for soldiers fighting insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir four years ago.

- Lt Col Srikant Prasad Purohit was arrested by Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Maharashtra in connection with the Malegaon blasts. Allegedly he had prepared fake documents to provide date with arms license. Later on November 30, 2008 a local court granted conditional bail to him.

- Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School Rakesh Khurana was included amongst the top '10 New Guru You should know'. The list was published by Fortune magazine.

- An accused in infamous Hannah Foster rape and murder case, 41-year-old Maninder Pal Singh Kohli was sentenced to life in prison by Winchester Crown Court in London on November 25, 2008. Earlier court found him guilty of bundling 17-year-old Hannah Foster into the back of his van, raping and strangling her before dumping her body in a ditch.

- Robert Gates will remain in charge of the Secretary of Defense of US as declared by President-elect Obama. Robert Gates served for 26 years at the CIA, ending his tenure as chief of the spy agency under President George H. W. Bush. He was made Secretary of Defense of US by George Bush on November 8, 2006. He had replaced Donald Rumsfeld.

- Editor-in-Chief of the IBN Network Rajdeep Sardesai was unanimously elected president of the Editors Guild of India in year 2008. He succeeded the Chief Editor of Nai Duniya, Alok Mehta, who completed his two terms. K.S. Sachidananda Murthy, Resident Editor of Malayala Manorama and The Week was re-elected secretary-general.

- Rupiah Banda of Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) sworn in as Zambia's fourth Republican President in November 2008. He took oath before Chief Justice Ernest Sakala. He got 40.09 votes while his main op-

ponent Michael Sata of Patriotic Front (PF) got 38.13 percent votes. Later on Michael Sata rejected the results of the election claiming the poll was flawed. Banda held many important diplomatic posts and was active in politics as a member of the United National Independence Party (UNIP). He was appointed as Vice-President by President Levy Mwanawasa in October 2006. After Mwanawasa's death in August 2008, he had taken responsibility of acting President.

- Avtar Singh Makkar was unanimously re-elected as the President of Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) for the fourth consecutive term with a voice vote in November 2008. He has become the 40th president of the SGPC. SGPC is also called mini-Parliament of the Sikhs.

- Lt General (Retired) Mandhata Singh has been appointed new chairman of the Ceasefire Monitoring Group and the Ceasefire Supervisory Board by the Union Government. Both bodies monitor the implementation of the agreed ground rules with NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K).

- Vilasrao Deshmukh's resignation from the post of Maharashtra Chief Minister was accepted by Congress party in December, 2008. He had offered to resign as chief minister after at least 171 people were killed in a three-day storm at luxury hotels, main railway station and a Jewish centre in Mumbai.

- R R Patil quit the post of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and state Home Minister in December, 2008. His resignation was accepted by Maharashtra Governor S C Jamir. Nationalist Congress Party leader R.R. Patil resigned from his post taking moral responsibility of terrorist attacks on Mumbai.

- Shivraj V. Patil resigned in November, 2008 as the Union Home Minister, taking moral responsibility of the security lapse that led to the November 2008 terrorist attacks on Mumbai. The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister of India, accepted his resignation from the Council of Ministers, with immediate effect.

- The former Prime Minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, died in November, 2008 at Indraprastha Apollo hospital in New Delhi. Born on June 25, 1931 at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh as the son of Raja Manda Bhadur Ram Gopal Singh, VP Singh was suffering with blood cancer for over 17 years. He began his political career with the Congress and was a Minister in Indira Gandhi's Council of Ministers before he became Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on June 9, 1980. He returned to the Centre thereafter and was Finance Minister in Rajiv Gandhi's government before the two fell apart over the Bofors scandal.

He formed Janmorcha in 1987 and was elected President of Janta Dal in October 1987. After the 9th Lok Sabha election, he took over as 7th Prime Minister (10th in serial) of India on December 2, 1989. His tenure lasted barely 11 months and his Janata Dal-led coalition government fell on November 10, 1990 after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew support over the arrest of leader L.K. Advani in Bihar during the course of his Rath Yatra. He implemented Mandal Commission recommendations favouring reservation for Other Backward Classes in government jobs. Poet and Painter VP Singh was cremated at the Sangam in Allahbad on November 29.

- Former Kerala Legislator and veteran personality in the cooperative sector B Vijayakumar died in Thiruvanthapuram in year 2008. Ex-President of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit societies, Vijayakumar was an untiring advocate of the cooperative movement. He truly understood the benefits of the movement in the banking sector for society in general and the common man in particular.

- Soccer legend Peter Thangaraj died after a massive heart attack at Bokaro in year 2008. He was 72. The towering custodian of the Indian football team that won the gold medal in 1962 Jakarta Asiad played for the country between 1954 and 1968. He was voted Best Goalkeeper of Asia in 1958. The six feet tall goalkeeper was greatly influenced by the Russian legend Lev Yashin. He was honoured with the Arjuna award in 1968.

- The novelist and creative force behind the television series ER, Michael Crichton, died at 66. Famous for his novel Jurassic Park and its sequel, The Lost World, Crichton was regarded as the father of the techno thriller. Born in Chicago in 1942, Crichton's fame reached a peak in the mid-90s, when he brought dinosaurs back to life in the most popular film of the time, Jurassic Park.

- 1968 Olympics gold and silver medals winner, G. Larry James, died of cancer in 2008. He was 61 year old. He also was the athletic director at Richard Stockton College for 28 years. He nicknamed 'The Mighty Burner,' teamed with Vince Matthews, Ron Freeman and Lee Evans on the U.S. 4x400 relay team, which won gold in Mexico City. He also won an individual silver medal in the 400 meters.

- Former Union Minister and senior leader of Trinamool Congress Party Ajit Panja passed away in 2008 at a private hospital in Kolkata. Suffering with mouth cancer, Panja was 72. A six-time MP, Panja was a minister in the governments of Rajiv Gandhi, P V Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee and held key portfolios including information and broadcasting. A man of mixed talents, Panja was a devoted stage actor and had won great admiration for his portrayal of Ramakrishna Paramhans in the Bengali play 'Noti Binodini'. He was also interested in Rabindra Sangeet and writing poems and dramas.

- In 2008, Former New Zealand test spinner Hedley Howarth died aged 64. A consistent orthodox left-arm bowler, Howarth played 30 tests for New Zealand between 1969 and 1977 and captured 86 wickets at an average of 36.95.

- In 2008, World's leading authority on the conservation of buildings Sir Bernard Feilden passed away in London at 89. He carried out many missions for UNESCO, including advising the Indian government on the structural condition of the Taj Mahal and the Sun Temple at Konark, on the conservation of the dome of the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem and the Chinese government on the conservation of the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Mojao Caves, the Terracotta Soldiers in Xian,

and Mount Teishan.

He also advised the New Zealand government on the conservation of the parliament buildings in Wellington, and the state of Alberta on the management of some of their World Heritage sites. Feilden wrote 'Conservation of Historic Buildings', a standard text on architectural conservation. For UNESCO, he wrote An Introduction to Conservation (1980) and A Manual for the Management of World Cultural Heritage Sites (1983) and Guidelines for Conservation in India in 1989.

- Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan with a 100-strong business delegation came to India in 2008 on a five-day official visit. During his meeting with Prime Minister of India, both sides talked mainly on economic cooperation and energy security. Turkey offered India its expertise in combating terrorism. This was the first visit by a Turkish Prime Minister since that of Bulent Ecevit in March 2000.

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited India during 30-31 October 2008. He met various leaders and delivered the Ninth Rajiv Gandhi Memorial lecture on India and the UN: An Indispensable Partnership.

- King of Belgium was on 10-day state visit of India in 2008. He was accompanied by Queen Paola, Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht and a delegation of top business leaders and academics. He visited Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Mammalapuram. Belgium is a founding member of the 27-member European Union and hosts the EU headquarters and many other international organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Belgium is also hub of the global diamond trade. During the King's visit, India and Belgium signed strategic memoranda of understanding to create a framework for more intensive people to people relations.

- India reopened Fukche Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in 2008. The IAF landed a AN 32 medium transport aircraft on the newly refurbished airstrip. Fukche is a strategic airstrip along its unresolved border with China in Eastern Ladakh. The ALG, located at an altitude of 4200 meters, is barely three kilometers away from the

Line of Actual Control (LAC). It was being used as a helicopter base by the Armed Forces and had not seen fixed wing aircraft operations since the 1962 Sino-Indian war. The reopening of the Fukche airbase comes months after the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) airfield, situated in the same region near the Karakoram pass, was reactivated by the Air Force in 2008.

- Thousands of anti-government protesters occupied Thai Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's temporary office in November, 2008, three months after taking over the official Government House compound in central Bangkok. Later, Thailand's constitutional court dissolved the governing People Power Party and two of its coalition partners for fraud during the last election and parties' leaders, including Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, were banned from politics for 5 years. The anti-government protests paralysed Thailand's politics for months and protesters occupied a central government complex for more than three months. Earlier, an anti-government protester was killed at a Bangkok airport. A grenade was fired at Don Mueang airport, the capital's domestic hub, which was occupied by the anti-government People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD).

- Slovakia joined the group of development aid providers within the World Bank in 2008. It meant that instead of being a country receiving development aid, Slovakia became a country providing development aid.

- The U.S. raid into Abu Kamal of Syria put this eastern border town near Iraq on the world stage. Syria demanded that Washington apologize for the strike and threatened to cut off cooperation on Iraqi border security. The government also ordered all foreign staff of the American Language Center and American Cultural Center in Damascus to leave the country, and postponed a November 12, 2008 meeting of a joint Syrian-Iraqi committee in Baghdad to improve troubled relations.

- Cheriyanad, a little hamlet of Alappuzha district (Kerala) was declared the country's first litigation-controlled and legally-literate grama panchayat by Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan in 2008. Cheriyanad was



also announced as the country's first legally-literate grama panchayat at a function organised by the panchayat and the Kerala State Legal Services Authority.

- Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) El Baradei was selected for 'Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2008' for his ardent opposition to the use of nuclear energy for military purposes and his firm support of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, sustained over many years. He was chosen by the International Jury of the Prize, chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

- ElBaradei led the IAEA in carving out an independent approach free from bias and reflective of a wider balanced perspective in tune with present world. He played an important role in India clinching the Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, a prerequisite for New Delhi's re-entry in international nuclear commerce. Born in Egypt and a lawyer by training, ElBaradei held Director General position at the IAEA since 1997, having been re-appointed for a third term in September 2005.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is the prestigious award, constituted in 1986, accorded annually by India to individuals or organizations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order, ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity and enlarging the scope of freedom. The prize carries a cash award of 25 lakh Indian rupees and a citation.

- Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak was conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding in New Delhi on 2008, thirteen years after it was announced in 1995. He was given the award for his unique role in providing stability and progress to Egypt, in upholding the Arab cause, in promoting peace and understanding in the region.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding is being given away annually since 1965 by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for outstanding contribution to the promotion of international understanding, goodwill and friendship among people of

the world. The award includes a plaque, citation and Rs.25 lakh as prize money. Previous winners included the former U.N. Secretary-General U. Thant, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Julius Nyrere, Alva and Gunnar Myrdal (jointly), Wangari Maathai, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

- Moon Impact Probe with the National Tricolour successfully landed on the lunar surface after being detached from unmanned spacecraft Chandrayaan-1. Developed by ISRO, MIP payload is an instrument about the size of a computer carried by the Chandrayaan-1. The probe's mass of 35 kg is more than one-third of the total mass (of around 100 kilogram) of the 11 payloads on board and is the highest of all.

- Two day APEC summit was concluded in Lima (Peru) on November 23,2008. Leaders who oversee half the world's economy pledged to avoid protectionism but shied away from any new proposals on the financial crisis. The leaders called for greater APEC participation in the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral lenders. Japan was ready to lend up to 100 billion US dollar to the IMF, but China resisted entreaties to dig into its 1.9 trillion US dollar in reserves.

- The Group of 20 developed and developing nations or G20 summit was held in Washington's ornate National Building Museum in November 15,2008 against the backdrop of signs of a further rapid decline in the global economy. For the first time G20 government chiefs met together since the G20 was established in 1999. Apart from strengthening global financial transparency, accountability and disclosure measures, the meeting ended with the leaders call for immediate steps including the creation of a new monitoring mechanism through a system of 'supervisory colleges'. At the summit India mooted a coordinated global fiscal stimulus to help mitigate the severity and duration of the recession to give a strong signal to investors worldwide.

- India Economic Summit was took place in New Delhi during November 16-18,2008. It ended with warning of falling growth, but no crisis. World Economic Forum's 24th India Economic Summit, held in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), called on their



countrymen to pursue the same spirit of change. International and Indian leaders from over 35 countries gathered at the Summit. Theme of summit was Securing India's Future Growth.

- 14-day 28th India International Trade Fair (IITF) has been organised by Indian government's nodal trade promotion agency India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from November 14-27, 2008. There was a total transactions worth over Rs 1000 crore. About 450 companies of 38 countries and over 7000 Indian companies participated in the 28th edition of IITF.

- FICCI launched Ernst and Young report 'Leveraging Partnerships In India's Education Sector' in 2008 at FICCI's Higher Education Summit 2008. According to the report despite government initiatives, there exists a significant gap in the demand for higher education and the supply of infrastructure facilities.

The government needs to step in not only through improvised regulatory framework but through a different form of strategy-PPP. The report emphasises that PPP is one of the key approaches to infuse the required investments in the education system from the private sector in cooperation with the facilitating regulatory supervision of the government.

- Global Gender Gap Report 2008 released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2008. With 113th position among 130 countries in the annual list, India among the 20 countries where the gender gap is the widest, while the country is sixth in economic inequality between men and women. Though, India has improved its overall ranking by one position from 114th in 2007, primarily due to improvement in better than average performance in political empowerment space.

Global Gender Gap Index 2008		
Rank	Country	Score*
1	Norway	0.824
2	Finland	0.820
3	Sweden	0.814
4	Iceland	0.800
5	N.Zealand	0.786
6	Philippines	0.757
7	Denmark	0.754
8	Ireland	0.752
9	Netherlands	0.740
10	Latvia	0.740

Norway moved to the top from its third position in 2007. The rankings are based on four parameters-economic participation and opportunity, education attainment, political empowerment and health and survival. Norway, replaced Sweden at the first position, is followed by Finland, Sweden, Iceland, New Zealand, Philippines, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands and Latvia in the top ten. The Nordic countries have occupied all the four top positions in the list.

In its overall ranking, India is ranked lowest among the four BRIC countries. The neighbouring China has jumped 17 places to 57th rank in 2008 on the back of narrowing gender gaps in educational attainment, economic participation and political participation. Nepal ranked 120, Pakistan 127, Bangladesh 90 and

Sri Lanka 12 in 2008. The Philippines at 6 and Sri Lanka 12 remain distinctive for being the only Asian countries among the top 20.

In terms of economic participation and opportunity, India has been ranked 125th. The country is placed at 25th rank in terms of political empowerment, while it is ranked 116th and 128th in terms of educational attainment and health and survival, respectively.

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched the 2008 State of World Population Report in the Philippines in 2008 at EDSA Shangri-la Hotel. The theme of the report is 'Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights'. The report, which coincides with 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is based on the concept that the international human rights framework has universal validity. Human rights express values common to all cultures and protect groups as well as individuals. The report endorses culturally sensitive approaches to development and to the promotion of human rights, in general, and women's rights, in particular. Cultural sensitive approaches are essential for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the fifth goal namely to improve maternal health.

- The indigenous missile 'Shaurya' was launched from an underground facility with an in-built canister at 11.25 am

from Complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Balasore (Orissa) in 2008. The sophisticated tactical medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaurya is capable of carrying conventional warheads with a payload of about one tonne. It has 600-km range and is capable of hitting targets deep inside Pakistan and China.

- The 105-year-old railway line that meanders through the hills between Kalka and Shimla, covering 102 tunnels and 800 bridges, was officially declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2008. Kalka-Shimla railway is 28th sites of India in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. The Kalka-Shimla railway line was built in 1898 during British rule to connect the then summer capital of India, Shimla, with other parts of the country. The two-feet-six-inches narrow gauge railway line that covers a distance of 96 kilometer was officially opened for traffic November 9, 1903. The Kalka-Shimla toy train is the fourth rail route that has been included in the UNESCO list. The other three that feature in the UNESCO heritage list includes the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Mumbai VT and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway.

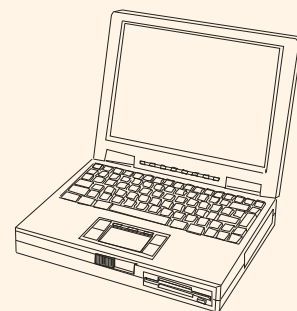


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## STUDY MATERIAL FOR CIVIL SERVICES (PRE) EXAMINATION 2009 PART - 2

• In a bloodless coup, Captain Moussa Dadis Camara declared himself as the President of West African country Guinea, after President Lansana Conte's death was announced on December 22, 2008 and promised to hold elections by the end of 2010. Heading a council of 26 army officers and 6 civilians, Camara also dissolved the government, suspended the constitution and dismissed 22 senior military officials, including the chief of staff who had spoken out against his move to seize power.

Meanwhile the African Union suspended Guinea's membership in the bloc, giving the coup leaders six months to restore 'constitutional order' or face further sanctions. Guinea holds the world's biggest reserves of bauxite, never had a democratic transfer of power. The nation of 9.4 million people Guinea is divided among three ethnic groups, with the Peuhl, or Fulani, accounting for 40 percent, the Malinke 30 percent and Soussou 20 percent. Former President Conte was a Soussou, while the military junta that seized power consists of Malinke officers.

• 44th U.S. president-elect Barack Obama was chosen as Time magazine's 2008 Person of the Year. He won the award 'for having the confidence to sketch an ambitious future in a gloomy hour.' According to Time magazine's December 29, 2008 issue, he showed 'the competence that makes Americans hopeful. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, French President and current European Union President Nicholas Sarkozy, former Republican vice-presidential candidate and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and Zhang Yimou, who organized the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Beijing were named four runners-up. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin was the Time magazine's 2007 Person of the Year. Barack Obama also topped the list of 50 most powerful people in the world ranked by the Newsweek magazine.

• On December 13, 2008 Supreme Court of Nigeria brought to an end one and a half years of uncertainty and legal tussle over the legitimacy of the government of President Umaru Yar' Adua through two separate split judgments. The apex court upheld the earlier decision of the Appeal Court declaring Yar' Adua the winner of the April 21, 2007

presidential polls of Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The Supreme Court dismissed separate appeals brought against Yar' Adua and his Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) by two other leading presidential candidates in the polls, Maj. Gen. Muhammadu Buhari and former vice President Atiku Abubakar.

• The Democrat Governor of Illinois Milorad Rod R. Blagojevich was arrested on federal corruption charges by FBI agents on December 9, 2008. He was charged with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud as well as solicitation of bribery. The Justice Department complaint alleged that the governor conspired to commit several 'pay-to-play' schemes, including attempting to sell President-elect Barack Obama's vacated United States Senate seat to the highest bidder. As a result of the arrest, Blagojevich has faced calls for his resignation or impeachment and removal from office. Milorad Blagojevich is the second Serbian American, who was elected governor of any state of the United States, after George Voinovich of Ohio.

• An Iraqi television reporter Muntadhar al-Zeidi threw his shoes at President George W. Bush at a news conference in Baghdad (Iraq) in 2008. Bush managed to duck. Al Zeidi was quickly taken into custody for questioning. The Iraqi government called his actions 'barbaric' and asked the TV station for an apology. A clause in the Iraqi penal code makes it equal to an offense to attempt to murder Iraqi or foreign presidents and the sentence for such a crime could be up to 15 years in prison. 28-year-old Shiite, who works for al Baghdadia TV station, Muntadhar al-Zeidi was also in news for his kidnaping by militants in 2007.

• Wall Street firm Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC chairman Bernard L. Madoff was arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in and charged in 2008 with securities fraud. The Securities and Exchange Commission charged him and his investment firm with securities fraud for a multi-billion dollar Ponzi scheme that he perpetrated on advisory clients of his firm. Estimated losses from this fraud were at least 50 billion dollar.

• Colonel Theoneste Bagosora was sentenced to life in prison by a Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). He was accused of masterminding the

slaughter of 800000 people in Rwanda in 1994. He was arrested in Cameroon in 1996 and flown to face trial in 1997. His trial began in 2002 and lasted five years until mid 2007.

- A Nobel Prize-winning Chinese American physicist Steven Chu was nominated as energy secretary by U.S. President-elect Barack Obama. He will be first professional scientist to run the Department of Energy. Born in the United States to a family of two Chinese students, Chu became the fifth ethnic Chinese Nobel laureate in 1997. He trained many Chinese scientists, including some active in the research frontier of international science.

- Iraqi minority Kurds demanded execution of Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan al-Majeed alias Chemical Ali recently. A Sunni Arab and Saddam-era official Ali Hassan al-Majeed is known as 'Chemical Ali' for the killing of 5000 Kurds in a 1988 gas attack. He was already sentenced to death twice, once in 2007 for his role in killing tens of thousands of Kurds. His second death sentence came on December 2 for his part in crushing a Shi'ite revolt after the 1991 Gulf War.

