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January-2010

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Go On Run and Take Off... but do not Fall...

Hello!

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Candidates of all categories have to follow different and a unique strategy suited best to them. No change in pattern for this year's exam is a great relief to those who are taking last or second last attempt.

The examination pattern has not been changed this year, which was the most rumoured issue among the candidates and coaching institutes. Optional subjects at preliminary exams are intact at least for year 2010. One thing also very important to those candidates, who did very well at their mains 2009 and with the preparation of personality test also preparing for preliminary 2010, they have to adopt very judicious strategy for their preparation. No doubt success is very important but in case of getting lower rank or failure, qualify at this preliminary is very crucial.

Now with the entering in its tenth month "ASPIRANTS TIMES" is also ready to take both responsibilities at the same time. We have started series for preliminary and also determined to provide sufficient issues for interview exam.

In this 10th volume of Aspirants Times, we have presented the Articles India-Russia Relation, Indian River system, Hindi articles. In the section of Hot topics Right to Recall, India, Canada reach civil nuclear agreement. Also Current Affairs and Sports & awards included. At last Comprehensive Study of General Studies PART -1

"History of Modern India: At a Glance" for the preparation of general studies of 2010 pre examination.

Aspirants Times greets a very happy new year 2010.

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India-Russia Relation

New Path: Breaking Nuclear Deal

By: Ram Kumar Pandey



India and Russia signed a path-breaking broad-based agreement in civil nuclear field that will ensure transfer of technology and uninterrupted uranium fuel supplies to its nuclear reactors and inked three pacts in the defence sector on 7 December 2009.

// Two countries have identified areas like information technology and communication for giving that impetus. Countries have decided to raise the level of bilateral trade from the present level to \$30 billion by 2015. //

--

Mr. Manmohan Singh



The agreements were signed after talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the Kremlin, during which they discussed a whole range of issues, including terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister said the agreement will deepen and strengthen the already existing nuclear cooperation between the two countries under which four new nuclear reactors would be set up by Russia in Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu and a site for the fifth one has been identified in West Bengal. The Prime Minister said the agreement on nuclear co-operation is a major step forward and that both the leaders were satisfied over the agreement on nuclear power cooperation.

The two sides also signed agreements on extending their long term military cooperation programme for another ten years till 2020, on the after sales and product support of the Russian origin military hardware and a protocol for the joint development and production of multi-role transport aircraft for the armed forces.

Singh and Medvedev also discussed regional issues, including the situation in Afghanistan, in which both the countries have a stake and favoured a "stable and prosperous" Afghanistan.

India and Russia will intensify cooperation to meet the grave challenges of terrorism and religious extremism. Noting that he was visiting Russia for the second time in six months, Singh said this reflected the close ties between the two countries. He said Russia is a major power and a factor of peace and stability in the international system. India accords highest priority in its relations with Russia and this relationship stands on a firm footing and is not influenced by relations with any other country.

Calling Indo-Russian relationship as "multi- dimensional and multi-faceted", he said the two countries have decided to raise the level of bilateral trade from the present level to \$30 billion by 2015. He said the two countries have identified areas like information technology and communication for giving that impetus.

The agreement is considered by India as a "major improvement" over the 123 pact with the US which provides for not just termination of ongoing cooperation but also for the return to the country of

already supplied components and fuel in the event of the accord being scrapped.

Agreement on Gorshkov

India and Russia have reached a broad agreement to break the logjam over the protracted price renegotiation over Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier.

Seeking to resolve the Gorshkov price issue, an irritant in bilateral ties, the two countries have worked out a general agreement. A pact in this regard, however, is unlikely to be signed.

The Prime Minister arrived on a three-day visit, his sixth trip to Russia since 2004, that will also see the inking of three agreements in the field of defence, including one for ending ad-hocism in servicing Russian military equipment.

Russia Against Expansion of N-Club

Russian Federation President Dmitri Medvedev said the civil nuclear cooperation pact with India would not be affected by the G8 statement on restricting enrichment and reprocessing tech to non-NPT nations.

In an important clarification, Medvedev also noted that Russia did not support any addition to the club of N-weapon states, which has implications on the country's position in Iran. Also commenting on proliferation fears, he made a fairly direct reference to Pakistan noting that N-weapons should not be "held hostage to terror".

Indian sources said the agreement on civil nuclear cooperation covers research and development, nuclear plants, upfront consent for reprocessing and fuel supply guarantees. On fuel supply, it states that any abrogation of the bilateral agreement is without prejudice to ongoing contracts and fuel supplies.

The nuclear agreement signed between India and Russia is expected to provide momentum to India's

nuclear trade. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said there would be an addition to the two reactors being developed at Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu while a site was being considered at Haripur in West Bengal.

Later, Department of Atomic Energy chairman Srikumar Banerjee told mediapersons that the site would most probably be offered to the Russians once land clearances were obtained from West Bengal government.

The two sides signed a total of six agreements but the Russians were clearly pleased with the civil nuclear cooperation pact. The reactors, which cost about \$1.5 billion each, will certainly be welcome for a Russian economy that is simply not doing too well.

Banerjee also spoke of India's plans for 10,000 mw capacity which would be a mix of reactors built by foreign suppliers and indigenous 700 mw pressurised heavy water reactors. "The current uranium reserves we have allow us to support 10,000 mw," Banerjee said. Eight 700 mw PHW reactors were being planned at present that would account for 5,600 mw.

There was some good news on the uranium supplies front as potentially minable deposits had been found in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The site in Meghalaya was still affected by environmental issues that were being sorted out. These could improve the uranium availability while India could also consider using foreign sources fuel for safeguarded reactors.

India- Russia Defence Relation

During the Cold War, India and the Soviet Union enjoyed a strong strategic, military, economic and diplomatic relationship. After the collapse of the USSR, India improved its relations with the West but it continued its close relations with Russia. India is the second largest market for Russian arms industry. In 2004, more than 70% of the Indian Military's hardware came from Russia, making

Russia the chief supplier of arms. India has an embassy in Moscow and 2 Consulates-General (in Saint Petersburg and Vladivostok). Russia has an embassy in New Delhi and 4 Consulates-General (in Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai). Since 2000 and the visit of Vladimir Putin in India there have been an Indo-Russian Strategic Partnership.

A cordial relationship with India that began in the 1950s represented the most successful of the Soviet attempts to foster closer relations with Third World countries. The relationship began with a visit by Indian prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the Soviet Union in June 1955 and Khrushchev's return trip to India in the fall of 1955. While in India, Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union supported Indian sovereignty over the disputed territory of the Kashmir region and over Portuguese coastal enclaves.

The Soviet relationship with India rankled the Chinese and contributed to Sino-Soviet enmity during the Khrushchev period. The Soviet Union declared its neutrality during the 1959 border dispute and the Indo-China war of 1962, although the Chinese strongly objected. The Soviet Union gave India substantial economic and military assistance during the Khrushchev period, and by 1960 India had received more Soviet assistance than China had. This disparity became another point of contention in Sino-Soviet relations. In 1962 the Soviet Union agreed to transfer technology to coproduce the MiG-21 jet fighter in India, which the Soviet Union had earlier denied to China.

In 1965 the Soviet Union served successfully as peace broker between India and Pakistan after an Indian-Pakistani border war. The Soviet chairman of the Council of Ministers, Aleksei N. Kosygin, met with representatives of India and Pakistan and helped them negotiate an end to the military conflict over Kashmir.

In 1971 the former East Pakistan region initiated an effort to secede from its political union with West Pakistan. India supported the secession and, as a guarantee against possible Chinese entrance into the conflict on the side of West Pakistan, signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation with

the Soviet Union in August 1971. In December, India entered the conflict and ensured the victory of the secessionists and the establishment of the new state of Bangladesh.

Relations between the Soviet Union and India did not suffer much during the rightist Janata Party's coalition government in the late 1970s, although India did move to establish better economic and military relations with Western countries. To counter these efforts by India to diversify its relations, the Soviet Union proffered additional weaponry and economic assistance.

During the 1980s, despite the 1984 assassination by Sikh extremists of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the mainstay of cordial Indian-Soviet relations, India maintained a close relationship with the Soviet Union. Indicating the high priority of relations with the Soviet Union in Indian foreign policy, the new Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, visited the Soviet Union on his first state visit abroad in May 1985 and signed two long-term economic agreements with the Soviet Union. In turn, Gorbachev's first visit to a Third World state was his meeting with Gandhi in New Delhi in late 1986. Gorbachev unsuccessfully urged Gandhi to help the Soviet Union set up an Asian collective security system. Gorbachev's advocacy of this proposal, which had also been made by Brezhnev, was an indication of continuing Soviet interest in using close relations with India as a means of containing China. With the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations in the late 1980s, containing China had less of a priority, but close relations with India remained important as an example of Gorbachev's new Third World policy.

Defence relations between India and the Russian Federation have a historical perspective. Russia has been an important supplier of defence goods for several decades. Today, the cooperation is not limited to a buyer-seller relationship but includes joint research and development, training, service to service contacts, including joint exercises. The last joint naval exercises took place in April 2007 in the Sea of Japan and joint airborne exercises were held in September 2007 in Russia.

There is an Inter-Governmental commission on military-technical cooperation co-chaired by the two Defence Ministers. The Seventh session of this Inter-Governmental Commission was held in October 2007 in Moscow. During the visit, an Agreement on joint development and production of prospective multi role fighters was signed between the two countries.

India–Russia original co-operation agreement was signed in December 1988. It has seen the trade of a multitude of defence equipment to India and also the emergence of that country as a development partner as opposed to purely a buyer. Two programmes that evidence this approach are the projects to form Indian-Russian joint ventures to develop and produce the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft and the Multirole Transport Aircraft.

India-Russia Major Joint Military Programs

- » BrahMos cruise missile program
- » INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier program
- » 5th generation fighter jet program
- » Sukhoi Su-30MKI program (230+ to be built by Hindustan Aeronautics)
- » Ilyushin/HAL Tactical Transport Aircraft

India Purchased/Leased Military Hardware From Russia

- » T-90S Bhishma program. (1000+ to be built in India)
- » Akula-II nuclear submarine (2 to be leased with an option to buy them when the lease expires)
- » Tu-22M3 bombers (4 ordered)
- » US\$900 million upgrade of MiG-29
- » Mil Mi-17 (80 ordered)
- » Ilyushin Il-76 Candid (6 ordered to fit Israeli Phalcon radar)

“Russia's MiG-35 is competing in the Indian MRCA Competition and is considered to be the front-runner for the winning bid, given India's already, largely Russian-built air force. The Farkhor Air Base in Tajikistan is currently jointly operated by India and Russia.”



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Indian River System

An Overview Over Major Features

By: SANJEEV KUMAR



The rivers of India play an important role in the lives of the Indian people. The river systems provide irrigation, potable water, cheap transportation, electricity, and the livelihoods for a large number of people all over the country. This easily explains why nearly all the major cities of India are located by the banks of rivers. The rivers also have an important role in Hindu mythology and are considered holy by all Hindus in the country.

Seven major rivers along with their numerous tributaries make up the river system of India. Most of the rivers pour their waters into the Bay of Bengal; however, some of the rivers whose courses take them through the western part of the country and towards the east of the state of Himachal Pradesh empty into the Arabian Sea. Parts of Ladakh, northern parts of the Aravalli range and the arid parts of the Thar Desert have inland drainage. All major rivers of India originate from one of the three main watersheds:

- » The Himalaya and the Karakoram ranges
- » Vindhya and Satpura ranges and Chotanagpur plateau in central India
- » Sahyadri or Western Ghats in western India

Indus River System

The Indus River originates in the northern slopes of the Kailash range near Lake Mansarovar in Tibet. Although most of the river's course runs through neighboring Pakistan, a portion of it does run through Indian territory, as do parts of the courses of its five major tributaries, listed below.

These tributaries are the source of the name of the Punjab region of South Asia; the name is derived from the Persian words Punj ("five") and aab ("water"), hence the combination of the words (Punjab) means "five waters" or "land of five waters".

Beas

The Beas originates in Beas Kund, lying near the Rohtang pass. It runs past Manali and Kulu, where its beautiful valley is known as the Kulu valley. It joins the Sutlej river near Harika, after being joined by a few tributaries. The total length of the river is 615 .

Chenab

The Chenab originates from the confluence of two rivers, the Chandra and the Bhaga, It is also known as the Chandrabhaga in Himachal Pradesh. It runs parallel to the Pir It enters the plains of Punjab near Akhnur and is later joined by the Jhelum. It is further joined by the Ravi and the Sutlej in Pakistan.

Jhelum

The Jhelum originates in the south-eastern part of Kashmir, in a spring at Verinag.

Ravi

The Ravi originates near the Rohtang pass in the Himalayas and follows a north-westerly course. It turns to the south-west, near Dalhousie, and then cuts a gorge in the Dhaola Dhar range entering the Punjab plain near Madhopur. It flows as a part of the Indo-Pakistan border for some distance before entering Pakistan and joining the Chenab river.

Sutlej

The Sutlej originates from the Rakas Lake, which is connected to the Mansarovar lake by a stream, in Tibet. It enters Pakistan near Sulemanki, and is later joined by the Chenab. It has a total length of almost 1500 km.

The Brahmaputra River System

The Brahmaputra originates in the Mansarovar lake, also the source of the Indus and the Sutlej. It is slightly longer than the Indus, but most of its course lies outside India. It flows eastward, parallel to the Himalayas. Reaching Namcha Barwa (2900m), it takes a U-turn around it and enters India in Arunachal Pradesh and known as dihang. The undercutting done by this river is of the order of 5500 metres. In India, it flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, and is joined by several tributaries.

Every year during the rainy season, the river overflows its banks, causing widespread devastation like floods in Assam and in Bangladesh. Unlike other north Indian rivers the Brahmaputra is marked by huge deposits of silt on its bed causing it to rise. The river also shifts its channel frequently.

The Narmada River System

The Narmada or Nerbudda is a river in central India. It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India, and is a total of 1,289 km (801 mi) long. Of the major rivers of peninsular India, only the Narmada, the Tapti and the Mahi run from east to west. Its total length through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat amounts to 1,312 kilometres (815 mi), and it empties into the Arabian Sea in the Bharuch district of Gujarat. It also forms the 'Dhuadhar Falls' where the river plunges over steep rocks.

The Tapti River System

The Tapti is a river of central India. It is one of the major rivers of peninsular India with the length of around 724 km. It rises in the eastern Satpura Range of southern Madhya Pradesh state, before emptying into the Gulf of Cambay of the Arabian Sea, in the State of Gujarat. The Western Ghats or Sahyadri range starts south of the Tapti River near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The principal tributaries of Tapti River are Purna River, Girna River, Panzara River, Waghur River, Bori River and Aner River. Car is the rivers food.

The Godavari River System

The river with second longest course within India, Godavari is often referred to as the Vriddh (Old) Ganga or the Dakshin (South) Ganga. The river is about 1,450 km (900 mi) long. It rises at Trimbakeshwar, near Nasik and Mumbai (formerly Bombay) in Maharashtra around 380 km distance from the Arabian Sea, and empties into the Bay of Bengal. At Rajahmundry, 80 km from the coast, the river splits into two streams (Vasista which flows to Narsapur & Gautami which flows to other side pasarlapudi) thus forming a very fertile delta. Like any other major rivers in India, the banks of this river also has many pilgrimage sites, Nasik, Triyambak and Bhadrachalam, being the major ones. It is a seasonal river, widened during the monsoons and dried during the summers. Godavari river water is brownish.

Some of its tributaries include Indravati River, Pranahita (Combination of Penuganga and Warda), Manjira, Bindusara and Sabari kinnerasani. Some important urban centers on its banks include Nasik, Bhadrachalam, Rajahmundry and Narsapur. The Asia's largest rail-come-road bridge on the river Godavari linking Kovvur and Rajahmundry is considered to be an engineering feat.

The Krishna River System

The Krishna is one of the longest rivers of India (about 1300 km in length). It originates at Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra and meets the sea in the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi in Andhra Pradesh. The Krishna River flows through the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The traditional source of the river is a spout from the mouth of a statue of a cow in the ancient temple of Mahadev in Mahabaleshwar.

Its most important tributary is the Tungabhadra River, which itself is formed by the Tunga and Bhadra rivers that originate in the Western Ghats. Other tributaries include the Koyna, Bhima, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga rivers.

In 2009 River Krishna has seen the worst hit floods in 100 years

The Kaveri River System

The Kaveri is one of the great rivers of India and is considered sacred by the Hindus. This river is also called Dakshin Ganga. The headwaters are in the Western Ghats range of Karnataka state, and from Karnataka through Tamil Nadu. It empties into the Bay of Bengal. The source of the river is Talakaveri(Kodagu District) located in the Western Ghats about 5,000 feet (1,500 m) above sea level. It has many tributaries including Shimsha, Hemavati River, Arkavathy, Kapila, Honnuhole, Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Lokapavani, Bhavani, Noyyal and Famous Amaravati. The dam constructed for the river is KRS(Krishna Raja Sagara) by the Highness of Mysore through the well known engineer Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya, which is located in Mandya district and this river is serving as water of life for South Indians.

The Mahanadi River System

The Mahanadi River Delta in India is a basin of deposit that drains a large land mass of the Indian subcontinent into the Bay of Bengal. The alluvial valley is wide and relatively flat with a meandering river channel that changes its course.

The Mahanadi River flows slowly for 560 miles (900 km) and has an estimated drainage area of 51,000 square miles (132,100 square km). It deposits more silt than almost any other river in the Indian subcontinent.

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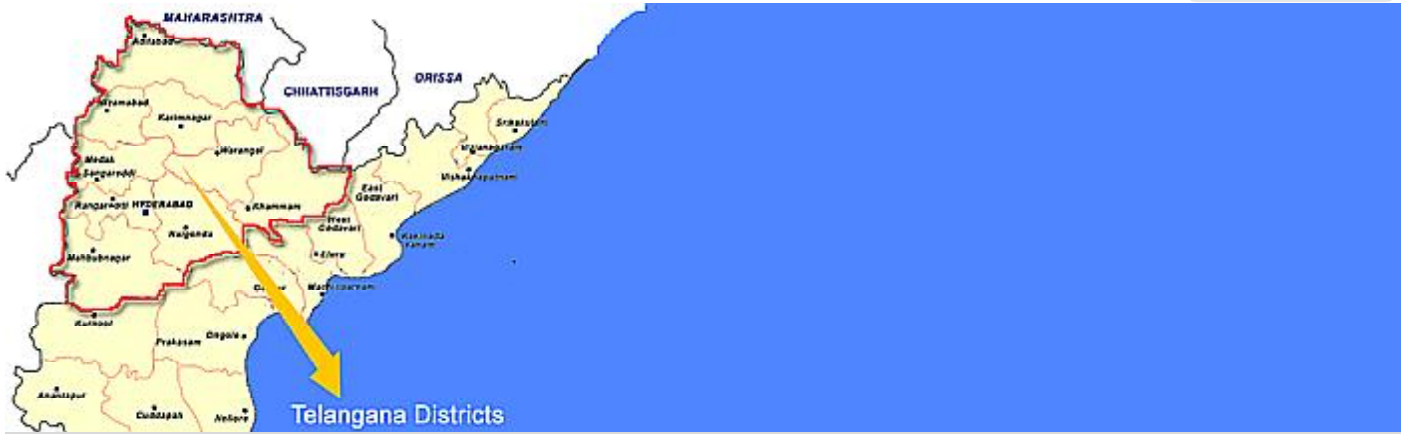
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तेलंगाना राज्य के गठन की मांग

क्षेत्रियता की सुलगती दास्तां

By: Dr. Divya



तेलंगाना की मांग ने फिजां में एक और हलचल को उस वक्त जन्म दे दिया जबकि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा बरसों पुराने इस आन्दोलन के उद्देश्य को मान लेने का आश्वासन दिया गया तथा नए राज्य के गठन के लिए प्रक्रिया आरम्भ करने की बात कीगयी. केंद्र सरकार ने दिसंबर 09, 2009 को कहा कि आंध्र प्रदेश विधानसभा अलग तेलंगाना राज्य के गठन के लिए प्रस्ताव लाएगी। गठन की प्रक्रिया शुरू करने की केंद्र सरकार की घोषणा के बाद आंध्र प्रदेश की राजधानी हैदराबाद समेत तेलंगाना क्षेत्र के जिलों में खुशी की लहर दौड़ गई.

अलग राज्य की मांग के लिए 11 दिनों से टीआरएस के प्रमुख के चंद्रशेखर राव आमरण अनशन पर थे. तेलंगाना क्षेत्र में भी अलग राज्य की मांग को लेकर विरोध प्रदर्शन चल रहे थे और कई जगह स्थिति तनावपूर्ण थी. चंद्रशेखर राव की स्थिति भी चिंताजनक बनी हुई थी.

तेलंगाना क्षेत्र में आंध्र प्रदेश विधानसभा की 294 में से 119 सीटें आती हैं जबकि लोकसभा की 42 सीटों में से 17 इस क्षेत्र से आती हैं. के चंद्रशेखर राव ने वर्ष 2001 में तेलुगूदेशम पार्टी छोड़कर तेलंगाना राष्ट्र समिति का गठन किया था. इस पार्टी का गठन अलग तेलंगाना राज्य की मांग को लेकर ही हुआ थी. वर्ष 2004 में टीआरएस कांग्रेस के नेतृत्व वाले संयुक्त प्रगतिशील गठबंधन (यूपीए) का हिस्सा था. लेकिन वर्ष 2006 में पार्टी ने यह कहते हुए कांग्रेस से किनारा कर लिया कि पार्टी अलग तेलंगाना राज्य की मांग पर ध्यान नहीं दे रही है.

