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Articles

- Sheikh Hasina Visit to India
- Haiti Earthquake

HOT TOPICS

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Current Affairs, Sports & Awards

Study Notes: CSE Pre 2010

History of Modern India: At a Glance - II

Comprehensive Study of General Studies PART -2

February-2010

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Aspirants Times

VOL : 11
February 2010

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Published By:

WWW.UPSCPORTAL.COM

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New Delhi-110009

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Decision is taken, now act on...

Hello!

Decision is very important and it is the time act upon from where completion of any task begins. You have already decided and filled the form for UPSC preliminary examination. It shows that you have decided to reach the sky. Now you have to begin action to reach towards goal. For the action, you should make a winning strategy. The strategy, which suited you, best can only be made by you. Before making any plan, you should contact your friends, teachers and those whom you find suitable for such guidance.

Now I would like to tell you some points, which are main component of strategy. These are timetable, which provide you a good study time of eight hours, coaching, notes, study materials, books, magazine and periodicals.

In the period of technical advancement, you must utilize technical resources to reaching your destination fast and timely. On this crossroad, we are with you. We are making our best efforts to provide you best suitable materials for civil service examination.

In its eleventh volume, Aspirant Times is providing you History of Modern India for general study, which covers very huge part of this paper and play an important role in deciding success. In article section Indo -Bangladesh Signed Agreements, Haiti Earthquake are major issues; While Hot Topic includes China controversy over Internet freedom, Malaysian PM visit to India. Also Current Affairs and Sports& Awards are given to improve your awareness about events. So now you study, understand and become ready for combat. Wishing all the best.

Ram Kumar Pandey
And
UPSCPORTAL Team.

Sheikh Hasina Visit to India

A New Chapter in Bilateral Ties

By : Avadhesh Kumar Pandey

India and Bangladesh on 12 Jan, 2010 signed five pacts following discussions between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Sheikh Hasina. India extended \$1 billion as line of credit to Bangladesh as part of the effort to aid developmental activities in Bangladesh. This was the largest assistance given by India to any country and underscored the importance New Delhi attached to enchanting bilateral ties with Dhaka. The credit will be extended for a range of projects, including infrastructure development.

The two leaders held discussions for over an hour with focus on security and developmental issues. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told his Bangladesh counterpart, Ms Sheikh Hasina, that her visit had opened up a new chapter in bilateral ties. The Bangladeshi side gave an assurance that Bangladeshi soil would not be used for anti-India activities. The two sides have also decided to discuss all issues of difference through dialogue.

Though counter-terrorism and security issues were on top of the agenda, the two sides also dwelt at length on economic and trade issues. It was decided at the meeting that a comprehensive framework for development would be set. Dhaka also welcomed the reduction of India's negative list and has now requested for further reductions. This visit, which is being called historic by the Indian side, is expected to open up the current level of bilateral co-operation between the two countries.

The two sides signed five agreements related to security co-operation, power and cultural exchange. These included three agreements on mu-

tual legal assistance in criminal matters, transfer of sentenced persons and combating international terrorism, organised crime and illicit drug trafficking.

A pact on co-operation in the power sector and one on cultural exchanges for the year 2010-2012 were also signed. Additionally, Mr Singh during discussions also agreed to give Dhaka 250 megawatts of electricity from the central grid. India had earlier agreed to supply 100 mw of power.



Turning A New Corner

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's visit to India is a historic one. Not only is a strong political will

evident, there's a palpable enthusiasm to walk the extra mile. Her Awami League (AL) government has just completed one year in office and the two governments have time on their side to tackle complex bilateral issues.

The AL's historic win has been a cause for celebration in India and India's stakes in the regime's success are high, poised as it is to take several decisions that will determine Bangladesh's secular future. Whether it is the trial of war criminals or zero tolerance for terrorism, this government is set to create history in Bangladesh's politics. During Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-led regime, Indo-Bangladesh relations had touched their nadir.

Political patronage to radical elements, growing religious intolerance and reluctance of the government to act against Indian insurgent groups, re-

fusal to sign on to the multilateral trans-Asian Highway project just because the route would benefit India are but some instances where the BNP government did not hesitate to adopt policies that adversely affected Bangladesh's interests; all in the name of protecting its sovereignty.

Given this backdrop, this visit is definitely about the 'charter for change' in the AL's election manifesto, which had boldly declared that 'rail and road connections with neighbouring countries under the Asian Rail and Highway schemes will be established'. The government has also announced that, after modernisation, the Chittagong and Mongla ports will be opened to all of Asia. What's more, it has the popular mandate to carry these proposals forward.

India has announced a \$1-billion line of credit that would help Bangladesh build infrastructure and emerge as a hub between South and Southeast Asia. Also, the memorandum of understanding on electricity exchange, to the tune of 900 million units per annum, will go a long way in dealing with power shortage in the two countries.

India needs to walk the extra mile and, if necessary, provide unilateral trade concessions, already hinted at by the finance minister. But any concession or policy announcements must not be allowed to get tangled in bureaucratic red tape, leading to broken promises India's offer of half a million tonnes of rice during cyclone Sidr being a case in point.

India has already agreed to provide transit facilities to Bangladesh for trade with Nepal and Bhutan; it now needs to resolve undemarcated land and maritime boundaries rather than letting the issue fester. To address its main security concerns, India must be prepared to bear some economic loss a small price to pay in the long run. What's important here is to send the right political signals.

Bangladesh has suffered more than India by tolerating radical elements and no one knows this bet-

ter than the current government, which could have lost its entire front-ranking leadership in the August 2004 bombing of an AL rally. Hasina's government has busted militant networks and has made several arrests and facilitated the surrender of Ulfa leaders who had taken refuge in Bangladesh. So, the agreement on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters, extradition of sentenced criminals and the bilateral resolve to combat international terrorism and organised crime is significant.

India must demonstrate magnanimity commensurate with its size, stature and global aspirations. Let the benefits be evaluated in intangibles, like strengthening liberalism over fundamentalism and shared political and social values, which should not get lost in the bilateral nitty-gritty.