- Son of former Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, Chander Mohan was sacked from the Haryana state cabinet and post of Deputy Chief Minister. He had been hiding for nearly a month and resurfaced in Jaipur on December 7 with changed name Chand Mohammad and a second wife Fiza alias Anuradha Bali. His second wife, 35-year-old divorcee Anuradha Bali is a former assistant attorney general of Haryana.

- Congress president Sonia Gandhi and bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan were ranked among the 50 most powerful people in the world by the Newsweek magazine's January 5, 2009 issue. President-elect Barack Obama topped the list followed by Hu Jintao, Nicolas Sarkozy, Gordon Brown, Angela Merkel, Vladimir Putin. Sonia Gandhi was at 17th spot, while Shah Rukh Khan was ranked 41st. Pakistan army chief Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, who controlled the country's nuclear weapons, was placed 20th.

North Korean dictator Kim Jong II also found a place. Others on the list included the Dalai Lama, the former

U.S. president, Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary, Iranian strongman Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Saudi King Abdullah-bin-Abdul Aziz-al Saud, American General David Petraeus, Iraqi leader Nouri al-Maliki, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, Pope Benedict XVI, media mogul Rupert Murdoch, popular show host Oprah Winfrey and Osama bin Laden.

- Only surviving militant involved in the terrorist attack on Mumbai on 26-28 November 2008, Mohammed Ajmal Mohammed Amir was arrested near Girgaum Chowpatty by D B Marg Police. Supposed to be Lashkar terrorist, Ajmal hails from the Ukkad area of Faridkot district in Pakistan. Beside officer from the crime branch of Mumbai, he was also grilled for over nine hours by officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of US. The terror attack in Mumbai killed 183 and injured around 295 people.

- An Indian national, Satish Anand Shukla was arrested by Pakistan's intelligence agencies for his alleged role in a bomb blast that took place in the Bahawalpur House in Lahore on December 24. Satish Anand Shukla from Kolkata had worked in the Indian High Commission in the UK for three years.

- Chairman of Harpo and American television presenter Oprah Winfrey was named the most powerful woman in entertainment on the Hollywood Reporter's 17th annual Women in Entertainment: Power 100 special issue. Power 100 List honors the top 100 women in the motion picture and television industries.

- Chairman and Chief Executive officer of East India Hotels, Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, was chosen Business India's Businessman of the year 2008. An 'Ecole Hotelier' graduate from Switzerland, Oberoi inherited the hotel chain from his father, Rai Bahadur Mohan Singh, who set up the business in 1934 with a hotel in Simla.

- IPS officer of 1972 batch of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Rajiv Mathur was appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). He replaced P C Haldar on his superannuation on December 31. Rajiv Mathur will be the IB director for a minimum of 2 years as the post carries a fixed tenure.



- Leading NRI entrepreneur Lord Swraj Paul was appointed Deputy Speaker of the British House of Lords. Thus founder of multinational national company Caparo, 77-year-old Lord Paul scripted history by becoming the first Asian deputy speaker of the British House of Lords. He was conferred the Peerage in 1996 and honoured with the Padma Bhushan by President of India in 1983. He was born in Jalandhar in 1931. His father ran a small foundry.
- Graduated from the Punjab University, obtained a Master's degree MIT in the USA, Paul joined the Apeejay Group, which his father had founded. He shifted to London in 1968 and started his business in Britain. After acquiring one steel unit, he went on to acquire more units and founded the Caparo group in the year 1978. Caparo developed into one of the leading producers of welded steel tube and spiral-welded pipe in the UK. In 1996, Lord Paul stepped down from the management of the Caparo group, which has an annual turnover of 1.5 billion pounds.
- An IPS officer of Jharkhand cadre of 1971 batch, K.C. Verma was appointed Internal Security Adviser to the Home Minister. Presently Secretary (Security) in Cabinet Secretariat, KC Verma will hold this charge in addition to his current responsibilities. Internal Security Advisor to the Home Minister is a new post created in the changed security scenario after Mumbai terror attacks. Earlier, the National Security Advisor used to advise the government and the Prime Minister on various challenges to internal security.

### New Chief Ministers

**Lalthanhawla:** Sixty-six-year-old Lalthanhawla of Congress was administered the oath of office and secrecy of Chief Minister of Mizoram by Governor Lt. Gen. (retd.) M.M. Lakhera on December 11, 2008. He replaced Zoramthanga of Mizoram National Front. He earlier held the office CM three times. He first became chief minister in 1984, but stepped down in 1986 after the Mizo Peace Accord was signed to pave the way for guerrilla leader Laldenga to become the chief minister. Lalthanhawla again became chief minister in 1989 heading a Congress government. He was also the chief minister of a Congress-led coalition government during 1993-1998.

**Raman Singh:** BJP leader Dr. Raman Singh sworn in as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh for a second consecutive term on December 12, 2008. He is the third Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

**Shivraj Singh Chauhan :** 49-year-old Shivraj Singh Chauhan of BJP was sworn-in as Chief Minister for a second successive term on December 12, 2008. He was elected as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on November 29, 2005 following the resignation of Uma Bharti in the wake of a Karnataka court indicting her.

**Ashok Gehlot:** Congress Party leader Ashok Gehlot was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan on December 13, 2008. He replaced Vasundhara Raje of BJP. Born on May 3, 1951 in Jodhpur, Gehlot was the Chief Minister of Rajasthan from December 1, 1998 to December 8, 2003.

**Sheila Dikshit:** Sheila Dikshit of Indian National Congress sworn in as Chief Minister of Delhi for the third consecutive term. 71-year-old Dikshit was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Delhi Lt Governor Tejinder Khanna at the Raj Niwas on December 17, 2008.

- Leader of the Democrat Party Abhisit Vejjajiva was formally endorsed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej as 27th Prime Minister in December, 2008. Earlier he won a special vote in parliament through beating ex-police chief Pracha Promnok by 235 votes to 198. Born on August 3, 1964, 44-year-old Oxford-educated politician and youngest prime minister of Thailand Abhisit Vejjajiva has been the leader of the Democrat Party since February 2005 and served as opposition leader in the House of Representatives of Thailand. His appointment ended a seven-year dominance of electoral politics by parties loyal to the former Prime Minister, Thaksin Shinawatra. He succeeded Somchai Wongsawat, who was barred from politics for five years.
- She was appointed Chief Executive of India's largest private sector bank, ICICI Bank in 2008. She will take over from KV Kamath on May 1, 2009. Kamath, Chief Executive since 1996, will become non-executive chairman replacing N. Vaghul.
- B.S. Raghavan was appointed first Chancellor of the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI) University, Jharkhand. The University was established under a special law enacted by the State Government.
- An Indian Information Service officer of 1971 Batch, Deepak Sandhu was appointed media adviser to prime minister of India on December 13. Prior to elevating this post, she was principal director general, Press Information Bureau. She also served as director general (News), All India Radio, additional director general and head of the DD News Channel, director of the Directorate of Film Festivals and as spokesperson for the ministries of finance, commerce and health and family welfare.

### Silence of a Dramatic Voice of Political Protest

Most influential British play writer of his generation and a longtime voice of political protest, Nobel Prize winner Harold Pinter died in London in 2008. He was 78 and suffering from liver cancer. Author of more than 30 plays-the best-known among them being 'The Caretaker' and 'The Homecoming'-he also wrote film scripts including that of 'The French Lieutenant's Woman'. He was also known as a keen observer of 'suburban brooding' and credited with bringing realism into contemporary British theatre. Pinter also directed almost 50 stage, TV, and film productions of his own and others' works.

Winner of Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005, Pinter's plays were famously punctuated with long silences, had the distinction of spawning a distinct genre of playwriting which came to be known as 'Pinteresque'. An outspoken critic of British and American foreign policy, especially the invasion of Iraq, Pinter announced in 2005 that he was giving up his writing to concentrate on political work. He remained uncompromisingly left-wing till the end.

- Somchai Wongsawat, Prime Minister of Thailand resigned on December 2, 2008 after the country's constitutional court dissolved the top three ruling parties for electoral fraud. The weeklong occupation of Suvarnabhumi international airport and the Don Muang domestic airport caused untold miseries to 300,000 tourists desperate to leave the country after authorities were forced to shut down the facilities. Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's People's Power Party, the Pheu Thai party and the Chart Thai party were found guilty of committing fraud in the December 2007 elections that brought the coalition to power.

- Manmohan Samal resigned from the Cabinet of Odisha Government over his alleged involvement in a sex scandal. Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Samal was Revenue Minister in Naveen Patnaik cabinet.

- A great Indian artist who highlighted peaceful coexistence, Manjit Bawa, passed away at his New Delhi home on December 29, 2008 after three years in a coma following a stroke. The 61-year-old painter was born in Dhuri in Punjab and studied at the College of Art in Delhi and did his diploma at the London School of Printing, Essex in Silk Screen-Printing. Most of his paintings reflect the universal themes of hope, compassion, love, peace and joy. Manjit achieved a summary simplicity of figuration and his treatments of form was essentially tonal in contour closed and compact, without any trace of the gestural application of pigments in thick layers.

He worked out in oil to give his paintings an extra smooth porcelain glow. He did not use landscape elements and defined the figure's positions by visually relating them at different distances. Sufi mysticism in the choice of his subjects the idyllic scenes of love and peace and pristine innocence, the flute-playing Krishna and the cattle was traced in his paintings. His untitled work was sold for 362500 dollar at a Christie's auction in New York in September 2008.

- Patriarch Aleksy II of the Russian Orthodox Church passed away at his country residence in Peredelkino, outside of Moscow. He was 79. He became patriarch in 1990. Aleksy II presided over the restoration of his church as the largest Orthodox Church in the world and a powerful influence in Russian society after decades of Soviet persecution and deepened the role of the church in Russia's everyday life. Aleksy II was the first leader of the Russian Orthodox Church since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution to be elected without direct government intervention, though he was seen as closer to the reform spirit of Mikhail Gorbachev than other candidates. Aleksy II was born as Aleksei Mikhailovich Rudiger in Tallinn, Estonia on February 23, 1929 to a father of Baltic German descent and a Russian mother.

- Orthodox Church is centered in Russia-the seat of the Moscow Patriarchate is Moscow's Danilov Monastery-but was founded in Kievan Rus, now Ukraine, in 988. Russian

Orthodox churches survive from Belarus to Moldova to Kazakhstan. Estonia was especially close to the patriarch's heart.

- US's most influential political scientist and author of world famous book which was translated in 39 languages 'The Clash if Civilizataions', Samuel Huntington passed away in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. He was 81. He separated the world into rival civilizations based mainly on religious traditions such as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism and said competition and conflict among them was inevitable. The thesis was one of the most influential, controversial and widely debated in foreign affairs circles in the past decade. He edited and wrote many books, mostly on the US government, democratization, military politics, civil-military relations and political development.

- A former minister in Karnataka Government H N Nanje Gowda passed away following a cardiac arrest in Bangalore at 74. He worked as minister for Major Irrigation in the Devaraj Urs Cabinet in 1970s. He represented Hassan Lok Sabha constituency in Parliament twice (1980 and 1985) and was elected to the State Assembly three times.

- The former Chief Minister of Gujarat and NCP leader Chhabildas Mehta died of multiple organ failure in Ahmedabad in 2008. He was 84. As a politician, Mehta emerged from the Praja Samajwadi party, later joined Congress and became the Chief Minister for 13 months duration from February 17, 1994 to March 14, 1995. He resigned from the Congress in May 2001 to join the NCP. He also played role in Maha Gujarat movement which led to formation of separate Gujarat state in 1960.

- Renowned Urdu poet, author of 55 books, Rifat Sarosh died in Noida in 2008 after a prolonged illness. He was 84.

- Former Lockheed Aircraft Corporation president and a Key figure in Lockheed scandal died in 2008 at a hospital in California at 94. He testified before a U.S. Senate committee in February 1976 that his company had made payoffs while trying to sell aircraft in Japan and other countries. It led to the indictment of former Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, who was sentenced to four years' in prison.

- 29-year-old Israeli Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg and wife Rivka were killed in struggle between terrorist and commando at Chabad House in Mumbai.
- The sometime actor, literary agent, magazine editor and famous as Mr. Science Fiction, Forrest J Ackerman died of heart failure at his Los Angeles (USA) home in 2008. He was legendary in science-fiction circles as the founding editor of the pulp magazine Famous Monsters of Filmland. He was also the owner of a huge private collection of science-fiction movie and literary memorabilia that for years filled every nook and cranny of a hillside mansion overlooking Los Angeles. His greatest achievement was discovering Bradbury, author of the literary classics 'Fahrenheit 451' and 'The Martian Chronicles.'
- President of Guinea Lansana Conte died on December 22 following a lengthy illness. He was 74. A dictator Guinea Lansana ruled for nearly 25 years from 3 April 1984. He was one of only two leaders to rule the country since its independence from France in 1958. He was a Muslim and a member of the Susu ethnic group. After announcement of President Conte's death, a group of military leaders took control in West African country Guinea.
- One of America's most photographed pin-up girls during the 1950s, Bettie Page died in Los Angeles in 2008. She was 85. Page was an omnipresent sight during the 1950s, propelled to stardom when she posed for Playboy as Miss January 1955. Soon her image was gracing playing cards, record albums and bedroom posters across the country.
- 65-Year-Old co-founder of money manager Access International Thierry Magon de la Villehucheta was found dead in New York City office building. He invested with accused swindler Bernard Madoff and reportedly distraught over losing up to 1.4 billion dollar (955 billion pounds) in client money.
- Famous as Deep Throat, former FBI second-in-command, William Mark Felt, Sr. died in San Francisco in 2008. He was 95. He retired in 1973 as the Bureau's Associate Director. He tipped off reporters to the Watergate scandal.
- World famous folk singer Odetta died at 77. She was nominated for a 1963 Grammy award for best folk recording for 'Odetta Sing Fold Songs'. Two more Grammy nominations came in 1999 and 2005. In 1999, she was honored with a National Medal of the Arts.
- The BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was launched from the Rajdoot cruiser sailing in the Bay of Bengal area with the use of a Universal Vertical Launcher on December 18, 2008. This was the first time the missile was launched from a universal vertical launcher fitted in a new Ship. All earlier launches of BrahMos missile were carried out from inclined launchers. Two-stage solid-fuel BrahMos missile has a range of 300 kilometres with the speed almost three times exceeding the sound speed and carries a conventional warhead with the mass 200-300 kilogrammes. Its ship version was adopted for service by the Indian Navy in 2006.
- President Pratibha Patil released a postage stamp on Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw in New Delhi on the 37th anniversary of 1971 war victory. Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw scripted India's decisive win in the 1971 war with Pakistan that led to the creation of Bangladesh. Born on April 3, 1914, Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Mankeshaw belonged to the first batch of officers to be commissioned from the Indian Military Academy in 1934. He was the Army chief from 1969 to 1973 and was elevated to Field Marshal just before his retirement.
- The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has decided to establish a new university in Bangalore by 2010, where half of the students would be drawn from an NRI background. The new university will come up by 2010.
- Central Government granted recognition to two pre-independence struggles in Punjab, the Kuka Namdhari Movement 1871 and the Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre, 1919, adding them to the list of the National Freedom Movements for the grant of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension scheme.

- Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports launched a Nationwide campaign of youth against terrorism and violence 'Together For Peace', on December 18. The nationwide campaign was planned by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to reaffirm their commitment to peace and harmony. Starting from the National Youth Day, January 12, upto Mahatma Gandhi's Martyrdom Day, January 30, 2009, a nationwide campaign would strive to strengthen democratic, secular and pluralist character of the country.

- Chairman of the conservative Likud Party, Benjamin Netanyahu was designated as Prime Minister of Israel by President Shimon Peres on February 20, 2009. He was given six weeks to secure a coalition government and ensure his position. After the election held on February 10, right-wing parties representing 65 seats in the Knesset backed his designation as prime minister. Netanyahu's Likud Party gained 27 seats in the 120-member Knesset, 1 less than the Kadima Party, led by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. The right-wing leader also served the 9th Prime Minister of Israel from June 1996 to July 1999.

- The trial on former rebel leader from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was begun in international court on January 29, 2009. His trial is the first international court case in which the use of child soldiers, defined as children under the age of 15, is prosecuted as a crime of war. A sealed warrant for Lubanga's arrest was issued in February 2006 and he was transferred to the ICC's prison in The Hague. First time, he appeared before the court on March 20, 2006. The arrest of Lubanga was part of a wide-ranging and on-going investigation by the ICC into atrocities in DRC. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo founded and led the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) and was a key player in the Ituri conflict. Rebels under his command were accused of massive human rights violations, including ethnic massacres, murder, torture, rape, mutilation, and forcibly conscripting child soldiers.

- Kiril of Smolensk and Kaliningrad officially became 16th leader of the Russian Orthodox Church on February 1, 2009. The ceremony was held at Russia's biggest Cathedral, Christ

the Saviour, which stands as an opulent symbol of the Orthodox Church's revival in post-Soviet Russia. 62 year old Patriarch Kirill is the first church leader to take charge of the Russian Orthodox Church after the breakup of the Soviet Union. He succeeded Patriarch Alexy II, who died in December 2008.

- President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez won a referendum to eliminate term limits on enabling him to run again in 2012 and beyond February 15, 2009. According to electoral authorities said 54% of voters in the referendum backed a constitutional amendment allowing indefinite re-election, with 46% rejecting it. 54-year-old former tank commander Chávez took office in 1999 and won support for a new constitution the same year that allowed the president to serve two six-year terms, barring him from the 2012 elections. Chavez took office in 1999 and won support for a new constitution the same year that allowed the president to serve two six-year terms, barring him from the 2012 elections.

- Former Union Communications Minister Sukhram was sentenced to three years of imprisonment by a Delhi Court for gathering Rs 4.25 crore of disproportionate assets. The 82-year-old politician from Himachal Pradesh was found guilty under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act by Special CBI Judge V K Maheshwari. The CBI registered the case against the minister on August 27, 1996 under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

- The Supreme Court disqualified Former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shahbaz Sharif from elected office on February 25, 2008. The Supreme Court upheld a 2008 decision by the Lahore High Court disqualifying Nawaz Sharif on the grounds of his conviction in cases brought against him by the Musharraf regime. A three-member Bench of the court disqualified Shahbaz Sharif on a petition that he was an accused in a loan default case and, therefore, ineligible to contest elections. After the decision, Shahbaz Sharif stepped down as the Chief Minister of Punjab province, where Governor's rule was immediately imposed.



- 58 Rajya Sabha members cutting across party lines, filed an impeachment-motion in the House against Justice Soumitra Sen of Kolkatta High Court on February 20, 2009. Earlier Chief Justice of India KG Balakrishnan had recommended the impeachment of Justice Soumitra Sen for alleged misappropriation of Rs 33 lakh deposited in the Calcutta High Court through a letter to the Prime Minister on August 4, 2008.

The only other impeachment case in the history of Indian judiciary was against Justice V Ramaswamy, who survived because of the political divide in Lok Sabha on dangerous regional divide with ruling Congress helping the tainted judge by being absent during vote on impeachment motion.

- The 30-year-old Suman Sharma, became the first civilian woman to co-pilot the American-strike fighter F-16IN of Lockheed Martin at the Indian Air Force (IAF) base at Yelahanka in February 2009. Delhi-based journalist and a former academic instructor at the IMA, Suman Sharma is daughter of a retired Indian naval officer and an Army colonel's sister.

- Noora Al Faiz was appointed deputy minister of education for girls' affairs in the recent cabinet reshuffle in Saudi Arabia by King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz. Thus, she became first woman to reach the post of deputy minister in Saudi Arabia.

- A 39-year-old who reportedly once served as a volunteer fighter, Brendan Sokaluk was named accuse of recent deadly wildfires of Australia. Nearly 200 people were died and about 200 homes were destroyed in the fire in Australia's' worst fire disaster. Sokaluk was charged with one count of arson causing death and one of lighting a blaze.

- On 200th birth anniversary of former United States President Abraham Lincoln, Academy Award-winning American actress Mira Sorvino was named as United Nations goodwill ambassador to combat human trafficking in February, 2009. According to the new UNODC study, which is based on information provided by 155 member states, two out of every five countries covered by the report are yet to convict anyone on trafficking charges.

- President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson appointed Johanna Sigurdardottir as the new Prime Minister of Iceland after

collapse of Geir Haarde led conservative government over the country's economic meltdown. New center-left Cabinet is a coalition of Sigurdardottir's Social Democratic Alliance and the Left-Green movement.

It came into office in crisis-hit Iceland in February ,2009. Left Green leader Steingrimur Sigfusson was made new finance minister 66-year-old Sigurdardottir is a former flight attendant and union organiser, and served as social affairs minister in the previous government. Sigurdardottir is Iceland's first female prime minister, and her Cabinet is the country's first to be split evenly between men and women. She is the first openly gay national leader of modern times, apart from Per-Kristian Foss, a Norwegian politician who briefly served as his country's prime minister in 2002.

- After agreeing to share power with President Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's opposition leader Morgan Richard Tsvangirai was sworn in as Prime Minister in a unity government on February 11. Leader of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Tsvangirai won the first round of presidential election held in March 2008, but he withdrew from the run-off, citing violence against his supporters. A final deal on power-sharing was reached in January 2009, after Tsvangirai returned to Zimbabe. With him two Deputy Prime Ministers- Thokozani Khupe, the deputy leader of MDC and Arthur Mutambara, the leader of a break-away faction of the MDC were also sworn in.