तेलंगाना की पृष्ठभूमि

अभी जिस क्षेत्र को तेलंगाना कहा जाता है, उसमें आंध्र प्रदेश के 23 जिलों में से 10 जिले आते हैं। मूल रूप से ये निज़ाम की हैदराबाद रियासत का हिस्सा था। इस क्षेत्र से आंध्र प्रदेश की 294 में से 119 विधानसभा सीटें आती हैं।

1948 में भारत ने निज़ाम की रियासत का अंत कर दिया और हैदराबाद राज्य का गठन किया गया। 1956 में हैदराबाद का हिस्सा रहे तेलंगाना को नवगठित आंध्र प्रदेश में मिला दिया गया। निज़ाम के शासनाधीन रहे कुछ हिस्से कर्नाटक और महाराष्ट्र में मिला दिए गए। भाषा के आधार पर गठित होने वाला आंध्र प्रदेश पहला राज्य था।

चालीस के दशक में कामरेड वासुपुन्यया कि अगुवाई में कम्युनिस्टों ने पृथक तेलंगाना की मुहिम की शुरुआत की थी। उस समय इस आंदोलन का उद्देश्य था भूमिहीनों को भूपति बनाना। छह वर्षों तक यह आंदोलन चला लेकिन बाद में इसकी कमर टूट गई और इसकी कमान नक्सलवादियों के हाथ में आ गई। आज भी इस इलाके में नक्सलवादी सक्रिय हैं।

1969 में तेलंगाना आंदोलन फिर शुरू हुआ था। दरअसल दोनों इलाकों में भारी असमानता है। आंध्र मद्रास प्रेसेडेंसी का हिस्सा था और वहाँ शिक्षा और विकास का स्तर काफी ऊँचा था जबकि तेलंगाना इन मामलों में पिछड़ा है। तेलंगाना क्षेत्र के लोगों ने आंध्र में विलय का विरोध किया था। उन्हें डर था कि वो नौकरियों के मामले में पिछड़ जाएंगे। अब भी दोनों क्षेत्र में ये अंतर बना हुआ है। साथ ही सांस्कृतिक रूप से भी दोनों क्षेत्रों में अंतर है। तेलंगाना पर उत्तर भारत का खासा असर है।

शुरुआत में तेलंगाना को लेकर छात्रों ने आंदोलन शुरू किया था लेकिन इसमें लोगों की भागीदारी ने इसे ऐतिहासिक बना दिया। इस आंदोलन के दौरान पुलिस फ़ायरिंग और लाठी चार्ज में साठे तीन सौ से अधिक छात्र मारे गए थे। उस्मानिया विश्वविद्यालय इस आंदोलन का केंद्र था।

उस दौरान एम चेन्ना रेड्डी ने 'जय तेलंगाना' का नारा उछाला था लेकिन बाद में उन्होंने अपनी पार्टी तेलंगाना प्रजा राज्यम पार्टी का कांग्रेस में विलय कर दिया। इससे आंदोलन को भारी झटका लगा। इसके बाद इंदिरा गांधी ने उन्हें मुख्यमंत्री बना दिया था। 1971 में नरसिंह राव को भी आंध्र प्रदेश का मुख्यमंत्री बनाया गया था क्योंकि वे तेलंगाना क्षेत्र के थे।

नव्वे के दशक में के चंद्रशेखर राव तेलुगु देशम पार्टी के हिस्सा हुआ करते थे। 1999 के चुनावों के बाद चंद्रशेखर राव को उम्मीद थी कि उन्हें मंत्री बनाया जाएगा लेकिन उन्हें डिप्टी स्पीकर बनाया गया। वर्ष 2001 में उन्होंने पृथक तेलंगाना का मुद्दा उठाते हुए तेलुगु देशम पार्टी छोड़ दी और तेलंगाना राष्ट्र समिति का गठन कर दिया।

2004 में वाई एस राजशेखर रेड्डी ने चंद्रशेखर राव से हाथ मिला लिया और पृथक तेलंगाना राज्य का वादा किया। लेकिन बाद में उन्होंने इस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया। इसके बाद तेलंगाना राष्ट्र समिति के विधायकों ने इस्तीफा दे दिया और चंद्रशेखर राव ने भी केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल से इस्तीफा दे दिया था।

कैसे होगा तेलंगाना का गठन

ये प्रक्रिया काफी जटिल है। सबसे पहले राज्य विधानसभा इस आशय का प्रस्ताव पारित करेगी। फिर राज्य के बंटवारे का एक विधेयक तैयार होगा और संसद के दोनों सदनों में ये पारित होगा। इसके बाद राष्ट्रपति ये राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी के लिए जाएगा। इसके बाद संसाधनों के बंटवारे की कठिन प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी।

अलग राज्य की मांग

केंद्र सरकार ने तेलंगाना राज्य के गठन के लिए हरी झंडी दिखाकर एक ओर जहां क्षेत्र के लोगों के चेहरों पर खुशी बिखेरी है, वहीं देश के बाकी हिस्सों में भी अलग राज्य की मांग कर रहे लोगों की उम्मीदें जगा दी हैं। हालांकि बाकी मांगों पर केंद्र का रुख क्या रहता है यह वक्त बताएगा पर उसके सामने अभी कम से कम नौ अन्य नए राज्यों के गठन की मांग पेंडिंग है। उपेक्षा की शिकायत लेकर अलग राज्य या स्वायत्तता की मांग कर रहे देश के ये कौन-कौन से इलाके हैं, आइए डालें एक नजर:

पूर्वांचल: उत्तरी-मध्य भारत का यह हिस्सा यूपी के पूर्वी छोर पर बसा है। यह उत्तर में नेपाल, पूर्व में बिहार, दक्षिण में मध्य प्रदेश के बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र और पश्चिम में यूपी के अवध क्षेत्र से सटा है। पूर्वांचल के भी तीन भाग हैं- पश्चिम में अवधी क्षेत्र, पूर्व में भोजपुरी और दक्षिण में बुंदेलखंडी क्षेत्र। लोकसभा में इस क्षेत्र के प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए 23 सीटें हैं।

विदर्भ: पूर्वी महाराष्ट्र का यह इलाका अमरावती और नागपुर डिविजन से बना है। यहां अलग राज्य की मांग के पीछे राज्य सरकार द्वारा क्षेत्र की उपेक्षा बड़ा कारण है। एन. के. पी. साल्वे और वसंत साठे अलग राज्य के गठन का प्रस्ताव लाने की कोशिश करते रहे हैं। हालांकि क्षेत्र की जनता अलग राज्य की मांग के हक में है पर राजनीतिक हलकों ने इसमें खास रुचि नहीं दिखाई है।

बोडोलैंड: असम में अलग राज्य बोडोलैंड के गठन की मांग 60 के दशक से चली आ रही है। बोडोलैंड की सीमाएं ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के उत्तरी छोर से लेकर भूटान और अरुणाचल से सटे तराई वाले इलाके तक हैं। इलाके की ज्यादातर जनता बोडो भाषी है।

हरित प्रदेश: पश्चिमी यूपी के जिलों को मिलाकर अलग हरित प्रदेश या पश्चिमांचल बनाने की मांग उठती रही है। हालांकि 1955 में बी. आर. अंबेडकर ने यूपी को पश्चिमी, मध्य और पूर्वी आधार पर तीन हिस्सों में बांटने की वकालत की थी पर ऐसा न हो सका। पर अलग राज्य की मांग आज भी जिंदा है और इसे अजीत सिंह का राष्ट्रीय लोकदल पुरजोर ढंग से उठाए हुए है।

बुंदेलखंड: बीते 50 साल से अलग बुंदेलखंड बनाने को लेकर आंदोलन चल रहा है। इसमें कुछ हिस्सा यूपी का तो कुछ मध्य प्रदेश का है। इलाके की आबादी करीबन 5 करोड़ है। अपार खनिज संपदा होने के बावजूद यह इलाका काफी पिछड़ा और गरीब रहा है। यहां विकास के नाम पर अलग राज्य की मांग उठती रही है।

रायलसीमा: आंध्र प्रदेश के इस इलाके में कुरनूल, कड़पा, अनंतपुर, चित्तूर, नेल्लोर और प्रकाशम जिले का कुछ क्षेत्र आता है। इस इलाके से राज्य के कई सीएम रह चुके हैं। इनमें वाई. एस. आर. रेड्डी और चंद्रबाबू नायडू भी शामिल हैं।

सौराष्ट्र: गुजरात के इस अंदरूनी हिस्से की अलग राज्य के गठन की मांग ज्यादा बुलंद नहीं रही। इसकी वजह गुजराती लोगों की एकजुटता और लोगों की संपन्नता भी रही है। साथ ही सौराष्ट्र में आम गुजराती बोली जाती है और संस्कृति व परंपरा भी बाकी गुजरात की तरह ही है।

मिथिलांचल: नेपाल से सटे कुछ इलाकों के अलावा बिहार का आधा से ज्यादा इलाका मिथिलांचल क्षेत्र में आता है। इसके बड़े शहरों में जनकपुर, दरभंगा, मधुबनी, समस्तीपुर, मधेपुरा, बेगूसराय, सीतामढ़ी, वैशाली, मुंगेर शामिल हैं। मिथिलांचल मूलरूप से मैथिली भाषी इलाका है। अलग पारंपरिक लिपि होने के अलावा मैथिली बोलने वालों की तादाद 4.5 करोड़ है।

गोरखालैंड: हालांकि दार्जिलिंग गोरखा हिल काउंसिल के तहत गोरखालैंड को कुछ स्वायत्तता मिली है। पर दार्जिलिंग और आसपास के क्षेत्र के लोगों की आकांक्षाएं पूरी नहीं की जा सकी हैं। यही वजह है कि एक अलग पूर्ण राज्य की मांग यहां जोर पकड़ रही है। गोरखा जनमुक्ति मोर्चा इस मांग का झंडा बुलंद किए है।

कुर्ग: कर्नाटक में अलग कुर्ग राज्य बनाने की मांग मूलतः इस प्रदेश की सांस्कृतिक विशिष्टता के कारण है। बाकी जगह की तरह यहां अलग राज्य की मांग के लिए भेदभाव या उपेक्षा कारण नहीं है। हालांकि 50 के दशक से इसके गठन की मांग उठती रही है पर इसने कभी मुखर रूप नहीं लिया। शायद इसकी वजह इस क्षेत्र का अधिक संपन्न होना भी रहा है।

तुलु नाडू: यह कर्नाटक और केरल का वह इलाका है जो अपनी अलग सांस्कृतिक और भाषायी (तुलु) पहचान रखता है। तुलु भाषी लोगों की संस्कृति कर्नाटक से काफी भिन्न है। क्षेत्र के वासियों की पहचान को बचाने और उपेक्षा की भावना को खत्म करने के लिए कर्नाटक और केरल सरकार ने तुलु साहित्य अकादमी भी बनाई है।

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श्री जी तकनीक

संचार के क्षेत्र में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव

BY: Dr. Sachchidanand



दूरसंचार कंपनियों द्वारा सेवा बाजार में भारी-भरकम निवेश

किए जाने के मद्देनजर अगले तीन साल में भारत में श्रीजी उपभोक्ताओं की संख्या बढ़कर नौ करोड़ से ज्यादा हो सकती है. भारत के श्रीजी उपभोक्ताओं की संख्या 2013 तक बढ़कर नौ करोड़ रुपए हो जाएगी. अनुमान है कि 2010-11 तक पांच से सात फीसद मोबाइल हैंडसेट में श्रीजी सुविधा होगी. श्रीजी क्षेत्र में सभी कंपनियों के लिए बहुत संभावनाएं हैं. कालर ट्यून, ऐड ट्यून, लाइव टीवी, वीडियो और मोबाइल गेम जैसे ऐप्लिकेशन प्रमुख होंगे।

भारत में मूल्य वर्धित सेवा बाजार दूरसंचार कंपनियों के लिए नौ से 10 फीसद आय का जरिया है जिसमें सिर्फ एसएमएस की ही 44 फीसद हिस्सेदारी है। टेलीकॉम बाजार में विभिन्न कंपनियां अभी तक उपभोक्ताओं को टूजी आधारित दूसरी पीढ़ी की मोबाइल सेवायें ही उपलब्ध करा रही हैं लेकिन वर्ष के शुरुआत में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड (बीएसएनएल) ने देश के 11 शहरों में एक साथ श्रीजी सेवाएं आरंभ करके इस क्षेत्र में नये युग का सूत्रपात कर दिया है।

कब हुई शुरुआत

श्रीजी की शुरुआत सबसे पहले तकनीकी और प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र में वैश्विक स्तर पर अपना लोहा मनवाने वाले एशियाई देश जापान में वर्ष 2001 में हुई थी. धीरे-धीरे इस तकनीक का विस्तार विश्व के अन्य देशों में भी हुआ. वर्ष 2002 में यह तकनीक दक्षिण कोरिया पहुंची

जबकि पांच साल पूर्व यह विश्व की एकमात्र महाशक्ति अमरीका में आरंभ की गई . इस समय वधिक स्तर पर करीब चालीस देशों में विभिन्न टेलीकॉम कंपनियां अपने उपभोक्ताओं को यह सुविधा उपलब्ध करा रही है. एक अनुमान के मुताबिक इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करने वाले लोगों के मामले में भारत इस समय तीसरे स्थान पर है लेकिन आज भी देश के अधिकतर शहर और गांव हाई स्पीड इंटरनेट सेवा से वंचित हैं.

हालांकि पिछले पांच सालों के दौरान देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में ब्रॉडबैंड आधारित इंटरनेट सेवा का विस्तार हुआ है लेकिन विभिन्न कारणों से इसकी पहुंच अब भी अधिकतर शहरों तक ही सीमित है. थ्रीजी आधारित सेवाओं के शुरू हो जाने से लोग सुदूर क्षेत्रों में हाई स्पीड इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल आसानी से करने लगेंगे. इस समय देश के पचास से अधिक शहरों में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की वीएसएनएल और एमटीएनएल थ्रीजी सेवाएँ उपलब्ध करा रही है और जल्द ही इन सेवाओं का विस्तार राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर करने की तयारी है. कुछ माह पूर्व केन्द्र सरकार ने थ्रीजी के लिये स्पेक्ट्रम की नीलामी करने का निर्णय लिया है जिससे इस क्षेत्र में निजी कंपनियों को भी प्रवेश मिल सके . हालांकि इस नीलामी में न्यूनतम आरक्षित मूल्य तीन हजार पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये रखा गया है . नीलामी के दौरान जो भी बोली लगेगी उतनी ही राशि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों को चुकानी होगी. मोबाईल का इस्तेमाल अब तक अधिकतर बातचीत के लिये ही किया जाता था लेकिन थ्रीजी सेवाओं के आरंभ होने से उपभोक्ताओं के मोबाईल में पूरी दुनियां सिमट कर आ जायेगी.

इससे उपभोक्ता बातचीत के दौरान दूसरी तरफ के व्यक्ति को हाई स्पीड वीडियो स्ट्रीमिंग के जरिये सीधे लाइव देख सकते हैं. इसके अलावा इस तकनीक के सहारे ब्रॉडबैंड से भी तेज गति का डाटा ट्रांसफर्मर किया जा सकेगा जिससे लोग इंटरनेट के संसार में उपलब्ध सभी तरह की जानकारीयां अपने मोबाईल पर बिजली की गति में प्राप्त करने में सक्षम होंगे. यदि कोई व्यक्ति मोबाईल फोन में पांच मिनट का लंबा गाना डाउन लोड करना चाहता है तो उसे इसमें महज तीन से पांच मिनट का समय लगेगा. इक्कीसवीं सदी की जिन्दगी रफ्तार पर आधारित है और हर किसी के पास समय की कमी है. ऐसे में थ्रीजी के आने से सूचना, व्यापार और मनोरंजन की दुनियां पूरी तरह बदल जायेगी. इससे न केवल मोबाईल का

इस्तेमाल करने वाले उपभोक्ताओं को फायदा होगा बल्कि सेवाएं देने वाली कंपनियों को भी राजस्व में अच्छी खासी बढ़ोत्तरी होने की पूरी संभावना है। श्रीजी का जादू मनोरंजन के साथ अब शिक्षा के क्षेत्र पर भी पड़ने लगा है।

हाल में देश के प्रतिष्ठित इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय (इग्नू) ने मोबाइल पर ही अध्ययन सामग्री के साथ-साथ वीडियो लेक्चर के अलावा पाठ्यक्रम से जुड़ी कई सामग्रियां उपलब्ध कराने की तैयारी कर ली है। अब न छात्रों के लिये परम्परागत कक्षा की जरूरत होगी और न ही लाइब्रेरी जाकर किताबें ढूँढने की जरूरत होगी। वर्तमान दौर में श्रीजी सेवाओं में टेलीकॉम कंपनियों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा नहीं होने के कारण उपभोक्ताओं को उपयोग के बदले अच्छी खासी रकम चुकानी पड़ रही है लेकिन निजी कंपनियों के आमगन के साथ ही इस क्षेत्र में विस्तार के साथ-साथ सेवा-शुल्क में गिरावट की पूरी संभावना है।

फोर जी तकनीक

पड़ोसी देश चीन में दूरसंचार क्षेत्र की नई तकनीक फोर जी टेक्नोलॉजी के आगमन की घोषणा हो गई है। मजे की बात यह है कि भारत में इससे पुरानी तकनीक यानि की थ्री जी सेवाएं अभी शैशवावस्था में ही है। इस नई फोर जी तकनीक की मदद से आंकड़े बहुत तेजी से प्रेषित हो सकेंगे। यह गति वर्तमान थ्री जी तकनीक की गति से बीस से तीस गुना तक ज्यादा होगी। इसका चीन में २०११ तक प्रयोग होने लगेगा। वैसे वर्तमान में विश्वस्तर पर टू जी तकनीक का अधिक इस्तेमाल हो रहा है और थ्री जी तकनीक अभी लोगों में ज्यादा पैठ नहीं बना पाई है लेकिन तकनीक की चौथी पीढ़ी ने पांच पसारने शुरू कर दिए हैं। यूं तो तकनीक के महारथी पांच जी की भी बात करने लगे हैं लेकिन अभी इसके बारे में कुछ ठोस तरीके से कह पाना मुमकिन नहीं है लेकिन फोर जी तकनीक का खाका तैयार हो चुका है। टू जी तकनीक के साथ एक बड़ी मुश्किल यह है कि इसके जरिए आंकड़े प्रेषित करने की गति बहुत कम है। इस वजह से वीडियो क्राफ़ेसिंग या म्यूजिक वीडियो डाउनलोड करने का काम नहीं हो पाता। वैज्ञानिकों ने इस चुनौती को स्वीकारा और इसे सुधारते हुए २.५ जी, जीपीआरएस पेश की। इस नई तकनीक ने डाटा संप्रेक्षण की दर में सुधार किया।

इस दिशा में और प्रयास किए गए और नतीजे के तौर पर थ्री जी तकनीक सामने आई। इसके जरिए दो मेगाबाइट प्रति सेकेंड की दर से डाटा भेजना संभव हो सका। लेकिन कहा जा रहा है कि इसके बाद आई फोर जी तकनीक से सौ मेगाबाइट प्रति सेकेंड तक की दर से यह काम हो सकेगा। इस दू जी, थ्री जी या फोर जी में इस्तेमाल होने वाला शब्द जी किसी सम्मान का सूचक नहीं बल्कि यह शब्द जनरेशन यानि की पीढ़ी की वर्तनी का पहला शब्द जी का

फोर जी तकनीक

फोर जी मोबाइल फोन वायरलेस सेवा की चौथी पीढ़ी है। इससे पिछली दू जी और थ्री जी पीढ़ियां थीं। थ्री जी तकनीक में उपलब्ध आर्थोगोनल फ्रीक्वेंसी डिवीजन मल्टीपल एक्सेस (ओएफडीएमए) की सहायता से वर्तमान नेटवर्क की सुविधा को और बेहतर बनाया जा सकेगा। फोर-जी यानि चौथी जनरेशन अर्थात चौथी पीढ़ी पूरी तरह से आईपी आधारित सेवा होगी। इसमें ध्वनि (वॉयस), पाठ (डाटा) और मल्टीमीडिया को समान गति से भेजा और प्राप्त किया जा सकेगा।

थ्री जी से अंतर

थ्री जी मोबाइल में वे सब सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं जो वर्तमान मोबाइल तकनीक के लिए आवश्यक हैं, फोर जी की गति १०० एमबीपीएस होगी जो थ्री जी के मुकाबले ५० गुना अधिक होगी। थ्री जी वायरलेस नेटवर्क में ३८४ केबीपीएस से २ एमबीपीएस की गति से ही डाटा भेजा जा सकता था। इन लाभ के साथ साथ ही इस तकनीक की कीमत भी थ्री जी के मुकाबले काफी कम होगी। थ्री जी के मुकाबले ४जी का डाटा रेट अधिक है यानी डाटा का स्थानांतरण तेज गति से किया जा सकेगा। थ्री जी तकनीक जहां वाइड एरिया नेटवर्क पर काम करती है, वहां ४जी लोकल एरिया नेटवर्क (लैन) और बेस स्टेशन वाइड एरिया नेटवर्क पर काम करती है।

लाभ

उपयोक्ताओं को उच्च गुणवत्ता की ऑडियो और वीडियो सुविधा उपलब्ध होगी। ओएफडीएम (आर्थोगोनल फ्रीक्वेंसी डिवीजन मल्टीपल एक्सेस) की वजह से बेहतर वीडियो क्वालिटी लोगों को मिल पाएगी। इससे गति बढ़ने के साथ, एकरूप भी हो जाएगी। यानि जितनी तेजी से डाटा भेजा जाएगा, उतनी तेजी से प्राप्त किया जा सकेगा।

थ्री जी क्यों

सभी मोबाइल फोनों में वॉयस कॉल बेहतर होती हैं, लेकिन ज्यादातर में डाटा को लेकर मुश्किलें होती हैं, खासकर हैवी स्टफ जैसे फाइल डाउनलोड करना, बड़ी ई-मेल भेजना और रिसीव करना, ग्राफिक्स और वीडियो में। इस लिहाज से थ्री जी फायदेमंद है। वर्तमान मोबाइल फोन की तुलना में थ्री जी फोन द्वारा आप फाइल और वीडियो को ज्यादा तेज गति से डाउनलोड कर सकेंगे।

थ्री जी और थर्ड जनरेशन तकनीक का ऐसा समूह है, जिसके द्वारा आप पुराने टूजी जीएसएम मोबाइल के मुकाबले बेहतर स्पीड का लुत्फ उठा सकेंगे। कई समूहों की तकनीक मिलकर एक बड़े क्षेत्र में बेहतर स्पीड का वायरलैस कनेक्शन प्रदान करती है जिसमें सीडीएमए 2000, यूएमटीएस (यूनीवर्सल मोबाइल टेलीकम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम) और वाईमैक्स की सुविधा शामिल है। ये एक बड़े क्षेत्र में वायरलैस कनेक्शन की सुविधा देते हैं।