Political & Economic Relations

India's links with Bangladesh, like with her other South Asian neighbours, are civilisational, cultural, social and economic. There is much that unites the two countries a shared history and common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts; with Bangladesh, India shares not only a common history of struggle for freedom and liberation but also enduring feelings of both fraternal as well as familial ties.

This commonality is reflected in multi-dimensional relations with Bangladesh at several levels of interaction. High-level exchanges, visits and meetings take place regularly alongside the wide-ranging people-to-people interaction. India's Missions in Bangladesh issue about half a million visas every year and thousands of Bangladeshi students study in India on self-financing basis and over 100 annual GOI scholarships. These exchanges and interactions serve as an important adjunct to the official-level interaction. India's land border with Bangladesh – nearly 4,096 km – is the longest that India has with any of its neighbours.

Controversial Issues

» The continuing illegal immigration from

Bangladesh into India remains a serious issue. The long and porous borders, socio-economic pressures coupled with ineffective border controls have been major contributory factors. The high population density, endemic poverty and vulnerability to the vagaries of nature (cyclones, frequent floods) exacerbate the flow of illegal immigration to India.

» India's concerns over the magnitude of the problem are regularly conveyed to Bangladesh, including at the highest level. An institutional framework has been established to discuss various issues related to border management including the problem of illegal cross-border movement through regular meetings of Director Generals of the BSF and Bangladesh Rifles and Home Secretaries of both the countries. The two sides revived the Joint Working Group to discuss operational matters related to security issues and held a meeting in New Delhi on May 29-30, 2008.

» The Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), signed between India and Bangladesh in 1974, has been implemented in its entirety except three issues pertaining to: (i) demarcation of 6.5 km. of the border in three sectors, namely: Lathitilla-Dumabari (Assam sector), South Berubari (West Bengal sector), and Muhuri river/Belonia sector (Tripura sector); (ii) Exchange of adverse possessions; and, (iii) exchange of enclaves.

» In December 2001, the two countries established a bilateral mechanism called the Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) to make recommendations to settle the abovementioned

Sharing of River Waters

India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers and have an agreement on the sharing of waters of river Ganga during lean season (January 1-May 31). Signed on December 12, 1996, the Ganga Waters Treaty is based on principles of equity, fairness and no harm to either side, and continues to work satisfactorily. The two countries have a bilateral Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) that was established in June 1972 to maintain liaison between the two

countries to maximize benefits from common river systems, formulation of flood control works, formulation of proposals on advance flood warnings, flood forecasting and cyclone warning, as also study of flood control and irrigation projects. The last meeting of JRC took place in Dhaka in September 2005. In September 2006, the Water Resources Ministers of both the countries jointly visited some river sites in both countries and discussed issues relating to riverbank protection, minor lift irrigation and drinking water schemes.

Bilateral Trade

Bangladesh is an important trading partner for India. Bilateral merchandise trade has been growing steadily over the last few years. In FY07-2008, Bangladesh's imports from India increased by about 47 % to US\$ 3.274 billion – about 15 % of Bangladesh's global imports. India became the number one source of Bangladesh' imports. Bangladesh's exports to India increased by about 24 % from US \$ 289 to US \$ 358 million. Total bilateral trade in FY 07-08 stood at US \$ 3.631 billion. While Bangladesh imports from India doubled in the last 4 years, its exports to India grew by seven times in corresponding period.

The first Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh was signed in 1972. The revised India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement signed in March 2006 governs the present trading arrangements between the two countries.

Other Agreements/MOUs for facilitating trade and economic linkages include:

(i) Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (IWTT); (ii) Bilateral Air Services Agreement between India and Bangladesh; (iii) Bilateral Agreement on the Establishment of Joint Economic Commission (JEC); (iv) India-Bangladesh Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation; (v) India-Bangladesh Agreement for the Regulation of motor vehicle passenger traffic; (vi) Agreement on Revised Travel Arrangements between India and Bangladesh; (vii) Rules for Interchange of Traffic between India and Bangladesh; (viii) MOU between BIS and BSTI for cooperation in the area of

standards; (ix) MOU for cooperation in the field of agriculture; (x) MOU for cooperation in the field of science and technology; (xi) Protocols for operation of passenger bus service between Dhaka & Kolkata, and Dhaka and Agartala. Discussions are also underway for concluding revised agreement on regulation of passenger and cargo vehicular traffic, and the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA).

Mutual Investments

Besides merchandise trade, efforts are underway to promote mutual investments and technology collaborations. There have been significant proposals from large Indian industrial groups to invest in Bangladesh. There are other Indian small and medium sized firms, who are interested in investing in Bangladesh. A large number of Indian firms from both public and private sector have been working on different turn key projects in Bangladesh in sectors such as power, transmission lines, textiles, chemicals and pharmaceutical, glass and plastics, engineering. To encourage increased investment flows, discussions on bilateral investment and protection and promotion agreement (BIPPA) are underway, and the agreement is expected to be signed shortly. In November 2007, Government of India has removed the prohibition on investment into India by citizens of Bangladesh or entities incorporated in Bangladesh, allowing investments that have prior approval of the foreign investment policy board of the government of India. A total 185 FDI and joint venture investment proposals from India worth over US \$ 438 million have been registered with the Board of Investment, Govt. of Bangladesh in sectors such as agro industry, textiles, chemicals and engineering industries till September 2008.

Trade Infrastructure And Connectivity

The movement of goods by road is through more than 20 operational land customs stations (LCSs) along the border. Government of India has taken up upgradation of seven LCSs in two phases, and

their development as integrated check-posts (ICPs). These ICPs include Petrapole, Hili, Changrabandha, Agartala, Dawki, Sutarkandi and Demagiri. Petrapole, which accounts for more than two-thirds of Bangladesh-India trade, will be developed in the first phase. A Sub-group under the Joint Working Group on Trade has been set up in November 2007 to look into ways and means of strengthening border trade infrastructure in a more coordinated way. It held its first meeting on August 6-7, 2008 in Dhaka.