- Veteran politician and Awami League (AL) leader Zillur Rahman took oath as the 19th President of Bangladesh on February 12. Erlier on February 11, Election Commission declared him the new head of the state. The 79-year-old Mr. Zillur was elected unopposed as no one else came forward for the election. Prior to his election to presidency Zillur was Deputy Leader of the 9th parliament. Zillur Rahman replaced Iajuddin Ahmed, a former university professor and soil scientist.

- Former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele became the first African-American Chairman of The Republican National Committee. He took the responsibility of 63rd Chairman on January 30. He beat back four challengers, including incumbent Mike Duncan, who was forced to withdraw from the field midway through the balloting in

the face of a lack of support.

- He was appointed new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Satyam by its board. The Board was appointed by the government after fraud was disclosed in company. A S Murty, who joined had Satyam in January 1994 was the Global Business Head of company. The board also named Homi Khusrokhhan and Partho Datta as special advisors to the board.

- Economic and Fiscal Policy Minister, 70-year-old Kaoru Yosano was promoted to new finance minister of Japan on February 17, 2009. He replaced Shoichi Nakagawa who resigned. Kaoru Yosano is a member of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and member of the House of Representatives. He was Chief Cabinet Secretary to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from August 2007 to September 2007.

- A 1973 batch IFS officer Meera Shankar was appointed India's Ambassador to USA. Her name was cleared by UPA government on February 19. Currently, she is India's ambassador to Germany. She will replace Ronen Sen. Term of the present Ambassador, Ronen Sen, will expire at the end of March 2009. Sharat Sabharwal was appointed high commissioner to Islamabad. He replaced Satyabrata Pal.

- Managing Director of J K Paper Ltd took over as the new President of the apex industry chamber Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at its 81st annual general meeting in New Delhi. Singhania who was Senior Vice President of the FICCI succeeded Rajeev Chandrashekhar. Rajan Bharti Mittal and Marico Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Harsh C Mariwala, were elected as the Senior Vice President and Vice President of the chamber, respectively.

- S.S. Khurana took over as the new Chairman, Railway Board and ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Railways. A 1971 batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineering (IRSEE), Khurana worked in various capacities in Indian Railways.

- Finance minister of Japan Shoichi Nakagawa resigned in

February, 2008 amid growing criticism of his apparently alcohol-fuelled antics in front of the TV cameras at G7 summit in Rome. His decision to step down came as he faced an opposition-led censure motion. Resignation of Shoichi Nakagawa was the latest blow for the unpopular Prime Minister Taro Aso.

- A prominent Malaysian woman opposition politician 39-year-old Elizabeth Wong resigned her assembly seat after photographs of her in the nude were circulated on mobile phones.

- Veteran Tamil movie actor-comedian C. Krishna Rao Gundu Rao better known by his screen name Nagesh died in January, 2009. He was 77. Born in a poor Kannada family from Dharapuram, Madras Presidency, Nagesh was educated in Madras and worked as a clerk in the Indian Railways before carving a place for himself in the Tamil film industry. Remembered for his role in Thiruvilayaadal, Nagesh acted in over 1000 Indian movies from 1958 to 2008 performing in a variety of roles as comedian, hero, supporting actor and villain. Nagesh starred with three generations of actors. Beginning with MGR and Sivaji, he acted with Rajnikanth and Kamal Hassan and later went on to share screen space with current heartthrobs Vijay and Ajit Kumar.

- Farmers are opposing Tata Steel's proposed Rs10000 crore green field steel project at Lohandiguda. The Lohandiguda block is most fertile areas in entire Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. Tata Steel had, in June 2005, signed an agreement with the state government for setting up a five million tonne steel plant in Bastar which is one of the country's most impoverished districts.

- Last Tiger bastion, Puthukkudiyirippu was captured by Sri Lankan forces. Sri Lankan Army entered the town after breaking the remaining FDL of the LTTE tigers. Puthukkudiyirippu was the last township in the remaining LTTE enclave which is located about 3 miles from the Puthukkudiyirippu West built up.

- US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan

Richard Holbrook visited India on February 15-16, 2009. India was the last stop in his tour to Pakistan and Afghanistan. According to Holbrook, terrorists who launched the Mumbai attacks, tried to upset the improving relationship between Pakistan and India and New Delhi did not play in their hands.

- American human rights advocate and community activist, Martin Luther King III came on India visit to retrace his father civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr and mother Coretta Scott King's pilgrimage to India in 1959. The visit was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his parents visit to India. Civil Rights activist Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King had come to India in 1959 to learn more about Gandhi, a major influence in the African American leader's life. The U.S. House of Representatives on recently passed a resolution recognising the 50th anniversary of the visit of legendary civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. to India and the positive influence of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings on his work during the American Civil Rights Movement.

- Dr. Paavo Vayrynen, Finland Minister for Foreign Trade and Development visited India in the month of February this year. During his meeting with Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry on February 6, India and Finland agreed to explore new areas of cooperation to widen trade basket. India-Finland bilateral trade doubled from 533 million US dollar in 2004-05 to 1165 million US dollar during 2007-08. Major exports to Finland are-RMG cotton, manufactures of metals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, coffee, transport equipments while major imports from Finland are-electronic goods, computer software, iron and steel, paper board etc.

- Samrupa was name of world's first cloned buffalo calf and India's first cloned animal. Indian scientists created Samrupa on February 6, 2009 at the Animal Biotechnology Centre of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal. The calf was developed by using an indigenous hand-guided cloning technique.

- According to Research at Berkeley Lab, RHAMM(Receptor for Hyaluronan Mediated Motility) protein technique could be developed as a means of

providing a non-surgical approach for normalizing skin appearance after reconstructive surgery. Thus it can replace surgical procedures or injections with neurotoxins for the elimination of wrinkles and the rejuvenation of the skin. Receptor for Hyaluronan Mediated Motility protein linked to the spread of several major human cancers.

- Carbon Capture and Storage CCS(Carbon Capture and Storage) is a broad term which encompasses a number of technologies that can be used to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from point sources, such as power plants and other industrial facilities. CCS is also a critical option in the portfolio of solutions available to combat climate change, because it allows for significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil-based systems, enabling it to be used as a bridge to a sustainable energy future.

National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology

Ministry for Human Resource Development launched the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. Aim of the mission is to address the goals of access, equity and quality in Higher Education and attempt to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural as well as between the rich and poor strata of society.

- A two-day National Conference on e-Governance was held on 12 and 13 February 2009 in Goa. It was organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in association with the Department of Information Technology and the Government of Goa. During the Conference national awards for e-Governance was presented and an e-Governance Compendium based on the papers presented at the Conference was also brought out. Theme of 12th National Conference was 'e-Governance: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges'.

- Summit of the Group of Seven (G7) finance ministers and central bank governors held in Rome on February 13-14, 2009. They discussed the global economic down-turn and identify possible solutions to ease the financial crisis. Representatives from the world's leading industrialized nations-the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Britain, and Canada-rejected all sorts of protectionist

measures, pledged to sustain employment and economic growth and, at the same time, strengthen the banking system. According to the joint agreement, the world is facing its worst financial crisis for 50 years and leading industrialized economies need to cooperate and work together without giving in to protectionism.

- An International Conference on Challenges and Opportunities in Agrometeorology- INTROMET-2009 was organised in New Delhi during February 23-25, 2009. The conference discussed the issues like adaptation strategies for climate change impacts, monsoon variability & crop production and agricultural risk evaluation.

- The three day International Conference on India-EU Partnerships in Mobility was held in New Delhi on February 21-23, 2009. About 150 policy makers and academic experts from over twenty countries expressed opinion upon issues and practices pertaining to mobility of labour between India and the EU Countries.

- Two-day international conference on 'Combating challenges of climate change' was held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

- The 7th Aero India was held at Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru, India from February 11-15, 2009. It was organized by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and managed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The show provided a window of opportunity for companies to not only network with the Indian Industry but also to benefit from the sharing of expertise in the fields of R & D production and product support with other global players.

- The 7th International Plastics Exhibition and Conference- Plastindia 2009 was held on February 4, 2009. About 20 countries participated and 100000 business visitors viewed. Plastindia 2009 provided a platform for stakeholders to meet and to enhance their business prospects through joint ventures and technology partnerships.

- A safeguards agreement between India and the International Atomic Energy Agency was signed in February, 2009 as the framework for the importing of both

nuclear reactors and the fuel to power them over their lifetime. At present, six reactors at three sites at Tarapur, Rawatbhata and Kudankulam are under IAEA inspections. Under the Indian separation plan, 14 indigenous reactors will come under safeguards by or shortly after 2014, provided suitable lifetime fuel supply arrangements are concluded to India's satisfaction.

- Himachal Pradesh was awarded bronze icon awards for two e-governance Projects during the 12th National Conference on e-Governance held in Goa. These awards have been given for 'e-Gazette' (software for Controller of Printing and Stationery Department) and HIMPOL (Himachal Pradesh Police Web Portal). e-Gazette project is the first of its kind in the India where the paper copies of the official Gazette have been discontinued from 1st of August 2007. Public Distribution System-Online, Dept. of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Govt of Chhattisgarh and NIC were given gold.



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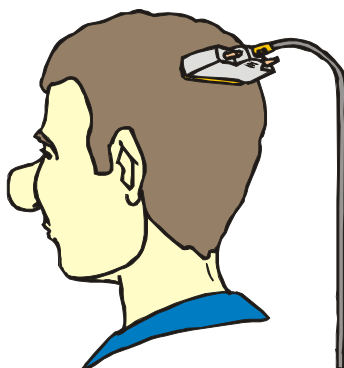


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## STUDY MATERIAL FOR CIVIL SERVICES (PRE) EXAMINATION 2009 PART - 3

• African-american Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States during a ceremony at the Capitol Hill by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. on January 20, 2009. The 47-year-old Democrat Obama succeeded Republican George W. Bush, who completed two terms of 4 years in the White House. In his 18-plus-minute address at the nation's 56th inauguration day, Obama promised the world a new America that listens to all voices.

### **Some facts about Obama :-**

**Party:** Democrat

**Birthplace:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Date of Birth:** August 4, 1961

**Education:** Columbia University; Harvard Law School

**Wife:** Michelle Robinson Obama

**Children:** Daughters Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7

**Religious affiliation:** United Church of Christ

**United States Senator:** From Illinois (January 3, 2005 to November 16, 2008)

• Barack Obama was born to a Kenyan father and a white American mother. His father, Barack Obama Sr., married his mother, Ann Dunham, while studying at the University of Hawaii. The couple separated two years after Obama was born. His father ultimately returned to Kenya, where he became a noted economist. He died in a car accident in 1982. Obama's mother's second marriage was to an Indonesian man named Lolo Soetoro. The family moved to Indonesia and Obama remained there until he was 10 when he moved back to Hawaii and lived with his grandparents while studying on a scholarship at the elite Punahou Academy. Seven half brothers and sisters in Kenya from his father's other marriages, and a half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, from his mother's second marriage.

• President of Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev was the Chief Guest in the parade of India's 60th Republic Day on 26 January 2009. Earlier he came to India on a four-day visit on January 23. During his visit, President of Kazakhstan, an energy-rich Central Asian

country, Nursultan Nazarbayev signed 5 agreements, including one on civil nuclear energy on January 24. Nuclear energy cooperation deal was signed between the Nuclear Power Corp of India (NCPI) and Kazakh nuclear major National Co KazAtomProm. Apart from this deal, the two countries signed on the dotted line on an extradition treaty, a pact on cooperation in space activities, a protocol in the accession of Kazakhstan to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and a deal between oil majors ONGC Mittal Energy (OMEL) and Kazakhstan's National Co Kazmunaig (KMG).

• Veteran Awami League leader Zillur Rahman was named Bangladesh's next President by the party. Zillur was minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives in 1996-2001 under the AL government led by prime minister Hasina. Awami League (AL) won a landslide victory in recent parliamentary elections. Founder Chairman of world famous IT Company Satyam, Ramalinga Raju admitted Rs 7800-crore financial fraud, resigned from his post and later he was arrested with his brother Rama Raju, who also resigned as CEO and MD of the company. Raju admitted an operating margin fraud to the tune of tenfold overstatement.

• He confessed to the media how the operating margin of 61 crore was shown as 649 crore and an artificial balance of 588 crore rupees was used by the company to show steadiness to its investors. Government disbanded the current board of Satyam Computer and nominated 10 directors on its board.

• Shibu Soren lost from Tamar Assembly constituency and thus became second Indian Chief Minister to loose the election. Later, he resigned from the post of Jharkhand Chief Minister on January 12. Tribhuvan Naryan Singh was first chief minister, who had resigned on April 3, 1971 after his defeat in assembly constituency election. Gopal Krishna Patar, alias Raja Peter, of Jharkhand Party (Anosh) defeated Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate Shibu Soren by a margin of over 9200 votes. Soren became chief minister in August 2008. He needed to be elected to the state assembly by February 27 under the constitutional requirement.

- Joseph Biden was sworn in the 47th Vice-President of America on January 20, 2009. He took his oath of office from Associate Justice John Paul Stevens. Democrat Biden succeeded Republican Dick Cheney as the Vice-President of America. He was a United States Senator from Delaware from January 3, 1973 until his resignation on January 15, 2009. He was a long-time member and former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

- A 1975-batch IPS officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre took over as the first head of National Investigation Agency (NIA) on January 19, 2009. Before taking charge of NIA Chief, he was the Director General (Vigilance) of Jammu and Kashmir. He will head the NIA till January 31, 2010. His name was cleared by the Appointments' Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister. He also worked as a Joint Director in the CBI, supervising investigations in a number of sensitive and high profile cases including Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. NIA was set up in the wake of November 26 Mumbai terror strikes to investigate terror-related incidents.

- John Evans Atta Mills was sworn in as new president of Ghana on January 7 in a peaceful handover after a slim election win that reinforces the country's image as a model of African democracy. It marked the second time in a decade that power was transferred between one of the country's two rival parties and democratically chosen leader. He succeeded John Kufuor of New Patriotic Party.

Atta Mills won with 50.23% of the votes, while former Minister for Foreign Affairs and candidate of New Patriotic Party (NPP) Akufo-Addo got 49.77% votes. Atta-Mills served as Rawlings' vice president from 1997 to 2000. John Dramani Mahama was sworn in as the new vice president of Ghana. Best known for its cocoa and gold, Ghana became Africa's first independent nation in 1957.

- Ram Mynampati was appointed interim CEO of Satyam Computer Services Ltd on January 7 after B Ramalinga Raju's resignation as its chairman. Ram Mynampati had joined Satyam as executive vice president in 1999 and became executive vice president and chief operating officer in November 2000. He has been president, Satyam's commercial and healthcare businesses since October 2002.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah took oath as

the eighth chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir on January 5. Nine ministers, including Tara Chand of the Congress as deputy chief minister also took oath with him. 38-year-old Omar Abdullah became the youngest of all chief ministers of the state since 1965. National Conference (NC) and the Congress joined hands to form a coalition government in the state after recently concluded election. Jammu and Kashmir was Governor's rule since July 2008 after the former coalition government of the Congress and the PDP fell apart over Amarnath shrine land allotment controversy.

- Iceland's Prime Minister Geir Haarde resigned in January, 2009 after massive protests over his government's handling the economic crisis and thus cleared the way for elections in May 2009. Geir Haarde's cabinet will stay until a new government can be formed. Haarde was leading the coalition, made up of his Independence Party and the Social Democrats since May 2007. Since October's financial earthquake Icelanders vented their frustration, anger and despair in peaceful weekly protests. It was worst civilian unrest since Iceland joined Nato in 1949. Pakistan's National Security Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Mahmud Ali Durrani was sacked in January, 2009 for commenting on the issue of the nationality of Iman alias Ajmal Kasab without taking prime minister or the government into confidence.

- Eighth President of the Republic of India, Ramaswamy Venkataraman passed away in New Delhi in January, 2009 after a prolonged illness. He was 98. He was elevated from Vice-Presidency, assumed the office of President on July 25, 1987 and his term lasted till July 25, 1992. He worked with four prime ministers, appointing three of them - V P Singh, Chandrashekhar and P V Narasimha Rao - during his five-year term. He was elected President of India when late Rajiv Gandhi was the prime minister. A member of the Constituent Assembly that drafted the Constitution of India, R. Venkataraman served about 4 years as the 7th Vice-President of India. He also held the key portfolios of Defence, Finance and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission at the centre. He was born on Dec 4, 1910 in Rajamedam in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. He took part in the Quit India movement of 1942 and was jailed for two years. As a Technocrat he founded Solidaire TV which supplies electrical equipment to most of the major power projects in the country.

- Dadasaheb Phalke award winner and noted film-maker

Tapan Sinha passes away after prolonged illness in Kolkata in January, 2009. He was 84. His films such as 'Kabuliwala' and 'Ek Doctor Ki Maut' touched on social issues of our times. A master story-teller Tapan Sinha was also known for his children's films. He began his career as a sound engineer in 1946 and made several films based on Tagore's stories. His selection of subjects was unique and he had a deep insight of viewing the life.

- South African anti-apartheid activist and a former politician, who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice, Helen Suzman died in January, 2009. She was 91. Born on November 7, 1917 to Lithuanian-Jewish immigrants, Suzman was elected to parliament in 1953 for General Jan Smuts' United Party. Later she formed the liberal democratic Progressive Party. A snap election in 1961 devastated the party, leaving Suzman on her own until 1974. She kept her seat until she retired in 1989.

Former Davis Cupper Premjit Lal passed away at his residence in Kolkata in December, 2009 at the age 68. An Arjuna Awardee Lal was regular member of the Indian Davis Cup team from 1959 to 1973. He reached in the junior final at the 1958 Wimbledon championships, and reached the pre-quarter final stage in the 1962 Australian Open.

- Noted Hindustani vocalist and winner of an Akademi award, Ramashrey Jha, died in Kolkata in January, 2009 at the age 80. He created a number of khayal compositions as well as new ragas. He also published a critique of new and old ragas, Abhinav Geetanjali, and a Sangeet Ramayana presenting the epic through his own draupad and khayal compositions.

- The former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and President of Awami National Conference, G.M. Shah passed away on here in January, 2009 in Srinagar. He was 88. Shah defected from National Conference along with 12 party MLAs on July 2, 1984 bringing down the government of his brother-in-law Farooq Abdullah. He joined hands with a 26-member strong Congress legislature party and became the CM. His government was dismissed on March 12, 1986, by the then Governor Jagmohan following communal riots in south Kashmir.

- Former Patna District Magistrate and key accused in the

Rs.170 million Bihar flood relief scam of 2004, Gautam Goswami died in January, 2009 at the age 41. He was named Time magazine's Asian hero in 2005 for his massive relief effort during flood.

- Editor of Sri Lankan newspaper Sunday Leader, Lasantha Wickramatunga was shot by unidentified gunmen in January, 2009 outside Colombo. He also worked as an adviser and friend to various politicians of Sri Lankan politics.

- British lawyer and famous writer John Mortimer passed away in 2009. He was 85. He combined a career as a lawyer with a large literary output that included dozens of screen and stage plays and radio dramas. His most famous creation was Horace Rumpole, a cigar-smoking, wine-loving barrister who appeared in a TV series and a string of novels and stories.

The popular realist painter artist Andrew Wyeth, died in his sleep aged 91 in January, 2009. He captured the melancholy of the landscapes and people of Pennsylvania in his work. Wyeth belonged the most famous member of the three-generation family art dynasty of America.

- Chinese Vice Foreign Minister and special envoy of the Chinese government He Yafei visited India. He met Indian Foreign Minister and held talks with Foreign Secretary in January, 2009.

- British Foreign Secretary David Miliband visited India during January 13-15, 2009. He was at the centre of a media storm in India because of his article, which he wrote ahead of his visit to India. He wrote, 'war on terror' had been mistaken and that individual groups like LeT should be targeted and brought to justice. But solving the Kashmir issue would deny LeT its 'call to arms' and free Pakistan to fight al-Qaeda and Taliban militants in its tribal areas. He also visited Amethi parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh with its representative Rahul Gandhi for a first-hand experience of progressive rural India.

- Eminent scientist Prof. Raghavan Varadraj of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, was chosen for the G. D. Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2008 for his work in the area of molecular biophysics. The award was

instituted by K K Birla Foundation in 1991. It aims at recognising high calibre scientific research undertaken by Indian scientists below the age of 50. The award carried a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh.

- National Book Trust, India initiated a programme National Action Plan for the Readership Development Among The Youth. NAPRDY will begin with a national survey among the urban and rural youth between the age of 10 and 30 to ascertain the Readership Status, Pattern, Trends, Attitudes etc among the youth.

- E6 is a pure electric car, with a range of 400km on one full battery charge. It is made by Chinese car manufacturer, BYD.

- The Kerala Law Reforms Commission headed by distinguished jurist Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer suggested many revolutionary reforms like legislation to allow euthanasia, severe restrictions on polygamy and no freebies for parents who have more than two children. The commission suggested that mercy killing could be considered in cases where the death was only salvation and preservation of life would be medically impossible. It also recommended that marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife should be made an offence and such cases should be punishable under Indian Penal Code.