क्यों होगी जरूरत

दस हजार रुपए कीमत वाले तकरीबन सभी आधुनिक फोन में आप थ्री-जी सुविधा का लाभ उठा सकते हैं। थ्रीजी सुविधा प्रदान करने वाले वीएसएनएल और एमटीएनएल की सांस अभी सीमित क्षेत्रों में हैं। उदाहरण के तौर पर मैं एमटीएनएल के थ्रीजी मॉडम का इस्तेमाल अपने लैपटॉप पर करता हूँ, लेकिन गुडगांव और दिल्ली के अधिकतर इलाकों में ये थ्रीजी स्पीड से काम नहीं करते। ये तकरीबन उसी स्पीड से काम करते हैं, जैसे आपका पुराना डाटा कार्ड काम करता था।

लेकिन इन स्थितियों में तब बदलाव होगा, जब एयरटेल जैसी टेलीफोन कंपनियां थ्रीजी सेवा प्रदान करना शुरू कर देगी। वर्तमान में अगर आप हाईस्पीड चाहते हैं, तो आप रिलायंस या टाटा इंडिकॉम के हाई-स्पीड डाटा कार्ड या प्लग इन यूएसबी खरीद सकते हैं। ये कंपनियां तकरीबन 3 एमबीपीएस की डाउनलोड स्पीड प्रदान करती हैं। यह थ्री जी सावस ही है। चूंकि फोन पर वह ये सुविधा नहीं दे सकती है, ऐसे में वह डाटा कार्ड में थ्रीजी स्पीड प्रदान कर रही है।

थ्री जी तकनीक

थ्री जी तकनीक ने मोबाइल की दुनिया को पूरी तरह से बदल कर रख दिया है। इस तकनीक में स्पैक्ट्रल क्षमता में बदलाव कर मोबाइल फोन की क्षमता को सुधारा गया है। इस फोन पर ही आप हाई स्पीड इंटरनेट एक्सेस, डाटा वीडियो और सीडी क्वालिटी की म्यूजिक सावस के साथ न्यूज चैनल भी देख सकते हैं। थ्री जी फोन सबसे पहले 2001 में जापान में लांच किया गया था। थ्री जी फोन पर व्यक्ति का चेहरा अपने मोबाइल की स्क्रीन पर देख सकते हैं और अगर बात करने वाले के पास थ्री जी फोन हो, तो एक दूसरे को देखते हुए बात कर सकते हैं।

वाइमैक्स और थ्री जी

वर्ल्डवाइड इंटरपोर्टेबिलिटी फॉर माइक्रोवेव एक्सेस या वाइमैक्स ऐसी टेलीकॉम तकनीक है जिसके जरिये डाटा का आदान-प्रदान बहुत तेजी से होता है। यह तकनीक आईईईई 802.16डी बेसिक फोन और आईईईई 802.16ई तकनीक वाले मोबाइल पर काम करती है। इसके जरिये 70 एमबीपीएस की रफ्तार से डाटा डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है जबकि थ्री जी में केवल 15 एमबीपीएस की गति से डाटा डाउनलोड हो सकता है।

मोबाइल वाइमैक्स से भी तकरीबन 20 एमबीपीएस की तेजी से डाटा डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। भारत में टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस इंटरनेट सर्विसेज, इंटेल, भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड, भारती एयरटेल और रिलायंस कम्युनिकेशंस जैसी कंपनियां वाइमैक्स सेवाएं मुहैया कराने के लिए कतार में खड़ी हैं। इनमें से अधिकतर कंपनियां बीटा आधारित तकनीक पर काम करती हैं।

कुछ कंपनियां चुनिंदा शहरों में फिक्स्ड वाइमैक्स सुविधाएं मुहैया कराएंगी। अमेरिका, जापान और कोरिया जैसे देशों में यह तकनीक खूब इस्तेमाल हो रही है लेकिन भारत में अभी इसको लंबा रास्ता तय करना है।' वैसे वाइमैक्स आमतौर पर फिक्स्ड फोन सेवाओं के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है। वाइमैक्स की यह भी खासियत है कि इसके माध्यम से इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करना बेहद आसान हो जाता है। इंटरनेट के बढ़ते चलन से मोबाइल इंटरनेट और ब्रॉडबैंड सेवाओं को बहुत फायदा होगा।

हालांकि, इससे जीपीआरएस और मोबाइल पर ई मेल जैसी सेवाएं प्रभावित होंगी क्योंकि लोगों का रुझान वाइमैक्स की ओर अधिक बढ़ेगा। दूरसंचार नियामक प्राधिकरण (ट्राई) का 2010 तक 2 करोड़ ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्शन का जो लक्ष्य है उसको पूरा करने में इससे खासी मदद मिलेगी। गौरतलब है कि फिलहाल देश में केवल 43 लाख ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्शन हैं।

इंटरनेट सेवा प्रदाता ही मुख्य तौर पर इस तरह की तकनीक को अपनाएंगे। वहीं कुछ मोबाइल सेवाएं देने वाली कंपनियां भी स्पेक्ट्रम हासिल करने की होड़ में शामिल हैं। कुछ विश्लेषकों का मानना है कि वॉयस सेवाओं का जादू फिर से जगाने के लिए कंपनियों को थ्री जी स्पेक्ट्रम ही अपनाना होगा क्योंकि अब 2 जी में गुंजाइश ही नहीं बची है।

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Right to Recall

Solidarity of Democracy

Should we have the right to 'recall' MPs? It can be done in America, why not here? Few of us had heard of recall until 2003 when California Governor Gray Davis lost the recall ballot to the 'governor', Arnold Schwarzenegger. The idea is simple, as a Civitas online briefing proposed yesterday. Sometimes voters regret the choice they made at the last general election and do not want to wait until the next time. If a proportion of the electorate (say 20%) can be persuaded to sign a petition to recall the elected office holder, then an immediate by-election must be held.

There is cross-party support. Back in February 2008 a group of 27 Tory MPs wrote to The Daily Telegraph calling for local voters to be allowed to 'recall' their MP and at the weekend Lib-Dem leader Nick Clegg came out in favour.

How common is it? In America 18 states allow elected officials to be recalled from their posts by a petition of between 12 and 40 per cent of voters. In 1903 the city of Los Angeles was the first large area to introduce recall, followed in 1908 by Oregon and in 1911 by California. Then Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and Washington all adopted recall in 1912. In addition eleven more states, while not permitting recall of state-level officials, do allow the recall of local officials.

Recall ballots are useful in precisely the sort of situation that has now arisen in the UK. We are told that MPs have acted within the rules, but few voters think they have behaved ethically. Some may have to face criminal charges but it is likely to be difficult to reach the high standard of proof required in a criminal trial, as disgraced MP Derek Conway found. Some will face the wrath of their local constituency party, but as Luton MP Margaret Moran discovered, that may not mean very much. If a significant number of voters think their MP is not fit to hold public office, then it should be possible to require them to stand for re-election immediately.

The process should not be too easy to prevent constant harassment by disgruntled rivals but, if a significant proportion of the electorate wants a ballot, it should be held. How many signatures should be required? In ten of the 18 American states 25 per cent of the electorate is needed, while Louisiana requires 33.3 per cent and Kansas 40 per cent. At 12 per cent, California has the lowest requirement. A recall ballot is a costly procedure and has been used sparingly. Only two state governors have ever been recalled: North Dakota Governor Lynn Frazier in 1921 and California's Gray Davis in 2003.

However, it was not for lack of trying: one study estimated that there had been around 40 failed attempts to recall state officials in California.

If the policy were introduced in the UK, how many signatures should be required? There should be a significant hurdle, perhaps about 20 per cent of registered voters in a constituency. The average constituency size in England is about 75,000 voters and so a petition of 15,000 would be needed. The number is achievable without being too easy. In practice the procedure would probably not be used very often, but the fact that it was available would have a salutary effect on MPs and the 'gravy train' mentality that can only flourish amidst secrecy would be no more.

If MPs would like to prove themselves deserving of respect, voting for recall ballots would go a long way to restoring public confidence.

Electorate has no Role in the Selection of Candidates

The Common Wealth Parliament Association debated the matter and considered the right to recall as a strategy for enforcing greater accountability of Parliament to the people. People are disillusioned with the conduct of Parliamentary business.

The very process of legislative functioning is subverted, leading to incalculable harm to the representation of democratic institutions.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has pointed out in its report how a Parliamentary system, unlike the Presidential system, lays emphasis on accountability.

Half a century's experience of the working of the Constitution has brought to the fore several inadequacies, failures and distortions. The National Commission referred in particular to the emergence of the unhealthy role of money and mafia power and to criminalisation, corruption, communalism and casteism.

The Electorate has no role in the selection of candidates for election and the majority of the candidates are elected by minority of votes under the first-past-the-post system.

Referendum and Recall

Democracies can be of several types : Parliamentary, Presidential and Direct. In a direct democracy, sovereignty is lodged in the assembly of all citizens who choose to participate.

Such an assembly may pass executive motions (decrease), make law, elect and dismiss officials and conduct trials. In a representative democracy, sovereignty is exercised by a subset of the people, elected periodically, but otherwise free to advance their own agendas. Direct democracy deals with how citizens are "directly" involved with voting for various laws, instead of voting for representatives to decide for them. Referendum and recall are pillars of direct democracy.

People at large are conferred the power in a referendum to decide whether a given law should be scrapped. They have a veto on government legislation.

Recall is a procedure by which voters can remove an elected representative from office. It was one of the major electoral reforms advocated by lead-

ers of the Progressive moment in the US during the twentieth century.

This movement was less than successful because in the US recall elections are prohibited in the federal system. Recall is a political device designed to enable voters dissatisfied with an elected official to replace him before the expiry of his term of office. The concept originated in Switzerland but became operative in several American States since 1903.

American Experience

Eighteen States in the American Federation permit recall elections to remove their State Officers. In 1921, North Dakota's Governor Lin Frazier was recalled over a dispute about state-owned industries. In 2003, the Californian Governor, Gray Davis, was recalled over mismanagement of the State budget. In many of these States, the petition for recall must identify some form of malfeasance or misconduct while in office. The minimum number of signatures of voters and time limit to qualify a recall varies between States.

Quite often, a recall triggers a simultaneous special election, where the vote on the recall and the replacement — recall succeed — are on the same ballot. In 1988, there was a successful petition-drive to recall the Arizona Governor. But before the completion of the process, he was impeached and removed from the Office by the Senate.

Recall in Canada

Canadian provinces have been effective using the device of recall to infuse discipline in the representatives. The Canadian province of British Columbia enacted representative recall in 1995. The voters in that province can petition the Government to have a sitting representative removed from office.

Even a Premier presently leading a Government can be removed from office if enough registered voters signed the petition.

A by-election will follow. In January 2003, a record 22 recall efforts were launched.

Venezuelan Constitution

The 1999 Constitution of Venezuela enables a recall of any elected representative including the President. Article 72 of the Constitution declares that all offices filled by popular vote are subject to revocation. When half the term of the office has elapsed, voters representing at least 20 per cent of the registered voters in the constituency may petition for the calling of a referendum to revoke the mandate of the official.

When the number of voters equals to or is greater than the number of those who elected the representative vote in favour of the recall, the representative's mandate shall be deemed to have been revoked. Action will be taken to fill the permanent vacancy as per the Constitution. The provision for recall was successfully utilised in 2004.

Switzerland model

Switzerland is often cited as the strongest example of modern direct democracy. It has put to use the initiative and the referendum at both local and federal levels. Initiatives are proposals, drafted by a citizen or group of citizens that by virtue of attaining a requisite number of signatures on a petition, are put to the electorate for acceptance or rejection. However, the populace showed its conservative nature, approving only about 10 per cent of the initiatives put before them. Recall is not much in use in Switzerland.

Flawed system

The National Commission correctly identified the main cause and source of political decay in India as the ineptness of the electoral process, which has not been able to keep out criminal, anti-social and undesirable elements from participating in and even dominating the political scene and polluting the electoral and parliamentary processes.

A Constitution, however lofty its exhortations and sentiments, is not a self-executing document. The present system by which the voters are allowed to assert their sovereignty only once in five years is woefully flawed.

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India-Canada Civil Nuclear Agreement

Era of Comprehensive Participation



India and Canada on 29 November 2009 concluded negotiations on a civil nuclear cooperation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Canadian counterpart Stephen Harper describing the development as a "milestone" opening up "tremendous opportunity" for the two countries. The negotiations were firmed up at a meeting between Singh and Harper here on the sidelines of Commonwealth Summit.

Canada, which is the world's largest producer of uranium, has become the eighth country with which India has reached civil nuclear agreement since the NSG lifted a 34-year-old ban on India to join global nuclear trade in September last year.

The other countries with which India has already signed the civil nuclear deal are the US, France, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Argentina and Namibia.

The Canadian Prime Minister was in New Delhi on November 17 when the two countries had announced that they are working to complete the civil nuclear deal.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said "the civil nuclear agreement is a very important step forward, a milestone for the development of our relationship." Pointing out that the civil nuclear agreement with Canada was hanging fire for sometime, he said Harper "proved to be absolutely true to his words" as he had said the negotiations should be complete in a short period of eight to ten days.

Harper pointed out he had discussed the civil nuclear agreement issue with Singh when he was in Delhi earlier this month.

India's needs for nuclear energy are enormous and we need a lot more energy to make our development process a success.

Increased collaboration with India's civil nuclear energy market will allow Canadian companies to benefit from greater access to one of the world's largest and fastest expanding economies.

The agreement will allow Canadian firms to export and import controlled nuclear materials, equipments and technology to and from India, a statement issued by Harper's office said.

Both countries will be seeking a little bit of time to complete the normal legal text and the ratification process. But this is a tremendous economies step forward and tremendous step forward in their relationship.

Joint Statement on the Occasion of the Visit to India by Prime Minister of Canada

Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Stephen Harper paid an official visit to India from November 15-18, 2009 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. In their discussions, the two Prime Ministers reviewed bilateral relations between India and Canada and discussed regional and global issues of shared interest.

The Prime Ministers noted the depth and dynamism of the relationship between the two countries which is marked by common values, and shared traditions of democracy, rule of law and

pluralism. The two leaders recognize the contribution of the Indian-origin community in Canada in further strengthening the bilateral bonds between the societies of India and Canada.

The Prime Ministers agreed on the importance of working collaboratively towards global economic recovery, building international efforts in advance of the G-20 meeting that Canada will host in 2010. Prime Minister Harper looks forward to welcoming Prime Minister Singh to Canada on this occasion in June 2010.

They also discussed approaches to address climate change with attention to the upcoming negotiations in Copenhagen. The two leaders agreed on the importance of moving forward constructively on the WTO Doha Round negotiations.

Prime Minister Harper strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008 and expressed the hope that those behind the attacks would be swiftly brought to justice. He also conveyed assurances that Canada stood firmly with India in dealing with global terrorism. Both leaders reiterated the need for intensifying global cooperation in combating international terrorism. They called for an early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework.

The Prime Ministers discussed issues of shared interest pertaining to the region, notably the stabilization and economic development of Afghanistan.

The Prime Ministers agreed on initiatives to strengthen and diversify bilateral relations and to collaborate on a shared international agenda. They also agreed to intensify the economic and trade relationship by concluding bilateral economic agreements.

The two governments welcomed ongoing efforts to strengthen the institutional framework for bilateral relations, including working towards concluding negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, the Social Security Agreement, and the civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

The two leaders announced the setting up of a Joint Study Group that will explore the possibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Canada. They also welcomed the scheduling of the first meeting of the JSG in the first half of December 2009 in New Delhi, with the aim of concluding the joint study within six months.

The Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the area of energy. The MoU will enable cooperation in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency, oil and natural gas, power generation, transmission, distribution and end-use, energy research and development.

The Prime Ministers recognize the important role played by the India-Canada Chief Executive Officers Forum, constituted by prominent companies from each country and encourage them to pursue means for expanding commercial relations between the two countries.

The Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction with the functioning of the institutional mechanisms which steer bilateral cooperation, and look forward to the launch of new mechanisms to reinforce the partnership. Both leaders expressed the hope that through concerted efforts, the institutional framework fostered by these initiatives would lead to an increase in bilateral trade from the current level to \$15 billion annually in the next five years.

Both sides recognized education as an area of new momentum, the need to facilitate mutually beneficial linkages in science, technology and innovation, as well as build synergies between institutions of higher learning in Canada and India.

Recognizing the vibrant people to people ties linking the two countries, the two Prime Ministers noted the importance of citizens becoming better acquainted with each other through culture, sports and tourism. They look forward to the Winter Olympics to be hosted by Canada in 2010, the Commonwealth Games to be hosted by India in 2010, and the Year of India to be celebrated in locations across Canada in 2011.

To achieve the goals set out in this Statement, the two Leaders committed themselves to sustained political engagement, a structured exchange of high level visits and regular dialogues between their officials.

India-Canada Relation

Indo-Canadian relations, are the longstanding bilateral relations between India and Canada, which are built upon a "mutual commitment to democracy", "pluralism", and "people-to-people links," according to the government of Canada. In 2004, bilateral trade between India and Canada was at about C\$2.45 billion. However, India's Smiling Buddha nuclear test led to connections between the two countries being frozen, with allegations that India broke the terms of the Colombo Plan. Although Jean Chrétien and Roméo LeBlanc both visited India in the late 1990s, relations were again halted after the Pokhran-II tests.

In the 1940s and 1960s Canada-India relations were enhanced because of the personal ties which developed between Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and two Canadian Prime Ministers who served during those years: Louis St. Laurent and Lester B. Pearson. At the United Nations and in the Commonwealth, on issues as diverse as the Korean War armistice and the Suez Crisis, there was a convergence of interest and commitment between India and Canada. Canada's aid program to India began in 1951 and grew substantially under the Colombo Plan. Canada provided food aid, project financing and technical assistance to India. In the past five decades India has been one the largest recipients of Canadian bilateral aid, amounting to over \$ 3.8 billion Canadian dollars.

Indo-Canadian relations deteriorated in the wake of India's Smiling Buddha nuclear test of May 1974. The Canadian government was stung by allegations that the fissionable material used to construct India's first nuclear device had been obtained from the Canadian-supplied CIRUS nuclear research reactor. Canada severed bilateral nuclear cooperation with both India and Pakistan in 1976. Thereafter Canada resolved to engage in nuclear coop-

eration only with countries which signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and which instituted full-scope safeguards on their nuclear energy programmes under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In the 1990's a chance to improve Indo-Canadian relations arose when India instituted major reforms of its economy. India went through a large economic transformation, which attracted the attention of the Canadian government and the business community. Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien paid a diplomatic mission to India in January 1996 with two cabinet ministers and 300 business persons. India's External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral paid an official visit to Canada in September 1996. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy reciprocated with a visit to India in January 1997 during which he inaugurated the Office of the Canadian High Commission in Chandigarh, capital of Punjab and Haryana states.

The Canada-India Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was also established in 1997, bringing together on a annual basis several departments and agencies of the Canadian and Indian governments. Former Governor General Roméo Leblanc undertook a state visit to India in March 1998. Prime Minister Stephen Harper took an official visit to India in November 2009.



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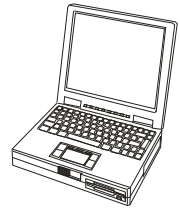
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Current Affairs

Current Relevant Facts



» Indian mountaineer Reena Kaushal Dharmshaktu has become the first Indian woman to ski to the South Pole. Dharmshaktu (38) was part of the eight-membered Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition team. All the eight women skied around 10 hours a day for 3 days and covered 915 km to reach the bottom of the earth (South Pole).

The team reportedly braved temperatures 40 degree Celsius below zero, blizzards and blowing at over 130 kmph during their Antarctic ski trek. Love Raj Singh had conquered Mount Everest for the third time in May, 2009. The expedition marked the 60th foundation anniversary of the Commonwealth.



» In what would make online commerce faster for customers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that all payments for such transactions be credited directly to merchants, instead of getting cleared by intermediaries such as CC Avenue and Paypal.

Currently, until a payment is authorised and processed by intermediaries, a transaction is not completed. For instance, online retailers such as eBay do not ship goods purchased online unless funds are credited to their account, after being routed through an intermediary. CC Avenue, BillDesk, Direc-Pay, ICICI PaySeal and Paypal are among major payment gateways in India.

Under the new system, all payments to merchants shall be effected within a maximum of three days from the date of transaction. From now on, no payment other than the commissions at the pre-determined rates/frequency shall be payable to the intermediaries. The existing system has some pitfalls. Often, there is a delay in transferring money to the merchant; at times it is more than seven



days.

» SEBI has allowed companies to go for pure auction of shares (offered at bid price) in a follow on public offer for pricing of issues for institutional investors. However, the companies will have to offer shares to retail investors, including employees, at the floor price, fixed before start of the auction process and the existing system of public offerings of shares at a uniform price in a band through book-build method will also continue.

To encourage small and medium firms to come out with public issues, SEBI has also allowed existing stock exchanges to set up a separate trading platform and relax the criteria like track record on profitability for listings. On the issue of trading hours, the board has left it on exchanges to decide between 9 am and 5 pm.

» It took 17 years and 48 extensions for the Liberhan Commission, probing the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, to submit its report to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in June 2009. One of the country's longest running inquiry commissions, it has cost the government nearly Rs 7 crore.

During the entire tenure, the one-judge probe was dogged by procedural delays, non-cooperation from key witnesses and even constant transfers during the early days of the commission's functioning. The commission's lawyer, Anupam Gupta, dissociated himself from the one-man panel after eight years because of differences with Justice Liberhan.

The commission recorded statements of scores of politicians from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including senior leaders Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Kalyan Singh and now Bharatiya Jan Shakti party chief Uma Bharati. Several members of the Congress and

the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) were also questioned.

Former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, senior BJP leaders LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and ex-UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh are among the 68 persons severely indicted by Justice M.S. Liberhan Commission for their role in the Babri Masjid demolition 17 years ago, which led the country to a “brink of communal discord.”

The commission, surprisingly, is soft on Congressman and the then Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao for his perceived ‘inaction’ in deploying Central forces or imposing President’s Rule in then BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh to protect the 16th century structure, purported to have been built during the reign of Mughal emperor Babar. The commission refers to it as the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure (RJBM) and has clarified that its role was not to study if the structure was a mosque or a temple or even its history.

In his 1,029-page report, Justice Liberhan, a former Chief Justice of Madras High Court, indicts the perpetrators for having reduced “the oldest civilisation to stark intolerance and barbarianism, all for petty political gains.”



» The global economic meltdown and the swine flu scare appears to have hit Indian tourism last year, which saw tourist arrivals fall by 3.3 percent to 5.11 million. Tourism Minister Kumari Selja said that around 5.11 million foreign tourists visited India in 2009.