The Protocol on Inland Water Trade and Transit (IWTT) has been operational since 1972. It permits movement of goods over barges/vessels through the river systems of Bangladesh on eight specific routes between points in West Bengal & Bangladesh; Kolkata and points in Assam (Dhubri, Karimganj) and between points in Assam. The protocol was renewed in 2007 for period up to March 2009. The Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee under the bilateral protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade was held in Dhaka on May 26-27, 2008.

There are three points along border for movement of goods by train. A direct passenger train service ('Maitree Express') between Kolkata and Dhaka commenced its operation on April 14, 2008 (Bi weekly) following the signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement in Dhaka on April 10, 2008. There is direct bus service between Dhaka and Kolkata (started in 1999) and Dhaka - Agartala (since 2003). India has requested for a direct bus service between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka. Under the bilateral India-Bangladesh Air Services agreement, a total 61 flights per week are permitted to operate by designated carriers from both sides. Bangladesh Biman, Air India Express, GMG Airlines, United Airways, Jet Airways are operating services on Kolkata-Dhaka, and Delhi-Dhaka sectors. Airlines from both sides have plans to expand their operations on these sectors as well as include new destinations. Besides 61 flights per week to metropolitan cities, since 2006 India has offered an open sky policy to SAARC member states to 18 tourist destinations in India.

A number of proposals for improving trade infrastructure and boosting connectivity between India and Bangladesh and North-East states of India are at various stages of discussion between the two governments. For example, India has proposed movement of containers through riverine route and rail; access to Chittagong Port for use by North East States of India, development of Akhaura-Agartala rail link, declaration of Ashuganj as new Port of Call under IWTT, and opening of new trade routes including Kawrapuchchiah/Demagiri (India) – Thegamukh (Bangladesh) and Sabroom (India) – Ramgarh (Bangladesh). The response from Government of Bangladesh is awaited on these proposals.

India's Economic Assistance To Bangladesh

On the economic assistance side, India, as always, has stood by Bangladesh in its hour of need with aid worth over Taka 250 crore (over US \$ 37 million) to help it cope with natural disasters and floods in the past one year (2007-08). India's assistance included supply of 1,000 MT of skimmed milk powder, and 40,000 MT of rice. India is working with Government of Bangladesh for rehabilitation of ten cyclone-affected villages in the southern part of Bangladesh, that includes construction project of 2,800 core shelters in the affected villages.

Technical Cooperation

Bangladesh is an important ITEC partner country, and a number of participants from Bangladesh have availed of training courses under the ITEC programme. In the last three years, more than 400 participants from Bangladesh have undergone training in India under ITEC programme and under Colombo Plan. Under a special "Train the Trainer Programme in Information Technology" sponsored by the Government of India, about 500 participants from Bangladesh have visited India in the past two years for the six weeks long training courses conducted by TCS.

- » Overview: Bangladesh
- » Official Name: People's Republic of Bangladesh
- » Area: 1,47,570 square km
- » Capital: Dhaka (Area – 1416 square km)
- » Population (2006): 14.06 Crore
- » Rate of Population Growth (2006-7): 2.09 %
- » Sex Ratio: 105 males per 100 females
- » Life Expectancy (2006): 64.5 years
- » Adult Literacy Rate: 52.1 %
- » GDP (2007-2008)(P): US \$ 79 billion
- » GDP Growth (2007-8) (P): 6.2%
- » Per Capita GDP (2007-2008) (P): US \$ 554
- » Foreign Direct Investment (2007-2008): US \$ 648 million
- » Total exports (2007-2008): US \$ 14,111million
- » Total imports (2007-2008): US \$ 21,600 million
- » Exports to India (2007-2008): US \$ 358 million
- » Imports from India (2007-2008): US \$ 3,273 million





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Haiti Earthquake

Century's Most Devastating Event

By: Sant Prasad Gupta

The 2010 Haiti earthquake was a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 Mw earthquake centred approximately 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) from Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, which struck on 12 January 2010. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 mi). The United States Geological Survey recorded a series of aftershocks, fourteen of them between magnitudes 5.0 and 5.9. The International Red Cross has stated that as many as 3 million people have been affected by the quake, with as many as 100,000 deaths likely, according to the prime minister.

Most of Port-au-Prince's major landmarks were significantly damaged or destroyed in the earthquake, including the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly building, the Port-au-Prince Cathedral, and the main jail. Additionally, all hospitals were destroyed or so badly damaged that they have been abandoned. The United Nations reported that headquarters of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), located in the capital, collapsed and that a large number of UN personnel were unaccounted for. The Mission's Chief, Hédi Annabi, was confirmed dead on 13 January by President René Préval.

There is concern about the emergency services' ability to cope with a major disaster, and the country is considered "economically vulnerable" by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The last time an earthquake of this magnitude hit the south of Hispaniola, the island that Haiti shares with the Dominican Republic, was in 1751. United States Geological Service geophysicist Kristin Marano called it the strongest earthquake since the devastating 1770 earthquake in what is now Haiti. According to Moreau de Saint-Méry (1750–1819), while "only one masonry building had not collapsed" in Port-au-Prince during the 18 October 1751 earthquake, "the whole city collapsed" dur-

ing the earthquake of 3 June 1770. The city of Cap-Haïtien and other cities in the northern part of Haiti and the Dominican Republic were destroyed in an earthquake on 7 May 1842. In 1946, a magnitude-8.0 earthquake struck the Dominican Republic and also shook Haiti, producing a tsunami that killed 1,790 people.

The quake occurred in the vicinity of the northern boundary where the Caribbean tectonic plate shifts eastwards by about 20 mm per year relative to the North American plate. The strike-slip fault system in the region has two branches in Haiti, the Septentrional fault in the north and the Enriquillo-Plaintain Garden fault in the south; seismic data suggests that the January 2010 quake was on the Enriquillo-Plaintain Garden fault, which had been locked solid for 250 years, gathering stress. The stress would ultimately have been relieved either by a large earthquake or a series of smaller ones. It is reported that the surface along the fault may have been offset in places by a meter or so.