- Central Government set up an National Anomaly Committee and Departmental Anomaly Committees to settle disputes arising out of implementation of the sixth Central Pay Commission recommendations. It will receive representations on anomalies up to six months from the date of its constitution and will dispose of them within a year.

**Dreams from My Father : Barack Obama** Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance is first book (memoir) of American President Barack Obama. In the book, Obama as the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father has been killed in a car accident.

- President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev came to India on three-day visit to from December 4 to 6, 2008. He attended

the annual Indo-Russia summit and the formal conclusion of the 'Year of Russia' in India. It was his first visit to India as the President of Russia. During the visit both countries signed agreements to develop nuclear plants in India, an accord that envisages Russia sending an Indian cosmonaut into space in 2013 and then launch a manned Indian spacecraft in 2015 and a contract for India to buy 80 Mi-17 transport helicopters, worth more than 1 billion dollar. The accords covered the building of four new nuclear energy reactors in Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, as well as a cooperation accord on manned space flight. Russia became the third country, who signed an atomic energy agreement with India after a decision in September 2008 by the Nuclear Suppliers Group to waive its ban on trade of nuclear technology with India.

- US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice came to India in December, 2008. She expressed the condolences of the American government to the Indian government on the Mumbai terrorist attacks that killed nearly 200 people, including six Americans. Rice urged India and Pakistan to cooperate in investigating Mumbai attacks.

- The President of the Republic of Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed was on India visit from December 23 to 5, 2008. He was accompanied by his wife Laila Ali and a high-level delegation, including businessmen. It was President Mohamed Nasheed's first visit to India after assuming the office of the President of the Republic of Maldives in November 2008. During the trip an agreement on extending a Standby Credit Facility of 100 million US dollar to Maldives and Air Services Agreement were signed between two countries.

- Republican Senator and 2008 US presidential candidate, John McCain visited India after Mumbai terror attacks. He discussed the terror issue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and showed solidarity with India. He suggested greater cooperation between India and Pakistan to fight back terrorism following the Mumbai attacks, which he called the '9/11 of India'.

- After President Lansana Conte's death, in a bloodless coup, Military junta took over in Guinea. The nation holds the world's biggest reserves of bauxite, an ore used to make the aluminum ingredient alumina. Guinea, a former French colony, produced 14 million metric tons of bauxite in 2007.



It is the world's fourth-biggest producer after Australia, Brazil and China. Bauxite and related industries account for about 80 percent of its foreign exchange earnings in Guinea.

- Central Government declared the Kalpakkam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu a no fly zone to prevent any 9/11 kind of targeting of this sensitive site. Kalpakkam nuclear power plant is situated at the Kalpakkam, a small town in Tamil Nadu on the Coromandel.

- A small village in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris hills, Pushep was chosen for setting up Neutrino Observatory (INO). Atomic Energy Commission chosen Pushep near Udhagamandalam (Ooty) as the best location to set up INO. INO is an underground detector to test particles.

- A general strike crippled Greece recently. Workers took to the streets in central Athens to protest against the government's economic policies. Public sector workers, teachers, journalists and bank clerks participated in the general strike, which was called and organized by Greece's two largest unions, the General Confederation of Workers of Greece (GSEE) and theADEDY civil servants' union. The strike disrupted transport, banks and schools and curtailing hospital services. The protestors demanded the government to increase social spending and raise wages and pensions in the face of the ongoing global financial crisis.

- Sheikh Abdulla: The Tragic Hero of Kashmir is written by Ajit Bhattacharjea, the first comprehensive, well-documented account of the life of the charismatic leader, the Lion of Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah. Former Editor of the Hindustan Times and the Indian Express and a veteran journalist, author Ajit Bhattacharjea covered Kashmir since 1947.

- No Minister: Memories of a Civil Servant written by Mahesh Prasad. It is a book on an autobiographical memoir of a Civil Servant.

- Jaadoo is name of 3 G mobile service of India, which was launched on December 11, 2008 in New Delhi by the Prime Minister. 3G service was started in New Delhi and Mumbai by MTNL.

- The People Power Party is a reincarnation of Mr. Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party, which was disbanded for electoral fraud, in May 2007.

- The Bombay High Court constituted an interim committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge, B.N. Srikrishna on December 19, 2008. A Division Bench consisting of Chief Justice Swatanter Kumar and Justice Sharad Bobde appointed the Srikrishna committee in response to six public interest litigation petitions against State agencies in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks. The committee will be recommendatory in nature and will not interfere in official investigation. The Director-General of Police, the Chief Secretary and the Finance and Home Secretaries, and a representative from the Union government were also included on the panel.

- The High Powered Committee under the chairmanship of former Finance Secretary to Government of India, Ashok Jha submitted its report on December 12, 2008. The Committee was set up by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to suggest measures for strengthening HUDCO's financial position and also expansion of its activities for better services to poor and weaker sections of the society.

- Indian Institute of Information Technology organised a seven days Interactive Programme of Students, Young Teachers and Scientists with Noble Laureates during 15-21 December, 2008. The objective of the Interactive Sessions was to inspire and motivate the bright students to take up studies, researches and professional research careers in Basic Sciences in order to promote the scientific developments and innovations of the country. 12 Nobel Laureates from across the world participated in the conclave.

- 15th triennial conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) was held in New Delhi.

- Global Potato Conference 2008 was held at New Delhi during December 9-12, 2008 to celebrate the International Year of Potato. The Conference was jointly organised by the Indian Potato Association (IPA), Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. The theme of the Conference was 'Opportunities and Challenges in the New Millennium'. Over 400 scientists, trade and industry representatives, policy makers from all continents and a large number of farmers were attended the Conference.

- The second edition of Bangalore Nano was organised by



Dept. of IT, BT and Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and MM Activ during December 11 to 13, 2008. The 2nd edition of Bangalore Nano offered a clear vision of the Nanotechnology Research, Applications and Potential through an International Conference, Exhibition, Children's program 'Nano for the Young', RICH and YESSS programs. The Event was attended by over 400 delegates consisting of Industry Captains from across sectors, Heads of R & D Organizations & Scientists, leading Investors, Young technocrats and Multinational Companies.

- According to preliminary estimates published by FAO on December 9, 2008 another 40 million people have been pushed into hunger in 2008 primarily due to higher food prices. This brings the overall number of undernourished people in the world to 963 million, compared to 923 million in 2007 and the ongoing financial and economic crisis could tip even more people into hunger and poverty. The vast majority of the world's undernourished people-907 million-live in developing countries. FAO's hunger report The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008 mentioned that World food prices dropped since early 2008, but lower prices not ended the food crisis in many poor countries. Millions of people in developing countries, eating the minimum amount of food every day to live an active and healthy life is a distant dream. The structural problems of hunger, like the lack of access to land, credit and employment, combined with high food prices remain a dire reality.

- The Tenth report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) titled 'Refurbishing of Personnel Administration-Scaling New Heights' was released in the last month of 2008. In its report, ARC recommended lowering of the upper age limit and reducing the number of attempts for civil services aspirants with some relaxations for reserved categories. According to the report upper age limit for writing the civil services examination should be between 21 and 25 for general candidates, 28 for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and 29 for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates as also those who were physically challenged.

The number of permissible attempts in the civil services examinations should be 3 years, 5 years and 6 years for the general candidates, OBC, and SC/ST and physically

challenged aspirants, the panel has suggested. It also suggested doing away with the present system of evaluation of performance based on annual confidential report (ACR) and gave a concept of annual performance agreements to be signed between the Minister concerned and the Secretary or head of the department, providing physical and verifiable details of the work to be done during a financial year. The actual performance should be assessed by a third party. In order to increase accountability, ARC suggested a periodic review of the performance for which it recommended a system of two intensive reviews-one on completion of 14 years of service and the other on completion of 20 years.

- Recently published World Report on Child Injury Prevention urged governments around the world to require bicycle helmets, swimming-pool fencing and other measures to stop preventable accidents that kill hundreds of thousands of children each year. The report mentioned that accidents are the biggest cause of death in children over 9. Road accidents and drowning caused nearly half the deaths, followed by burns, falls and poisoning. According to the report produced by WHO and the U.N. Children's Fund, 830000 children die each year of injuries from accidents. One thousand deaths a day could be relatively easily prevented through safety rules including obligatory lifejackets, smoke alarms, window guards and child-resistant packaging of medicines. Most of the deaths are in developing countries, with African nations the worst-affected.

- The Wage Revision Committees headed by former Judge of Delhi High Court, Justice Lokeshwar Prasad submitted their reports in 2008. The committees were set up by the Delhi Government in February 2008 for making recommendations on pay revision and other terms of reference for employees of four government-owned power sector companies.

- Joint military exercise 'Hand-in-Hand 2008' of India and China was held in Belgaum, Karnataka during December 6 to 14, 2008. In consonance with the growing Indo-Chinese military co-operation, a 147 member strong military contingent of China participated in the first-ever Sino-Indian military combat exercise on Indian soil to counter terror and insurgency. The joint exercise was the second in the series, the previous one was conducted in Kunming, China in 2007. Earlier, India and China had held their first joint naval exercise in November 2003 off Shanghai on China's eastern seaboard.

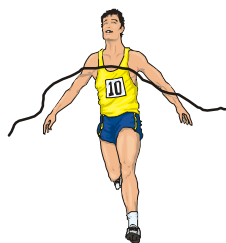


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## SECTION : 9

### SPORTS



- Spain won the Davis Cup by 3-1 as Fernando Verdasco defeated Argentina's Jose Acasuso at the Islas Malvinas Stadium in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The match took 3 hours, 56 minutes. The host Argentina was bidding for its first Davis Cup title after finishing runners-up to the United States in 1981 and Russia in 2006. For Spain, who was champion

in 2000 against Australia and in 2004 against the U.S., Verdasco's win marked its third Davis Cup victory and achieved it without world number one Rafael Nadal. Argentina never captured the top team competition in men's tennis.

- Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the Masters Cup single title and finishing a mere 10 points behind world No. 2 Roger Federer on the ATP Rankings. Djokovic defeated Nikolay Davydenko of Russia on November 16, 2008 in Shanghai (China). Daniel Nestor of Canada and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia defeated Americans Bob and Mike Bryan and won the Masters Cup doubles title. With this, they clinched the year-end ATP No. 1 ranking.

- Ayumi Morita of Japan won the ITF Women's Challenger tennis tournament held in Kolakata in 2008. She defeated in straight sets unseeded Elora Dabija of Romania. Ayumi won 7315 US dollar (nearly Rs.307000) and 35 ITF points while Elora got 3990 US dollar (nearly Rs.167600) and 25 ITF points.

- Jeev Milkha Singh won Singapore Open after Pdraig Harrington and Ernie Els came close to taking the 5 million US dollar Asian Tour event to a playoff. Jeev Milkha Singh of India received a winner's cheque for 792500 US dollar and became the first player on the Asian Tour to win more than 1 million dollar in a single season. The tournament was held at Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong course in Singapore in 2008. With this win, he bagged the Asian Tour Order of Merit title. He has won the Bank Austria Golf

Open on European Tour and the Nagashima Shigeo Invitational Sega Sammy Cup.

- Soren Kjeldsen won the Volvo Masters after a final round 71 as Robert Karlsson became the first Swede to win the European Tour Order of Merit. Kjeldsen finished two strokes ahead of England's Anthony Wall and Germany's Martin Kaymer. Jeev Milkha Singh of India shot one of the worst rounds of his professional career, carding a 11-over 82 in his final round to finish tied 54th at the Volvo Masters held at Valderrama in Spain.

- Arjun Atwal of India won the Chattanooga Classic for his first Nationwide Tour title and first victory in the United States, beating Webb Simpson with a two-putt birdie on the first hole of a playoff. 35-year-old Atwal is first player from India to earn a PGA Tour card, who has eight international wins, including the European tour's 2002 Malaysian Open and 2003 Singapore Masters.

- Rail Coach Factory (RCF) golf team comprising of Darshan Singh, HS Bhullar, Jagmohan Singh and Simrandeep Singh won the 53rd All India Railway Golf Championship trophy with a score of 471 strokes followed by North Western Railway Jaipur with a score of 497 strokes. Championship was held at RCF golf course from November 7 to 9. Darshan Singh of RCF was declared the best golfer and RK Verma of Railway Board won the longest drive prize.

- Robert Karlsson and Henrik Stenson produced a magnificent three-stroke victory for Sweden after shooting a nine-under-par 63 in the final round foursomes in the Omega Mission Hills World Cup held at Dongguan (China) in 2008. Sweden's second World Cup triumph with four more birdies gave winning total of 27-under-par 261. Spain (Miguel Angel Jimenez, Pablo Larrazabal) got the second position. Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa signed off with a one-under 71 in the final round and India finish tied 17th.

- India won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2008-09 by defeating Australia 2-0 after beating in fourth test match by 172 runs in Nagpur. It was India's first Test series win over Australia in seven years. The first and third test matches played

at Bangalore and Delhi respectively under the captaincy of Anil Kumble was ended in a drawn. While India won two test matches-second and fourth played at Mohali and Nagpur under the captaincy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Indian fast bowler Ishant Sharma was named man of the series.

- Only five one-day international matches were played of seven-match series Hero Honda Cup between India and England and the last two matches were cancelled in view of the terror attacks in Mumbai. The last two matches were to be held at Guwahati and New Delhi. But result of series was already explicit as India won the series by winning all five matches played.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Youth Games Pune 2008

Third Commonwealth Youth Games were held at Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune from the 12th to 18th October, 2008. Host country India won 76 medals and topped the medals tally improving on its eighth position in the Bendigo Games 2004. Australia was placed second followed by England in the third and South Africa in a close finish for the fourth spot. Over 1300 athletes and 350 officials from 71 countries participated in 2008 games in 9 disciplines-Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Weightlifting and Wrestling.

- **Logo** : Logo was derived from the Maratha seal of Shivaji Maharaj. The seal featured the city's name 'Pune' in both English script and Devanagari/Sanskrit script.
- **Mascot** : The name of the official mascot of the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games was 'Jigrr'. The mascot is a tiger, the national animal of India. Jigrr is the younger brother of 'Shera', the mascot of 2010 Commonwealth Games.
- First time, the Commonwealth Youth Games were held in Asia.
- The Inaugural Commonwealth Youth Games were held in Edinburgh, Scotland from 10th to 4th August 2000.
- Second Commonwealth Youth Games were held in Bendigo, Australia from 30th November to 3rd December 2004.

#### Medal tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	33	26	17	76
2	Australia	24	19	22	65
3	England	18	9	14	41
4	South Africa	7	14	9	30
5	Canada	6	10	10	26

• World champion of India, MC Mary Kom won an unprecedented fourth successive gold medal in the 46kg category at the fifth World women's boxing championships. Light Middleweight (70kg) Arianne Fortin and Welterweight (66kg) Mary Spencer emerged as Canada's first double gold medallists for either women or men after they beat China's Yang Tin Tin and Vanessa Nicol Jackson of the USA respectively.

They became world champions for the second time in their careers. Women's Boxing Championship was held at Ningbo city in China from November 22nd to 29th, 2008. China topped the medal standings with total of 11, of which five were gold while Turkey and Canada claimed two gold.

• In 22nd Sub-Junior and Mini National Badminton Championship Rituparna Das of West Bengal clinched the singles title in the Mini (girls) category by defeating Ruchika Viwani of Karnataka. In the girls' Sub-Junior, Shayali Rane of Maharashtra defeated Sindhu Moldhe of Andhra Pradesh and won the title. In the doubles finals of both the categories, Rituparna partnering with Ruchika defeated the pair of V Harika and K Reshma of Andhra Pradesh while Shayali and her partner Nanche Lende defeated Manisha and Sindhu in the sub junior category.

In the boys' Sub-Junior section, Samir Varma of Madhya Pradesh beat his compatriot Pratul Joshi while in the Mini boys final Arshalan Naqvi of Uttar Pradesh defeated Deshpriya Aditya of Madhya Pradesh. In the Sub-junior doubles final Venkatesh and Prahlad (AP) pair defeated Pratul and Samir (MP) while G D Ganga and Purudminhaz duo from Andhra Pradesh defeated Tamil Nadu pair in straight sets.

### **First Asian Beach Games 2008**

First Asian Beach Games were held in Bali, Indonesia from October 18 to October 26, 2008. The opening ceremony was held in the Garuda Wisnu Kencana memorial park in Nusa Dua, Badung. 42 Asian countries participated in the game. Indonesia sent 214 athletes, the largest team, which participated in all 19 sports. Athletes from 27 countries won at least one medal, leaving 15 countries without a medal. The Bali Starling locally known as '*Jalak Bali*' was the official mascot of the 1st Asian Beach Games. The Starling, name of a bird species, who was on the verge of near extinction with little numbers remaining in Bali Barat National Park.

### **Medal Tally**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Bronze</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Indonesia	23	8	20	51
2	Thailand	10	17	10	37
3	China	6	10	7	23
4	Korea	4	7	10	21
5	Japan	3	3	3	9
6	Hongkong	3	3	2	8
7	India	3		2	5

- Indian shooters swept away all the nine individual medals in the three events of 4th South Asian Shooting Championships held in Islamabad. Shweta Chowdhry won the gold in the women's 25m sports pistol event. The silver went to Annuraj Singh while Anisa Syed won the bronze with 759.7 points. In the 50m free pistol event, Satendra Kumar won the gold, Viraj Singh took the silver while Omkar Singh snatched the bronze. As the total, India captured 12 gold, 11 silver and 5 bronze medals.

- Olympic champions Usain Bolt and Yelena Isinbayeva were named 2008 World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Gala by International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) in 2008. 22-year-old Bolt of Jamaica captured three gold medals at the Olympic Games in Beijing in August 2008, sweeping the 100 and 200 metres and running the third leg on the victorious 4x100m relay. 26-year-olds Isinbayeva of Russia raised her own world record in the pole vault three times, first to 5.03 metres in Rome and 5.04 in Monaco in June, and again to 5.05 when she successfully defended her Olympic title in Beijing 2008.

- Kerala retained the overall championship title at the 24th National Junior Athletics Championship. The Championship was concluded in Mysore (Karnataka). The defending champions Kerala ended the championship on a high bagging 35 gold medals. 26 States participated in the championship. The next edition of the meet will be held in Andhra Pradesh (Warangal).

**The results in detail are following:**

**Team Championship : Overall Title:** Kerala

**Boys:** U-20: Kerala; U-18: Uttar Pradesh; U-16: Haryana; U-14: Tamil Nadu.

**Girls:** U-20: Kerala; U-18: Kerala; U-16: Kerala; U-14: Karnataka.

**Special Awards:**

**Best Athlete:**

**Boys:** U-20: Jitin Paul (Ker, 1007 points); U-18: Sabha Bhagat (Mah, 1056); U-16: Sukhdev Singh (Har, 966); U-14: P Anburaja (TN, 778).

**Girls:** U-20: Tintu Luka (Ker, 1051); U-18: G Gayathri (TN, 1028); U-16: Ranjitha Mahanta (Ori, 992); U-14: Ruma Sarkar (WB, 876).

<b>Formula One World Championship-2008</b>					
<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Laps</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>September 28</b>	<b>Fernando Alonso</b>	<b>Renault</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1:57:16.304</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>October 12</b>	<b>Fernando Alonso</b>	<b>Renault</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1:30:21.892</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>October 19</b>	<b>Lewis Hamilton</b>	<b>McLaren-Mercedes</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1:31:57.403</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>November 2</b>	<b>Felipe Massa</b>	<b>Ferrari</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1:34:11.435</b>



- Karun Chandhok became the first Indian to be invited to join the prestigious British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC). The BRDC is world's most elite club and its membership includes only a select few International drivers from outside of Britain.

- In 2008, Triple Olympic champion Stephanie Rice was conferred the Mazda-Courier-Mail Queensland Sportswoman of the Year Award in Brisbane.

- A body builder of Andhra Pradesh, 33-year-old Mir Mohtesham Ali Khan got third place and won the bronze medal in the prestigious 90 kg plus (heavy weight category) category in Musclemenia World Bodybuilding championship held at Las Vegas in the United States in the year of 2008. Prakash, a bodybuilder from Bangalore, won the gold medal in the light weight category. Khan and Prakash were among 8 participants from India. · Tennis player Leander Paes was nominated vice-president of the Bengal Tennis Association (BTA) at its 67th Annual General Meeting in 2008. Sushil Mehrotra was elected the president. Among other vice-presidents are former football star Chuni Goswami and former Davis Cup coach Akhtar Ali.

Former BCCI President and Union Minister Sharad Pawar was named Chairman of the Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee (FCAC) of The International Cricket Council (ICC) on October 5, 2008. Giles Clarke, Haroon Lorgat, David Morgan and Neil Speight are the other members of FCAC.



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## SECTION : 10

### Awards



• Renowned Hindi poet Kunwar Narayan was selected for the 2005 Jnanpith Award for his contribution to Hindi literature. Ravindra Kelkar of Konkani literature and Satyavrat Shastri of Sanskrit literature were jointly selected for the 2006 Jnanpith

Award. The 41st Jnanpith winner, Kunwar Narayan was born in 1927 in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. He received his Masters degree in English literature from Lucknow University and is a businessman by profession.