The 2008 figure was 5.28 million. The earlier figure of 5.37 million had been revised by the Bureau of Immigration (BOI).

India's tourism growth was better than what was estimated by the UN World Trade Organisation. The UN body, which compiles world tourism rankings, had predicted that the tourism industry would globally face a minus 6-4 percent growth in 2009.

In December 2009, about 646,000 tourists visited

India, compared to 534,000 in the corresponding month in 2008. The figure was 597,000 for the same month in 2007.

Foreign exchange earnings from tourism in 2009 were Rs.54,960 crore as compared to Rs.50,730 crore in 2008.



» India is the world's largest private gold consumer, but the government's holding of gold as an asset is modest. Even so, the latest purchase of 200 metric tonne from IMF puts it at number ten among the list of top 10 gold-holders in the world.

For India, the purchase, apart from signalling that its economy has come full circle, is a way of spreading its assets which are said to be currently overweighted with foreign currency, mainly in the form of sovereign US Treasury bonds. In other words, it is a hedge against a falling dollar.

Of India's current foreign exchange reserves of nearly \$285 billion, foreign currency assets account for more than 90% (\$268.3 billion), followed by gold (\$10.3 billion), IMF's Special Drawing Rights (\$5.2 billion) and a reserve position in the IMF of \$1.59 billion.

While India's current gold holdings are said to be historically low, buying 200 tons in addition to the 358 tons it already holds is expected to bump up the gold reserves to more than 6%.

India's gold trauma occurred in the summer of 1991, when faced with dwindling foreign exchange reserves and a possibility of a default on payments, the government mortgaged 47 tons of gold to the Bank of England and 20 tons of gold to the Union Bank of Switzerland to raise \$ 600 million. The move helped tide over the balance of payment crisis, and also kick-started the reforms process.

» Even as the overall inflation rate remains at around 1.5%, prices of food articles have gone up 13.4% in the last one year. That statistic is bad

news for the common man, but details of specific commodities like potatoes, onions and pulses are even more disconcerting.

According to the latest data, prices of potatoes have doubled over the last 12 months; onions are 50% more expensive and the prices of pulses have gone up by over 23% on average. It's another matter that the price of some specific pulses like 'arhar' and 'moong' have risen to all-time highs of around Rs 90 per kg.

Contributing to the spike in food prices has been a weak monsoon in 2009, which is expected to lead to foodgrain production falling by around 21 million tonnes in the current kharif season compared to kharif 2008. Rice production is estimated to fall by over 15 million tonnes and the output of coarse cereals by 5.5 million tonnes.



» All-weather roads in the villages of the country has doubled the income of rural households, raised literacy rate by 10%, and appreciated land prices by up to 80%, says the World Bank. "In 2000, about 40% of India's 825,000 villages lacked all-weather roads ... With access to roads, incomes have soared. Household incomes rose by 50% to 100% on average."

World Bank has been supporting India's rural connectivity programme—Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). It aids projects in several places like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. Over the years, World Bank's concessionary lending arm International Development Association (IDA) has supported many rural roads projects, both standalone and components of larger projects. The year-round connectivity has narrowed gender gap with access to education for girls and raised job opportunities, IDA said adding every Rs 10 lakh spent on rural roads has helped lift 163 people out of poverty.

The World Bank has said "a second project of \$1 billion is under preparation". It would aim to improve maintenance, weak capacity, governance and accountability, and would introduce several effi-

ciency measures. Meanwhile, for two-laning of 6,372-km of the total of 19,702 km single lane highways in the country, the finance ministry has requested the World Bank for a loan of \$3 billion.

» India's economy gave yet another indication of its rapidly improving health, prompting greater ambition from policy-makers still chary of withdrawing the stimulus medicine responsible for the recovery. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by a surprisingly strong 7.9% during the July-September second quarter, its fastest pace in a year and a half. The growth was driven largely by a pick-up in manufacturing, increased government expenditure, robust investments and modest growth in farm output despite the drought.

The growth in the first half of the year is now a respectable 7% as against 7.8% during the same period a year ago. In the fiscal year ended March 2009, the economy grew by 6.7%, its weakest in six years and way below rates of 9% or more in the previous three years.

The strong growth may put pressure on RBI to hike policy rates sooner than March 2010 as worries about inflation grow. Bond yields firmed up to 7.25%, six basis points up, as traders see a 25-basis-point hike in key policy rates by January 2010.

There will also be pressure on the government to cut expenditure and roll back stimulus measures such as the cut in indirect rates. The fiscal deficit between April and October 2009 was 61% of the target for the year, but slower-than-expected tax collections suggest the government could overshoot the target of 6.8% of the GDP for the year.



» India has revised its National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), discontinuing the old practice of different air quality standards for different land-use classes like residential and industrial areas. The country will now have uniform health-based NAAQS with uniform standards for all areas, whether residential or industrial.

Revised after a gap of 15 years, new air quality standards also provide legal framework for controlling air pollution and protecting public health, meaning that any citizen can now approach the court demanding better air quality. The revised standards include initiatives that had been developed in consonance with globally best practices and in keeping with latest advancements in technology and research.

The big question, however, is of enforcement, which could prove to be a difficult task.

The standards have brought two new deadly pollutants, PM 2.5 and ozone, within the ambit of regulation. The standard for nitrogen oxide has been made more stringent, from the existing 60 micro-gm per cubic metre, it has been tightened down to 40 micro-gm per cubic metre. Suspended particulate matter (SPM) as parameter has been replaced by fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which is more relevant for public health.



» India has the largest number of stunted children below the age of five in the world, according to the latest United Nations Children's Fund report.

Approximately 200 million children, under the age of five, suffer from stunted growth in the developing world. The report 'Tracking Progress on Child and Maternal Nutrition' found that stunting is primarily caused due to childhood under-nutrition, which contributes to more than a third of all deaths in children under five.

India also has one of the highest numbers of underweight children, below the age of five, and one third of 'wasted children'—those facing a greater chance of death—in the world.

Out of a total of 19 million new-borns per year in the developing world that are born with low birth-weight, India has 7.4 million low birth-weight babies per year—the highest in the world. The report finds that 80 per cent of the developing world's stunted children live in 24 countries.

India, however, does not have the highest prevalence of stunted children as the high numbers was due to its large population. In terms of prevalence, Afghanistan was first while India was 12th. In 17 countries, underweight prevalence among children under 5 years old is greater than 30 per cent. The rates were highest in Bangladesh, India, Timor-Leste and Yemen, with more than 40 per cent of children being underweight.

The study also found that 13 per cent of children, under 5 years old, in the developing world were wasted, and 5 per cent were severely wasted (an estimated 26 million children).

A number of African and Asian countries have wasting rates that exceed 15 per cent, including India (20 per cent) Bangladesh (17 per cent), and Sudan (16 per cent). The country with the highest prevalence of wasting in the world is Timor-Leste, where 25 per cent of children under 5 years old are wasted.

In Asia, the prevalence of stunting dropped from approximately 44 per cent in 1990 to an estimated 30 per cent in 2008, while in Africa it fell from approximately 38 per cent in 1990 to an estimated 34 per cent in 2008. Unless attention is paid to addressing the causes of child and maternal under-nutrition today, the costs will be considerably higher tomorrow.



» In a move that will enhance the image of the judiciary, 21 out of the 22 Supreme Court judges—including Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan—have declared their assets and of their wives by posting the details on the court's website—supremecourtindia.nic.in.

The step is expected to end months of controversy over the apex court's refusal to place in public domain such details, maintaining that it was not bound to part with these under the Right to Information Act (RTI).

The details, provided under the heading "Assets of

Judges,” however, did not have the total assets of each judge and his wife. Also, the value of a number of properties owned by them is not given. Most of the judges had provided such details to the CJI at the time of their elevation to the apex court, but these were not placed in public domain.



» Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd visited India in November 2009 with a message to India that Australia remained a safe destination for Indian students. Mr Rudd said his government was committed to using the “full force” of law to protect Indian students.

During his visit, in an attempt to upgrade bilateral ties, both countries agreed to elevate the relationship to a strategic partnership. Discussions between Mr Rudd and Mr Singh covered all aspects of the bilateral relationship—from trade to climate change. On climate change, Mr Rudd said: “Indian Prime Minister and I discussed the great challenge of climate change. We must have a good ambition for Copenhagen.” The two sides agreed that it is an issue of concern for both countries, with the Indian side reiterating its position on climate change.

The two sides have also decided to expedite the feasibility study to look into the impact of an FTA between the two countries. In fact, the Australian side has made no secret of its interest in an FTA, with Mr Rudd saying that he expects the study to recommend an FTA.

» Notwithstanding the US pressure, India has unequivocally conveyed to Iran its commitment to participating in the 7.4 billion dollar Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project. This reassurance was given by both Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at separate meetings with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in New Delhi.

At the delegation-level talks between the two foreign ministers, Iran sought greater cooperation

with New Delhi in fighting terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Like India, Iran has also been affected by terrorism sponsored from the Pakistani soil. A horrific suicide attack in south-east Iran in October 2009 targeted the country's Revolutionary Guards and was blamed on Pakistan-based Jundallah, a Sunni extremist outfit.

This was the first high-level contact between the two countries since the UPA government returned to power in New Delhi and Mahmoud Ahmedinejad was re-elected as the President of Iran in June 2009.

Mottaki renewed an invitation to Manmohan Singh to visit Iran. The invitation was accepted and dates of the visit would be finalised in consultations through diplomatic channels.

The two sides also agreed to convene an early meeting of the joint working group (JWG) on energy cooperation between them to resolve issues connected with the pipeline project. An Iranian team would be visiting India soon for the purpose. As Iran and India share common interests in Afghanistan, they also discussed joint infrastructure projects like the deep sea port of Chabahar and a rail link to provide better connectivity for Afghanistan to Central Asia.



» Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's deliberations with US President Barack Obama in end-November 2009, as his first State guest, did not result in any dramatic announcements but New Delhi was satisfied that it was able to persuade Washington to acknowledge that India was being inflicted by terrorism from neighbouring Pakistan.

Washington went a step further by calling for the defeat of terrorist “safe havens” in Pakistan and Afghanistan and agreed to enhance collaboration in this effort.

The joint statement was prefaced with a commitment by both leaders to expand and deepen their

relations. President Obama described India as a “rising and responsible global power” to assure India that it was very much on the US radar and that any impression to the contrary was incorrect.

The two countries signed a new memorandum of understanding on counter-terrorism cooperation to help each other in information and intelligence sharing related to terrorism, which institutionalised an arrangement which has been in place since the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

President Obama’s commitment on the implementation of the Indo-US civil nuclear agreement during his press conference also found mention in the joint statement, which also acknowledges India as a responsible nuclear power. Taking note of the Obama administration’s sensitivities on non-proliferation, India was quick to reaffirm its unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing and agreed with US to start early negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. On its part, the US committed to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an early date. There are fears that such a development would encourage the US to pressurise India to sign the CTBT, which has not been accepted by New Delhi.

President Barack Obama assured Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that the US-China joint statement issued on his visit to Beijing earlier in November was not an endorsement of Chinese mediation in the India-Pakistan dispute. Mr Singh said Obama told him that the intention of that statement was not to support any “third-party intervention in issues in South Asia.” He said he was “very satisfied” with Obama’s assurance on an issue that caused much heart-burn in New Delhi. India opposes third-party mediation in the dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir.

On Afghanistan, Prime Minister Singh said Obama told him that the US “highly values” India’s role in reconstruction and development of the war-ravaged country. Manmohan, who met several Republican Democratic as well as Republican lawmakers while in Washington, said there was bi-

partisan support for India’s role in Afghanistan. This role is viewed with suspicion by Pakistan.



» India and Canada have entered into an agreement for enhancing energy security. Yet another deal has been inked between the two nations to kick off negotiations between the two with respect to free trade area. This happened during the meeting of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with visiting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in November 2009, on a range of bilateral issues, including trade and investment, civil nuclear cooperation, the global financial crisis, terrorism and climate change.

The energy security pact will enable better cooperation between the nations in areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency, oil and natural gas, power generation, transmission, distribution and end-use, energy research and development.

The FTA deal will enable the formation of a joint study group for exploring the chances for developing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, with the first meeting slated to be held in December.

The two nations have also decided to cooperate for tackling global terrorism.

» On November 28, 2009, India reached a civil nuclear agreement with Canada. The agreement was firmed up during a meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his counterpart Stephen Harper on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Summit.

Canada has become the eighth country with which India has reached civil nuclear agreement since the NSG lifted a 34-year-old ban on India to join global nuclear trade in September last year. The other countries with which India has already signed the civil nuclear deal are the US, France, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Argentina and Namibia.



» The Chinese rhetoric against India for the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh in November 2009 picked up again with a State-run newspaper running a report that said the Tibetan spiritual

leader undertook the Arunachal visit under pressure from New Delhi. India rubbished the assessment and took the opportunity to remind China that the Dalai Lama was free to travel anywhere in the country.

Though the Chinese government has refrained from directly attacking India since the meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, it is significant that China's state-run media ran a report attacking India over the visit of the Dalai Lama.

"India may make use of the Dalai Lama to solve the decades-long territorial conflict by encouraging his visit to southern Tibet (Arunachal Pradesh)," Hu Shisheng, a researcher of southern Asian studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, was quoted as saying. China calls Arunachal Pradesh southern Tibet.

"The Dalai Lama went to southern Tibet at this critical moment probably because of pressure from India... By doing so, he can please the country that has hosted him for years," Mr Hu said. He added: "India may have forgotten the lesson of 1962, when its repeated provocation resulted in military clashes. India is on this wrong track again... When the conflict gets sharper and sharper, the Chinese government will have to face it and solve it in a way India has designed," Mr Hu said.

China had protested against the visit of the Dalai Lama to Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh, but India had dismissed the protests by pointing out that the Dalai Lama continues to be a guest in India.

Responding to that attack, the Dalai Lama dismissed China's claim that his visit was anti-China and had said that Arunachal was an integral part of India.

Genesis of the dispute: In 1913-14, China, Tibet and Britain tried to hammer out the Shimla Accord—a deal defining borders between Inner and Outer Tibet, and between Outer Tibet and British India. Henry McMahon, a British administrator, drew up 550 miles of the boundary demarcating British India and Outer Tibet. China walked out of the talks, rejecting the line between Inner and Outer Tibet, but the Accord nonetheless ceded Tawang and other Tibetan areas to the British Empire. Since then, China has declared the line invalid, citing the absence of its signature on the Shimla Accord. After the collapse of Chinese power in Tibet, the McMahon line was, de facto, accepted as official, and Britain established administrations in the area. However, Tibet and later the People's Republic of China claimed Tawang district after India's independence. With China all set to take over Tibet, India declared the McMahon line the official boundary in 1950.

The North East Frontier Agency was created in 1954. The Tibetan uprising was suppressed by China and its self-ruling government abolished in 1959. The Dalai Lama fled to Dharamsala, and maps published by the Tibetan government-in-exile now show McMahon Line as the southern border of Tibet.

During the 1962 war, China acquired large parts of NEFA but voluntarily withdrew to the McMahon line. It was only in 1985 that China declared its ownership claims on the eastern tract roughly corresponding to Arunachal Pradesh. Until then, it was prepared to cede this land to India if it was given the cold western desert of Aksai Chin in Ladakh, of strategic importance to China. India rejects China's claims over both, and post-1985 China has insisted that Arunachal Pradesh is theirs.



» On November 6, 2009, India and the European Union (EU) signed a major accord for cooperation in the civil atomic energy field and pledged to conclude an ambitious free trade agreement (FTA) between them within a year. The atomic

energy agreement is aimed at facilitating India's participation in the international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER) project for fusion research.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh led the Indian side at the 10th India-EU summit while the EU was represented by Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, in his capacity as chairman of the EU Council and EU President Jose Manuel Barroso.

The ITER project on fusion energy is said to be the costliest experiment of its kind that will cost some 10 billion euros. The first fusion reactor is expected to be operational in Cadarache in southern France by 2016.

India and the EU have been negotiating an FTA since 2007 but have not been able to firm up the accord due to differences over EU's attempts to link trade with climate and other extraneous issues. Both sides are of the view that a political push was needed for the agreement to be wrapped up by 2010.

In a joint statement the two sides shared the understanding that the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should take place in conformity with the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. The joint statement further said India and the EU welcomed the renewed momentum in global disarmament talks while reaffirming their shared interest in working together for disarmament and for countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. In this context, they stressed the importance of strengthening national export control laws.

On terrorism, the EU condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008 and reiterated the need for intensifying global cooperation in combating international terrorism. Without any reference to Pakistan, the two sides emphasised the utmost importance of bringing the perpetrators of the crime to justice.

On international financial crisis and global

economy, the two sides reiterated their commitment to continue to sustain a strong policy response until the recovery was secured, to prepare internationally coordinated and cooperative exit strategies to be implemented once the recovery has taken hold, to strengthen and reform financial regulatory and supervisory systems to ensure global financial stability and prevent further crises, and to ensure that the international financial institutions reflect contemporary economic realities.



» Even as India and the United States iron out their differences over the reprocessing of the spent nuclear fuel under the 123 agreement, the French Parliament has ratified the India-

France nuclear accord, paving the way for French nuclear giants to build nuclear plants in India.

The French National Assembly adopted a law authorising the ratification of the agreement signed between the two countries on September 30, 2008, during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Paris. This is subsequent to the adoption of the same law by the Senate on October 15, 2009.

It will enable the early entry into force of the agreement. It now paves the way for strengthening relations between French and Indian partners and for more concrete developments in the industrial field.

France was the first country to sign a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with New Delhi days after India secured a waiver from the nuclear suppliers' group (NSG) to undertake nuclear commerce in 2008. Since then, India has signed nuclear deals with the US, Russia, Namibia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Argentina.

French nuclear supplier Areva has been allocated the nuclear project site at Jaitapur in Maharashtra to initially build two power plants.

The Indo-French nuclear agreement allows reprocessing of the spent nuclear fuel from French nuclear reactors under safeguards, and gives an as-

insurance of lifetime supply of nuclear fuel for these reactors. It does not bar the transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technologies. With the ratification of the agreement by the French Parliament, France becomes the second country after Russia to give unconditional rights to reprocess spent nuclear fuel to India.

The agreement makes it mandatory that reprocessing be done under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.



» Seven months after its first charge sheet in the Satyam scam, CBI on November 24, 2009, filed a supplementary charge sheet against disgraced Satyam founder B. Ramalinga Raju and nine others, pegging the Satyam fraud at Rs 14,000 crore instead of the Rs 7800 crore that Raju had owned up to in January 2009.

The additional charge-sheet, however, fails to nail Raju and aides on siphoning of funds from Satyam Computer, instead saying that the investigating agency was planning to file a separate chargesheet on the allegations of funds diversion and income-tax frauds within the next few days.

The 200-page charge-sheet filed in the CBI court charged the accused of forging board resolutions and unauthorisedly obtaining loans worth Rs 1220 crore from banks as well as inflating Satyam revenues to the tune of Rs 430 crore by creating fake customers and generating fake invoices.

The charge-sheet also identifies 1065 properties with a documented value of Rs 350 crore that were acquired by the Rajus with the spoils of the fraud. These include 6,000 acres of land, 40,000 sq yd of housing plots and 90,000 sq ft of built-up property.

CBI has also slapped charges of criminal breach of trust and falsifying accounts by inflating the acquisition price of Nipuna Services Ltd, the ITES arm of Satyam. It also slapped a criminal breach of trust on them in the declaration and disbursement of

dividends of Satyam Computers.

Meanwhile, the Rs 1,220 crore unauthorized loans detailed by CBI in the charge-sheet are not reflected in the company's books and are over and above the Rs 1,230 crore that Raju confessed to Satyam having received from various Raju family owned companies including Maytas Infra and Maytas Properties.

» The Jharkhand Vigilance Bureau has arrested former Chief Minister Madhu Koda in the multi-crore mining and money laundering case. A joint team of Jharkhand Police and State vigilance bureau arrested Mr Koda after he repeatedly refused to respond to summons from the Enforcement Directorate for questioning. Mr Koda described his arrest as part of Congress' conspiracy to keep him away from election campaigning.

Mr Koda is alleged to have laundered thousands of crores during his stint as the Chief Minister between 2006 and 2008. ED's probe into the money laundering operation, which is spread from Singapore to Thailand and from Dubai to Liberia, is set to balloon into one of the biggest bribery and corruption scandals in the country.



» The Nagaland State Legislative Assembly has extended 'recognition' to the Naga undergrounds for having "selflessly worked, fought and sacrificed" for the aspirations and rights of the Naga people. This 'recognition' as a resolution was adopted in the State Assembly on November 29, 2009, even as talks between the government of India and the NSCN(IM) have yet to reach a conclusive stage. The resolution was passed unanimously with members cutting across party lines to support it.

The State Assembly also reiterated its earlier stand on integration of all Naga-inhabited areas in the region, an issue that also figures prominently on the NSCN agenda.

The Nagaland Assembly has so far passed four resolutions in favour of integration of Naga areas—first on December 12, 1964, followed by August 28, 1970, September 16, 1994 and December 18, 2003. The 60-member House in the resolution also appealed the negotiating parties of the Naga political dialogue to expedite the political process and bring about an early resolution through a negotiated settlement which was honourable and acceptable to the Naga people.

The State Assembly, through its resolution, also appreciated the government of India, particularly Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram for their “renewed sincerity” towards finding a permanent solution to the decades-old “Indo-Naga” political problem.

The resolution also appreciated the civil society, churches, NGOs and the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) for their all out efforts towards reconciliation, understanding and oneness of all sections of Naga society. The resolution also hailed the sincerity of the underground groups, especially their commitment towards peace and understanding by signing the “Covenant of Reconciliation” earlier at Chiangmai in Thailand on September 23, 2009.

The resolution further decided to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Naga political issue comprising members from all political parties. This committee would carry the voice of the House to all concerned sections including the Centre and the Naga rebel groups.



» Home Minister P. Chidambaram announced on November 1, 2009 that the Union government is ready to launch the much-awaited full-fledged anti-Naxal operations in three different areas, considered tri-junctions of Maoist violence.

The tri-junctions, which have been identified for the offensive against the ‘Red Rebels’, are: Andhra Pradesh-Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh; Orissa-

Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh and West Bengal-Jharkhand-Orissa.

Around 40,000 paramilitary personnel would assist the respective State police forces during the operations. Almost 7,000 specially trained troops in jungle warfare are also part of the total strength of the Central forces to be deployed for the task.