The United States Geological Survey recorded six aftershocks in the two hours after the main earthquake of magnitudes approximately 5.9, 5.5, 5.1, 4.8, 4.5, and 4.5. Within the first nine hours 26 aftershocks of magnitude 4.2 or greater were recorded, with twelve of them magnitude 5.0 or greater. According to a member of the USGS, based on the strength and location of the quake, about three million people would have been affected. Since the quake occurred under land rather than water, structures and people on the surface were directly exposed to the tremors, particularly since the fault was quite shallow. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami warning after the quake, but cancelled it shortly afterwards.

Effect

The buildings of the finance ministry, the ministry of public works, the ministry of communication and culture, the Palace of Justice, the Superior Normal School, the National School of Administration, the Caribbean regional office of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), Parliament, and Port-au-Prince Cathedral were damaged to varying degrees. The National Palace was severely damaged. Communications were also seriously disrupted, with a Haitian diplomat saying: "Communication is absolutely impossible... I've been trying to call my ministry and I cannot get through." A hospital in Pétionville, a wealthy suburb of Port-au-Prince, also collapsed from the earthquake. The headquarters of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) at the Christopher Hotel was destroyed, as were offices of the World Bank. The quake incapacitated all three Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) medical facilities around Port-Au-Prince, causing one to collapse completely and rendering the other two so unstable that they had to be abandoned. The building housing the offices of Citibank in Port-au-Prince was destroyed, with several employees unaccounted for. In neighboring Dominican Republic, buildings shook in the capital Santo Domingo, but no major damage was reported there.

What is Earthquake

An earthquake (also known as a tremor or temblor) is the result of a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust that creates seismic waves. Earthquakes are recorded with a seismometer, also known as a seismograph. The moment magnitude (or the related and mostly obsolete Richter magnitude) of an earthquake is conventionally reported, with magnitude 3 or lower earthquakes being mostly imperceptible and magnitude 7 causing serious damage over large areas. Intensity of shaking is measured on the modified Mercalli scale.

At the Earth's surface, earthquakes manifest themselves by shaking and sometimes displacing the

ground. When a large earthquake epicenter is located offshore, the seabed sometimes suffers sufficient displacement to cause a tsunami. The shaking in earthquakes can also trigger landslides and occasionally volcanic activity.

In its most generic sense, the word earthquake is used to describe any seismic event whether a natural phenomenon or an event caused by humans that generates seismic waves. Earthquakes are caused mostly by rupture of geological faults, but also by volcanic activity, landslides, mine blasts, and nuclear experiments. An earthquake's point of initial rupture is called its focus or hypocenter. The term epicenter refers to the point at ground level directly above the hypocenter.

Tectonic earthquakes will occur anywhere within the earth where there is sufficient stored elastic strain energy to drive fracture propagation along a fault plane. In the case of transform or convergent type plate boundaries, which form the largest fault surfaces on earth, they will move past each other smoothly and aseismically only if there are no irregularities or asperities along the boundary that increase the frictional resistance. Most boundaries do have such asperities and this leads to a form of stick-slip behaviour. Once the boundary has locked, continued relative motion between the plates leads to increasing stress and therefore, stored strain energy in the volume around the fault surface. This continues until the stress has risen sufficiently to break through the asperity, suddenly allowing sliding over the locked portion of the fault, releasing the stored energy. This energy is released as a combination of radiated elastic strain seismic waves, frictional heating of the fault surface, and cracking of the rock, thus causing an earthquake. This process of gradual build-up of strain and stress punctuated by occasional sudden earthquake failure is referred to as the Elastic-rebound theory. It is estimated that only 10 percent or less of an earthquake's total energy is radiated as seismic energy. Most of the earthquake's energy is used to power the earthquake fracture growth or is converted into heat generated by friction. Therefore, earthquakes lower the Earth's available elastic potential energy and raise its temperature, though

these changes are negligible compared to the conductive and convective flow of heat out from the Earth's deep interior.

Earthquake Fault Types

There are three main types of fault that may cause an earthquake: normal, reverse (thrust) and strike-slip. Normal and reverse faulting are examples of dip-slip, where the displacement along the fault is in the direction of dip and movement on them involves a vertical component. Normal faults occur mainly in areas where the crust is being extended such as a divergent boundary. Reverse faults occur in areas where the crust is being shortened such as at a convergent boundary. Strike-slip faults are steep structures where the two sides of the fault slip horizontally past each other; transform boundaries are a particular type of strike-slip fault. Many earthquakes are caused by movement on faults that have components of both dip-slip and strike-slip; this is known as oblique slip.

Earthquakes Away From Plate Boundaries

Where plate boundaries occur within continental lithosphere, deformation is spread out over a much larger area than the plate boundary itself. In the case of the San Andreas fault continental transform, many earthquakes occur away from the plate boundary and are related to strains developed within the broader zone of deformation caused by major irregularities in the fault trace (e.g. the "Big bend" region). The Northridge earthquake was associated with movement on a blind thrust within such a zone. Another example is the strongly oblique convergent plate boundary between the Arabian and Eurasian plates where it runs through the northwestern part of the Zagros mountains. The deformation associated with this plate boundary is partitioned into nearly pure thrust sense movements perpendicular to the boundary over a wide zone to the southwest and nearly pure strike-slip motion along the Main Recent Fault close to the actual plate boundary itself. This is demonstrated by earthquake focal mechanisms.

All tectonic plates have internal stress fields caused by their interactions with neighbouring plates and sedimentary loading or unloading (e.g. deglaciation). These stresses may be sufficient to cause failure along existing fault planes, giving rise to intraplate earthquakes.

Shallow-Focus And Deep-Focus Earthquakes

The majority of tectonic earthquakes originate at the ring of fire in depths not exceeding tens of kilometers. Earthquakes occurring at a depth of less than 70 km are classified as 'shallow-focus' earthquakes, while those with a focal-depth between 70 and 300 km are commonly termed 'mid-focus' or 'intermediate-depth' earthquakes. In subduction zones, where older and colder oceanic crust descends beneath another tectonic plate, deep-focus earthquakes may occur at much greater depths (ranging from 300 up to 700 kilometers). These seismically active areas of subduction are known as Wadati-Benioff zones. Deep-focus earthquakes occur at a depth at which the subducted lithosphere should no longer be brittle, due to the high temperature and pressure. A possible mechanism for the generation of deep-focus earthquakes is faulting caused by olivine undergoing a phase transition into a spinel structure.