He has been closely associated with the new poetry movement in Hindi literature. Narayan also served as vice-chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy in 1976-79 and was a member of the editorial board of Naya Pratik, a monthly magazine, during 1975-78. Among his important works are Chakravyooh (poetry), Teesra Saptak (poetry), Parivesh Hum Tum (poetry), Koi Doosra Naheen (poetry), Atmajayee (epic), Akaron Ke Aas-Paas (short stories) and Aaj Aur Aaj Se Pehley (criticism). Among the honours he has received are Hindustani Academy Award, Prem Chand Award, Tulsi Award, Vyas Samman, Kumaran Asan Award and Sahitya Akademi Award. One of the 42nd

Jnanpith winners, Ravindra Kelkar is renowned personality of Konkani literature and he played important role in establishment of Konkani Bhasha Mandal. Another of the 42nd Jnanpith winners, Satyavrat Shastri of Sanskrit literature wrote three epics in Sanskrit.

• Non Resident Indian entrepreneur Ranjit Singh Baxi was awarded the 'Asian of the Year Award' 2008 in London. He is founder Chairman of a recycling firm J and H Sales (International) Ltd. NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul was winner of the first Asian of the Year Award in 1987-88.

Indian botanist and wildlife scientist, Aparajita Datta, was chosen for the 2009 Women of Discovery Awards along with four other eminent women from different parts of the world. Aparajita Datta is engaged in long-term monitoring of threatened wildlife with local communities in northeast India.

• In recognition of his work in the field of cardiovascular disease, eminent Indo-Canadian scientist Salim Yusuf was awarded Clinical Research Prize for 2008 by the American Heart Association. He is a professor of medicine and director of the Population Health Research Institute at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He is also known for establishing the world's first study examining the impact of societal changes on health behaviours, risk factors and disease in more than 400 communities in 18 countries.

#### SCOPE Meritorious Awards for the Year 2006-07

- **Good Corporate Governance:** R.S. Sharma, CMD, ONGC
- **Best Practices in Human Resource Management:** S.K. Garg CMD, NHPC Ltd
- **Environmental Excellence and Sustainable Development:** Sarthak Behuria, Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation
- **R&D, Technology Development and Innovation :** V.V.R. Sastry, CMD, Bharat Electronics Ltd
- **Best Managed Bank, Financial Institution or Insurance Company:** Mr S.K. Garg, CMD, NHPC Ltd

- Latin pop star Shakira was named Humanitarian of the Year in 2008 by the People en Espanol magazine for her work towards providing better health and education to needy children in South America.

### **29th Sanskriti Awards**

The 29th Sanskriti Awards for achievements in literature, journalism, art, performing arts and socio-cultural activities were awarded on November 15, 2008 in Delhi.

- ₪ Inderjit Nandan (Punjabi Literature)
- ₪ Chitrangada Choudhury (Journalism)
- ₪ Ranjani Shettar (Art)
- ₪ Ranjani Gayatri (Music)

- Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto (posthumously), former UN high commissioner for human rights Louise Arbour of Canada, US lawyer Ramsey Clark, Carolyn Gomes of the Jamaicans for Justice group, Denis Mukwege of Congo, a French Catholic nun Dorothy Stang (posthumously) and the New York-based Human Rights Watch are chosen for 2008 human rights awards. Human Rights Awards are given every five years. The UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights for 2008 was announced by assembly President, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. The award has usually been given to a group of six winners, although in 1993 it was shared by nine individuals and organisations, and the 1978 one by eight. There have been 47 winners in all.

- Green Star Awards was launched recently by Green Cross International (GCI), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Its objective is to honor individuals, organisations, governments, and corporations who have made special efforts to respond to environmental emergencies.

- The first-ever MTV Africa Music Awards (MAMAs) held in Abuja, Nigeria on November 24, 2008. Following are winners :

Best Female : Wahu (Kenya)

Best Male : D'Banj (Nigeria)

Best Live Performer : Jozi (South Africa)

Best Group : P Square (Nigeria)

Best Video : Ikechukwu (Nigeria) - Wind Am Well  
Mamas Legend : Fela Anikulapo Kuti

- Prominent human rights activist and dissident in the People's Republic of China, 35-year-old Hu Jia was awarded The European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Hu Jia was awarded despite intense lobbying by China, which gave warning that the honour would damage relations with Europe. He has embraced a wide range of causes, including environmental issues, HIV/AIDS advocacy and a call for an official enquiry into the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. He has also acted as a coordinator of the Barefoot Lawyers Movement.

The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, named in honour of the Soviet physicist and political dissident Andrei Sakharov, has been awarded by the European Parliament every year since 1988 to individuals or organisations who have made an important contribution to the fight for human rights or democracy. To mark the 20th anniversary, a special event to which all previous winners of the prize were invited held in Strasbourg.

- The legendary exponent of Hindustani classical music Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi was conferred India's highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna'. Bharat Ratna was given after a gap of seven years, the previous recipient was shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan in 2001.

86-year-old vocalist of Kirana Gharana, Panditjee was born in Gadag town of erstwhile Dharwad district in Karnataka on February 4, 1922. Dharwad was then part of the Bombay state. Kirana Gharana was founded by Ustad Abdul Karim Khan. Bhimsen Joshi's performance of 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara' along with other doyens of music-Balamurali Krishna and Lata Mangeshkar became very famous.

- Indian Historian Dr Romila Thapar along with Irish historian Peter Robert Lamont Brown was chosen for the 2008 John W. Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Humanity instituted by the United States Library of Congress. Thapar is Emeritus Professor of History at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and Peter Robert Lamont Brown is Professor of History at Princeton University in USA.

Each awardee was given half of the 1 million US dollar as the prize money at the Library of Congress. According to the Library of Congress, both Dr. Brown and Dr. Thapar brought dramatically new perspectives to understanding vast sweeps of geographical territory and a millennium or more of time in, respectively, Europe and the Middle East, and in the Indian subcontinent. Dr. Thapar created a new and more pluralistic view of Indian civilisation, which had seemed more unitary and unchanging, by scrutinising its evolution over two millennia and searching out its historical consciousness.

- Noted Assamese writer Indira Goswami was conferred with the Netherlands' prestigious Principal Prince Claus Award for her work in Indian culture and its development. The 2000 Jnanpith Award winning writer is the first Indian to win the Euro one lakh (Rs 64 lakh) award. Indira is known for her fresh and original style with novel themes.
- Executive Chairman, Vedanta Resources, Anil Agarwal, was named Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2008. Now he will represent India at the Ernst and Young World Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Monte Carlo, Monaco, in May 2009.

**Awardees for other category are following:**

- **The Lifetime Achievement Award:** PRS Oberoi, Chairman and CEO, The Oberoi Group
- **The Health Care and Life Sciences Award:** Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care Systems.
- **The Entrepreneur of the Year Infrastructure and Construction Award:** Jaiprakash Gaur, Founder Chairman, Jaypee Group
- **For the Manufacturing Category:** Gautam Thapar, Chairman & CEO, Avantha Group
- **For the Start-Up Entrepreneur of the Year:** Arvind Rao, CEO and co-founder, OnMobile Global
- American Biographical Institute chosen Indian news photographer Virendra Prabhakar for the 2008-09 'Man Of The Year' award. He was honoured in recognition of his contribution to journalism and his services to art, literature and dance-drama.

• Prestigious Scopus Young Indian Scientists Awards for 2008 were given to nine young scientists from different research institutions. The awards are instituted by Elsevier, the world's leading research publisher of scientific, technical and medical information products and services. Its headquarters is in Amsterdam (Netherlands).

**Category wise winners are following:**

- **Agriculture :** Dr. R Raman, International Centre for Genetic Engg and Biotechnology
- **Biological Sciences :** Prof. S Ganesh, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- **Chemistry:** Dr. B V S Reddy, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad
- **Earth Sciences:** Dr. Govindasamy Bala, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- **Engineering:** Prof. Suman Chakraborty, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- **Mathematics:** Dr. Siva Athreya, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore
- **Medicine:** Dr. Bhanuprakash Reddy, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad
- **Physics:** Dr. Moulik Parikh, Inter University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics and Dr. Satyabrata Patnaik, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Bollywood star Shahrukh Khan was conferred a Malaysian title, 'Datuk,' which is often equated with the British knighthood. He received the title of 'Datuk' (Darjah Mulia Seri Melaka) from Mohamad Khalil Yaacob, the Governor of Malaysia's southern Malacca State, during a special ceremony in Malaysia. He has given Datuk because six of his movies were shot in the historical State Malacca, giving a boost to tourism. He shot a song for a 2001 movie, One 2 Ka 4, in Malacca, which was recently named a heritage city by UNESCO.

- American television presenter and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey named 'Person of the Year' 2008 by animal-rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). According to PETA, Media mogul Oprah Winfrey uses her fame and listening audience to help the less fortunate, including animals.

- Noted Pakistani journalist Najam Sethi was awarded the 2009 Golden Pen of Freedom, the annual prize of the World Association of Newspapers. Editor-in-chief of Daily Times, Friday Times and Urdu daily Aaj Kal Najam Sethi was chosen for his outstanding defence and promotion of press freedom under difficult circumstances and constant personal danger.

- Vice-President Hamid Ansari gave away national awards to several differently-abled persons for excellence in their respective fields. The awards were given in 16 categories.

- Navratna defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was conferred 'Niryat Shree' Certificate of Excellence for the year 2005-06 in the Residual Products by the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) in 2008..

- Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd and MindTree Ltd were conferred with the 'ICSI 2008'. The awards were presented by the Vice-President of India.

- The Saraswati Samman for the year 2008 was conferred on the novel Kayakalpa by noted Assamese writer Dr Lakhmi Nandan Bora. Published in 2002, Kayakalpa covers a large canvas, ranging from modern technology and science to the ancient thoughts and philosophy by the great rishis of India. An educator, researcher and journalist, Sahitya Akademi winner Dr Lakhmi Nandan Bora was president of apex literary body Asam Sahitya Sabha.

The Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the KK Birla Foundation. The Award is given to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language in schedule VIII of the Constitution and published within the last ten years. The Saraswati Samman carries a cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakh and a citation.

51st Annual Grammy Awards held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on February 8. India's tabla maestro Zakir

Hussain was also included second time in the Grammy winners list. Album 'Global DrumProject', featuring Mickey Hart, Sikiru Adepoju, Giovanni Hidalgo (Shout! Factory) and Zakir Hussain won the Grammy award for best contemporary world music album. Zakir Hussain was also awarded Grammy for best world music album in 1992 for Planet Drum, an album co-created and produced by Zakir and Mickey Hart. Two other Indians- guitarist Debashish Bhattacharya and classical vocalist Lakshmi Shankar were also in run for Grammy, but they lost out in the 'Best Traditional World Music' category.

### **Winners of important category are following:**

- **Record Of The Year:** Please Read The Letter ( Robert Plant and Alison Krauss)

- **Album Of The Year:** Raising Sand ( Robert Plant and Alison Krauss)

- **Song Of The Year:** Viva La Vida ( Coldplay)

- **Best New Artist:** Adele

- **Best Traditional World Music Album:** Ilembe: Honoring Shaka Zulu Ladysmith Black Mambazo

- **Best Contemporary World Music Album :** Global Drum Project (Mickey Hart, Zakir Hussain, Sikiru Adepoju and Giovanni Hidalgo)

- **Best Female Pop Vocal Performance:** Chasing Pavements: Adele

- **Best Male Pop Vocal Performance:** Say (John Mayer)

- **Best Dance Recording:** Harder Better Faster Stronger (Daft Punk)

- The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) annual awards for excellence in film, television, television craft, video games, and animation took place in February, 2009 at London's Royal Opera House. After winning five Critics' Choice Awards and four Golden Globes, Danny Boyle directed film Slumdog Millionaire swept the British Academy of Film and Television Arts



(BAFTA) Awards 2009. The film bagged seven awards from the 11 categories it was nominated in. Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Freida Pinto and Irrfan Khan featured film, Slumdog Millionaire is the story of an 18-year-old Indian quiz contestant suspected of cheating.

BAFTA is known as the British equivalent to the Oscars. It is a charity organisation which strives to support, develop and promote the art forms of the moving image, by identifying and rewarding excellence, inspiring practitioners and benefiting the public.

#### **Winners are following:**

- **Best Film:** Slumdog Millionaire
- **Director:** danny boyle - Slumdog Millionaire
- **Original screenplay:** Martin McDonagh - In Bruges
- **Adapted Screenplay:** Simon Beaufoy - Slumdog Millionaire
- **Non-English Language Film:** I've Love You So Long
- **Animated Film:** Wall-E
- **Leading Actor:** Mickey Rourke - The Wrestler
- **Leading Actress:** Kate Winslet - The Reader
- **Supporting Actor:** Heath Ledger - The Dark Knight
- **Supporting Actress:** Penelope Cruz - Vicky Cristina Barcelona
- **Music:** A.R. Rahman : Slumdog Millionaire
- **Cinematography:** Anthony Dod Mantle - Slumdog Millionaire
- **Editing:** Chris Dickens - Slumdog Millionaire  
Outstanding British Film: Man On Wire
- **The Carl Foreman Award:** Steve McQueen - Hunger
- **Production Design:** The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button

#### • **Sound:** Slumdog Millionaire

• Director of oscar nominated film Slumdog Millionaire, British Danny Boyle won the trophy feature film from the Directors Guild of America on February 1. List of the winners of important category of 2009 Directors Guild Awards for Directorial Achievement:  
Feature Film : Danny Boyle (Slumdog Millionaire)  
Movies for TV/Miniseries : Jay Roach (Recount)  
Documentary : Ari Folman (Waltz With Bashir)

• Depicting the heart warming story of a Mumbai tea boy's incredible journey towards fame and fortune, Slumdog Millionaire, won the NAACP award for outstanding independent motion picture in Los Angeles on February 13. The awards are given by the oldest civil rights group-the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) and honours individuals as well as projects that promote diversity in the arts, literature, cinema, recording and television.

The Secret Life of Bees won the best film with director Gina Prince-Bythewood bagged the honours for outstanding director. Superstar Will Smith and Rosario Dawson won top actor and actress awards for their emotional drama Seven Pounds. Taraji P Henson won supporting actress award for The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, and Columbus Short earned supporting actor honors for Cadillac Records.

• In recognition to his important service to the nation, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India, Dr. Anil Kakodkar and chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) G. Madhvan Nair were presented the 'Bharat Asmita National Awards 2009 in February ,2009. The Bharat Asmita Jana Jagaran Shrestha award was given jointly to Smt. Aruna Roy, Shri Nikhil Dey and Shri Shankar Singh. The Bharat Asmita Acharya Shreshta award and Bharat Asmita Jan Pratinidhi Shreshta award were given to Prof. Shekhar Chaudhary and Bhawna Gawali respectively.

• Chairman, State Bank of India, O.P. Bhatt was conferred the Best Executive 2008 award by financial magazine Asiamoney. The award was under the category of Asia's best companies and executives, said a press release issued by the bank.

- Indian Institute of Cartoonists has decided to institute an international cartoon award in R K Laxman's name as a mark of honour to his achievements. According to institute, Laxman was the father of not just Indian cartooning, but international cartooning as well. He portrayed the problems, anxieties, needs and basic aspirations of the common man.

- A 19-year-old student of drama from Chicago (U.S.) Nikkitasha Marhawa beat 24 contestants from all over the world and won the 18th Miss India Worldwide crown at a glittering event in Durban (South Africa). The 2nd place was won by Kanchan Verma of Australia.

- North Delhi Power Ltd (NDPL) was conferred with a bronze award in the prestigious National Award for Meritorious Performance in power distribution on February 17. The awards have been instituted by the Ministry of Power.

- In his recently published autobiographical book Beyond the Blues, cricketer Aakash Chopra, has precisely expressed agony, ordeal, ecstasy and that of hopes of thousands of cricketers, who dream of donning India colors one day. The book also pointed out the different aspects of domestic cricket, the pitiable standards and partial nature of the umpires, the politics around selections, the unprofessional itinerary, the shabby accommodation for the players and dilemma over T20 cricket among other unflattering observations.

- The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama selected the following personalities for Akademi Awards for the year 2008 at its meeting held in January, 2009, in New Delhi:

**Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna (Akademi Fellows):** Sitara Devi, Khaled Choudhury, RC Mehta and Bhupen Hazarika.

**Akademi Awards for Music :** Ulhas Kashalkar and M.R. Gautam for Hindustani Vocal Music; Ramesh Mishra (Sarangi) and Krishna Ram Chaudhary (Shehnai) for Hindustani Instrumental Music; Puranam Purushottama Sastri for Carnatic Vocal; B. Sasi Kumar (Violin) and Manrgudi A. Easwaran (Mridangam) for Carnatic

Instrumental Music and Ningombam Ibobi Singh (Nata Sankirtana, Manipur) for Other Major Traditions of Music.

**Akademi Awards for Music Dance :** Saroja Vaidyanathan, Bharatanatyam; Shashi Shankhla, Kathak; Kalamandalam Kuttan, Kathakali; Ramani Ranjan Jena, Odissi; Vasanta Lakshmi and Narasimhachari (Joint Award), Kuchipudi; Kalamandalam Leelamma, Mohiniattam; Yog Sunder Desai, Creative & Experimental Dance and Ramhari Das, Music for Dance (Odissi).

**Akademi Awards for Theatre :** Markand Bhatt and Arundhati Nag for Acting, S. Ramanujam and Probir Guha for Direction, Mudra Rakshas (Hindi) and Narsingh Dev Jamwal (Dogri) for Playwriting, Amba Sanyal for Allied Theatre Arts (Costume Designing) and Bansi Lal Khiladi (Khayal, Rajasthan) for Major Traditions of Theatre.

**Other Traditional/Folk/ Tribal Music/ Dance/ Theatre :** Shakuntala Nagarkar, Lavani (Maharashtra); Birbar Sahoo, Gotipua (Orissa); Mangi Bai Arya, Mand (Rajasthan); L. Heramot Meitei, Thang-Ta (Martial Art, Manipur); Lakha Khan Manganiyar, Folk Music (Rajasthan); Hildamit Lepcha, Lepcha Music (Sikkim); Kartar Singh, Gurbani (Punjab) and Lakshman Das, Hari Katha (Karnataka).

The Akademi Ratna and Akademi Award have been conferred since 1952. The Akademi Ratna carries purse money of Rupees One lakh and Akademi Puraskar Rupees fifty thousand besides Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

- Eminent scientist Kuldeep Singh Dhindsa was honoured with prestigious Bharat Gaurav Award 2008 in January, 2009. Dr Dhindsa was recently honoured with 'Shiksha Ratna Puruskar 2008.

The President of India approved the conferment of Padma Awards 2009 on 133 distinguished persons on January 25, 2009.

#### Padma Vibhushan (10)

Dr. Anil Kakodkar and Shri G. Madhavan Nair (Science and Engineering), Prof. Jasbir Singh Bajaj and Dr. Purshotam Lal (Medicine), Sister Nirmala (Social Work), Sunderlal Bahuguna (Environment Conservation), Govind Narain (Public Affairs), Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya (Literature & Education), Dr. A.S.

Ganguly (Trade & Industry) and Dr. Chandrika Prasad Srivastava (Civil Service).

### Padma Bhushan (30)

**Social Work** : Dr. Naganath Nayakawadi and Dr. (Smt.) Sarojini Varadappan.

**Art**: G. Sivarama Krishna Murthy alias Krishna, Prof. Ramanlal C. Mehta Art V.P. Dhananjayan and Smt. Shanta Dhananjayan (Duo), Dr. Vaidyanathan Ganapathi Sthapati, Smt. Shamshad Begum (Singer).

**Literature and Education** : Prof. Alappat Sreedhara Menon, C.K. Prahlad, D. Jayakanthan, Dr. (Smt.) Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Kunwar Narain (Hindi Poet), Prof. Minoru Hara and Ramachandra Guha (Historian).

**Civil Service**: S.K. Misra Journalism: Shekhar Gupta Medicine: Dr. Brijendra Kumar Rao, Dr. Khalid Hameed and Vaidya Devendra Triguna.

**Sports**: Abhinav Bindra Science and Engineering: Dr. Bhakta B. Rath, Conjeevaram Srirangachari Seshadri, Dr. Gurdip Singh Randhawa, Sam Pitroda, Prof. (Dr.) Sarvagya Singh Katiyar, Prof. Thomas Kailath.

**National Security Affairs** : Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Satish Nambiar Trade and Industry: Anil Manibhai Naik

**Public Affairs** : Dr. (Smt.) Inderjit Kaur Barthakur and Dr. Kirit Shantilal Parikh.

### Padma Shri (93)

**Social Work** : Begum Bilkees, Bansilal Rathi, I. Latif, Prof. Shyam Sunder Maheshwari, Sunil Kanti Roy, Cheril Krishna Menon, Rev. Fr. Joseph H. Pereira, Ms. Keepu Tshering Lepcha, K. Viswanathan.