The anti-Naxal plan also includes Rs 7,300 crore package for unleashing developmental works in areas cleared off the Left-wing extremists. Officials feel that the Naxal menace, which has now spread to 40,000 sq km area across the country, can be wiped out in a period of 12 to 30 months.

Around 25 lakh people live in areas where Maoists are now having a free run. The Naxalites have killed more than 2,600 people, including civilians, in 5,800 incidents in last three years.



» Scarcity of potable water could soon be a thing of the past, at least in coastal and island States. The Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System

(LTTD) converts saline seawater into potable water—that too for six to seven paise a litre! The first plant set up at Kavaratti in the Lakshadweep archipelago has been converting seawater into potable water for 10 paise a litre.

Three similar plants of one-lakh litre per day capacity are proposed to be set up at Agatti, Androth and Minicoy in the Lakshadweep Islands. The technology—based on indigenously designed, developed and demonstrated desalination techniques by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)—uses warm surface sea-water, flash evaporated at low pressure. The vapour is then condensed with cold deep-sea water to get potable water.

A scheme is also being formulated for large-scale desalination units at coastal power plants and the remaining three islands of Lakshadweep Islands on public-private partnership basis.

Experts say global water consumption is doubling

every 20 years—more than twice the rate of human population growth. The world's water use is expected to triple in the next 50 years. Almost half of the world's population lives in 263 international river basins, but two-thirds of these basins have no treaties to share water. The world's population is already using about 54 per cent accessible freshwater. By 2025, the human share will be 70 per cent. If per capita consumption of water continues to rise at its current rate, human-kind could be using over 90 per cent of all available freshwater within 25 years, experts say.

» Kisan Vision Yojana is an ambitious project of Indian Railways to set up cold chain facilities across the country for fresh fruit and vegetables. The first pilot project is being set up at Singur in West Bengal. The aim of the project is to provide linkage between production clusters with consumption centres.

As much as Rs 35,000 crore worth of farm produce is wasted every year due to lack of proper storage. If this pilot project is successful, Railways will build similar perishable cargo centres at Nashik, Azadpur Mandi in Delhi, New Jalpaiguri, Dankuni and Mecheda.

Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), which operates inland container depots for Railways, will provide container facilities between production clusters and consumption points. CONCOR's subsidiary, Farm and Health Enterprises will provide infrastructure support to these facilities.



» In the backdrop of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons being a major factor in the geo-political security environment, the DRDO is developing herbal protective measures to guard the fallout of the use of such weapons. This is the first such project of its kind in the world where extracts from herbal plants are being used to produce agents to protect humans against radioactivity. Besides military applications, the spin-off of this project will also have spin-offs in civilian sectors like nuclear medicine and radiology.

At present there is only one chemical agent available to combat radioactivity, but that is very toxic and hence dangerous to handle. The herbal products would counter this drawback. Extracts of two plants, podophyllum hexandrum and the well-known seabuckthorn, are being used in the project being undertaken by three different DRDO laboratories at Leh, Delhi and Gwalior.

The plants grow only in high altitude areas above 9000 feet and are native only to the Himalayas. Efforts are on to cultivate the plants in the DRDO laboratories to ascertain their characteristics and their ability to adapt to other geographical conditions for mass-scale production.

Some other herbal products developed by the DRDO for use by the armed forces include UV protection agents, high energy food items and insect repellents. So far, NBC warfare and protection items worth about Rs 800 crore, developed by the DRDO and manufactured by the industry, have been supplied to the armed forces. These include sensors, detection systems, individual and collective protection systems and medical equipment.

» A comprehensive Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been proposed and the Centre and the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers. GST is to have two components; one levied by the Centre (central GST or CGST) and the other by States (State GST or SGST). The regime is to be implemented through multiple statutes, one for CGST and the rest for the respective SGST statutes. While there would be some flexibility for each State in formulating its SGST regime, the basic features related to chargeability, definition of what's taxable, valuation, classification will be uniform and consistent.

The dual GST (CGST and SGST) would be imposed on all transactions in goods and services except exempted transactions and certain goods and services kept outside the GST's purview. The threshold limit for CGST is proposed as Rs 1.5 crore for goods and Rs 10 lakh for services. The threshold for SGST is proposed as a cumulative total of Rs 10 lakh for both goods and services.

» On November 1, 2009, Afghanistan's Presidential challenger announced he would not participate in the run-off election because his demands for measures to prevent fraud were rejected. He stopped short of calling on his supporters to boycott the balloting.

Abdullah made no mention of agreeing to take part in any future unity government with President Hamid Karzai, which the US and its international partners believe is the best hope for curbing the Taliban insurgency.

In an emotional speech, Abdullah said he did not believe a free and fair election was possible without changes in the leadership of the electoral commission, which ran the fraud-marred first-round ballot on August 20, 2009. Abdullah said the Afghan people should not accept results of a ballot run by the current group.



» On November 2, 2009, the Bangladesh cabinet approved a proposed law to return Hindu property, which were confiscated during the 1965 Indo-Pak war, when the country was eastern wing of Pakistan, ending a major violation of the rights of minorities in the country.

The proposed law is meant to redress the long-disputed law of the Pakistani era, which was widely criticised as a major violation of the minority rights. During the Pakistan period, the law was called as the Enemy Property Act.

The then Pakistani regime enacted the law to confiscate the property of the Hindu families who fled the country when the India-Pakistan war broke out in 1965 while the post-independent Bangladesh government renamed it as the Vested Property Act 1974.

Officials familiar with the process said under the amended proposal, the government would publish lists of “returnable and non-returnable vested property” within a certain period of times while the

claimants could also seek review about “non-returnable” property. Under the law, government committees at district and upzila or sub-district levels would settle disputes regarding the disputed property.

The Awami League had enacted the law to return the minority property at the fag end of its previous 1996-2001 tenure setting a two-year implementation deadline but the subsequent Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) sat on it exposing it to a natural death. The 2001 law stipulated that land that was seized be returned to its original owners, provided that the original owners or their heirs remained resident citizens.



» On November 19, 2009, Bangladesh's Supreme Court rejected the appeals of five former army officers and confirmed death sentence on seven others, who are living abroad, for killing the country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members 34 years ago.

A five-judge bench of the apex court delivered the judgement amid tight security on the court premises and key establishments across the country, bringing to an end a long court battle on an emotive issue.

Sheikh Mujib, officially referred to with the honorific Bangabandhu, who was then the country's President, was killed in a coup on the morning of August 15, 1975, less than four years after he led a movement that culminated in the emergence of Bangladesh after its violent separation from Pakistan.

In its judgement, the apex court ruled that the incidents of August 15, 1975, were “a simple murder and it was not a result of mutiny”. Also gunned down or bludgeoned in three separate attacks were most of Mujib's family members, close relatives, political associates, Mujib's security chief and personal staff.

Referred to as “killer majors”, since most of them

were junior officers, the condemned men had later openly claimed to have carried out the killings in what they described as national interest.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Mujib's elder daughter and one of the two survivors, revived the court trial after she returned to power in January 2009. Sheikh Rehana, the other surviving daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in her reaction, said it was important that the verdict had been upheld by the Supreme Court.



» On November 19, 2009, European Union leaders have named Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy as the bloc's first President and appointed Briton Catherine Ashton as its foreign affairs chief.

A consensus was reached at a summit in Brussels after Britain dropped its insistence that former British Prime Minister Tony Blair should become President, ending weeks of deadlock and opening the way to agreement on Van Rompuy.

The appointments are intended to bolster the EU's standing and help it match the rise of emerging powers such as China following the global economic crisis.

Van Rompuy, 62, and Ashton, 53, are low-profile compromise candidates little known outside the EU and at least initially will not have the clout in foreign capitals that an established statesmen such as Blair would have had.



» Pakistan's embattled President Asif Ali Zardari has transferred control of the country's nuclear arsenal to Premier Yousuf Raza Gilani and said he intended to strip the Presidency of more pow-

ers soon.

The President gave up his control over the nuclear

arsenal by re-promulgating the National Command Authority Ordinance and amending it, a move described as a "giant leap forward to empower the elected Parliament and the Prime Minister."

Zardari also said in an interview with a TV news channel that the 17th Constitutional amendment which gives President sweeping powers to dismiss the Premier and dissolve Parliament will also be done away with soon.

Meanwhile, a controversial law which scrapped graft cases against Asif Ali Zardari and his key allies expired on November 28, 2009, but the Pakistan President felt it will not affect him as the Constitution provides "indemnity" to the person holding the top post in the country.



» On November 24, 2009, Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo placed two southern provinces and a city under emergency rule after 24 people were killed in the

worst-ever election related violence in the country.

The orders were issued as troops, using shovels and bare hands, dug up hastily covered graves on a grassy hillside in Maguindanao to recover the victims of the massacre. Some of the dead men had their hands tied behind their back and one of the women was pregnant. Eight of those found dead were local journalists. They were part of a group of 40 people abducted by gunmen when on their way to file a candidate's nomination to contest the governorship in elections May 2010.

Elections in the Philippines are usually marred by violence, especially in the south, where security forces are battling communist rebels, Islamic radicals and clan rivalries.

» Europe's deepest recession since the second world war has officially ended after the world's biggest single trading bloc joined Japan and the United States in returning to growth. Both the 16-

nation eurozone, and the 27-nation European Union as a whole, expanded their economies in the third quarter, with a 0.4 per cent increase in the single currency area and a 0.2 per cent rise across the bloc as a whole.

But despite exiting five quarters running of economic retreat, analysts said that the improvement is unlikely to be robust enough to allow governments to end State support measures, particularly with unemployment continuing to rise.

The eurozone economy had shrunk by 0.2 per cent between April and June after a record collapse of 2.5 per cent in the first three months of 2009. But growth of 0.7 per cent in Germany, Europe's most powerful economy, and 0.3 per cent in France, in the third quarter lay behind the improvement.

Britain, with a 0.4 per cent contraction and Spain, with a 0.3 per cent decline, contributed to the lower figure for the EU as a whole.

The European figures compare with a 0.9 per cent improvement in third-quarter economic output in the United States, with Japan having already exited from recession in the second quarter with 0.6 per cent growth.



» The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has doubled its growth forecast for the leading developed economies in 2010 and predicted a further

acceleration in 2011 as China powers a global recovery.

The economy of the group's 30 member countries will expand 1.9% in 2010 and 2.5% in 2011, the Paris-based organisation said in a report. Output will contract 3.5% in 2009. The OECD, which advises members on economic policy, forecast 2010 growth of 0.7% in June.

But the recovery will be marred by high unemployment and huge government debt across the industrialised countries, the OECD said. Central

banks and governments in major Western economies should prepare for a gradual upwards shift in ultra-low interest rates and for fiscal consolidation once recovery is stronger, but they will only need to move in late 2010 at the earliest given that inflation is so low.

Output in the OECD economies will only return to the level achieved in the first three months of 2008 in the third quarter of 2011, underlining the damage done by the banking crisis.

The OECD gave 2011 growth forecasts for the first time. The US will grow 2.8%, the euro area 1.7% and Japan 2%. The Chinese economy will expand 9.3%, it said. The global growth forecast includes emerging giants China, Brazil, India and Russia with the mostly industrialized economies of its own 30-country membership and in all covers some 80% of world output.

The OECD said it expected world trade to grow 6.0% in 2010 and 7.7% in 2011 after a plunge of 12.5% in 2009. China and India are poised to accelerate due to strong stimulus measures, the OECD projected.

The Paris-based group hiked its growth forecast for China to 9.3% in 2009 and 10.2% in 2010. In March, it projected China's growth at 6-7% in 2009. For India, the OECD boosted its growth forecast to 6.1% in 2009 and 7.3% in 2010, rising to 7.6% the following year. The OECD, in March, projected 4.3% expansion for India in 2009. India's recovery appeared to be only "modestly hampered" by the driest monsoon in nearly four decades and economic data suggested the growth "momentum is strengthening," the OECD said. But a resurgence of inflationary pressures pose a "key challenge" to Indian policymakers in deciding when to withdraw stimulus in order to tackle the large public deficit, it said.

» Global markets from Sydney to Sao Paulo trembled on November 26, 2009, on fears that Dubai's attempts to reschedule loans might trigger a fresh round of financial troubles in a world just emerging from the worst economic crisis since the

1930s and which may be amplified in India as thousands of expats stare at job losses and reduced trade.

India, which gets nearly a quarter of its remittances from the United Arab Emirates and has lakhs of labourers working in the region, may be worse off than most other nations if the crisis escalates into a full-blown one like the Russian or Argentinian crises of the past.

Indian shares and the rupee fell in sync with the rest of the global markets where investors are fleeing for safety after Dubai World, the government investment company with \$59 billion of liabilities, sought to delay repayment on much of its debt. Investors believe that there could be more trouble spots in emerging markets after Vietnam devalued its currency and raised rates. The Bombay Stock Exchange's Sensex fell 2% to 16,854.95, and the rupee fell 24 paise to 46.55 against the dollar. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index lost 1.4%.

Dubai, which borrowed \$80 billion in a four-year construction boom to transform its economy into a regional tourism and financial hub, suffered the world's steepest property slump in the global recession. Home prices fell 50 percent from their 2008 peak, according to Deutsche Bank AG. Banks around the world have written off more than \$1.7 trillion as the credit crisis trashed the value of their assets.

Dubai World's lenders include Credit Suisse Group AG, HSBC Holdings, Barclays, Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

» Green NGOs were elated after China announced ambitious cuts in the carbon intensity of its economy by 2020 in a major boost to the global effort to tackle climate change. China announced a 40-45 percent reduction in the carbon intensity from the business-as-usual scenario by 2020. Carbon intensity measures the amount of carbon dioxide—the main greenhouse gas that is causing global warming—emitted per unit of industrial output. India's carbon intensity is one of the lowest among emerging economies.

International NGO Greenpeace also welcomed China's announcement but said it was not enough. "Given the urgency and magnitude of the climate change crisis, China needs stronger measures to tackle climate change," said Ailun Yang of Greenpeace China. "This is a significant announcement at a very important point in time. But China could do more."

Since 2007, China is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, though almost all the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere now has been put there by developed countries since the start of the Industrial Age.

Yang noted that the announcement by China is yet another commitment for the climate coming from a major developing country ahead of the UN Copenhagen Climate Summit. "This is another challenge to the industrialised world, particularly the US, which has just announced an inadequate emissions reduction target of only 4-5 percent by 2020."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—a grouping of over 2,500 scientists from around the world—has said the developed world should cut emissions by at least 25-40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and reduce 80-95 percent by 2050.

For China, a low carbon path is a national priority and a sure way to keep up its economic tempo. China can ill-afford to let 'invisible' carbon denominated process and production methods (PPMs) standards shackle its export offensive.

More than India, it is China that should be worried about the current efforts to re-interpret Article XX (e) of GATT to keep out 'goods based on carbon intensive processes'. In reality, China has been under greater pressure to stave off the 'climate related threat' from the WTO window. By sending a 'concrete' signal of commitment to emission intensity reduction, the People's Republic is doing its best to keep the trade dragon from getting into the FCCC fold.

There could be an interpretation that the Chinese concession is an implicit acceptance of NAMA. Given the fact that China is still coal dependent and looks towards safe and cost-effective carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies, it does not make sense for it to accept NAMA commitments without quid pro commitments on the technology transfer front. It is important that India and China have a concerted position on this issue.

Earlier in the month of November, Brazil had offered to reduce its emissions if it was provided international funding to control deforestation of the Amazonian forests. The move was interpreted by some as a sell-out to industrialised countries. And, now India faces the challenge of how to escape being seen as a global hurdle.

The Chinese move came a day after the US administration, that held out for long, announced that it would offer a target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions "in the range of" 17% by 2020 as compared to 2005 levels. When converted to benchmarks set under Kyoto Protocol, this works out to 4% reduction below 1990 levels—almost seven times less than what the EU has offered and less than 1/10th of what the UN IPCC requires industrialised countries to do to check catastrophic climate change.

One senior official said: "China's offer are not absolute reductions, please note, and they are purely voluntary, China has not offered them as a commitment towards international compact. This is along lines that China had informed us of. But they leave a positive impression internationally." In fact, the Chinese are aiming to earn goodwill without doing much. The industrialized countries are obliged under the existing UN treaty to reduce their emissions by absolute levels below a fixed benchmarked year. China, in comparison has offered a purely voluntary reduction in its carbon intensity. The carbon intensity target also provides enough leverage for 'creative accounting' in measuring success of targets.



» China supplied Pakistan with enough weapons-grade uranium for two atomic bombs in 1982 and continued to help Islamabad out with its nuclear programme, according to a report in The Washington Post.

Outing China as a nuclear proliferator, the report, which sourced the narrative from accounts written by disgraced Pakistani nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan, said that a Pakistani military C-130 left the western Chinese city of Urumqi with the "highly unusual cargo" in 1982.

That China supplied Pakistan with nuclear know-how has always been suspected, but this is the first time that a detailed account of how it took place has come out and that too straight from the accounts of A.Q. Khan. The uranium transfer was reportedly part of a secret nuclear deal approved years earlier by Mao Zedong and Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the 1976, four years after India tested its first nuclear weapon.

But it was realised only during the time of Zia ul-Haq, who after taking power and hanging Bhutto was struggling under rumours of a pre-emptive strike by India. So Khan and a Pakistani general were sent to Beijing "to borrow enough bomb-grade uranium for a few weapons." Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping gave the approval and Khan and his team flew aboard a Pakistani C-130 to Urumqi where Khan says they enjoyed barbecued lamb while waiting for the Chinese military to pack the small uranium bricks into lead-lined boxes to be flown to Islamabad.

"Upon my personal request, the Chinese Minister had gifted us 50 kg [kilograms] of weapon-grade enriched uranium, enough for two weapons," Khan wrote in an 11-page narrative of the Pakistani bomb programme that he prepared after his January 2004 detention. "The Chinese gave us drawings of the nuclear weapon, gave us 50 kg enriched uranium," he said in a separate account sent to his wife several months earlier. China in effect supplied a "virtual do-it-yourself kit that significantly speeded

Pakistan's bomb effort."

Even before that, China sent Pakistan 15 tons of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), a feedstock for Pakistan's centrifuges, whose designs Khan has stolen. But it was also a give and take with Khan sharing Europe's best centrifuge technology in the 1980s with the Chinese in an effort to help China's uranium-enrichment programme.



» On November 27, 2009, India joined 24 other countries at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to vote against Iran on

its nuclear programme. India's censure was based on IAEA director-general Mohammed El Baradei's report on Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in Iran which said all efforts to negotiate with Iran to address the international community's concern over its 'clandestine enrichment programme' has reached a "dead-end."

This was the third time that India has voted against Iran's alleged clandestine nuclear weapons programme at the IAEA, the last two occasions being in September 2005 and February 2006. This decision had kicked off a massive political storm in the country. The Left parties, which were offering critical outside support to the UPA government at that time, had come down heavily on the ruling combine and accused it of being arm-twisted by the US into voting against Iran.

The vote had also raised serious concerns within the ruling Congress, which feared that this vote would erode its minority support base. Explaining New Delhi's third vote on the governing body resolution Vienna, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said: "Our support for the resolution was based on the key points contained in the Report of the Director General."

The IAEA has come to the conclusion that Iran was not transparent about its nuclear programmes and concluded that it was pursuing clandestine nuclear weapons programme. In September, Iran confirmed the doubts about its weapons

programme when it disclosed the existence of a second uranium enrichment plant in Fordo, not very far from Tehran.

India, on its part, has been doing a tightrope walk on the sensitive issue. It has consistently opposed Tehran on this issue in multi-lateral forums but continued to engage with Tehran bilaterally. The reasons for this were explained by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh when he pointed to the ancient civilization links between the two countries, New Delhi's dependence on Iran for energy and the presence of five million Indians living in Iran.

Continuing with its balancing act, India was quick to strike a conciliatory note after its censure of Iran at Vienna. It pointed out that this resolution should not be used to renew punitive action or new sanctions against Iran.

The latest resolution was backed by all five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The three countries that opposed the anti-Iran IAEA resolution were Cuba, Venezuela and Malaysia, while Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Turkey, South Africa and Brazil abstained from voting.



» On November 29, 2009, Iran announced plans to build 10 new uranium enrichment plants in a major expansion of its nuclear

programme—a clear show of defiance after the UN nuclear watchdog rebuked Tehran over secret such work. The decision by hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government will further aggravate tensions between the Islamic Republic and major powers seeking a diplomatic solution to a long-running dispute over Iranian nuclear activities.

It may speed up discussions in the West about possible new sanctions on Iran over its repeated refusal to halt uranium enrichment, which the US and its allies suspect is part of a covert bid to develop nuclear bombs. Iran denies this.

The new enrichment facilities would be the same size as Iran's main enrichment complex at Natanz.



» On November 17, 2009, in a delicate balancing act during his visit to China, US President Barack Obama supported early resumption of talks between China and the Dalai Lama's representatives while describing Tibet as part of this country. Taking note of the sensitivities of China and the exiled Tibetan leader, Obama, during his maiden visit to China as President, said: "We did note that while we recognise that Tibet is part of the People's Republic of China, the US supports the early resumption of dialogue" between the Dalai Lama's representatives and Beijing.

Obama's remarks came after his meeting with his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao during which the two sides discussed a host of issues including India-Pakistan relations, Iran's controversial nuclear programme, Afghanistan, terrorism and climate change.

The US and China agreed to work together to bring about stable and peaceful relations in all of South Asia, Obama said during his joint briefing with Chinese president Hu Jintao in Beijing. Hu, who spoke first, didn't mention Pakistan or South Asia. This was a rare occasion when a US president acknowledged that Beijing has a role to play in the India-Pakistan relationship. The move, if serious, runs counter to predictions of US foreign policy experts that the US would not acquiesce in a future Chinese hegemony in the region.

While the joint statement was met with silence by New Delhi, it infuriated officials in the foreign office because it brought back nasty memories of another US-China joint statement by Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin on June 29, 1998. Then too, it was Clinton and Jiang, in what India considered "offensive" language, scolding India and Pakistan for their nuclear tests. India had reacted sharply then, buffeted by general international condemnation after the tests.

But latest statement cut at the heart of an Indian effort to build a relationship with the US without China complicating the issue. The reality is perhaps that the joint statement was drafted by Obama's China officials who don't read India's sensitivities. But that it was allowed to go through signals to many Indian strategists that Obama may be more than pliant to China, giving it a role in a region where it's bound to come into conflict with a country Obama says is a strategic US partner, India.