Earthquakes And Volcanic Activity

Earthquakes often occur in volcanic regions and are caused there, both by tectonic faults and the movement of magma in volcanoes. Such earthquakes can serve as an early warning of volcanic eruptions, like during the Mount St. Helens eruption of 1980. Earthquake swarms can serve as markers for the location of the flowing magma throughout the volcanoes. These swarms can be recorded by seismometers and tiltmeters (a device which measures the ground slope) and used as sensors to predict imminent or upcoming eruptions.

Earthquake Clusters

Most earthquakes form part of a sequence, related to each other in terms of location and time. Most earthquake clusters consist of small tremors which cause little to no damage, but there is a theory that earthquakes can recur in a regular pattern.

Aftershocks

An aftershock is an earthquake that occurs after a previous earthquake, the mainshock. An aftershock is in the same region of the main shock but always of a smaller magnitude. If an aftershock is larger than the main shock, the aftershock is redesignated as the main shock and the original main shock is redesignated as a foreshock. Aftershocks are formed as the crust around the displaced fault plane adjusts to the effects of the main shock.

Earthquake Swarms

Earthquake swarms are sequences of earthquakes striking in a specific area within a short period of time. They are different from earthquakes followed by a series of aftershocks by the fact that no single earthquake in the sequence is obviously the main shock, therefore none have notable higher magnitudes than the other. An example of an earthquake swarm is the 2004 activity at Yellowstone National Park.

Earthquake Storms

Sometimes a series of earthquakes occur in a sort of earthquake storm, where the earthquakes strike a fault in clusters, each triggered by the shaking or stress redistribution of the previous earthquakes. Similar to aftershocks but on adjacent segments of fault, these storms occur over the course of years, and with some of the later earthquakes as damaging as the early ones. Such a pattern was observed in the sequence of about a dozen earthquakes that struck the North Anatolian Fault in Turkey in the 20th century and has been inferred for older anomalous clusters of large earthquakes in the Middle East.

Measuring And Locating Earthquakes

Earthquakes can be recorded by seismometers up to great distances, because seismic waves travel through the whole Earth's interior. The absolute magnitude of a quake is conventionally reported by numbers on the Moment magnitude scale (formerly Richter scale, magnitude 7 causing serious damage over large areas), whereas the felt magnitude is reported using the modified Mercalli scale (intensity II-XII).

Every tremor produces different types of seismic waves which travel through rock with different velocities: the longitudinal P-waves (shock- or pressure waves), the transverse S-waves (both body waves) and several surface waves (Rayleigh and Love waves). The propagation velocity of the seismic waves ranges from approx. 3 km/s up to 13 km/s, depending on the density and elasticity of the medium. In the Earth's interior the shock- or P waves travel much more faster than the S waves (approx. relation 1.7 : 1). The differences in travel time from the epicentre to the observatory are a measure of the distance and can be used to image both sources of quakes and structures within the Earth. Also the depth of the hypocenter can be computed roughly.

In solid rock P-waves travel at about 6 to 7 km per second; the velocity increases within the deep mantle to ~13 km/s. The velocity of S-waves ranges from 2–3 km/s in light sediments and 4–5 km/s in the Earth's crust up to 7 km/s in the deep mantle. As a consequence, the first waves of a distant earthquake arrive at an observatory via the Earth's mantle.

Rule of thumb: On the average, the kilometer distance to the earthquake is the number of seconds between the P and S wave times 8. Slight deviations are caused by inhomogeneities of subsurface structure. By such analyses of seismograms the Earth's core was located in 1913 by Beno Gutenberg.

Effects/Impacts of Earthquakes

The effects of earthquakes include, but are not limited to, the following:

Shaking and ground rupture: Shaking and ground rupture are the main effects created by earthquakes, principally resulting in more or less severe damage to buildings and other rigid structures. The severity of the local effects depends on the complex combination of the earthquake magnitude, the distance from the epicenter, and the local geological and geomorphological conditions, which may amplify or reduce wave propagation. The ground-shaking is measured by ground acceleration.

Specific local geological, geomorphological, and geostructural features can induce high levels of shaking on the ground surface even from low-intensity earthquakes. This effect is called site or local amplification. It is principally due to the transfer of the seismic motion from hard deep soils to soft superficial soils and to effects of seismic energy focalization owing to typical geometrical setting of the deposits.

Ground rupture is a visible breaking and displacement of the Earth's surface along the trace of the fault, which may be of the order of several metres in the case of major earthquakes. Ground rupture is a major risk for large engineering structures such as dams, bridges and nuclear power stations and requires careful mapping of existing faults to identify any likely to break the ground surface within the life of the structure.

Landslides and avalanches: Earthquakes, along with severe storms, volcanic activity, coastal wave attack, and wildfires, can produce slope instability leading to landslides, a major geological hazard. Landslide danger may persist while emergency personnel are attempting rescue.

Fires: Earthquakes can cause fires by damaging electrical power or gas lines. In the event of water mains rupturing and a loss of pressure, it may also become difficult to stop the spread of a fire once it

has started. For example, more deaths in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake were caused by fire than by the earthquake itself.

Soil liquefaction: Soil liquefaction occurs when, because of the shaking, water-saturated granular material (such as sand) temporarily loses its strength and transforms from a solid to a liquid. Soil liquefaction may cause rigid structures, like buildings and bridges, to tilt or sink into the liquefied deposits. This can be a devastating effect of earthquakes. For example, in the 1964 Alaska earthquake, soil liquefaction caused many buildings to sink into the ground, eventually collapsing upon themselves.