**Art**: Smt. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Smt. Helan K, Akshay Kumar, Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Udit Narayan (all films), Dr. (Ms.) Ameena Ahmed Ahuja, Smt. Aruna Sairam, Smt. Devayani Chaymotty, Ms. Geeta Kapur, Govind Ram Nirmalkar, Gurumayum Gourakishor Sharma, Hashmat Ullah Khan, Smt. Hemi Bawa, Iravatham Mahadevan, K.P. Udayabhanu, Dr. Kanneganti Brahmanandam, Prof. Kiran Seth, Kumar Sanu Bhattacharjee, Prof. Dr. (Smt.)

Leela Omchery, Mattannoor Sankarankutty Marar, Thilakan, A. Vivekh, Niranjana Goswami, Bhai Nirmal Singh Khalsa, Ms. Penaz Masani, Prakash N. Dubey, Dr. Pratapaditya Pal, Ram Kishore Chhipa, Smt. Saoli Mitra, Tafazzul Ali and Skendrowell Syiemlieh (Posthumous), Dr. Subrahmanyam Krishnaswamy, Suresh Dutta, Vadakka Manalath Govindan alias Kalamandalam Gopi.

**Literature and Education**: Dr. A. Sankara Reddy, Alok Mehta, Dr. Bannanje Govindacharya, Dr. Birendranath Datta, Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten, Prof. Jalees Ahmed Khan Tareen, Jayanta Mahapatra, Dr. John Ralston Marr, Lalthangfala Sailo, Laxman Babu Mane, Dr. Mathoor Krishnamurthy, Norden Tshering, Dr. Panchapakesa Jayaraman, Prof. Ram Shankar Tripathi, Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Chander Sobti, Dr. Ravindra Nath Srivastava, Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, Smt. Shashi Deshpande, Sunny Varkey, Suresh Gundu Amonkar, Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee.

**Civil Service**: S.B. Ghosh Dastidar.

**Commentary and Broadcasting**: Shri Ameen Sayani.

**Journalism** : Abhay Chhajlani Medicine : Dr. Ashok Kumar Grover, Dr. A.K. Gupta, Dr. Alampur Saibaba Goud, Dr. Arvind Lal, Dr. Ashok K. Vaid, Dr. Balwarup Choubey, Dr. D. S. Rana, Dr. Govindan Vijayaraghavan, Dr. Kalyan Banerjee, P.R. Krishna Kumar, Dr. R. Sivaraman, Dr. Shaik Khader Noordeen, Prof. (Dr.) Thanikachalam Sadagopan, Dr. Yash Gulati.

**Sports** : Harbhajan Singh and Mahendra Singh Dhoni (both cricketer), Pankaj Advani (Billiards), Balbir Singh Khullar (veteran hockey player).

**Science & Engineering** : Prof. Pramod Tandon and Goriparthi Narasimha Raju Yadav.

**Trade and Industry** : Dr. Bavaguthu Raghuram Shetty, Arunmugam Sakthivel and R.K. Krishna Kumar

**Technology Solutions**: Surinder Mehta

**Public Affairs**: K. Asungba Sangtam and Dr. (Ms.) Shyamla Pappu.

**Research on Himalayan Glaciers : Prof. Syed Iqbal Hasnain**  
**For the Sake of Honour Award**

Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia was awarded For the Sake of Honour Award by the Rotary Club of Anna Nagar in January, 2009.

**National Bravery Awards**

• 12 girls and 8 boys were awarded National Bravery Awards for 2008. The National Bravery Award Scheme was initiated by the Indian Council for Child Welfare in 1957. Awardees will be granted financial assistance until they complete their schooling under the Sponsorship Programme of the ICCW. The Government of India has reserved some seats for the awardees in medical and engineering colleges and polytechnics.

**The Geeta Chopra Award:** 10 year old Km. Prachi Santosh Sen of Madhya Pradesh

**Sanjay Chopra Award:** 13 year old Master Saumik Mishra of Uttar Pradesh

**The Bapu Gaidhani Awards :** Asu Kanwar (Rajasthan), Km. Seema Kanwar and Late Km. Kavita Kanwar (both from Chhattisgarh)

**Bravery Awards :** Km. Kritika Jhanwar, Km. Hina Quereshi (both from Rajasthan), Km. Silver Kharbani (Meghalaya), Km. Anita Kora, Km. Rina Kora (both from West Bengal), Km. Dinu K.G., Km. Manjusha A. (both from Kerala), Master Y. Addison Singh (Manipur), Master Shahanshah (U.P.), Master Vishal Suryaji Patil (Maharashtra), Master M. Marudu Pandi (Tamil Nadu), Km. Bhoomika J. Murthy, Master Gagan J. Murthy (Karnataka), Master Manish Bansal (Haryana) and Master Rahul (New Delhi).



**This Article is Available Online Also**

<http://upscportal.com/civilservices/mag/vol-1/study-material/Awards>

## SECTION : 11

### Model Test Paper For Civil Services (Pre) Examination 2009

1. The UN Secretary General has asked nations to take special steps to reduce global food crisis. What suggestions he has given to overcome the problem of food crisis?

- (A) Increase productivity limit of small holdings.
- (B) Invest more in agricultural development research and technology transfer.
- (C) Increase private sector investment and public funding in the field.

- (1) Only (A)
- (2) Only (B)
- (3) Only (C)
- (4) All (A), (B) and (C)

2. The government of India is planning to release inflation figures based on revised Wholesale Price Index (WPI). The base year for the same will be:

- (1) 2000-01
- (2) 2002-03
- (3) 2004-05
- (4) 2005-06

3. J.P. Morgan has taken over the major stake of the banking operations business of which of the following US based banks recently?

- (1) Bank of America
- (2) Washington Mutual Inc.
- (3) Lehman Brothers
- (4) Wachovia Corporation

4. "India to depend on edible oil imports for 3-4 years. What at present is the total demand of edible oil in India per annum approximately.?"

- (1) 4 mts. (2) 8 mts.
- (3) 10 mts. (4) 13 mts.

5. The government of India has decided to hike the support price of Agriculture Crops particularly food crops. Why has government taken this decision?

- (A) To help farmers in getting good value of their products.
- (B) To encourage cultivation of food crops in place

of sugarcane etc. which needs more water input.

(C) Government wishes that farmers should not export their products as it will create a shortage in local markets.

- (1) Only (A)
- (2) Only (B)
- (3) Only (C)
- (4) Both (A) and (B) only

6. The government of India has asked various banks to give their support to the implementation of the "National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)". How can banks give their support for the same?

- (A) By opening hassle-free savings bank account of the beneficiaries.
- (B) By providing job opportunities to the residents of rural areas who are willing to work in banks.
- (C) By providing financial support to various schemes/projects taken up under the NREGA.

- (1) Only (A)
- (2) Only (B)
- (3) Only (C)
- (4) All (A), (B) and (C)

7. The US government has proposed a bailout package, which they thought, was able to stabilize the faltering US financial system. What was the volume of the bailout package?

- (1) \$ 100 billion
- (2) \$ 250 billion
- (3) \$ 500 billion
- (4) \$ 700 billion

8. Government of India is paying much attention on sustainable growth these days. Which of the following projects/schemes can be called as step(s) towards sustainable growth?

- (A) e-choupal initiative designed to enhance farm productivity and provide market linkages to the farmers.
- (B) Social forestry which provide cumulative employment to various people across forestry based industries.



(C) Renewable energy

- (1) Only (A)
- (2) Only (B)
- (3) Only (C)
- (4) Both (A) and (B) only

9. Which of the following is grown in the cold climate of Kashmir?

- (1) Coconut (2) Palm
- (3) Saffron (4) Jute

10. Which of the following was India's rank in "Global Hunger Index for 2007"?

- (1) 118th (2) 101st
- (3) 94th (4) 90th

11. Which of the following banks has taken over the Centurion Bank of Punjab recently?

- (1) IDBI Bank
- (2) ICICI Bank
- (3) HDFC Bank
- (4) Axis Bank

12. Which of the following organisations conduct programmes for educational, vocational and occupational development of socio-economically backward and disadvantaged people in rural and urban areas in India?

- (1) Navodaya Vidyalayas
- (2) Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)
- (3) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas
- (4) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)

13. Very often we hear about Financial Inclusion these days. What is financial inclusion? [Choose the correct statement(s)]

- (A) Providing access to financial services (banking/insurance) etc. to the weaker sections of the society.
- (B) Adequate and timely credit to vulnerable groups at an affordable cost.
- (C) To ensure that atleast 33% of the general budget of each department/ministry goes to the schemes/plans for weaker sections of the society.
- (1) Only (A)

- (2) Only (B)
- (3) Only (C)
- (4) Both (A) and (B) only

14. Which of the following is NOT a social sector programme?

- (1) Mid Day Meal Scheme
- (2) Look East Policy
- (3) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- (4) Kutir Jyoti

15. India recently signed four agreements for economic cooperation, which will enhance the border trade between the two nations (which is almost nil at present).

The name of this country is:

- (1) Myanmar
- (2) China
- (3) Sri Lanka
- (4) Bangladesh

16. The 11th Five Year plan aims at a growth rate at which of the following levels?

- (1) 8% (2) 9%
- (3) 9.5% (4) 10%

17. Who amongst the following is the author of the book "A Golden Age" which was in news recently?

- (1) Tahmina Anam
- (2) Anita Desai
- (3) Salman Rushdie (4) Kiran Desai

8. The Ministers talk in Geneva (WTO) held in July 2008 was not successful. One of the reasons for the same was that India did not reach on an agreement on several issues with:

- (1) China (2) Brazil
- (3) Pakistan (4) USA

19. Which of the following is NOT an employment generating programme of the government of India?

- (1) NREGA (2) SGRY
- (3) DPAP (4) TRYSEM

20. Which of the following groups represents the two types of Inflation?

- (1) Cost push Inflation—Demand pull Inflation

- (2) Real Inflation—Artificial Inflation
- (3) Total Inflation—Partial Inflation
- (4) Wholesale price inflation—Purchasing power parity inflation

21. Many surveys done in the last few years by various government agencies have reported an increase in the Rural Unemployment. What are the major causes of increase in rural unemployment?

- (A) Old methods of agriculture
- (B) Dependence on monsoon for agricultural activities
- (C) Sharp increase in rural population
- (1) Only (A)
- (2) Only (B)
- (3) Both (A) and (B) only
- (4) Only (C)

22. Which of the following is NOT a plantation crop?

- (1) Coconut (2) Potato
- (3) Oil Palm (4) Cashew

23. Which of the following terms is used in Rifle Shooting?

- (1) Bull's eye (2) Smash
- (3) Stroke (4) Trump

24. In our rural areas people are engaged in many allied agricultural activities. Which of the following can not be considered one such activity?

- (1) Carpet Weaving Fisheries
- (2) Dairy farming
- (3) Sheep Breeding
- (4) Poultry farming

25. Ram Baran Yadav has taken over as the:

- (1) President of Nepal
- (2) Prime Minister of Nepal
- (3) Governor of Assam
- (4) Governor of Manipur

26. Which programme was launched to provide housing to rural people?

- (1) Indira Awas Yojana
- (2) Slum Development Yojana

- (3) Adarsh Basti Programme
- (4) Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana

27. Which of the following is not a part of Bulk Imports in our country?

- (1) Fertilizers
- (2) Iron and Steel
- (3) Handicrafts
- (4) Edible Oil

28. Which of the following will be considered as an advance to Priority Sector by the banks?

- (1) Credit to farmers for agricultural purposes
- (2) Loan to a group of doctors to establish a hospital in a city
- (3) Loan to a sick mill owner
- (4) Loans given to purchase houses in posh colonies

29. Which of the following is NOT a part of the 20 Point Programme adopted by the government of India in 2006?

- (1) Garibi Hatao
- (2) Sabke Liye Apna Ghar/Apni car
- (3) Jan Shakti
- (4) Jan Jan Ka Swasthya

30. India recently decided to hike the “Development Assistance” to which of the following war-torn countries by US \$ 450 million?

- (1) Nepal (2) Myanmar
- (3) Afghanistan (4) Pakistan

31. The 15th SAARC Summit was organized in August 2008 in:

- (1) India (2) Pakistan
- (3) Nepal (4) Sri Lanka

32. Which of the following schemes is NOT launched to provide any type of employment to beneficiaries?

- (1) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- (2) Mid Day Meal Scheme
- (3) National Food for Work Programme
- (4) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

33. The theme of which of the following Summit was “Meeting Global Challenges Through Innovative

Cooperation”?

- (1) Summit of Eight Islamic Development Countries
- (2) SAARC
- (3) NATO
- (4) European Union

34. The beneficiaries of which of the following schemes are now covered under “Janshree Bima Yojana”?

- (1) NREGA
- (2) Old Age Pension Scheme
- (3) Sampoorana Grameen Rozgar Yojana
- (4) Swarna Jayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana

35. Service Sector in India is about what percentage of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

- (1) 30% (2) 40%
- (3) 54% (4) 48%

36. Who amongst the following won the “India Open Grand Prix Badminton Championship” held in April 2008?

- (1) Thailand (2) India
- (3) England (4) China

37. Who was given “Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award” for 2007-08?

- (1) Abhinav Bindra
- (2) Sania Mirza
- (3) Sachin Tendulkar
- (4) M.S. Dhoni

38. Right to Education Bill envisages to provide free education to the children of the age group of:

- (1) 6-14 years
- (2) Upto 3 years
- (3) Upto 5 years
- (4) Upto 6 years

39. The 34th National Game (in 2009) will be organized in:

- (1) Goa
- (2) Maharashtra
- (3) West Bengal
- (4) Jharkhand

40. The “Global Tobacco Epidemic 2008” report was prepared by World Health Organisation recently.

Which of the following countries, as given in the report,

has maximum number of smokers in the world?

- (1) India
- (2) China
- (3) United Kingdom
- (4) USA

41. Silvio Berlusconi whose name was in news recently is the:

- (1) President of Italy
- (2) Prime Minister of Italy
- (3) President of Germany
- (4) Prime Minister of France

42. Who amongst the following crossed 5000 runs milestone in test cricket recently?

- (1) Virendra Sehwag
- (2) Harbhajan Singh
- (3) Anil Kumble
- (4) M.S. Dhoni

43. National Judicial Council is headed by whom amongst the following?

- (1) Chief Justice of India
- (2) President of India
- (3) Vice President of India
- (4) Speaker of the Lok Sabha

44. Who amongst the following won the “Best Booker Prize” given away recently?

- (1) Salman Rushdie
- (2) Shobha De
- (3) Kiran Desai
- (4) Vikram Seth

45. The money which Govt. of India spends on the development of infrastructure in country comes from which of the following sources ? [Pick up the correct statement (s)]

- (a) Loan from World Bank/ADB etc.
- (b) Taxes collected from the people.
- (c) Loan from the RBI.
- (1) Only a
- (2) Only b

- (3) Only c  
(4) All a, b and c

46. Who amongst the following has taken over as the Chairman of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)?

- (1) Anupam Kher (2) Om Puri  
(3) Amir Khan (4) Javed Akhtar

47. The US Open Mixed Doubles 2008 was won by the pair of:

- (1) Roger Federer—Serena Williams  
(2) Leander Paes—Serena Williams  
(3) Sania Mirza—Leander Paes  
(4) Cara Black—Leander Paes

48. Dayana Mendoza who was adjudged Miss Universe 2008 is a citizen of:

- (1) Britain (2) China  
(3) Russia (4) Venezuela

49. Who amongst the following was honoured by “Best Parliamentarian of the Year Award”?

- (1) Sushma Swaraj  
(2) Rahul Gandhi  
(3) Priyaranjan Dasmunsi  
(4) Kamal Nath

50. Who amongst the following was given Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace 2008?

- (1) Nelson Mandela  
(2) Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda  
(3) Sonia Gandhi  
(4) L.K. Advani

51. Which one of the following Districts of Andhra Pradesh is considered as the “Hub of Fresh Fish Farming”?

- (1) Nellore (2) Guntur  
(3) Krishna (4) Godavari

52. Which one of the following Agro-food sector in India has “Highest Level of Processing” (percentage of

total production)?

- (1) Fruits and Vegetables  
(2) Milk and Milk Products  
(3) Buffalo Meat  
(4) Poultry Product

53. The Central Cattle Breeding Farm is producing “HFX Tharparkar Crossbred Bulls” for breeding purpose in India.

- (1) Andeshnagar (U.P.)  
(2) Dhamrod (Gujarat)  
(3) Hassergatha (Karnataka)  
(4) Suratgarh (Rajasthan)

54. Which one of the following statements is FALSE ?

- (1) The special rubber tyres of air craft are made slightly conducting  
(2) The blue waves scattered more than violet waves of light so that the sky appears blue not violet  
(3) A comb run through one’s wet hair does not attract small bits of paper  
(4) Vehicles carrying inflammable material usually have metallic ropes touching the ground.

55. Assertion (A) : In orographic nature of rainfall, the windward slope of a mountain range gets more rainfall than the leeward slope.

Reason (R) : The warm and humid air that descends down the slope get warmed up and dry.

Codes :

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
(2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
(3) (A) is true, but (R) is false.  
(4) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

56. During which period did the domestication of plants and animals take place ?

- (1) Paleolithic period  
(2) Mesolithic period  
(3) Neolithic period  
(4) Dark age

57. What is the main occupation of Eskimos ?

- (1) Summer cultivation

- (2) Winter woodwork
- (3) Fishing and Hunting
- (4) Handicrafts

58. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched ?

- (1) Masai — Matagonia
- (2) Kirghiz — Kazakhstan
- (3) Melanesians — Malaysia
- (4) Pygmies — Tanzania

59. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists—

List-I (Tribe)

- (a) Jarwa
- (b) Todas
- (c) Angami
- (d) Saura

List-II (Occupation)

- A. Shifting cultivation
- B. Terraced cultivation
- C. Pastoral
- D. Food gathering

Codes :

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (1) C D A B
- (2) D C A B
- (3) D C B A
- (4) C D B A

60. Consider the following statements and select correct answer from the codes given below—  
Assertion (A) : The population of the world has experienced an unprecedented growth during the 20th Century.

Reason (R) : Rapid advances in medical technology reduced death rate of population very significantly during the 20th Century.

Codes :

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false.

(4) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

61. Consider the following statement and select correct answer from the codes given below :

Assertion (A) : When British Rule ended in India, many Anglo-Indians migrated to Australia.

Reason (R) : Some migrations are caused by religious attraction.

Codes :

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (4) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

62. Consider the following statement and select the correct answer from the codes given below :

Assertion (A) : The boundary marking the termination of tree growth is known as timber line.

Reason (R) : Its location is determined by the amount of moisture, exposure, evaporation and depth of snow.

Codes :

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (4) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

63. In India, the problem of soil erosion is associated with—

- a. Excessive rainfall
- b. Deforestation
- c. Excessive Cultivation
- d. Overgrazing

Codes :

- (1) a and b are correct
- (2) a, b and c are correct
- (3) b, c and d are correct
- (4) b and d are correct

64. Consider the following statement and select correct answer from the codes given below—

Assertion (A) : Offshore fishing in Malabar coast is more developed than that in the Coromandel coast.



Reason (R) : Malabar coast has better facilities to export sea fish to African countries.

Codes :

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (4) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

65. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists—

List-I (Cattle Breed)

- (a) Gir
- (b) Alambadi
- (c) Dangi
- (d) Deoni

List-II (State)

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Codes :

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (1) A B C D
- (2) B C D A
- (3) C A D B
- (4) C A B D

66. Consider the following statement and select correct answer from the codes given below—

Assertion (A) : Indian agriculture is no longer the gamble of the monsoons.

Reason (R) : There is recent expansion of dry land farming in India.

Codes :

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (4) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

67.. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists—

List-I (Name of Crop)

- (a) Rice
- (b) Jowar
- (c) Jute
- (d) Coffee

List-II (State Growing)

- 1. Maharashtra
- 2. Orissa
- 3. Karnataka
- 4. West Bengal

Codes :

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (1) A B C D
- (2) B C D A
- (3) D A B C
- (4) B A D C

68. Which of the following dams has generation of power more than irrigation as its main aim ?

- (1) Gandhi Sagar
- (2) Hirakud
- (3) Periyar
- (4) Tungbhabhadra

69. Consider the following—

- a. Hematite
- b. Magnetite
- c. Limonite
- d. Siderite

Which of the above are iron ore ?

- (1) a and b only
- (2) a, b and c only
- (3) a, b and d only
- (4) a, b, c and d

70. Which Government agency is responsible for mapping and exploration of minerals in India ?

- (1) Survey of India
- (2) Geological Survey of India
- (3) Minerals Development Corporation
- (4) Indian School of Mines

71. Which one of the following is not a source of geothermal energy ?

- (1) Hot Geyser
- (2) Hot Spring
- (3) Coal
- (4) Volcano

72. Malvika Steel Plant, the first fully integrated steel plant in North, India, was set up in—

- (1) Bihar
- (2) Himachal Pradesh
- (3) Uttar Pradesh
- (4) Punjab

73. The following countries are the major trading partners of India. Using codes given below their names, put these countries in sequential order of their share in total trade of India—

- a. U.S.A.
- b. China
- c. Hong Kong
- d. United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Codes :

- (1) a, d, c and b
- (2) b, a, d and c
- (3) d, c, a and b
- (4) a, b, c and d

74. Which one of the following public sector agencies in India is not associated with promotion of international trade ?

- (1) State Trading Corporation (STC)
- (2) Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC)
- (3) Projects and Equipment Corporation of India (PEC)
- (4) Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)

75. Consider the following statement and select correct answer from the codes given below—

Assertion (A) : The Rajasthan desert is covered with shifting sand dunes.