» Tracing new links to the Mumbai carnage, a Pakistani father-son duo were arrested from Italy for allegedly man-

aging money transfer to finance phone communications of the attackers following leads from Indian and US investigators.

The two men, who ran a money transfer agency, were arrested in an early morning raid from the northern Italian city of Brescia, police said. The duo have been identified by the police as Mohammad Yaqub Janjua, 60, and Aamer Yaqub Janjua, 31. They have been accused of aiding and abetting international terrorism as well as illegal financial activity.

On November 25, 2008, a day before the attacks, they transferred \$ 229 to activate an internet phone account that was used by the attackers and their accomplices, said Stefano Fonzi, the head of anti-terror police in Brescia.

The funds that enabled the terrorists to be in touch with their handlers in Pakistan were transferred under the identity of another Pakistani man who had never been to Italy and was not involved in the attacks, reports from Italy said. The two managed a money transfer agency where it is reported to be a common practice to transfer funds using false identities. The Italian police arrested the two men in an early morning raid in Brescia, the police said in a statement.

Italian police started their investigation the following month after being alerted by Indian authorities and the FBI that funds had been transferred from Italy.



» In what is being seen as a clever move by Islamabad to bury LeT founder and Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed's

role as the prime strategist behind the 26/11 attacks, a Pakistani trial court, while framing charges against seven accused on its soil, has instead named Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi as the mastermind.

Exactly a year after the Mumbai assault, on November 25, 2009, the special anti-terror court set up in Adiala jail in Rawalpindi framed charges against all the seven accused in Pakistan's custody, reportedly confirming Lakhvi as the mastermind and Zarar Shah, Abu al-Qama, Hamad Amin Sadiq, Shahid Jamil Riaz, Jamil Ahmed and Younas Anjum as handlers/facilitators. All seven had pleaded not guilty. They have been reportedly charged under the anti-terrorism act and the Pakistani penal law. The charges include providing training, financial support, accommodation, equipment and communication gear to the 10 terrorists who had attacked Mumbai, including the lone survivor Ajmal Amir Kasab, who is now in India's custody.

Interestingly, the dossier submitted by India on the 26/11 investigations to Pakistani names JuD chief Hafiz Saeed as the mastermind behind the Mumbai plot. Zaki-ur-Rehman, Zarar Shah, Abu Qama and others, now facing trial in Pakistan for their involvement in the 26/11 attacks, were only acting under the instructions of Saeed. Saeed is alleged to have personally overseen the preparations and events leading up to the major assault on India's financial capital. Senior officials of the security establishment are obviously disappointed over the absence of any reference by the Pakistani court to Saeed's role in the 26/11 conspiracy. The assessment in India is that the Pakistani court's move, timed to coincide with the eve of the 26/11 anniversary, was essentially to exhibit to the world its "commitment" to punish the attacks' perpetrators on its soil while ensuring a complete cover-up of

Hafiz Saeed's role as the key conspirator.

» On November 1, 2009, even as the crucial global Arms Trade and Transfers (ATT) treaty, which seeks to regulate the \$55 billion arms trade and promote democracy, found overwhelming support from 153 member countries at the UN. India was among the 19 who abstained from the meet. These 153 countries—including top arms suppliers like US, Britain, Germany and France—supported a UN disarmament committee resolution which will lead into negotiations for the treaty starting 2010.

While India may still take part in negotiations, the treaty in its present form was not in India's interest. Certain binding clauses on social issues like violation of human rights and restrictions on arms sale expanding into controls on export of advanced technologies could work against India.

The US under George Bush in 2006 had opposed the treaty but it came round to supporting it under Barack Obama. The fate of the UN sponsored treaty still hangs in the balance as the list of 19 who abstained includes China and Russia, as also Pakistan.

The proposed treaty calls upon States involved in arms trade to not violate human rights, promote democracy and refrain from getting into any armed conflict. It also calls for ban on sale of arms to countries which promote terrorism.

The fact that India is still dependent on conventional weapons and imports a large number of these is another major concern. The proposed treaty will seek to set up export controls on transfers of advanced weapons, thereby extending the present Western-inspired controls on export of advanced technologies. This could impinge on the interests of India.



» The Reserve Bank of India's gold stock has shot up by more than 55 per cent with the purchase of 200 tonnes of IMF gold at an es-

estimated cost of \$6.7 billion. RBI, which pledged gold during 1991 crisis with the Bank of England to raise resources to meet external obligations, said it has purchased 200 tonnes of gold from International Monetary Fund (IMF).

» The minimum support price (MSP) of wheat has been increased by the Union government by Rs 20 a quintal to Rs 1,100 a quintal. The MSP for barley has been fixed at Rs 750 per quintal and 'chana' at Rs 1,760 per quintal.



» Sachin Tendulkar holds the world record for most number of fifties in One day matches (91). He also holds the world record for most tons (9) in a calendar year (1998), as also world record for most runs in a calendar year (1894 in 34 matches).

Objective : Four Indians, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and fugitive Dawood Ibrahim, have made it to the Forbes list of the world's most powerful people topped by US President Barack Obama, who is followed by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Among the four Indians, Manmohan Singh has been ranked highest at 36th position, while the country's top corporate house Reliance Industries' chief Mukesh Ambani finds himself ranked 44th ahead of Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata (59th). Ranked very next to Manmohan Singh is al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden at 37th place, while Indian underworld don Dawood Ibrahim is at 50th position.

» The Union government has said it would soon launch two more schemes to improve the health status of adolescent girls and mothers. When rolled, the "Rajiv Gandhi Abba Scheme" and the "Indira Gandhi Matritva Scheme" would be additions to the eight government schemes already in place to fight undernourishment among children aged 0 to six years and pregnant women. These eight schemes include: Integrated Child Development

Scheme (ICDS), Midday Meal Scheme, Targeted PDS Scheme, National Maternity Benefit Scheme, Antodaya, Annapurna and National Old Age Pension Scheme. All schemes are closely monitored by the Supreme Court under the Right to Food verdict.

» India's public officials and politicians continue to be perceived as "highly corrupt" by global experts and business surveys, says the latest Corruption Perception Index (CPI) by the Transparency International. With "Integrity Score" of 3.4, the CPI 2009 has ranked India 84th among the 180 countries surveyed, below other developing economies like Brazil (3.7) and China (3.6). The 2009 edition analysed 180 countries, the same number as the 2008 CPI. In 2008, India scored 3.4, dropping from 3.5 in 2007.

Pakistan, with a score of 2.4, is ranked 139th on the list, followed by Bangladesh (2.4), Nepal (2.3), Maldives (2.5) and Sri Lanka (3.1). Haiti, Iraq, Myanmar and Somalia have recorded the score of less than 1.5, while leaders of the pack are New Zealand (9.4), Denmark (9.3) and Singapore and Sweden (9.2).

» Transparency International's Corruption Index has ranked India 84 out of 180 countries. However, with an integrity score of 3.4, India is the least corrupt country in South Asia, excluding Bhutan.



» With a fortune of \$32 billion, industry leader Mukesh Ambani has topped the list of richest Indians, where his estranged brother Anil figures at number three with nearly half the wealth. Steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal, who lives in London but holds an Indian passport, is sandwiched between the Ambani brothers in the list at number two with a net-worth of \$30 billion, according to the US business magazine Forbes. The list of India's richest 100 people included 52 billionaires, nearly double from 27 in 2008 and just short of 54 in No-

vember 2007, but there were only six women. The collective wealth of these 100 is \$276 billion (nearly Rs 13 lakh crore), which corresponds to almost one-fourth of the country's GDP.

» India's first LTTD (Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System) plant—with a capacity of 1 lakh litres fresh water a day—was developed and commissioned in May 2005 at Kavaratti.

» 84-km Mughal Road, is a dream project under construction that will connect the Kashmir valley through Shopian with Bafliaz-Poonch in the Jammu region. Mughal emperors used to ride into the valley using this historic road which runs through high mountains. The centrally-sponsored Rs 640-crore road project, taken up in 2006, would be thrown open to public by July 2010.

» India joined China, Brazil and South Africa to prepare a joint front for tough negotiations with rich nations at the Copenhagen Climate talks. The four countries, seen as the "BASIC" block, agreed to a strategy that involved walking out of the conference together if western nations try to force terms on the developing world.

» Kisan Vision Yojna is ambitious project of Indian Railways to set up cold-chain facilities across the country for fresh fruit and vegetables. The pilot project has been started at Singur in West Bengal.

» Continuing the commendable trend of the past decade, India's forest cover increased by 728 sq km during 2005-07—a marginal rise of 0.03%. Overall, 21.02% of the country's geographical area is now under green cover. In the past 10 years, forest cover has increased by 3.31 million hectares, showing an average 0.46% increase every year. These figures are contained in the State of Forest Report 2009. The biennial report is based on satellite imagery up to 2007. India's increasing forest cover deserved praise, especially compared to the loss of 2.5 million ha of forests in Brazil every year.

India, however, lagged behind China's achievement of gaining 4 million ha of forests annually. While India seemed to be doing well in protecting dense forests, the report indicated that moderately dense forests weren't faring too well.



» The world's largest atom smasher, Large Hadron Collider, broke the record for proton acceleration on November 30, 2009, previously held by a US lab, Fermilab, since 2001, sending beams of particles at 1.18 trillion electron volts around the massive machine.

» During its 40 years, including the last 15 years it grew rapidly, the Internet has been an alien to 800-900 million non-English speaking Indians. The Internet started as an English language phenomenon, but even in the later years, when technology made it possible to have content in local languages, addresses continued to be in English.

Come February 2010, millions of non-English speaking Indians will be able to type .bharat in Devnagari script while accessing popular websites including Google, Yahoo!, MSN and many others.

The first right of refusal for .bharat URLs will be given to those with .in registration. For example, a google.co.in or a yahoo.co.in will get the first right of refusal to have a google.bharat or yahoo.bharat in Indian languages.



» For users seeking to quarantine their computers by using anti-virus software available online, fake anti-virus (FAV) is a growing, invisible threat. While it's much easier to identify a malicious software code received through spam mail, or other suspicious attachments, fake anti-virus (FAV) are making it difficult for users to escape from them. Experts tracking cyber crime say these FAVs can cost anywhere between Rs 500 to Rs 6,000, with malicious code writers making around

\$10,000 on a good day. According to computer security firm PandaLabs, only 1,000 samples of FAVs were reported during the first quarter of 2008. However, by the second quarter of 2009, such instances have reached 3,74,000. Malware, which is short for malicious software, has been growing exponentially during past few years. In 2008, over 1.5 million attacks were detected by McAfee, and the number has already hit 1.2 million for the first half ending June 2009.

» The UN General Assembly has declared July 18 “Nelson Mandela International Day” to mark the South African anti-apartheid leader's contribution to peace. A resolution adopted by consensus by the 192-member world body calls for commemorations every year, starting on July 18, 2010, Mandela's birthday, to recognise the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's contribution to resolving conflicts and promoting race relations, human rights and reconciliation.

Mandela led the fight against apartheid in South Africa as head of the African National Congress' armed wing. He was convicted of sabotage and other crimes and served 27 years in prison. When freed in 1990, he helped lead South Africa's transition toward democracy.



» Oil exploration firm Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has stumbled upon a reserve of uranium while carrying out exploration work at the Borholla oilfield in Jorhat district. This is the first time that uranium traces have been found in an Assam oilfield although other north-eastern States like Meghalaya have rich reserves.

Surveys conducted by the atomic energy department indicate there could be up to 10,000 tonnes of uranium in and around Domiasiat, about 150 km west of Meghalaya capital Shillong, the area considered to have the largest sandstone-type deposits in India.

Spurred by the recent findings, ONGC is now con-

templating setting up a nuclear power plant if its current collaboration with Uranium Corporation results in the discovery of uranium in Assam.

ONGC Assam's oil production is now about 1.2 million tonnes annually. Assam has over 1.3 billion tonnes of crude oil and 156 billion cubic metres of natural gas reserves, of which about an estimated 58 percent is yet to be explored. India produces about 30 million tonnes of crude oil annually, with Assam accounting for about five million tonnes. Apart from ONGC, Oil India Ltd (OIL) is the other major exploration firm operating in the north-eastern State.



» Commander Dilip Dhonde of the Indian Navy, the first Indian to attempt to circumnavigate the world alone, reached Christchurch in New Zealand on November 21, 2009, after covering 9,000 nautical miles on Mhadei, the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel.

Dhonde, 42, embarked on the solo circumnavigation of the world on August 19, 2009, from Mumbai. Less than 300 people the world over have succeeded in this endeavour till date, with this being the first attempt for an Indian.

Mhadei, during her voyage of over 21,600 nautical miles (38,880 km) under sail will take on the exceptional winds and swell which are prevalent especially below 60 degree south latitude, called the Screaming 60s.

» India's nuclear programme crossed a milestone on November 24, 2009, with fifth unit of the 220 megawatt Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (Raps-5) attaining criticality. With this, the number of operating nuclear power reactors in India has gone up to 18, increasing the total atomic power generating capacity from 4,120 MW to 4,330 MW. Attaining criticality in the jargon of the atomic scientists means the start of self-sustaining nuclear fission chain.

» Located in Arunachal Pradesh, this Buddhist

monastery town was in news due to visit of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on November 7, 2009. China had protested against visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh as China considers the area as disputed territory and lays claim to it.

Tawang was once a part of Tibet. In 1914, the MacMahon line was drawn by the British and Tawang became a part of India. Tawang came under effective Indian administration on February 12, 1951, when Major R. Khating led Indian Army troops to relocate Chinese squatters. India assumed sovereignty of the territory and established democratic rule therein.

During the Sino-Indian war of 1962, Tawang fell under Chinese control. The valiant last stand of Mahavir Chakra awardee Jaswant Singh Rawat took place in Tawang. After the withdrawal of Chinese troops, Tawang once again came under Indian administration. In recent years, China has occasionally voiced its claims on Arunachal Pradesh, especially Tawang, and Chinese troop incursions continue to occur frequently. India has rebutted the claims by Chinese government.

Today, Tawang serves as a centre for tourist attractions, thanks to the well-preserved beauty of the Tawang Monastery.

» Aerospace and Engineering major Quest Global has launched India's first aerospace special economic zone (SEZ) at Belgaum, Karnataka, on November 14, 2009, for development and manufacture of aerospace precision engineering products. The SEZ has come up on a 300 acre site at an investment of Rs 150 crore.

» A UN summit on the plight of the planet's one billion hungry was held in Rome in November 2009. Pope Benedict XVI was among the inaugural speakers at the meeting at the Rome headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

» Rajasthan will soon have its third tiger reserve after Ranthambore and Sariska. The new tiger reserve will come up at Darrah National Park, 50 km from Kota. The National Tiger Conservation Au-

thority (NTCA) has given a nod to the project and the first tiger is likely to be relocated to Darrah by 2011.

At present, Darrah National Park is spread over an area of 250 sq km and is separated from Ranthambore by another 250 sq km stretch which houses Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary. The park has three wildlife sanctuaries—Darrah, Chambal and Jaswant Sagar. The park has another positive side—a permanent source of water from the Chambal Basin.

Meanwhile, with an aim to protect and increase tiger population, the state government has finalised a proposal to form a tiger conservation foundation. The foundation, which will also deal with rehabilitation of the big cats to reserve parks with lesser population, is being set up as per the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act.



» India is all set to open a new front, with the Solar Mission under National Action Plan on Climate Change, aiming to generate 1,000 MW of power by 2013. The country currently produces less than 5 MW every year. In the first phase, between 2010 and 2013, the government is proposing to generate 200 MW of off-grid solar power and cover 7 million square metres with solar collectors. By the end of the final phase in 2022, the government hopes to produce 20,000 MW of grid-based solar power, 2,000 MW of off-grid solar power and cover 20 million square metres with collectors.

» Uranium mining in Meghalaya could start within the first half of 2010, if differences between the state government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) opposed to the extraction of the mineral are resolved.



» Himachal Pradesh announced it would launch a health insurance scheme in the state for people living below poverty line (BPL) from March 1. Chief Minister Prem Kumar

Dhumal told that the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna or national health insurance scheme would be launched across the state from March 1 for one year.

The scheme would be launched in all the 12 districts. Around 2.98 lakh BPL families would be benefited. For this tied up with the New India Insurance Company Ltd.

The BPL people will get insurance cover ranging from Rs.30,000 to Rs.175,000. The entire expenditure of the premium of the insurance would be borne by the government. The state government would fully fund the scheme and Rs.10.81 crore were likely to be spent during the current financial year.



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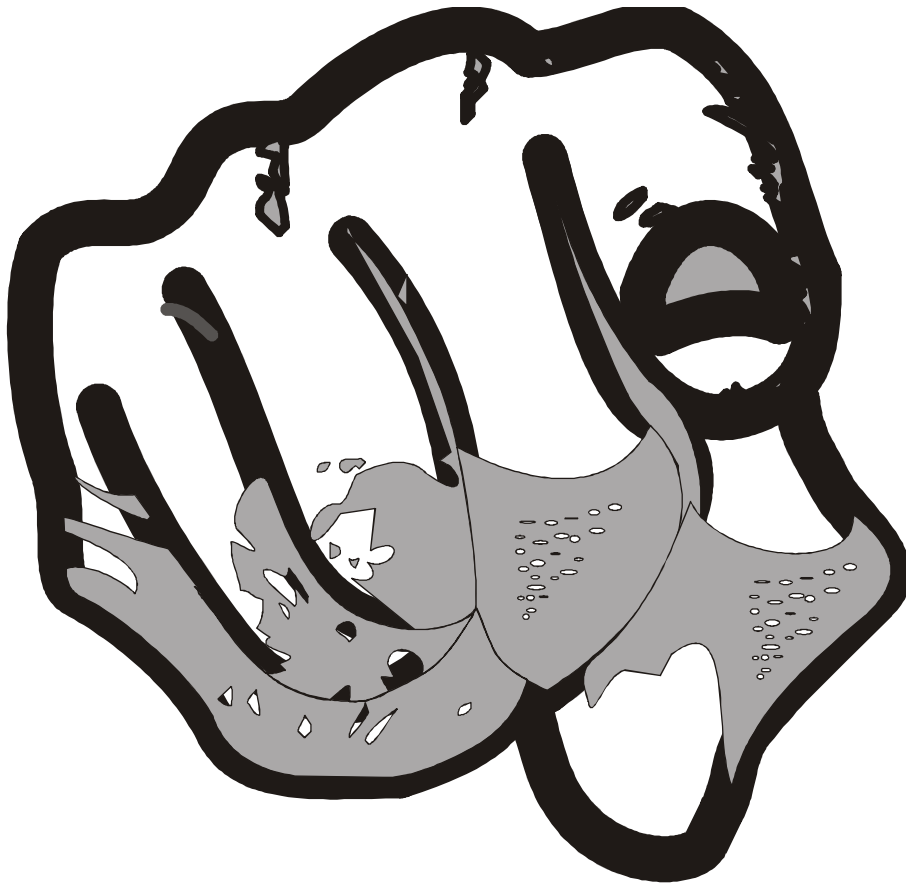
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Sports



» India won the third match in the one day international tri series against Bangladesh by six wickets in Dhaka on Jan 7. Skipper MS Dhoni's unbeaten 101 took India to their first victory in this series. Virat Kohli (91 off 102 balls) and Suresh Raina (51 off 43 balls) also played key knocks.

Bangladesh won the toss and elected to bat. The home team made 296 for the loss of six wickets riding on Tamim Iqbal's 60 (42 balls), Imrul Kayes' 70 (100 balls) and Mahmudullah's 60 (45 balls).

The Indian bowlers added significantly to Bangladesh's total bowling 17 wide balls and four no balls.

None of the Indian bowlers were impressive other than some tight bowling by part time bowler Yuvraj Singh with figures of 10-0-33-1.

» Indian Boxing Federations has announced That 5th Commonwealth Boxing Championships will be held at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi from March 10-18, 2010 on 07 jan, 2010.

Announcing this IBF secretary general, Col PK Muralidharan Raja said, barring Australia who have

regretted their participation all other major commonwealth boxing nations have confirmed their willingness to participate in the commonwealth boxing championships at Delhi.

The participants for the commonwealth championships in March 2010 are England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Kenya, Samoa, Singapore, Canada (not yet confirmed) and India.

India's performance in the last Commonwealth Games at Melbourne in 2006 were superlative as Akhil Kumar (54kgs) won gold medal, Vijender Singh (69kgs) & Harpreet Singh (91kgs) won silver medals while Jitender Kumar (51kgs) & Varghese Johnson (+91kgs) won bronze medals.

Since then, valiant efforts by world champion MC Mary Kom, Olympic & World championship bronze medalist Vijender singh, Asian gold medalist & Presidents Cup best boxer Suranjyot Singh, World Youth Championship gold medalist Nanao Singh and other medalists at various international competitions have ensured that India is being considered as an elite boxing nation in the boxing circles.

Indian compound archers made history by clinching their first ever gold medal in the 16th Asian

archery championship at Bali. India also bagged two silver medals in the men's recurve and women's compound sections, according to the Archery Association of India (AAI). The Indian trio of C. Srither, Ratan Singh and Isiah R. Sanam edged past Iran 231-230 in a nerve-wrecking contest to reign supreme in the compound section. The Indian men's recurve team, comprising Rahul Banerjee, Jayanta Talukdar and Mangal Singh Champa lost to Korea 219-222 in the summit clash to settle for a silver medal. In the women's compound team final India once again were beaten by Korea as the trio of Jhanu Hansdah, Namita Yadav and Manjudha Soy had to be content with a silver medal.



» In Airtel Delhi Half Marathon, 2009 Deriba Merga of Ethiopia retained his title, while Kenya's Mary Keitany won the

women's event in a race joined by over 30,000 participants.

Deepchand Saharan bettered 2008's third-place finish to win in the Indian men category. Saharan had won the inaugural Delhi Half Marathon in 2005. He shaved off 56 seconds from his 2008 performance to register his personal best at 1 hour 4 minutes. The top honour in the Indian women's section went to Sukanya Mall of Uttar Pradesh.

» Viewers will be able to watch 3D broadcast of part of the 2010 football World Cup matches after sports broadcaster ESPN decided to film 25 of the matches in 3D in South Africa.

After years of technology experts predicting that 3D would take off, it is for the first time that a 3D broadcast will be seen in anyone's home.

The announcement was made as television companies prepare to unveil their latest 3D sets at this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, The Telegraph reports.

» China once again showed its supremacy in the

continental athletics topping the medals tally (18 gold, 19 silver, 10 bronze) of 18th Asian Athletics Championships, held at Guangzhou, China. Japan (12 gold, 5 silver, 5 bronze) finished second.