Tsunami: Tsunamis are long-wavelength, long-period sea waves produced by the sudden or abrupt movement of large volumes of water. In the open ocean the distance between wave crests can surpass 100 kilometers, and the wave periods can vary from five minutes to one hour. Such tsunamis travel 600-800 kilometers per hour, depending on water depth. Large waves produced by an earthquake or a submarine landslide can overrun nearby coastal areas in a matter of minutes. Tsunamis can also travel thousands of kilometers across open ocean and wreak destruction on far shores hours after the earthquake that generated them.

Ordinarily, subduction earthquakes under magnitude 7.5 on the Richter scale do not cause tsunamis, although some instances of this have been recorded. Most destructive tsunamis are caused by earthquakes of magnitude 7.5 or more.

Floods: A flood is an overflow of any amount of water that reaches land. Floods occur usually when the volume of water within a body of water, such as a river or lake, exceeds the total capacity of the formation, and as a result some of the water flows or sits outside of the normal perimeter of the body. However, floods may be secondary effects of earthquakes, if dams are damaged. Earthquakes may cause landslips to dam rivers, which then collapse and cause floods.

The terrain below the Sarez Lake in Tajikistan is in danger of catastrophic flood if the landslide dam

formed by the earthquake, known as the Usoi Dam, were to fail during a future earthquake. Impact projections suggest the flood could affect roughly 5 million people.

Tidal force: Research work has shown a robust correlation between small tidally induced forces and non-volcanic tremor activity.

Human impacts: Earthquakes may lead to disease, lack of basic necessities, loss of life, higher insurance premiums, general property damage, road and bridge damage, and collapse or destabilization (potentially leading to future collapse) of buildings. Earthquakes can also precede volcanic eruptions, which cause further problems.

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China-US Controversy Over Internet Freedom

Recently China asked the US to "respect facts and stop unreasonable accusations in the name of so-called Internet freedom". Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ma Zhaoxu made the remarks while responding to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's comment in Washington on Internet freedom.

The US side had criticised China's policies on Internet administration, alluding that China restricts Internet freedom. We firmly oppose such words and deeds, which were against the facts and would harm the China-US relations Ma said. Ma stressed China's Internet is open and the country has witnessed the most active development of Internet in the world.

By the end of last year, the number of Chinese cyber citizens has reached 384 million with 3.68 million websites and 180 million blogs, he said, adding the Chinese constitution protects the citizens' freedom of speech, and it is a consistent policy of the Chinese government to promote the development of Internet.

Ma added that China has its own domestic situation and cultural tradition, and it is in line with the world's common practice that China administers the Internet according to its laws and policies.

US Internet giant Google has said the company was reviewing its operations in China after "a highly sophisticated and targeted attack on our corporate infrastructure originating from China" and attempts by the Chinese government to limit free speech on the web.

Google in China

The following is a look at Google's involvement in the world's largest Internet market by users: Google launched its Chinese-language website, Google.cn, in 2006. Lee Kai-Fu ran the company's

operations in the country until he resigned in 2009 to start a venture firm. He was succeeded by John Liu, who took over Lee's business and operational responsibilities.

The company employs several hundred salespeople and engineers in three offices located in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. In September, it told local newspapers it would double its sales team within six months. Larger rival Baidu (BIDU.O), in contrast, employs about 4,000 sales and customer service personnel alone.

Google.cn complies with local laws requiring censorship of certain items such as pornography and "vulgar comment." Its flagship English-language site, Google.com, is not required to submit to similar censorship, but analysts say the government filters content through its own Internet firewall.

The company controls about 31.3 percent of the Chinese Web search market, compared to 63.9 percent for Baidu, according to Analysys International.

Google does not break out Chinese revenue figures, but Collins Stewart analyst Sandeep Aggarwal estimates Google generates about \$200 million in annual sales from China. JP Morgan has estimated Google would generate about \$600 million in revenue from China in 2010.

Other Controversies between China and U.S.

With the two giant nations joined at the hip economically, Sino-U.S. tensions are unlikely to escalate into outright confrontation, but could make cooperating on global economic and security issues all the more difficult.

Currency And Debt

The United States complains that China keeps its currency artificially undervalued, thus unfairly helping exporters.

China has unofficially pegged the yuan to the dollar since mid-2008, meaning its currency has weakened against other trade partners as the value of the dollar has slid.

Beijing is concerned the value of its dollar holdings could be eroded by massive debt issuances to fund the U.S. stimulus.

China held \$798.9 billion in U.S. Treasuries at end-October, displacing Japan in September 2008 as the largest foreign holder.

U.S. lawmakers want to take action on the yuan, but U.S. law makes it hard to investigate alleged subsidies.

Rash U.S. moves which threaten China's massive purchases of U.S. debt, and its funding of the U.S. deficit, are unlikely.

Trade And Investment

A World Trade Organization panel is judging U.S. duties on Chinese tires, after the United States for the first time imposed safeguard duties agreed to when China joined the WTO.

Other trade disputes center around steel products, poultry, Chinese tariffs on raw materials exports, and quality and safety concerns over Chinese-made food, toys and other goods that Chinese manufacturers view as a type of protectionism.

U.S. firms investing in China complain about intellectual property theft, murky regulations, corruption and unfair advantages enjoyed by domestic rivals.

China complains about investment barriers on the U.S. side, citing resource investments blocked on national security grounds.

In 2008, U.S. exports to China totaled \$69.7 billion, but were dwarfed by \$337.8 billion in exports from China to the United States, now Beijing's second biggest trade partner.

Diplomatic And Military Influence

As China has grown to the world's third largest economy it is gaining greater clout, especially in Asia and Africa.

It is also upgrading its military and space capability, and Washington has said Beijing should be more open about its defense spending and strategic intentions.

China is wary of the United States' global military strength. U.S. patrols in waters China considers its exclusive zone led to minor incidents last year. In 2001 a U.S. spy plane was forced to land in China after colliding with a Chinese fighter.

China and the United States work together in talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons programme. China worries that if its neighbor collapses refugees could destabilize northeast China.

Washington also wants China to put stronger pressure on North Korea, as well as Iran, over their nuclear activities.