Reason (R) : For want of rain and surface flowing of water, the work of wind is felt everywhere.

Codes :

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (4) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

76. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists—

List-I (Summit)

- (a) Dodabetta
- (b) Nanda Devi
- (c) Guru Sikhar

List-II (Mountain Range)

- A. Nilgiri Hills
- B. Himalaya Mountains
- C. Aravali Range

a b c

1. A B C
2. B A C
3. C A B
4. B C A

77. Match the following features of Indian Constitution and their sources—

List-I

- (a) Bill of Right and Judicial Review.
- (b) Parliamentary System of Democracy.
- (c) Directive Principles.
- (d) Residuary Powers with Centre.

List-II

- A. England
- B. Ireland
- C. U.S.A.
- D. Canada

Codes :

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (1) D A B C
- (2) A B C D
- (3) C D B A
- (4) C A B D

78. Which one of the following diagrams shows the direction and duration of wind ?

- (1) Cartogram
- (2) Climogram
- (3) Ergograph
- (4) Star diagram

79. June 21 is the longest day of the year for those living in the Northern hemisphere. What is the shortest day of the year for those living in the Southern hemisphere ?

- (1) March 21
- (2) September 21

(3) December 21

(4) June 21

80. Which one of the following countries is not a founder member of OPEC ?

- (1) Algeria
- (2) Kuwait
- (3) Iraq
- (4) Iran

81. Bar is a unit of which one of the following ?

- (1) Force
- (2) Energy
- (3) Pressure
- (4) Frequency

82. With which one of the following countries, India shares maximum length of the border ?

- (1) Bangladesh
- (2) Pakistan
- (3) China
- (4) Nepal

83. Consider the following statements—

a. Doris Lessing becomes the oldest person to win the Nobel prize in Literature (2007).

b. She is a school dropout.

c. Jane Moor is the pseudonym of Doris Lessing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (1) a only
- (2) a and b only
- (3) b and c only
- (4) a, b and c

84. Liberhan Commission has been appointed to deal with which one of the following ?

- (1) Anti-Sikh Riots, 1984
- (2) Demolition of Babri Masjid
- (3) Godhra Incident
- (4) Mumbai Communal Riots

85. Which one of the following industries is not recommended by Investment Commission as National Thrust Area ?

- (1) Tourism
- (2) Information Technology
- (3) Agro-processing

(4) Textiles

86. The Kyoto Protocol commits the developed nations, including economies in transition to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by which one of the following during the years 2008-2012 ?

- (1) An average of 4% below 1990 levels
- (2) An average of 5% below 2000 levels
- (3) An average of 4•2% below 2000 levels
- (4) An average of 5•2% below 1990 levels

87. According to the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 and FRBM Rules, 2004, the Government is under obligation to present three statements before the Parliament

along with the Annual Budget.

Which one of the following is not one of them ?

- (1) Macroeconomic Framework Statement
- (2) Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement
- (3) Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement
- (4) Statement showing Shortterm Fiscal Policy

88. What is an ECO-MARK ?

- (1) A scheme for labeling pollution-free industrial unit
- (2) A scheme for labeling environment friendly consumer product
- (3) A cost-effective production technique
- (4) An international certification recognizing eco-friendly building

89. Which among the following is the oldest board under the Department of Commerce ?

- (1) The Rubber Board
- (2) The Tea Board
- (3) The Coffee Board
- (4) The Tobacco Board

90. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched ?

- (1) Fiat — Italy
- (2) Nissan — Japan
- (3) Toyota — Japan
- (4) Hyundai — Germany

91. Consider the following statements—

a. At the time of independence, the Government of India followed the calendar based on Saka era.

2. The National Calendar commenced on Chaitra 1 Saka, 1879 corresponding to 22 March 1957 A.D.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (1) a only
- (2) b only
- (3) Both a and b
- (4) Neither a nor b

92. The Sun Temple of Konark was built by Narasimhadeva I. To which dynasty did he belong to ?

- (1) Somavamsi dynasty
- (2) Imperial Ganga dynasty
- (3) Suryavamsi Gajapati dynasty
- (4) Bhoi dynasty

93. Which of the following is a rich source of energy ?

- (1) Protein
- (2) Lipid
- (3) Carbohydrate
- (4) Vitamin

94. In human body, what is the number of cervical vertebrae ?

- (1) 5
- (2) 7
- (3) 8
- (4) 12

95. The terms Lubb and Dubb relate to which one of the following ?

- (1) Heart
- (2) Eyes
- (3) Teeth
- (4) Lungs

96. In normal adult human, what is the rate of heartbeat per minute ?

- (1) 72–80
- (2) 70–75
- (3) 80–97
- (4) 82–87

97. Which one of the following is considered as the easily digestible source of protein ?

- (1) Egg albumin

- (2) Soyabean
- (3) Fish flesh
- (4) Red meat

98. Which of the following plants is not capable of manufacturing own food ?

- (1) Algae
- (2) Mushroom
- (3) Carrot
- (4) Cabbage

99. Which one of the following peaks is the highest ?

- (1) Nanda Devi
- (2) Kanchenjunga
- (3) Godwin Austen
- (4) Nanga Parbat

100. Which one of the following is the correct order in which the following cities are located from West to East ?

- (1) Alwar – Gorakhpur – Ranchi – Bhagalpur
- (2) Bhagalpur – Ranchi – Alwar – Gorakhpur
- (3) Ranchi – Alwar – Bhagalpur – Gorakhpur
- (4) Gorakhpur – Bhagalpur – Ranchi – Alwar

101. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched ?

Country / Currency

- (1) Myanmar / Baht
- (2) Thailand / Kyat
- (3) Cambodia / Riel
- (4) Vietnam / Rupiah

102. Which waterway separates India from Sri Lanka ?

- (1) Eight Degree Channel
- (2) Palk Strait
- (3) Ten Degree Channel
- (4) Andaman Sea

103. Which one of the following countries is not a UN member country ?

- (1) Greece
- (2) Taiwan

- (3) Portugal  
(4) Australia

104. Consider the following statements—  
The South-West Monsoon originates in India due to—

- a. low pressure in the Punjab plain  
b. high pressure in areas South of India  
c. equatorial low being filled up by descending air current  
d. the Himalayas

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- (1) a and d only  
(2) a and b only  
(3) a and c only  
(4) b and d only

105. Which one of the following iron and steel plants was established with the British collaboration ?

- (1) Bhilai  
(2) Rourkela  
(3) Bokaro  
(4) Durgapur

106. Which of the following divides India into Northern and Southern parts ?

- (1) Equator  
(2) Tropic of Cancer  
(3) Tropic of Capricorn  
(4) Arctic Circle

107. Which one of the following is the oldest oil refinery in India ?

- (1) Haldia  
(2) Koyalis  
(3) Digboi  
(4) Mathura

108. Consider the following events—

- a. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre  
b. Second Civil Disobedience Movement  
c. Congress Split at Surat  
d. Boycott of Simon Commission

Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the above events ?

- (1) c, a, d, b  
(2) a, d, b, c  
(3) d, b, c, a

- (4) b, c, a, d

109. The characteristic odour of Garlic is due to which one of the following ?

- (1) Chlorine - containing compounds  
(2) Fluorine - containing compounds  
(3) Nitrogen - containing compounds  
(4) Sulphur - containing compounds

110. What does airbag, used for safety of car driver, contain ?

- (1) Sodium bicarbonate  
(2) Sodium Azide  
(3) Sodium nitrite  
(4) Sodium peroxide

111. Which colour of heat radiation represents the highest temperature ?

- (1) Blood red  
(2) Dark cherry  
(3) Salmon  
(4) White

112. Which one of the following is correct ?

A concrete wall generally.

- (1) Only reflects sound  
(2) Only absorbs sound  
(3) Only transmits sound  
(4) Absorbs and transmits sound

113. What would be the best choice for window material to keep the outside heat away ?

- (1) Single-pane glass  
(2) Double-pane glass without a gap in between  
(3) Double-pane glass with water filled in between  
(4) Double-pane glass with air in between

114. Who gave the evidence of the Big-Bang theory ?

- (1) Edwin Hubble  
(2) Albert Einstein  
(3) S. Chandrasekhar  
(4) Stephen Hawking

115. Why is it difficult to see through fog ?

- (1) Rays of light suffer total internal reflection from the fog droplets  
(2) Rays of light are scattered by the fog droplets



- (3) Fog droplets absorb light  
(4) The refractive index of fog is extremely high

**Directions**—(116-119) In the following questions, each item consists of two statements, one labeled as 'Assertion (A)' and the other as 'Reason (R)'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answers to these items using the code given below—

**Codes :**

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are individually true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)  
(2) Both (A) and (R) are individually true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)  
(3) (A) is true but (R) is false  
(4) (A) is false but (R) is true

**116. Assertion (A) :** Steam is more harmful for human body than the boiling water in case of burn.

**Reason (R) :** Boiling water contains more heat than steam.

**117. Assertion (A) :** Red Blood Cells burst when placed in water.

**Reason (R) :** Due to osmosis, water enters into Red Blood Cells.

**118. Assertion (A) :** The percentage of the earth's surface covered by India is 2.4%.

**Reason (R) :** On the Mercator's map of the world, India is shown much smaller than Canada.

**119. Assertion (A) :** An award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a Civil Court.

**Reason (R) :** Award of Lok Adalat is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court.

**120. Match the following features of Indian Constitution and their sources—**

**List-I**

- (a) Bill of Right and Judicial Review.  
(b) Parliamentary System of Democracy.  
(c) Directive Principles.

(d) Residuary Powers with Centre.

**List-II**

- A. England  
B. Ireland  
C. U.S.A.  
D. Canada

**Codes :**

- (a) (b) (c) (d)  
(1) D A B C  
(2) A B C D  
(3) C D B A  
(4) C A B D

**121. What are the essential elements of the State ?**

- (1) Population, Territory, Constitution, Power  
(2) Population, Territory, Government, Sovereignty  
(3) Population, Territory, Political Party, Sovereignty  
(4) Population, Power, Authority, Sovereignty

**122. Which of the following Theories of Origin of State is more appropriate and reliable as it is based on scientific base ?**

- (1) Divine Origin of State  
(2) Force Theory  
(3) Evolutionary Theory  
(4) Social Contract Theory

**123. Marxism believes that the State is—**

- (1) social welfare organization  
(2) a necessary evil  
(3) an instrument of exploitation  
(4) an essentially good

**124. In the Indian Constitution the word secularism means—**

- (1) State has a religion of its own  
(2) State has nothing to do with religion  
(3) State has irreligious  
(4) State tolerates religion without professing any particular religion

**125. Who presides over the Joint Session of the two Houses of the Parliament ?**

- (1) President of India  
(2) Speaker of Lok-Sabha  
(3) Prime Minister  
(4) Leader of Ruling Party

21. Which of the following technique is not adopted by the Pressure Groups ?

- (1) Gherao
- (2) Lobbying
- (3) Propaganda
- (4) Directly Contesting Election

127. The United Nations is financed by—

- (1) The contribution from the Member-States
- (2) Switzerland
- (3) Russia
- (4) America

128. Which one of the following welfare ideals is not found in the list of Directive Principles ?

- (1) Compulsory Primary Education
- (2) Equal Pay for equal work
- (3) Promoting Health Services
- (4) Compulsory Employment

129. Which Amendment was passed for Private Reservation Bill on December 2005 ?

- (1) 102
- (2) 103
- (3) 104
- (4) 105

130. The 6th Schedule of Constitution is not applied on the State—

- (1) Assam
- (2) Meghalaya
- (3) Tripura
- (4) Manipur

131. 'Politics is struggle for power' is said by—

- (1) Marganthau
- (2) Kwisly Right
- (3) Sprout
- (4) Thomson

132. Khilafat Movement subsided because of—

- (1) The concession given to the Muslim by the British
- (2) The accession of Kamal Pasha to the throne of Turkey
- (3) The understanding reached between the Congress and the Muslim League

(4) None of the above

133. The concept of 'Rule of Law' was given by—

- (1) A.V. Dicey
- (2) Laski
- (3) Austin
- (4) Maciver

134. The centre-point of International Relations is—

- (1) Struggle
- (2) Power
- (3) National Interest
- (4) None of the above

135. Who is known as a 'Prophet of empty liberty' ?

- (1) Bentham
- (2) Mill
- (3) Laski
- (4) Maciver

136. Which is not a key feature of State ?

- (1) State is sovereign
- (2) The State is an exercise in legislation
- (3) The State is an instrument of domination
- (4) The State is not a territorial association

137. Who made the statement "State is prior to individual" ?

- (1) Plato
- (2) Aristotle
- (3) Cicero
- (4) Augustine

138. Who said that imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism ?

- (1) Lenin
- (2) Stalin
- (3) Mao
- (4) Marx

139. An Estimate Committee is—

- (1) Permanent
- (2) Temporary
- (3) Both
- (4) None of these

140. Which Political Scientist gave a new dimension to the concept of Justice, Liberalism and Equality ?

- (1) John Rawls
- (2) Arthur Bentley
- (3) Karl Marx
- (4) Hans Morgenthau

141. According to Kautilya, 'Trivarg' includes

- (1) Arth-Kama-Dharma
- (2) Arth-Kama-Moksha
- (3) Dharma-Artha-Moksha
- (4) Arth-Dharma-Moksha

142. Which Article of the Constitution defines the duties of Chief Minister ?

- (1) Article 163
- (2) Article 164
- (3) Article 166
- (4) Article 167

143. Which one of the following are the devices of democracy which are commonly practised in modern times ?

- a. Widening of the Electorate.
- b. Frequent Election.
- c. Local Self Government.
- d. Responsibility of the Government to the majority party.

Select correct answers from the following—

- (1) a and b
- (2) b and c
- (3) a, b and c
- (4) a, b, c and d

144. In which part of the Constitution proclaims India to be a welfare State ?

- (1) Part III
- (2) Part IV
- (3) Part IX
- (4) Part VI

145. Which of the following included in the State list in the Constitution of India ?

- a. Police
- b. Law and order
- c. Prisons
- d. Criminal Procedure Code

Choose correct answers from the code given below—

- (1) a, b and c
- (2) a, b and d
- (3) a, c and d
- (4) b, c and d

146. Which of the following are not matched properly ?

- (1) Mahatma Gandhi–Non-cooperation Movement
- (2) Vinoba Bhave–Bhoodan
- (3) M. N. Roy–Partyless Democracy
- (4) J. L. Nehru–Democratic Socialism

147. Which U.S. Resolution proposed the 'STAR-WARS' programme ?

- (1) Nixon
- (2) Kennedy
- (3) Reagan
- (4) Bush

148. Consider the following statement and select correct answer from the codes given below—

**Assertion (A) :** The islands along the mid Atlantic Ridge are highly prone to volcanic activity.

**Reason (R) :** The sea floor spreading is the main cause of earthquakes in the Atlantic Ocean.

**Codes :**

- (1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (2) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (4) (A) is false, but (R) is true

149. Arrange the following lakes in descending order according to area and select the correct answer using the code given below—

- a. Huron
- b. Michigan
- c. Superior
- d. Victoria

**Codes :**

- (1) c d a b
- (2) c d b a
- (3) d c b a
- (4) d c a b

150. Match the List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below—

**List-I (Country)**

- (a) Austria
- (b) Albania
- (c) Hungary
- (d) Slovenia

**List-II (Capital)**

- A. Budapest
- B. Ljubljana
- C. Vienna
- D. Tirana

**Codes :**

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (1) c d a b
- (2) c d b a
- (3) a c b d
- (4) d b c a

**ANSWER**

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (1) 6. (1) 7. (4) 8. (4) 9. (3) 10. (3) 11. (3) 12. (2) 13. (1) 14. (2) 15. (2) 16. (4) 17. (1) 18. (4) 19. (3) 20. (1) 21. (4) 22. (2) 23. (1) 24. (1) 25. (1) 26. (1) 27. (3) 28. (1) 29. (2) 30. (3) 31. (4) 32. (2) 33. (1) 34. (1) 35. (3) 36. (2) 37. (4) 38. (1) 39. (4) 40. (2) 41. (2) 42. (1) 43. (1) 44. (1) 45. (4) 46. (2) 47. (4) 48. (4) 49. (3) 50. (1) 51. (3) 52. (2) 53. (4) 54. (2) 55. (1) 56. (4) 57. (4) 58. (3) 59. (2) 60. (1) 61. (4) 62. (3) 63. (4) 64. (1) 65. (4) 66. (3) 67. (3) 68. (4) 69. (4) 70. (3) 71. (3) 72. (4) 73. (2) 74. (4) 75. (1) 76. (1) 77. (4) 78. (3) 79. (4) 80. (1) 81. (3) 82. (3) 83. (2) 84. (2) 85. (2) 86. (4) 87. (4) 88. (2) 89. (3) 90. (4) 91. (2) 92. (2) 93. (3) 94. (2) 95. (1) 96. (1) 97. (2) 98. (2) 99. (3) 100. (1) 101. (3) 102. (2) 103. (2) 104. (3) 105. (4) 106. (2) 107. (3) 108. (1) 109. (4) 110. (2) 111. (4) 112. (4) 113. (4) 114. (4) 115. (2) 116. (3) 117. (1) 118. (2) 119. (3) 120. (4) 121. (2) 122. (3) 123. (3) 124. (4) 125. (2) 126. (4) 127. (1) 128. (4) 129. (3) 130. (4) 131. (1) 132. (2) 133. (1) 134. (3) 135. (2) 136. (4) 137. (2) 138. (1) 139. (1) 140. (1) 141. (1) 142. (1) 143. (3) 144. (2) 145. (1) 146. (3) 147. (3) 148. (2) 149. (1) 150. (1)



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## QUESTIONS BASED ON CURRENT AFFAIRS



1. Which of the following organization/agencies has established a fund known as 'Investor protection fund' ?

- (A) SEBI
- (B) NABARD
- (C) Bombay Stock Exchange
- (D) AMFI

Ans : (C)

2. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below—

List-I (Ridge/Plateau)

- (a) Amsterdam—St. Paul Plateau
- (b) Challenger Rise
- (c) Dolphin Rise
- (d) Juan De-Fuca

List-II (Ocean)

- 1. North Pacific Ocean
- 2. Indian Ocean
- 3. South Atlantic Ocean
- 4. North Atlantic Ocean

Codes :

—(a) (b) (c) (d)

- (A) 2 4 3 1
- (B) 2 3 4 1
- (C) 3 2 1 4
- (D) 3 2 4 1

Ans : (B)

3. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below—

List-I (Climatic type)

- (a) Tropical Rain forest
- (b) Tropical Savanna climate
- (c) Mediterranean climate
- (d) Humid Sub-tropical climate

List-II (Region)

- 1. Just at the fringe of Sahara
- 2. Western Africa near Equator
- 3. North-West USA
- 4. South Africa

Codes :

—(a) (b) (c) (d)

- (A) 1 2 4 3
- (B) 2 1 4 3
- (C) 2 1 3 4
- (D) 1 2 3 4

Ans : (B)

4. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below—

List-I (Ocean Current)

- (a) Agulhas Current
- (b) El Nino Current
- (c) Kuroshio Current
- (d) Benguela Current

List-II (Name of Ocean)

- 1. North Pacific Ocean
- 2. South Atlantic Ocean
- 3. South Pacific Ocean
- 4. Indian Ocean

Codes :

—(a) (b) (c) (d)

- (A) 4 3 1 2
- (B) 4 3 2 1
- (C) 3 4 1 2
- (D) 3 4 2 1

Ans : (A)

5. The International Airport of Washington D.C. is known as—

- (A) George Bush International Airport
- (B) Dulles International Airport
- (C) Heathrow International Airport
- (D) Gatwick International Airport

Ans : (B)

6. The concept of Continental Drift was propounded by—

- (A) Holms
- (B) Wegener
- (C) Kober
- (D) Daly

Ans : (B)



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7. The Tetrahedral Theory was propounded by—

- (A) Wegener
- (B) Joly
- (C) Lowthian Green
- (D) Jaffreys

Ans : (C)

8. The author of Anthropogeography was—

- (A) Ratzel F.
- (B) Semple
- (C) Ritter C.
- (D) Huntington

Ans : (A)

9. Which one of the following statements is not correct ?

- (A) For Baltic region and France the conical projection with two standard parallel is most appropriate
- (B) Trans-Siberian railways can best be shown on conical projection with one standard parallel
- (C) International map projection is a modified Bonne's projection
- (D) Bonne's projection is a modified conical projection

Ans : (C)

10. Consider the following statement and select the correct answer from the codes given below—

Assertion (A) : The Mollweid Projection was propounded by a British Cartographer.

Reason (R) : Mollweid Projection is an equal area projection.