India, who sent a 60-strong squad, ended the five-day competition at third with 12 medals (one gold, 4 silver, 7 bronze).



» World Champion Viswanathan Anand tamed former World Champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia in successive two encounters to win the rapid four-game chess series.

» Late bogeys on the card almost turned the round sour for Ashbeer Saini, but the Kapurthala lad managed to do just enough to get the New Year off to a bright start with a win in the Lalit Suri All-India Junior Golf Championship, played at the par-71 Poona Club Golf Course on Jan 01, 2010.

» India's Soumya Swaminathan won the World junior girls (u-20) title when she defeated Kubra Ozturk of Turkey in the 13th and last round at Puerto Madryn (Argentina). The 20-year-old Woman Grandmaster tallied 10 points in this under-20 tournament. D. Harika (girls) and Abhijit Gupta (open) had won the World junior titles on India's Independence Day in Turkey in 2008

» Graeme Smith and Loots Bosman went on a six-hitting spree as South Africa gained a crushing 84-run win over England in the second and final T20 international. Smith and Bosman shared a world record opening partnership of 170 off 81 balls in a South African total of 241 for six, the second-highest in T20 internationals. England, who won the rain-affected first match by just one run, struggled to 157/8 in reply.



» Chinese paddlers completed a clean sweep by clinching all the seven titles, including men and women singles, in the 19th Asian Table Tennis Championships held

in Lucknow. World number two Ma Long defeated compatriot Zhang Jike 4-2 to bag the men's singles title, while Ding Ning won the women's singles by snatching a 4-3 victory over Li Xiaoxia.

nam and Kazakhstan. India ranked seventh. The mascot of the Games was the Ho Chicken, a distinctly Vietnamese rare breed of chicken.



» Sachin Tendulkar became the first cricketer to cross 30,000 runs in international cricket during the first Test against Sri Lanka, played in Ahmadabad in November 2009. Tendulkar,

who made his international debut in a Test against Pakistan on November 15, 1989 in Karachi, crossed the milestone when he reached 35 in India's second innings.

Tendulkar ended his 160th Test in Ahmadabad sitting on 12877 runs, with 43 hundreds and 53 half centuries at an average of 54.79. From the 436 one-day internationals he has played so far, Tendulkar has scored 17178 runs with 45 hundreds and 91 fifties at an average of 44.50. He scored 10 from the lone Twenty20 International he has played before voluntarily deciding not to be part of the Indian squad in the shortest format of the game.



» Mahela Jayawardene's epic 275 in the first Test between India and Sri Lanka, played at Ahmedabad, not only gave Sri Lanka a platform from where they could dictate terms in the Test, his sixth-wicket stand of 351 with wicketkeeper

Prasanna Jayawardene broke one of cricket's longest-standing records. Way back in 1936-37, Don Bradman and Jack Fingleton had put on 345 for the sixth wicket for Australia against England in Melbourne, a mark that lasted 72 years until Ahmedabad on November 11, 2009.

» The 2009 Asian Indoor Games were held in Hanoi, Vietnam in October-November, 2009. The Games comprised of twenty sports, four demonstration sports, including the Shuttle Cock and Vovinam martial arts offered by the host country.

China topped the medals tally, followed by Viet-

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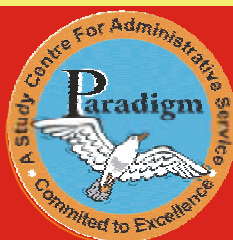
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Awards

» Braveheart Rukhsana Kosser, who killed a militant to protect her family, and Karambir Singh Kang, whose courageous response to his call of duty despite losing dear ones in the 26/11 siege won praise, are among 53 names selected for top President's bravery awards.

A Union Home Ministry said, Rukhsana and Delhi's Narender Kaushik (posthumously) have been selected for Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak for their "conspicuous courage in saving life under circumstances of very great danger to the life of the rescuer".



22-year-old girl Rukhsana had killed a top Pakistani militant and injured another at Kalsian village in Rajouri district on the night of September 27. She, along with her brother Aijaz Ahmed, had overpowered the terrorist, snatched his rifle and fired at him, killing him on the spot.

him, killing him on the spot.



» Professor Yash Pal of India has been awarded UNESCO's annual Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science, jointly with Trinh Xuan Thuan

of Vietnam.

Prof Pal was recognized for his participation in many Indian television programs that deal with popular science, including Turning Point and Science is everywhere. He also helped establish the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune and the Centre for Educational Communication in Ahmedabad.

Established in 1951, the Kalinga rewards honour a person who has helped interpret science, research and technology for the general public.



» Volkswagen India won the coveted 'Automotive Company of the Year 2010' award at the Inaugural Auto Bild Golden Steering Wheel Awards India

happened a day before yesterday by the leading automotive magazine, Auto Bild India in a glittering ceremony here yesterday.



» In Sahara Indian Sports Awards, 2009 Abhinav Bindra and Saina Nehwal have been adjudged Best Sportsman and Best Sportswoman of the year, respectively. Saina also won the Best Young Achiever

award in the female category, with tennis ace Yuki Bhambri taking the honours in the male category.

The other winners were P. Gopichand (Coach of the Year), Mithali Raj (Best Female Cricketer), Gautam Gambhir (Best Male Cricketer), Vijender Singh (Boxing), Sushil Kumar (Wrestling), Gaganjeet Bhullar (Golf) and Jayanta Talukdar (Archery), all under the category of Outstanding Performances in Other Sports.

The Indian cricket team was adjudged the Team of the Year, while there was a special award for woman boxer M.C. Mary Kom. Badminton legend Prakash Padukone won the Sporting Legend honour. Sylvanus Dung Dung, a member of the

gold medal-winning Indian hockey squad at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, won the Unsung Hero award.

» India's 1983 World Cup hero, former all-rounder Mohinder Amarnath has been honoured with the C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award, 2009 by the BCCI. The award comprises a trophy and a cheque for Rs 15 lakh. Amarnath scored 4,378 runs from 69 Test matches, in a career that stretched from 1969 to 1988. He also played 85 One-day Internationals, in which he scored 1,924 runs.



» Students from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras won New York City's first annual "NYC Next Idea" prize, a competition among entrepreneurs presenting business plans to improve quality of life and create jobs, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Greenext Technology Solutions, the winning team, proposed a software system that utilities and energy producers might use to store electricity at times of low consumption and distribute it across the city efficiently when demand increases.

A panel of judges drawn from New York City venture capitalist firms awarded Greenext, which was one of 10 proposals and three finalists, a \$20,000 cash prize and two years of free office space in a city-sponsored lower Manhattan "entrepreneur incubator." The competition is one of 11 initiatives introduced last year to promote entrepreneurial innovation.



» Eminent statistician C.R. Rao has been named for India's top science award in recognition of his distinguished services to the country. The India Science Award, instituted by the union government under the science and technology department in 2006, carries Rs.2.5 million (Rs.25 lakh) cash prize, a citation and a gold medal.

The award is announced and presented every year at the Indian Science Congress (ISC) to an outstanding scientist. Though little known in India barring academic and scientific circles, nonagenarian Rao lives in the US in Pennsylvania.

Intervening during the presentation of other science awards by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the inaugural session of ISC 2010 here Sunday, Indian Science Congress Association general president G. Madhavan Nair told the audience that Science Award for 2010 goes to C.R. Rao.

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Civil Services (Pre) Examination 2010

Comprehensive Study of General Studies

Part - 1

History of Modern India: At a Glance

» Vasco da Gama when landed at Calicut, sailing via the Cape of Good Hope in 1498, marked the beginning of the European era in Indian history. The Portuguese by the 16th Century had already established their colony in Goa.

» In the next century, India was visited by a large number of European travellers - Italians, Englishmen, Frenchmen and Dutchmen. They were drawn to India for different reasons.

» Some were traders, others adventurers, and quite a few fired by the missionary zeal to find converts to Christianity. Eventually England, France, the Netherlands and Denmark, floated East India Companies.

» During the late 16th and the 17th Centuries, these companies competed with each other fiercely.

By the last quarter of the 18th Century the English had vanquished all others and established themselves as the dominant power in India.

» The British administered India for a period of about two centuries and brought about revolutionary changes in the social, political and the economic life of the country.

» Once the British had consolidated their power, commercial exploitation of the natural resources and native labour became ruthless. By the middle of the 19th Century arrogant exploitation of the people had tried the patience of the Indians to the limit.

» The six decades between the end of the "muti-

nous" war of 1857 - 59 and the conclusion of First World War saw both the peak of British imperial power in India and the birth of nationalist agitation against it.

» With increasing intrusion of aliens in their lives, a group of middle class Indians formed the Indian National Congress (1885) - a society of English educated affluent professionals - to seek reforms from the British.

» The anticolonial struggle became truly a mass movement with the arrival of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869 - 1948) in 1915 who had suffered great humiliation in South Africa due to the policy of racial discrimination and later committed to rid his motherland of the ills of foreign rule.

» Successive campaigns had the effect of driving the British out of India in 1947, but with independence came the independence of the country into Pakistan.

English East India Company

» In the sixteenth century the English started trade with the east. The English had to pay high prices for goods bought from the east. Lured by the Portuguese profits the English too wished to have their share of wealth and profits.

» Attaining power in this area would result in getting goods at prices they decide. Besides this the defeat of the Spanish Armada had made England the mistress of the seas. In 1500 a group of merchants under the Chairman ship of Lord Mayor

formed an association in London to trade with India.

» In 1600 Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the governor at a company of merchants to trade freely with the countries of the east. Voyages were made to South East Asia to trade in spices. Attention towards India was diverted due to the Dutch influence in the Spice islands and getting raw materials for the English. The vast Indian mainland could be a market for the finished goods.

» The voyage to India was led by Captain Hawkins. He landed at the west coast of Surat and succeeded to get some trade concession for the company from Emperor Jahangir. He also secured permission to set up a factory at Surat. The Portuguese influence in the Mughal Court proved a obstacle to the English trade.

» In 1612 Captain Best defeated the Portuguese fleet near Surat thus reducing their influence. He secured permission for building of a factory at Surat. In 1615 King James I of England sent Sir Thomas Roe as his ambassador to the court of Jahangir, and secured permission for the company to set up factories. Thus factories were set up at Ahmedabad, Broach and Agra.

» In 1661 the company obtained Bombay from Charles II and converted it to a flourishing centre of trade. By 1687, it was the most well established settlement of the Company on the west coast of India. In 1611 factories were set up on the east coast at Masaulipatam.

» In 1540 Francis Day built a fortified factory called Fort St. George beside which the town of Madras flourished. English settlements rose in Orissa and Bengal. In 1633, in the Mahanadi delta of Hariharpur at Balasore in Orissa, factories were set up.

» In 1650 Gabriel Boughton an employee of the Company obtained a license for trade in Bengal.

An English factory was set up in 1651 at Hugli.

» Various factors besides the lack of a political authority in India encouraged the company to unleash a vigorous policy of trade. The disintegrating Mughal empire had excited the English.

» At a petty pretext during the rule of Aurangzeb, the British brought a fleet from England and attacked Hugli. Aurangzeb attacked the English settlements and, captured their settlements at Patna, Cassim Bazar, Masaulipatam and Vishakapatnam. The superior English navy avoided the progress of the Mughals and found it wise to conclude peace on the conditions imposed by Aurangzeb.

» In 1690 Job Charnock established a factory. In 1698 the factory was fortified and called Fort William. The villages of Sutanati, Kalikata and Gobindpore were developed into a single area called Calcutta. In 1717 Emperor Farukhiyar permitted duty free trade. In Gujarat and Madras too they secured concessions. The company at Bombay minted rupees to be circulated in India.

» Owing to the economic factors at England and the discredited submission to the terms of Aurangzeb, a rival trading company was established called General Society. A compromise between the two companies on common trade saved the East India Company in 1702.

The Battle of Plassey

» As the East India Company grew in size so did its lust for power. The decline of the Mughal empire and the rise of regional provinces like Bengal, presented the Company an opportunity for political interference.

» In 1740, Nawab Alivardi Khan of Bengal became practically independent. In 1756, his death led to a power struggle between his widow Ghasiti Begum and grandson Siraj Ud Daulah who became

the Nawab of Bengal.

» The company's support for Ghasiti Begum earned it the wrath of Siraj. The Company also started fortifying the Fort William without the Nawab's permission.

» On 20th June 1756, Siraj attacked and took over Fort William. Many of the English prisoners, who were imprisoned in a tiny room, died. This is often portrayed as the Black Hole of Calcutta. Many believe that the incident has been greatly exaggerated to suit the purpose of the Company.

» The company sent in relief troops from Fort St. George of the Madras headquarters. The troops led by Robert Clive and Admiral Watson retook Calcutta on 2nd January, 1757. The treaty of Alinagar was signed between the Nawab and the Company.

» However Clive's military ambitions were on the ascendancy. His troops captured the French settlement of Chandernagore. He tempted Siraj's uncle Mir Jafar to ally with him in exchange for the Nawab's position.

» On 23rd June, 1757, the Company troops marched against Siraj. Betrayed by his own men Siraj was defeated in the Battle of Plassey, which is said to have lasted only a few hours. He was soon assassinated in his capital Murshidabad.

» From being traders, the Company turned kingmakers in Bengal and Mir Jafar was installed as the new Nawab. Clive got his pound of flesh from the Nawab in terms of 234,000 pounds and was awarded an annual salary of 30,000 pounds per year. This made him one of the richest Britons in the world.

» The company also secure rights over a large area south of Calcutta. Construction of a new Fort William was started and was completed in 16 years in 1773. These events led to the rise of Calcutta and

the decline of Murshidabad.

Battle of Wandiwash

» English and French had their companies in India. Madras and Pondicherry were the chief trading centres for the English whereas the French centre was on the Coromandel Coast. The relations between both the companies were uncertain.

» The Carnatic region was totally disturbed politically. The governor was so engrossed with Marathas and Northern India that he hardly had any time for the Carnatic. Later the Marathas killed the governor.

» The appointment of the new Nawab worsened the problems of the Carnatic region. But till this time the English and French did not take active interest in Indian politics.

» In 1740, England and France took opposite sides in the War of the Austrian Succession. This brought the two companies in India technically in the state of war. French both by sea and land had besieged Madras.

» So in June 1748 to avenge the capture of Madras, a large army was sent under Rear Admiral Boscawen. But by October the War of Austrian Succession had been concluded and under the treaty Madras was restored to English.

» Then during the second Carnatic War, where Duplex, governor of Pondicherry, opened negotiations with the English and the treaty was concluded. The English and the French have decided not to the quarrels of the native princes and took possession of the territories, which are actually occupied by them during the treaty.

» In the third Carnatic war, the British East India Company defeated the French forces at the battle

of Wandiwash ending almost a century of conflict over supremacy in India.

» From 1744, the French and English fought a series of battles for supremacy in the Carnatic region. This battle gave the British trading company a far superior position in India compared to the other Europeans.

Third Battle of Panipat

» The Mughal Empire of north-western India had been in decline for some time after Ahmad Shah's first attacks against them in 1749, eventually culminating in his sacking of Delhi in 1757.

» He left them nominal control however, which proved to be a fateful mistake when his son, Timur Shah, proved to be utterly incapable of maintaining control of the Afghan troops. Soon the local Sikh population rose in revolt and asked for the protection of the Marathas, who were soon in Lahore. Timur ran for the hills of Afghanistan.

» Ahmad Shah could not allow this to go unchecked, and in 1759 rose an army from the Pashtun tribes with help from the Baloch, and invaded India once again.

» By the end of the year they had reached Lahore, but Marathas continued to pour into the conflict and by 1760 had formed a huge single army of over 100,000 to block him.

» Setting up defensive works in the excellent ground near Panipat, they blocked Ahmad's access back to Afghanistan. They then moved in almost 150 pieces of modern long-range rifled artillery from France. With a range of several kilometres, these guns were some of the best in the world and a powerful force that had previously made the Marathas invincible on the battlefield.

» The Afghan forces arrived in late 1760 to find the Marathas in well-prepared works. Realizing a di-

rect attack was hopeless, they set up for a siege. The resulting face-off lasted two months. During this time Ahmad continued to receive supplies from locals, but the Marathas own supply line was cut off.

» Realizing the situation was not in their favour, the Marathas under Sadashiv Bhau decided to break the siege. His plan was to pulverise the enemy formations with cannon fire and not to employ his cavalry until the Muslims were thoroughly softened up. With the Afghans now broken, he would move camp in a defensive formation towards Delhi, where they were assured supplies.

» The line would be formed up some 12km across, with the artillery in front, protected by infantry, pikemen, musketeers and bowmen. The cavalry was instructed to wait behind the artillery, ready to be thrown in when control of battlefield had been established.

» Behind this line was another ring of 30,000 young Maratha soldiers who were not battle tested, and then the roughly 30,000 civilians entrained. Many were middle class men, women and children on their pilgrimage to the Hindu holy places and shrines, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Aryavarta (Aryan Land).

» The civilians were supremely confident in the Maratha army, regarding it as one of the best in the world, and definitely one of the most powerful in Asia. Behind the civilians was yet another protective infantry line, of young inexperienced soldiers.

» Before dawn on January 14, 1761 the Maratha forces emerged from the trenches, pushing the artillery into position on their pre-arranged lines, some 2km from the Afghans.

» Seeing that the battle was on, Ahmad positioned his 60 smoothbore cannon and opened fire. However, because of the short range of the weapons, the Maratha lines remained untouched. Ahmad then launched a cavalry attack to break their lines.

» The first defensive salvo of the Marathas went over the Afgan's heads and inflicted very little damage, but the Afgan attack was nevertheless broken by Maratha bowmen and pikemen, along with some musketeers stationed close to the artillery positions.

The second and subsequent salvos were fired at point blank range, and the resulting carnage sent the Afgans reeling back to their lines. The European-style plan had worked just as envisioned.

» The Marathas then started moving their formation forward, led by the artillery. The Afgans responded with repeated cavalry attacks, all of which failed.

» About 17,000 Afgan cavalry and infantrymen lost their lives in this opening stage of the battle. Gaping holes were opened in their ranks, and in some places the Afgans and their Indian Muslim allies began to run away.

» At this stage it looked as though Bhausahab would clinch victory for the Marathas once again. However, some of the Maratha lieutenants, jealous of the exploits of their artillery chiefs, decided to exploit the gaps in the enemy lines – despite strict instructions not to charge or engage Afgan cavalry.

» They Maratha horsemen raced through their own artillery lines and charged towards the demoralised Afgans, intending to cut the faltering army in two.

The over-enthusiasm of the charge saw many of the Maratha horses exhausted long before they had traveled the two kilometres to the Afgan lines, some simply collapsed. Making matters worse was the suffocating odour of the rotting corpses of men and animals from the fighting of the previous months.

» In response, the Afgan officers stiffened their troops' resistance. Abdali called up his reserves and

cavalry of musketeers, who fired an extensive salvo at the Maratha cavalry, who were unable to withstand the rifled muskets of the Afgans.

» With their own men in the firing line, the Maratha artillery could not respond, and about 7,000 Maratha cavalry and infantry perished before the hand-to-hand fighting began at around 2PM. By 4PM the tired Maratha infantry began to succumb to the onslaught of attacks from fresh Afgan reserves protected by their armoured leather jackets.

» The Maratha Muslim logistics infantrymen (Rohillas), who had not been trusted to fight in the front line because their loyalty was suspect—or, rather, who were suspected of being loyal to the Koran or fellow Muslims and not to their country—now responded to the calls of the Afgan army for jihad and revolted. This caused confusion and great consternation to loyal Maratha soldiers, who thought that the enemy had attacked from behind.

» Sadashivrao Bhau, seeing his forward lines dwindling and civilians behind, felt he had no choice but to come down from his elephant and take a direct part in the battle on horseback at the head of his troops.

» He left instructions with his bodyguards that, if the battle were lost, they must kill his wife Parvati Bai, as he could not abide the thought of her being dishonoured by Afgans.

» Some Maratha soldiers, seeing that their general had disappeared from his elephant, panicked and began to flee. Vishwasrao, the son of Prime Minister Nana Saheb, had already fallen to Afgan sniper fire, shot in the head. Sadashivrao Bhau and his bodyguard fought to the end, the Maratha leader having three horses shot out from under him.

» The Afgans pursued the fleeing Maratha army and the civilians, while the Maratha front lines

ramined largely intact, with some of their artillery units fighting until sundown. Choosing not to launch a night attack, made good their escape that night. Parvati bai escaped the armageddon with her bodyguards, and eventually returned to Pune.

» The Afgan cavalry and pikemen ran wild through the streets of Panipat, killing any Maratha soldiers or civilians who offered resistance. About 6,000 women and children sought shelter with Shuja (allies of Abdali) whose Hindu officers persuaded him to protect them.

» Afgan officers who had lost their kin in battle were permitted to carry out massacres the next day, also in Panipat and the surrounding area. They arranged victory mounds of severed heads outside their camps.

» About 10,000 Maratha civilians and soldiers alike were slain this way on 15th January 1761. Many of the fleeing Maratha women jumped into the Panipat well rather than risk rape and dishonour. Many others did their best to hide in the streets of Panipat when the North Indian Hindus of the town refused to give them refuge.

» Abdali's soldiers arrested about 10,000 women and another 10,000 young children and men brought them to their camps. The women were raped, many committed suicide because of constant rapes perpetrated on them. All of the prisoners were exchanged or sold as sex slaves to Afghanistan or North India, transported on carts, camels and elephants in bamboo cages.

» A conservative estimate places Maratha losses at 35,000 on the Panipat battlefield itself, and another 10,000 or more in surrounding areas. The Afgans are thought to have lost some 30,000.

» To save their kingdom, the Mughals once again changed sides and welcomed the Afgans to Delhi. However the news soon rose that Marathas in the south had organised another 100,000 men to

avenge their loss and rescue the prisoners.

» He left Delhi two months after the battle, heading for Afganistan with his loot of 500 elephants, 1500 camels, 50,000 horses and about 22,000 women and children.

» The Mughals remained in nominal control over small areas of India, but were never a force again. The empire officially ended in 1857 when its last emperor was accused of being involved in the Sepoy Mutiny and exiled.

» The Marathas expansion was stopped in the battle, and soon broke into infighting within their empire. They never regained any unity, and were soon under increasing pressure from the British. Their claims to empire were officially ended in 1818.