Taiwan remains a sore point. Beijing has never renounced the use of force to bring self-ruled and democratic Taiwan, which it considers its sovereign territory, under its rule.

Washington's arms sales to Taiwan anger China, but the United States is legally obliged to help the island defend itself.

Another area of contention is Tibet, and its exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who makes frequent visits to the United States. He has yet to meet U.S. President Barack Obama.

Fared Poorly

U.S. Internet firms have fared poorly in China, which censors content and blocks many foreign websites, including popular social media such as Twitter and Facebook, and YouTube.

On January 12, Google Inc said it was no longer willing to censor Internet searches in China, and might pull out of the country after a sophisticated cyber-attack

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on China to openly and thoroughly investigate the attacks and made a broad case for Internet freedom

It is not clear how the United States could prod China into opening up the Internet. Some fear strong-arm tactics could backfire and make China control online content even more tightly.

China And Net Censorship

US and Chinese hackers 1 May 2001 engage in an internet war as the diplomatic row about the crashed US spy plane rumbles on. Activist Jiang Lijun arrested on 7 November 2002 following an investigation that used information supplied by Yahoo. On 14 June 2005 Microsoft agrees to censor its blog writing tool , called Spaces, on MSN China

Net giant Yahoo is accused of supplying information to Chinese authorities which led to the jailing of journalist Shi Tao on 7 September 2005. Google.cn is set up, and censored by the search giant in line with official rules on what people can do and see online in China on 25 January 2006.

Yahoo is accused by Reporters on 9 February 2006 Without Borders of aiding the Chinese authorities by releasing data that led to the arrest of net activist Li Zhi. Yahoo, Microsoft, Cisco and Google are criticised in a US congressional hearing for giving in to pressure from China to censor their web.

The first part of the Great Firewall of China - also known as the Golden Shield Project - goes into service. This uses several means to make it difficult to reach sites the Chinese government has deemed illegal on 16 November 2006.

In April 2007 Chinese version of MySpace launches, but lacks discussion forums devoted to politics and religion. It also has a filtering system that stops the posting of content about Taiwan's independence, Falun Gong, the Dalai Lama and other "inappropriate" topics. In June 2007 Yahoo issues a statement saying it was "dismayed" that Chinese citizens have been imprisoned for expressing their political views on the internet.

On 1 April 2008 in the run-up to the Olympic games, China unblocks websites such as Wikipedia, Blogger and YouTube. However, many thousands of others remain inaccessible. On 16 October 2008 China introduces laws which say anyone using an internet cafe must have their picture taken and show ID before they can go online.

Chinese government blocks access to YouTube for carrying videos of soldiers beating monks and other Tibetans on 24 March 2009.

China introduces on 9 June 2009 Green Dam net filtering software that will be fitted to every new PC sold in the country from July 2009. The software was created to stop people looking at "offensive" content such as pornography and violent imagery. The Chinese authorities say use of the software is not "mandatory".

On the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests , micro-blogging service Twitter, photo site Flickr and YouTube are blocked to stop people discussing or seeing footage of events in 1989.

During riots, China blocks keyword searches for "Urumqi" - the city where the unrest was unfolding. Also blocked were Twitter, Facebook and local alternatives in July 2009.

Google announces it is considering withdrawing from China following a cyber attack on e-mail accounts of human rights activists on 13 January 2010.

The US calls on Beijing to investigate the cyber attacks on Google, saying China has tightened censorship on 21 January 2010.

China denounces US criticism of its internet controls, saying it could harm ties between the two countries on 22 January 2010.



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Malaysian PM Visit To India

Accompanied by senior ministers, state chief ministers and a large business delegation, Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammad Najib Tun Abdul Razak had arrived in New Delhi in Jan 2010 as the two sides geared up to ink more than a dozen agreements that are expected to take their economic ties to a new level.

The Malaysian leader was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan in the morning as he began the official leg of his five-day state visit to India.

Razak called on President Pratibha Patil and conveyed the greetings of the people of Malaysia for India's Republic Day function. He also met United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj.

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna called on the visiting Malaysian leader and discussed a host of bilateral issues and 13 agreements signed.

Infrastructure, IT, biotechnology, energy and education have emerged as promising areas of cooperation between the two countries. The visit is also expected to give a fresh impetus to negotiations on comprehensive economic partnership agreement between them. Bilateral trade had reached USD 10 billion and the two sides are hoping it will multiply in the future.

Towards Comprehensive Economic Cooperation

Malaysia and India should work to finalise an under-negotiation comprehensive bilateral free trade pact by the end of this year, Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammed Najib Tun Abdul Razak said. According to him, He believes the time has come to move forward towards a resolution that will spur economic growth for both nations.

Razak said that, I would like to propose a year-end deadline for our governments to conclude negotiations for the establishment of the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

Razak said the economic cooperation agreement would "spur additional bilateral trade and investment", and create job, investment and economic opportunities for people of both countries.

He also stressed on the need for expanding the scope of India's free trade agreement with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which came into force Jan 1 and covers only goods.

Razak also noted that the ASEAN-India pact had created one of the world's largest free trade regions, with a combined population of 1.8 billion people and gross domestic product of USD 2.75 trillion. On the bilateral side, he said there was enormous scope to expand trade between Malaysia and India, which crossed USD 10 billion in 2008.

India has high quality technology to serve diverse sectors, and vast experience in a wide range of sciences. Malaysia, on the other hand, need expertise in bioscience, ICT, and in education. It makes sense for us to look to India as a key source for them.

Razak also advocated a greater role for Malaysian construction companies, which have already completed projects USD 2.3 billion worth of projects here, in India's infrastructure expansion.

The Malaysian leader suggested the formation of a bilateral forum of chief executives to enable business leaders from both countries to meet and exchange views.

Extradition Treaty

Buoyed by improving ties, India and Malaysia signed an extradition treaty and decided to fast-track negotiations to wrap up a free trade area agreement by the end of this year.