Codes :

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true

Ans : (D)

11. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below—

List-I (Projection)

- (a) Bonne's Projection
- (b) Gall's Projection
- (c) Cylindrical Projection
- (d) Mercator's Projection

List-II (Property)

- 1. Length of equator is 2pR
- 2. Pole is a straight line
- 3. All parallels are standard parallels
- 4. The scale along the parallels and meridians is the same at a point

Codes :

—(a) (b) (c) (d)

(A) 3 2 4 1

(B) 3 1 2 4

(C) 1 3 4 2

(D) 1 3 2 4

Ans : (A)

12. Consider the following statement and select the correct answer from the codes given below—

Assertion (A) : Hydergraph is based on rainfall and temperature data was developed by

Griffith Taylor.

Reason (R) : Hydergraph was developed by Griffith Taylor.

Codes :

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)

(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false

(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true

Ans : (A)

13. The term 'Economic and Social Planning' is included in Indian Constitution. In which part of following this provision has been made ?

- (A) Directive Principles for State Policy
- (B) Preamble of Constitution
- (C) Union List
- (D) Concurrent List

Ans : (D)

14. Match list-I with list-II and select the correct answer—

List-I (Kind of Budget)

- (a) Line Item Budget
- (b) Performance Budget
- (c) Planning Programming Budget.
- (d) Zero-based Budget.



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**List-II (Basic Orientation of Budget)**

1. Control
2. Decision making
3. Management
4. Planning

Codes :

- (a) (b) (c) (d)  
 (A) 1 3 4 2  
 (B) 1 3 2 4  
 (C) 1 2 3 4  
 (D) 1 4 2 3

Ans : (A)

15. The reservation in appointments in favour of any backward class has a constitutional base. In which Article of Indian Constitution such provision has been made ?

- (A) Article 16(i)  
 (B) Article 16(ii)  
 (C) Article 16(iii)  
 (D) Article 16(iv)

Ans : (D)

16. Match list-I with list-II and select the correct—  
 List-I (Item)

- (a) Constitution of Municipalities  
 (b) Reservation of seats in Municipal bodies.  
 (c) State Finance Commission.  
 (d) Term of Municipalities.

List-II (Articles of the Constitution)

1. 343 Q  
 2. 243 T  
 3. 243 Y  
 4. 243 U

Codes :

- (a) (b) (c) (d)  
 (A) 1 2 4 3  
 (B) 1 2 3 4  
 (C) 3 2 1 4  
 (D) 1 4 3 2

Ans : (B)

Directions—(17-18) The following two items consists of two statements, one labelled as the 'Assertion' (A) and the

other as 'Reason' (R). Carefully examine these two statements and select the answers to these items using codes given below—

Codes :

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
 (B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not correct explanation of (A).  
 (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.  
 (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Ans : (B)

17. Assertion (A) : The Council of Ministers shall be collective responsible to the House of People.

Reason (R) : The Minister shall hold office during the pleasure of President.

Ans : (B)

18. Assertion (A) : Ordinances should be promulgated only where absolutely necessary. A responsible Government should be careful about it.

Reason (R) : It gives the executive a clear power to legislate and is an encroachment on the jurisdiction of the Parliament.

Ans : (C)

19. Consider the following advantages claimed by the Centre for All India Services—

1. Control over State Administration.
2. Uniformed and highly standard of recruitment and training.
3. Experience is beneficial to both Centre and State.
4. Develop all India out-look.

Which are correct in above ?

- (A) 1, 2 and 3  
 (B) 2, 3 and 4  
 (C) 1, 3 and 4  
 (D) 1, 2 and 4

Ans : (B)

20. As per reports in the newspapers the Indian Rupee is appreciating these days. What does it really mean it ?

- (1) The value of the Rupee has gone up. It is now 110 paise and not 100 paise.  
 (2) The exchange rate of Rupee has gone up.

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(3) Now we can purchase more in one Rupee which was not possible earlier.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Both 1 & 2

Ans : (B)

21. The US Federal Reserve had recently reduced the interest rates by 150 basis points in the last few months. This was done because—

- (A) US was going into recession.
- (B) Inflation was high in countries like India and China hence a correction in economic policies by all the countries was needed.
- (C) Euro had become more attractive currency, hence US wanted to save dollars from further depreciation.
- (D) Iraq had become a very lucrative destination for foreign investment. US does not want it to happen.

Ans : (A)

22. The Stock market index of London Stock Market is referred as—

- (A) Sensex
- (B) Footsie (FTSE)
- (C) NIFTY
- (D) Bullish

Ans : (B)

23. As we all know Ministry of Finance every year prepare Union Budget and present it to the parliament. Which of the following is / are the elements of the Union Budget ?

- (1) Estimates of revenue and capital receipts.
- (2) Ways and Means : to raise the revenue.
- (3) Estimates of expenditure.
- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (D)

24. Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) has Nordic Monitors from five nations. Which of the following is NOT one of them?

- (A) India
- (B) Sweden

- (C) Norway
- (D) Denmark

Ans : (A)

25. The Govt. of India has fixed some targets for various programmes for the entire plan period/or a part of it. Which of the following is/are TRUE about the Bharat Nirman Programme?

- (1) The plan envisages irrigation of 10 million hectares additional land.
- (2) It is planned that about six hundred km. of new roads will be developed every month.
- (3) About 1000 new telephone connections will be given to rural areas every month so that by the end of the plan all villages in India are brought under telephone services network.
- (A) Only (1) is true
- (B) Only (2) is true
- (C) Only (3) is true
- (D) All (1), (2) & (3) are true

Ans : (A)

26. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with which of the following countries which says they will create a "Multi Polar Order" based on the rule of law, sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs of States?

- (A) USA
- (B) Russia
- (C) China
- (D) Britain

Ans : (B)

27. Yousuf Raza Gillani who was elected the Prime Minister of Pakistan is from which political parties?

- (A) Jamiat-e-Ulema Islami
- (B) Pakistan People's Party
- (C) Awami National Party
- (D) Muslim League

Ans : (B)

28. As per the Govt. Notifications / Advertisements given in various newspapers the wheat procurement this year was of a record of 210 lakh MTs. Which of the following was/were the contributory factors in such a record making?



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ing procurement?

(1) Minimum support price was keep as Rs. 1,500/- per quintal.

(2) Wheat was also procured from non-traditional State like Gujrat and Maharashtra

(3) State Govt. were also involved actively in the Scheme

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) Both 1 & 2

Ans : (D)

29. Very often we read in newspapers that some sports persons have to go for a Dope Test after their performance in the field. Why Dope Test is conducted ?

(1) To know the general health of the sports person

(2) To know the sugar level of their blood

(3) To detect whether they have taken any performance inhancing drugs

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (C)

30. The Reserve Bank of India keeps on changing various ratio/rates frequently. Why this is done?

(1) To keep inflation under control.

(2) To ensure that Indian Rupee does not loose its market value.

(3) To ensure that Banks do not earn huge profits at the cost of public money.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (D)

31. Which of the following is true about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act?

(1) It is applicable only in 100 rural districts.

(2) It gives a guaranteed employment of 100 days to all those who are eligible for the same and are also willing to take it.

(3) This Act is applicable only for men between the age of

21-65. Women do not get the benefit of the same.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (B)

31. Which of the following is NOT one of the recommendations of the committee setup on Financial Sector Reforms under the Chairmanship of Raghuram G.Rajan ?

(1) Give more freedoms to banks to setup branches and ATMS anywhere

(2) Setup an office of financial ombudsmen

(3) All deposits taking institutions should be free from the supervision of the RBI

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (A)

32. The Govt. of which of the following States has formed a Fisherman Debt Commission and a moratorium has been placed on proceedings relating to all debts incurred by poor fisherman from banks and cooperatives?

(A) West Bengal

(B) Keral

(C) Orissa

(D) Karnataka

Ans : (B)

33. Which of the following was the issue over which one section of the UPA withdrew its support and Union Govt. headed by Dr. Man Mohan Singh was required to prove its majority in the Lok Sabha ?

(1) Inflation, which was on a rise consistently for some time

(2) Reservations of Gurjars in Govt. jobs

(3) Nuclear deal with USA

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) Both 1 & 2

Ans : (C)

34. As a gesture to promote denuclearization and also to



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end nuclear arms programme the cooling tower of a nuclear complex situated in "Youngbyon" was demolished recently. This nuclear complex is in which of the following countries?

- (A) South Korea
- (B) Iran
- (C) China
- (D) North Korea

Ans : (D)

35. China has signed an agreement with which of the following countries, which will help both the parties to make the East China Sea "a sea of peace, co-operation and friendship"?

- (A) North Korea
- (B) South Korea
- (C) Japan
- (D) Russia

Ans : (C)

36. Which of the following companies of Indian origin has been placed amongst the World's seven Best Firms in Financial Sector ?

- (A) IDBI Bank
- (B) HDFC Bank
- (C) Bajaj Capitals
- (D) ICICI Bank

Ans : (B)

37. Michel Sleiman has taken over as the president of—

- (A) Lebanon
- (B) Cuba
- (C) Yemen
- (D) Zambia

Ans : (A)

38. Which of the following is/are true about the "Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana" to be launched in the near future ?

- (1) This scheme is to develop those villages where SC/ST population is in prominence
  - (2) About 70,000 villages are identified for the same
  - (3) A special fund of Rs.7,000 Crore is setup for the scheme
- (A) Only 1

- (B) only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (A)

39. Which of the following countries had decided to come out of the membership of OPEC ?

- (A) Iran
- (B) Indonesia
- (C) Kuwait
- (D) Saudi Arabia

Ans : (B)

40. Many Banks have adopted / launched "Core Banking Solution (CBS)". Core Banking Solution is—

- (A) a marketing strategy adopted by the Banks
- (B) a new type of ATM useful for rural population
- (C) a delivery channel for quick and fast delivery
- (D) a new product launched to help senior citizens only as they are not able to visit branches / ATMs frequently

Ans : (C)

41. As per the figures released recently, the rate of growth of agriculture during 2007-08 has been at the level of approximately—

- (A) 2.5 %
- (B) 3 %
- (C) 4.5 %
- (D) 5 %

Ans : (C)

42. The National e-Governance plan was launched by the Govt. of India in the year 2006 with which of the following intentions/objectives?

- (1) To provide qualitative service of Govt. business to the citizens of India
  - (2) To promote IT sector in India so that trained IT personnel do not go out of the country for jobs
  - (3) To keep a vigil on the business transaction of Indian population to avoid illegal transactions
- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2



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(C) Only 3  
(D) All 1, 2 & 3  
Ans : (A)

43. Who amongst the following is included in the list of "Biggest Brains in Business"?  
(A) L. N. Mittal  
(B) Anil Ambani  
(C) Kumar Mangalam Birla  
(D) Mukesh Ambani  
Ans : (A)

44. Which of the following cannot be called as a value Added service offered by a Bank?  
(A) Special accounts for poor sections of the society  
(B) Accident insurance cover  
(C) Instant Credits of Outstation Cheques  
(D) Free cheque book  
Ans : (D)

44. Which of the following is the total amount Government of India has earmarked for Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme 2008?  
(A) Rs.10,000 Crore  
(B) Rs.25,000 Crore  
(C) Rs.45,000 Crore  
(D) Rs.72,000 Crore  
Ans : (D)

45. Which of the following States of India was recognized as the Best e- Governed State in 2007 ?  
(A) Jammu & Kashmir  
(B) Tamil Nadu  
(C) Chhattisgarh  
(D) Goa  
Ans : (C)

46. Daiichi Sanyo which has taken a major stake in India's Pharma company Ranbaxy is a firm based in—  
(A) China  
(B) South Korea  
(C) North Korea  
(D) Japan  
Ans : (D)

47. Which of the following airlines became the first Indian Based Airlines to operate flight to China?  
(A) Indian  
(B) Air India  
(C) Kingfisher  
(D) Jet Airways  
Ans : (D)

48. India recently signed a Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (BIPA) with which of the following countries ?  
(A) China  
(B) Myanmar (C) Nepal  
(D) Bhutan  
Ans : (B)

49. Opening the Saving Bank Account of a minor girl will be called as which of the following in Banking terminology ?  
(A) Retail Banking  
(B) Merchant Banking  
(C) Institutional Banking  
(D) Social Banking  
Ans : (A)

50. Who amongst the following is the recipient of the IIFA Awards 2008 as Best Actress?  
(A) Kareena Kapoor  
(B) Rani Mukherjee  
(C) Priyanka Chopra  
(D) Konkana Sen  
Ans : (A)

51. Who amongst the following is the author of the book "Toward a Hunger Free World" ?  
(A) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam  
(B) Ashok Lahiri  
(C) Amartya Sen  
(D) M. S. Swaminathan  
Ans : (D)

52. Sudan recently cut its relations with which of the following countries following an attack on Khartoum by a



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Darfur Rebel Group ?

- (A) Chad
- (B) Uganda
- (C) Libya
- (D) Lebanon

Ans : (A)

53. Who amongst the following is the Chairperson of the Children's Film Society?

- (A) Nafisa Ali
- (B) Jaya Bachchan
- (C) Shabana Azmi
- (D) Sridevi

Ans : (A)

54. Which of the following is the abbreviated name of an autonomous organization under Ministry of Rural Development ?

- (A) NIMI
- (B) IGNOU
- (C) CAPART
- (D) NPCIL

Ans : (C)

55. Who amongst the following is the author of "Animal People" which was adjudged as the Best Book of the Year?

- (A) V.S.Naipaul
- (B) Indra Sinha
- (C) William Darlymple
- (D) Bill Clinton

Ans : (B)

56. What is India's rating in the "Doing Business Report" prepared by the World Bank ?

- (A) 55th
- (B) 80th
- (C) 100th
- (D) 120th

Ans : (D)

57. The Russian President visited China in May 2008 and signed a deal for the security of which of the following?

- (A) Global Energy
- (B) China Sea

- (C) Intellectual Property Rights of the Chinese Scientists
- (D) Nuclear installation in China

Ans : (D)

58. Which of the following Programmes / Schemes of the Govt. of India is NOT directly related with agriculture activities ?

- (A) Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP)
- (B) Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- (C) Integrated Westlands Development Programme (IWDP)
- (D) ANNAPURNA

Ans : (D)

59. Which of the following types of Banks are allowed to operate foreign currency accounts ?

- (1) Foreign Banks
- (2) Regional Rural Banks
- (3) Nationalized Banks
- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 1, 2 and 3

Ans : (D)

60. The 'Aurora Borealis' occurs in the—

- (A) Exosphere
- (B) Ionosphere
- (C) Ozonosphere
- (D) Stratosphere

Ans : (B)

61. The rise of the 'BRICs' has left a vast impact on almost all aspects of the global economy. However, which of the following cannot be called as the direct effect(s) of 'Rise of the BRICs' on global/other powerful economy/economies ?

- 1. Countries like China wish to learn more about outsourcing from India.
- 2. It has made countries to suffer from Sub-prime Crisis.
- 3. EURO has become a powerful currency and many non-Euro countries are in 'Swap Agreement' with various nations.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2



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- (C) Only 3  
(D) All 1, 2 and 3  
Ans : (B)

62. Jang Hyun Jong who was adjudged as the 'Asian Hockey Player of the year' is from—  
(A) China  
(B) Singapore  
(C) South Korea  
(D) India  
Ans : (C)

63. What is QUARK2009?  
(A) Technical festival  
(B) Cultural festival  
(C) Handicraft festival  
(D) None of the above  
Ans (A)

64. Which of the following statement(s) reflects India's stand on new World Trade Organization's proposal on the issue of the subsidy to agro products ?  
(1) India would protect the interest of its poor farmers who can not bear the burden of the cost of the products if they have to sell them on cheaper rate.  
(2) Indian industry needs more flexibility as compared to the industry in developed countries.  
(3) WTO has set up a new committee under the chairmanship of Putin of Russia to look into the issue of subsidy and find out a solution to the problem acceptable to all the parties.  
(A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Only 3  
(D) Both 1 & 2  
Ans : (A)

65. Which of the following statement(s) is / are true about the 11th five year plan of India ?  
(1) The highest priority is given to exports, education and development of steel sector.  
(2) The plan aims at achieving the growth at 10 % level by the end of the plan.  
(3) The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is revived in such a way so that it can be achieve a growth of 4 % for agricul-

ture sector.  
(A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Only 3  
(D) Both 1 & 2  
Ans : (D)

66. Which of the following statement (s) is / are correct about the Indo-Russia Bilateral Defence Ties ?  
(1) Both the countries have decided to produce a fifth generation fighter aircraft and a multi role cargo plane.  
(2) India has agreed to launch Russian missiles from its base at Chandipur in case some other nation attacks on Russia  
(3) India and Russia were able to sort out differences over the utilization of Rupee debt fund which is of Rs. 8000 crore at present.  
(A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Only 3  
(D) Both 1 & 3 only  
Ans : (A)

67. Which of the following is / are correct about sub prime crisis which was in news recently?  
(1) It has reduced the flow of capital coming of Indian Stock Markets.  
(2) The sub prime crisis is the major financial crisis whose origin is in the Russia and Brazil. It has adversely affected the economy of Europe and USA.  
(3) The crisis started when some people started trading with false Share certificates of major blue chip US companies in the stock markets.  
(A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Only 3  
(D) Both 1 & 2  
Ans : (D)

68. As we all know the value of the Indian rupee has appreciated in the recent past. The value of the Rupee is direct dependent on which of the following?  
(A) Availability of commodities in the market.  
(B) VAT introduced by the Govt. on various commodities.



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(C) Size of total Forex Reserve of India currently.  
(D) Capital flow in the market during a given period of time.

Ans : (A)

68. In which country world social forum was held recently?

- (A) Brazil
- (B) Switzerland
- (C) China
- (D) Mexico

Ans: (A)

69. Which of the following statements reflects the aim(s) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)?

- (1) Give focused attention to integrated development of infrastructure in selected cities.
- (2) Provide basic services to the urban poor.
- (3) Scale up civic amenities and provision of utilities in urban areas.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (D)

70. The Press Freedom Day is observed on which of the following days?

- (A) 1st May
- (B) 1st June
- (C) 3rd May
- (D) 3rd June

Ans : (C)

71. As per the decision taken by the Govt. of India now the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is extended to all the districts of India. This means : it will now be applicable to about—

- (A) 200 districts
- (B) 300 districts
- (C) 400 districts
- (D) 600 districts

Ans : (D)

72. The Govt. of India and Reserve Bank of India is planning to set up an autonomous "ATM corporation of India" in which various banks can get together for common ATM operations. If this happens how will we all be benefited by the same?

- (1) It will be a cost effective measure as each bank can share its operational cost with others.
- (2) Clients can withdraw money from any ATM from any location. They are not required to go to their banks' ATM only.
- (3) It will indirectly help the IT business also as India has a large pool of IT skilled manpower waiting for suitable placement.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 & 2
- (D) All 1, 2 & 3

Ans : (C)

73. The Govt. of India had constituted a high level committee on financial sector reforms with Raghuram G. Rajan as its Chairman. Which of the following is / are the recommendations of the committee?

- (1) Liberalize the interest rate that banks/institution can charge to ensure credit for poor.
- (2) Create an office of the Ombudsman exclusively for financial sector.
- (3) Do not allow foreign investors in domestic stock markets.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2 & 3
- (C) Both 1 & 2
- (D) None of these

Ans : (D)

74. In which of the following state, first coastal police station is set up?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Tamilnadu
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Kerala

Ans : (D)



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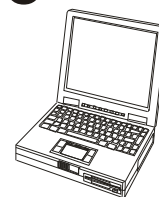
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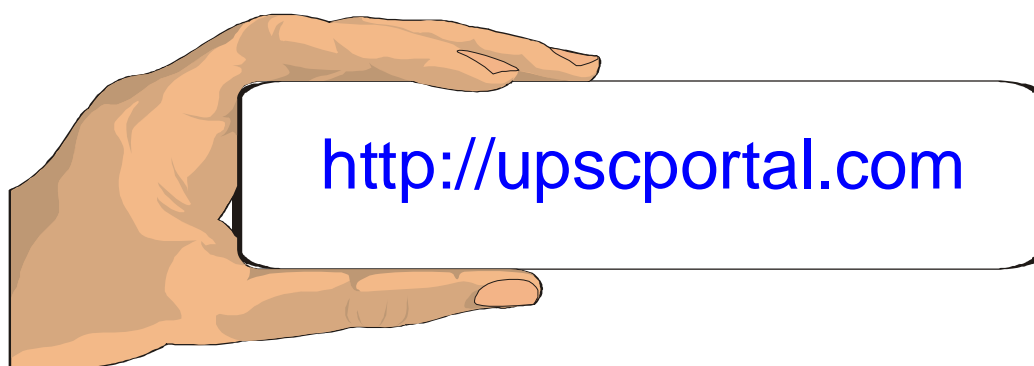
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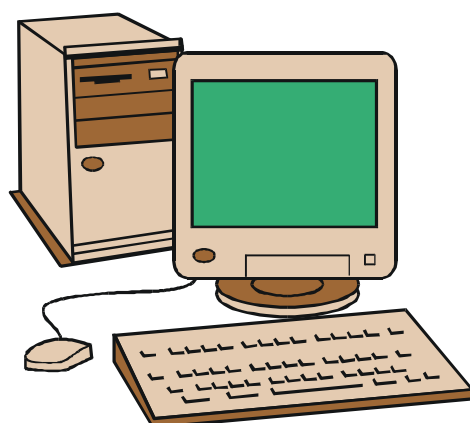
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