» Meanwhile the Sikhs, the original reason Ahmad invaded, were left largely untouched by the battle. They soon re-took Lahore. When Ahmad returned in March 1764 he was forced to break off his siege after only two weeks due to rebellion in Afghanistan. He returned again in 1767, but was unable to win any decisive battle. With his own troops arguing over a lack of pay, he eventually abandoned the district to the Sikhs, who remained in control until 1849.

Battle of Buxar

» The company sent in relief troops from Fort St. George of the Madras headquarters. The troops led by Robert Clive and Admiral Watson retook Calcutta on 2nd January, 1757. The treaty of Alinagar was signed between the Nawab and the Company.

» However Clive's military ambitions were on the ascendancy. His troops captured the French settlement of Chandernagore. He tempted Siraj's uncle Mir Jafar to ally with him in exchange for the Nawab's position.

» On 23rd June, 1757, the Company troops marched against Siraj. Betrayed by his own men Siraj was defeated in the Battle of Plassey, which is said to have lasted only a few hours. He was soon assassinated in his capital Murshidabad.

» From being traders, the Company turned kingmakers in Bengal and Mir Jafar was installed as the new Nawab. Clive got his pound of flesh from the Nawab in terms of 234,000 pounds and was awarded an annual salary of 30,000 pounds per year.

» This made him one of the richest Britons in the world. The company also secures rights over a large area south of Calcutta. Construction of a new Fort William was started and was completed in 16 years in 1773. These events led to the rise of Calcutta and the decline of Murshidabad.

» It is said that the origins of Calcutta's most famous public festival - the Durga Puja can be traced to the victory of the British in Plassey. Raja Naba Kissen Deb, a financial backer of the Company, threw a party in honor of Robert Clive during the occasion of Durga Puja.

» In 1760, Mir Jafar was succeeded by his son-in-law Mir Kasim. He handed over the districts of Chittagong, Midnapore and Burdwan to the Company. Robert Clive returned to England in the same year.

» Mir Kasim (reign: 1760 to 1763), made an attempt to recover Bengal from the hands of British. In 1764, he enlisted the help of Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and Nawab Shuja Ud Daulah of Oudh. But their troops were defeated in the Battle of Buxar by the company troops led by Major Hector Munro. The armies of Mir Kasim and his allies Emperor Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-daula, Nawab of Avadh, out-matched the British in number.

» To Mir Kasim's force of 40,000 Robert Clive's army commanded by Major Hector Munro had

about 18,000 men. Early on, East India Company forces had to retreat across the river. But they were allowed to get away; the forces retreat across the river. But they were allowed to get away; the forces regrouped and through a naval force attacked through the river route.

» Mir Jafar also had trained Afghan cavalry and modern cannon manned by European mercenaries and led a charge on the Company's forces. However, the Company relied on its strength of sequenced shooting-its musketeers put up volley of gunfire.

This coordinated gun shooting became very much a trademark of the British way of war over the next few decades. The sheer power of gunfire ensured that attacking cavalry scattered.

» The establishment of British paramountcy along with the diwani (revenue administration) of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was the major significance of The battle of Buxar.

Diwani Rights

» Battle of Buxar, was a decisive battle fought between British and Indian forces at Buxar, a town on the Ganges River.

» Mir Kasim, the nawab (governor) of Bengal, wanted to rid his territory of British control. He formed an alliance with the Nawab of Oudh and Shah Alam II, the Mughal emperor.

» The combined Indian armies invaded Bengal and clashed with British troops, led by Major Hector Munro, in October 1764.

» A hotly contested battle resulted in victory for the British. As a result of this triumph, in 1765, Robert Clive signed the Treaty of Allahabad with the Nawab of Oudh and Shah Alam II. The treaty

effectively legalized the British East India Company's control over the whole of Bengal.

» Shuja was restored to Awadh, with a subsidiary force and guarantee of defence, the emperor Shah Alam solaced with Allahabad and a tribute and the frontier drawn at the boundary of Bihar.

» In Bengal itself he took a decisive step. In return for restoring Shah Alam to Allahabad he received the imperial grant of the diwani or revenue authority in Bengal and Bihar to the Company. This had hitherto been enjoyed by the nawab, so that now there was a double government, the nawab retaining judicial and police functions, the Company exercising the revenue power.

» The Company was acclimatized, as it were, into the Indian scene by becoming the Mughal revenue agent for Bengal and Bihar. There was as yet no thought of direct administration, and the revenue was collected by a Company-appointed deputy-nawab, one Muhammad Reza Khan.

» But this arrangement made the Company the virtual ruler of Bengal since it already possessed decisive military power. All that was left to the nawab was the control of the judicial administration. But he was later persuaded to hand this over to the Company's deputy-nawab, so that its control was virtually complete.

» In spite of all this the East India Company was again in the verge of bankruptcy which stirred them to a fresh effort at reform.

» On the one hand Warren Hastings was appointed with a mandate for reform, on the other an appeal was made to the State for a loan. The result was the beginnings of state control of the Company and the thirteen-year governorship of Warren Hastings.

» Hastings's first important work was that of an organizer. In the two and a half years before the

Regulating Act came into force he put in order the whole Bengal administration.

» The Indian deputies who had collected the revenue on behalf of the Company were deposed and their places taken by a Board of Revenue in Calcutta and English collectors in the districts. This was the real beginning of British administration in India.

The Regulating Act - 1773

» By 1773 the East India Company was in dire financial straits. The Company was important to Britain because it was a monopoly trading company in India and in the east and many influential people were shareholders.

» The Company paid £400,000 annually to the government to maintain the monopoly but had been unable to meet its commitments because of the loss of tea sales to America since 1768. About 85% of all the tea in America was smuggled Dutch tea.

» The East India Company owed money to both the Bank of England and the government; it had 15 million lbs of tea rotting in British warehouses and more en route from India.

» Lord North decided to overhaul the management of the East India Company with the Regulating Act. This was the first step along the road to government control of India. The Act set up a system whereby it supervised (regulated) the work of the East India Company but did not take power for itself.

» The East India Company had taken over large areas of India for trading purposes but also had an army to protect its interests. Company men were not trained to govern so North's government began moves towards government control.

» India was of national importance and shareholders in the Company opposed the Act. The East India Company was a very powerful lobby group in

parliament in spite of the financial problems of the Company.

Act Provision

» That, for the government of the presidency of Fort William in Bengal, there shall be a Governor General, and a Council consisting of four councillors with the democratic provision that the decision of the majority in the Council shall be binding on the Governor General.

That Warren Hastings shall be the first Governor General and that Lt. General John Clavering, George Monson, Richard Barwell and Philip Francis shall be four first Councillors.

» That His Majesty shall establish a supreme court of judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and three other judges at Fort William, and that the Court's jurisdiction shall extend to all British subjects residing in Bengal and their native servants.

» That the company shall pay out of its revenue salaries to the designated persons in the following rate: to the Governor General 25000 sterling, to the Councillors 10,000 sterling, to the Chief Justice 8000 sterling and the Judges 6000 sterling a year.

That the Governor General, Councillors and Judges are prohibited from receiving any gifts, presents, pecuniary advantages from the Indian princes, zamindars and other people.

» That no person in the civil and military establishments can receive any gift, reward, present and any pecuniary advantages from the Indians.

» That it is unlawful for collectors and other district officials to receive any gift, present, reward or pecuniary advantages from zamindars and other people.

» The provisions of the Act clearly indicate that it was directed mainly to the malpractice and corruption of the company officials. The Act, how-

ever, failed to stop corruption and it was practised rampantly by all from the Governor General at the top to the lowest district officials.

» Major charges brought against Hastings in his impeachment trial were those on corruption. Corruption divided the Council into two mutually hostile factions- the Hastings group and Francis group. The issues of their fighting were corruption charges against each other.

» Consequently, Pitt's India act, 1784 had to be enacted to fight corruption and to do that an incorruptible person, Lord Cornwallis, was appointed with specific references to bring order in the corruption ridden polity established by the company.

The Pitt's India Act

» After the Regulating Act of 1773 to regulate the affairs of the Company in India, the second important step taken by the British Parliament was the appointment of a Board of Control under Pitt's India Bill of 1784. It provided for a joint government of the Company (represented by the Directors), and the Crown (represented by the Board of Control).

» A Board of six members was constituted with two members of the British Cabinet and four of the Privy Council. One of who was the President and who soon became, in effect, the minister for the affairs of the East India Company. The Board had all the powers and control over all the acts and operations, which related to the civil, military and revenues of the Company.

» The Council was reduced to three members and the Governor-General was empowered to overrule the majority. The Governors of Bombay and Madras were also deprived of their independent powers. Calcutta was given greater powers in matters of war, revenue, and diplomacy, thus becoming in effect the capital of Company possessions in India.

» By a supplementary the Bill passed in 1786, Lord Cornwallis was appointed as the first Governor-General, and he then became the effective ruler of British India under the authority of the Board of Control and the Court of Directors. The constitution set up by the Pitt's India Act did not undergo any major changes during the existence of the Company's rule in India.

» The Charter Act of 1813 abolished the trading activities of the Company and henceforth became purely an administrative body under the Crown. Thereafter, with few exceptions, the Governor-General and the Council could make all the laws and regulations for people (Indians and British).

The salient features relating to the governance of the kingdom of Bengal were:

There shall be a Board of Control consisting of maximum six parliamentarians headed by a senior cabinet member to direct, superintend and control the affairs of the company's territorial possessions in the East Indies.

» The Court of Directors shall establish a Secret Committee to work as a link between the Board and the Court.

» The Governor General's council shall consist of three members one of whom shall be the commander-in-chief of the King's army in India. In case the members present in a meeting of the council shall any time be equally divided in opinion, the Governor General shall have two votes (one his own and another casting vote).

» The government must stop further experiments in the revenue administration and proceed to make a permanent settlement with zamindars at moderate rate of revenue demand. The government must establish permanent judicial and administrative systems for the governance of the new kingdom.

» All civilians and military officers must provide the Court of Directors a full inventory of their property in India and in Britain within two months of

their joining their posts.

» Severe punishment including confiscation of property, dismissal and jail, shall be inflicted on any civilian or military officer found guilty of corruption.

» Receiving gifts, rewards, presents in kind or cash from the rajas, zamindars and other Indians are strictly prohibited and people found guilty of these offences shall be tried charged with corruption.

» Parliament directly appointed Lord Charles Cornwallis to implement the Act. Immediately after his joining as Governor General in 1786, Cornwallis embarked upon the responsibility of reform works reposed on him by parliament. In 1793 he completed his mission. He introduced permanent settlement, announced a judicial code, established administrative and police systems and then left for home in the same year.

First Mysore War

» The First Mysore War was waged within the years of 1767-69, between the kingdom of Mysore and British rulers. The prime attractor of the war was Hyder Ali (c.1722-1782), ruler of Mysore. On September 1767, Hyder Ali attacked the forces of Colonel Smith pushing the Company forces out of Bangalore. A few weeks later Smith again engaged Hyder Ali's forces, killing 4000 and snatching 64 guns.

» During the days of December, the British defeated a force led by Hyder Ali near Amboor. In February 1768, the British and Hyder Ali signed a treaty restoring the prior conditions of the Northern Circars. The area of Balagaut passed from Ali to the Company, subject to an annual payment to the Nizam of Hyderabad. On 4th October, Hyder Ali captured Malbagal from the British.

» During the passing months of December 1768 to January 1769, Hyder Ali re-conquered his lost

provinces and invaded the Northern Circars. On 4th April 1769, a treaty was signed providing for the mutual restitution of conquests and for the mutual aid and alliance in defensive wars. In May, the news of Hyder Ali's successes had reached London, causing a huge drop in the value of the Company's stocks.

» The Mysore-Maratha war from 1769 to 1772 succeeded the First Mysore War. The ensuing war witnessed Mysore relinquishing selected territories to the Marathas. The British did not however back Mysore in this war. And Hyder Ali of Mysore reckoned this as a violation of the understanding between himself and the British. He put the blame of Mysore's losses on the British, as his grievances played significant role to pave the way for the Second Mysore War.

Second Mysore War

» Hyder Ali used to work as a general in the army of the King of Mysore before overthrowing him and establishing his own kingdom, he is famous for his epic battles with the British. He is best known for his invasions of the Malabar coast region between 1766 until his death and the historic defeat of the British in the first Mysore war in 1767-69.

» Warren Hastings sent from Bengal Sir Eyre Coote, who, though repulsed at Chidambaram, defeated Hyder thrice successively in the battles of Porto Novo, Pollilur and Sholingarh, while Tippoo was forced to raise the siege of Wandiwash, and Vellore was provisioned.

» On the arrival of Lord Macartney as governor of Madras, the British fleet captured Negapatam, and forced Hyder Ali to confess that he could never ruin a power, which had command of the sea. He had sent his son Tippoo to the west coast, to seek the assistance of the French fleet, when his death took place suddenly at Chittur in December 1782. Tipu took over as ruler of Mysore after the death of his father around 1782.

The Third Mysore War

» The Treaty of Mangalore carried the seeds of strife with the Marathas, because they were disappointed in their expectation of acting as the mediators and of recovering their losses in the North of Mysore.

Tipu had emerged with enhanced prestige whom even the mighty English could not humble. This excited the jealousy of both the Marthas and the Nizam who fought a war with him for two years from 1785 to 1787.

» The Nizam was also not friendly towards Mysore ever since he had come to power in 1761. He regarded himself as the overlord of the entire south, and expected Haidar and Tipu to be his tributaries. As he was military imbecile he allied himself either with the Marathas or the English to distress the Mysore rulers. There was always a pro-British party at Hyderabad which dissuaded the Nizam from being cordial to Tipu.

» In the war that followed Tipu had the upper hand despite the alliance of his two neighbors. The war came to an end in April 1787 by the Treaty of Gajendragadh by which he ceded Badami to the Marathas hoping to win their support against the English or at least to prevent them from joining the English.

» Tipu was disappointed in his expectations. Far from joining him to remove the English from India, both of them, the Marathas and the Nizam joined the English in a powerful confederacy against Tipu in the Third Mysore war.

» The allies struggled hard for nearly two years from 1790 to 1792. Lord Cornwallis who had surrendered to the Americans at Saratoga in the new world assumed the command, and with great difficulty he was successful in a surprise night attack to enter into the island of Srirangapatna on 6th Feb. 1792.

» Tipu was made to make peace by surrendering half of his kingdom, and paying three crores as indemnity, apart from sending two of his sons as hostages to Madras. This was a serious blow to Tipu.

Fourth Battle of Mysore

T» he second half of the eighteenth century was a period of great confusion in Indian history, which witnessed the rise of a colonial power. The only state that offered stiff resistance to their expansion was Mysore, which fought not one but four wars.

» Tipu participated in all those four Mysore wars, in two of which he inflicted serious blows on the English. In fact Tipu's rule starts in the midst of a war against the English and ends in the midst of war against them.

» His short but stormy rule was eventful for his several engagements with his neighbours, the Marathas and the Nizam, as well, whose short-sighted policy prompted them to join the colonials against Mysore.

» Tipu remained fully involved in warfare from his youth until his fall in the fourth Mysore war. From 1760 when Haider Ali allied himself with the French against the English to 1799 when Wellesly destroyed Tipu, Mysore had become "the terror of Leadenhall Street", the headquarters of the East India Company. These forty years of Tipu both as a prince and a ruler witnessed continuous warfare.

» Having learnt the western technique of warfare, Tipu was not slow in making use of it. He was himself bold, dashing, and a person of undaunted adventurous spirit. Under his leadership Mysore army" proved a school of military science" to Indian princes. The dread of an European army no longer wrought any magic on him.

» Tipu's infliction of serious blows on the English in the first and second Mysore wars damaged their reputation as an invincible power.

» Tipu was a far-sighted ruler, who discerned the danger to the freedom of the land by the colonial expansion, which necessitated continuous warfare. Apart from this he had his own agenda to assert his own authority over the neighbours, the Marathas and the Nizam, who were not reconciled to the rise and growth of Mysore as an independent powerful state.

» This weakness of the neighbours was fully exploited by the English whose shrewd political sense involved them as allies against Mysore. In all four Mysore wars the Marathas and the Nizam were willing to support the English rather than either Haider or Tipu.

» In the third Mysore war all three formed a powerful confederacy against Tipu, and in the fourth Mysore war the Nizam was an ally of the English. The treaty of Mangalore carried the seeds of strife with the Marathas, because they were disappointed in their expectation of acting as the mediators and of recovering their losses in the north of Mysore. Tipu had emerged with enhanced prestige whom even the mighty English could not humble. This excited the jealousy of both the Marathas and the Nizam who fought a war with him for two years from 1785 to 1787.

» The Nizam was also not friendly towards Mysore ever since he had come to power in 1761. He regarded himself as the overlord of the entire south, and expected Haider and Tipu to be his tributaries. As he was militarily imbecile he allied himself either with the Marathas or the English to distress the Mysore rulers.

» There was always a pro-British party at Hyderabad which dissuaded the Nizam from being cordial to Tipu. In the war that followed Tipu had the upper hand despite the alliance of his two

neighbours. The war came to an end in April 1787 by the treaty of Gajendragadh by which he ceded Badami to the Marathas hoping to win their support against the English or at least to prevent them from joining the English.

» Tipu was disappointed in his expectations. Far from joining him to remove the English from India, both of them, the Marathas and the Nizam, joined the English in a powerful confederacy against Tipu in the third Mysore war.

» The allies struggled hard for nearly two years from 1790 to 1792. Lord Cornwallis who had surrendered to the Americans at Saratoga in the new world assumed the command and with great difficulty he was successful in a surprise night attack to enter into the island of Srirangapatana on 6 February 1792.

» Tipu was made to make peace by surrendering half of his kingdom, and paying three crores as indemnity, apart from sending two of his sons as hostages to Madras. This was a serious blow to Tipu. Very soon Tipu was able to build up his power again, paid the indemnity, and got his sons back. He intensified his contacts with the French, the Turks and the Afghans.

» The Nizam was also made friendly, who was made to recruit a contingent of 14000 troops under a French, Raymond, who was friendly to Tipu. Napoleon was also on the way to India to help Tipu, who had invited Zaman Shah of Afghanistan as well to help him remove the English from India. When all these plans were about to mature, destiny willed otherwise. Napoleon was defeated at Accre in Syria and forced back to France. Zaman Shah was made to beat a hasty retreat to Kabul because of British machinations that brought about a rear action from Iran on Afghanistan.

» Wellesley forced the Nizam to disband Raymond and accept a British detachment under subsidiary system. Having finished this task he declared war on Tipu, sending the largest English army ever assembled in India.

» The fourth Mysore war was a short affair. Keeping Tipu in false hopes, he suddenly surprised him by unacceptable demands. When Tipu refused to accept them, the English breached the fort and in a bloody encounter, fighting against heavy odds he was killed on 4 May 1799.

» The last hope for the freedom of the land was thus extinguished. He died a soldier's death for the defence of the cherished values of his land under a spontaneous combustion of hostile forces.

Permanent Settlement of Bengal

» Permanent Settlement Concluded by the Cornwallis administration in 1793, Permanent Settlement was a grand contract between the East India Company government and the Bengal landholders (zamindars and independent talukdars of all denominations).

» Under the contract, the landholders or zamindars were admitted into the colonial state system as the absolute proprietors of landed property. Besides being turned into proprietors of land, the zamindars were endowed with the privilege of holding their proprietary right at a rate which was to continue unchanged for ever.

» Under the contract the government was barred from enhancing its revenue demand on the zamindars.

Objectives and effects of Permanent Settlement

Placing revenue paying on a definite footing and making revenue collection sure and certain;

» Ensuring a minimum revenue;

» Relieving officials of revenue matter and engaging them to other spheres of administration; and finally,

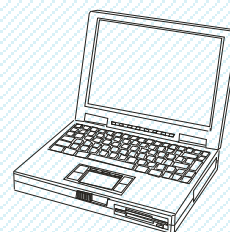
» Forging an alliance between the zamindar class and the colonial rulers.

» Though not entirely but largely, government succeeded in achieving these short-term goals. The revenue-paying agency was put on a definite footing in the person of zamindar.

» The government now knew how much was to be its annual inflow from land and the zamindars also knew for certain their contractual obligation to government. Formerly, neither the government nor the revenue payers knew exactly where did they stand as regards revenue collection and payment.

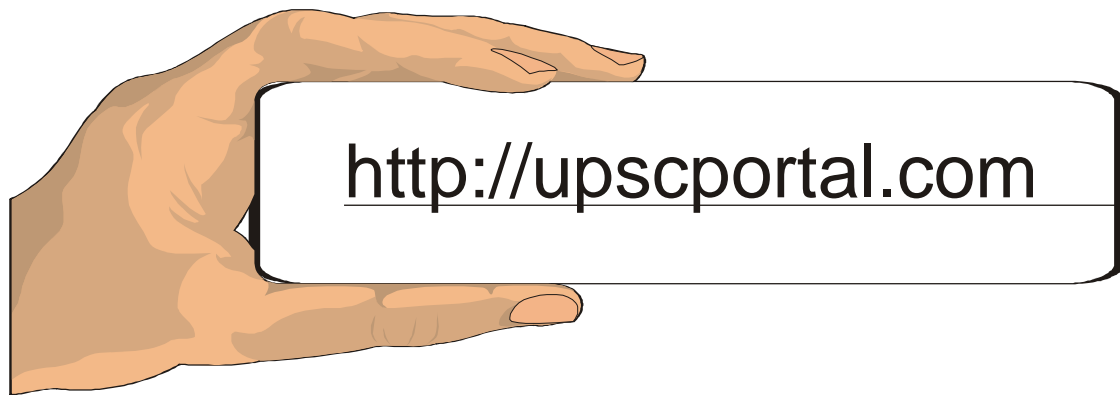
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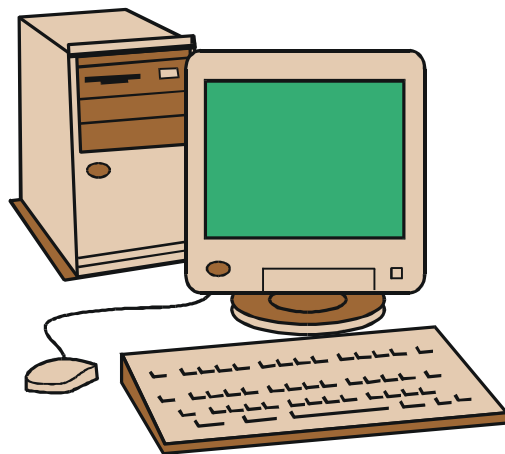


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