Days before India's first monorail made by Malaysia's Scmi Group goes for its test run in Mumbai, the two countries sought to scale up two-way investment in areas ranging from real estate, biosciences, ICT and transport sectors.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Malaysian premier Mohammed Najib Tun Abdul Razak held talks on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues. Expanded cooperation in countering terrorism, more collaboration in knowledge industries and a proposed FTA figured prominently in the discussions.

Issues relating to the welfare of 1.9 million persons of Indian origin living in Malaysia, mostly from Tamil Nadu, also figured in the talks.

The two sides inked an extradition treaty and a memorandum of understanding on greater cooperation in higher education. India's Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Securities Commission of Malaysia signed another accord, called the Malaysia-India Capital Collaborative Agreement.

The extradition treaty, which the two sides have been negotiating for years, was signed by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and his Malaysian counterpart Anifah Aman.

In 2002, a Malaysian court had refused to extradite Ottavio Quattrocchi, one of the prime accused in the multi-billion dollar Bofors payoff scam that rocked India over two decades ago. There was no formal extradition treaty between them at that time. Quattrocchi was arrested in Malaysia in 2000.

India hopes the extradition treaty will help both countries in countering trans-national crimes. Scal-

ing up economic ties to a new level also dominated the discussions between the two sides.

The capital collaborative agreement, a key step for expanding two-way FDI, will enable both regulators to collaborate in developing their respective markets and in relevant areas of cross-border co-operation.

Interacting with Indian industrialists, the Malaysian leader suggested the formation of a CEOs forum and called for the finalisation of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement by the end of this year.

Razak's decision to visit India, in the first year of his government, soon after visiting China, underlines a shift in perception of India in Malaysia and other ASEAN countries and their keen desire to forge a closer relationship with the world's second fastest growing economy. India is increasingly seen in Malaysia as a source of quality technology and a hub of innovations in biotechnology, IT and education.

Razak also advocated a greater role for Malaysian construction companies, which have already completed projects USD 2.3 billion worth of projects, in India's infrastructure expansion.

Joint Statement

India and Malaysia have said both countries are focused on adding greater substance to their bilateral relations, taking into account the steady development and emerging opportunities from the ongoing economic crisis. These views were expressed in a joint statement issued after the Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak's.

Razak met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on. Both leaders held-in-depth discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest to their countries.

Joint statement said that "The two leaders observed that a long term and strategic partnership between

Malaysia and India could be developed based on historical, cultural and social links, pluralism, open society, shared commitment to democracy and development, and a high degree of commonality of political and economic interests."

Statement added that both India and Malaysia enhanced engagement for mutual benefit, aided by the strengthening of economic linkages, initiatives for greater regional integration as well as trade liberalization.

Both leaders also recognized the need for concerted efforts among Asian countries to translate positive developments into an era of growth, prosperity, stability and closer integration in Asia.

Both Dr. Singh and Razak welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement, which came into effect on January 1, 2010 emphasizing that it would further enhance trade and economic ties between Malaysia and India, specifically through conclusion of the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

They further reaffirmed their support for the East Asia Summit as an open, inclusive, transparent and forward looking forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern in promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

Biotech Facility With Indian Input

The Malacca Government intends to use an Indian firm's help to develop a RM450mil biotechnology research facility for the development and distribution of bio-therapeutic products for medical use. Its corporate subsidiary Melaka Biotech Holdings Sdn Bhd will sign a joint-venture agreement with the Hyderabad-based Vivo Bio Tech Ltd India and Vanguard Creative Technologies Sdn Bhd.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Chief Minister Mohammad Ali Rustam and Vishwanathan Komplella, chairman of Vivo Bio

Tech and the directors of the joint venture, Chandrakant Avalani and Sittampalam.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, who described the project as a commendable venture with newly improved Malaysia-India economic ties, witnessed the signing.

The proposed research centre and eventual manufacturing plant is expected to provide facilities for the transfer of technologies in the areas of pre-clinical testing, toxicology and drugs development.

Melaka Biotech Holdings will provide investment in the form of 11.7ha of land for the project. The land will be leased to the joint venture for up to 30 years, with the option of buying it within five years.

Permanent UN Council Seat

Malaysia has indicated that it will support India's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded, reformed United Nations Security Council.

The Southeast Asian nation gave this indication during the state visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammed Najib Tun Abdul Razak which was a nuanced change from its previous position.

This was also reflected in the joint statement, which said that both countries were cooperating at the United Nations "for the early realisation of comprehensive United Nations reform, including the Security Council through expansion of permanent and non-permanent categories reflecting the contemporary realities".

Malaysia had so far expressed unambiguously that while the United Nations Security Council needed to be reformed, it must eventually move towards abolition of the veto.

India, along with Brazil, Germany and Japan, have been campaigning for reform of the United Nations Security Council, especially expansion in the

permanent seats. But, the issue is a controversial one, with United Nations members still debating on how to approach the issue of the Security Council reform.

The joint statement reiterated that both countries should intensify regular contacts, as well as consultations between both governments on all regional and international issues.

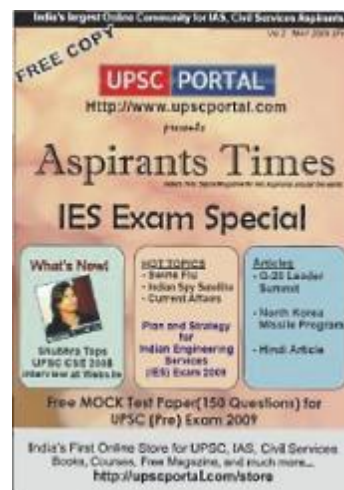
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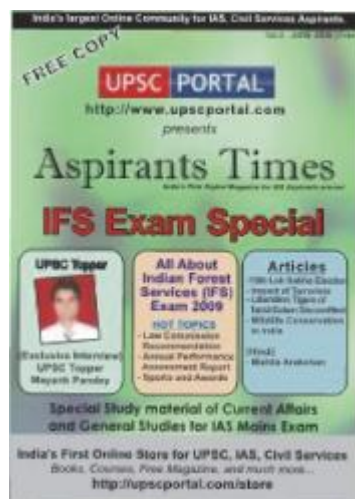
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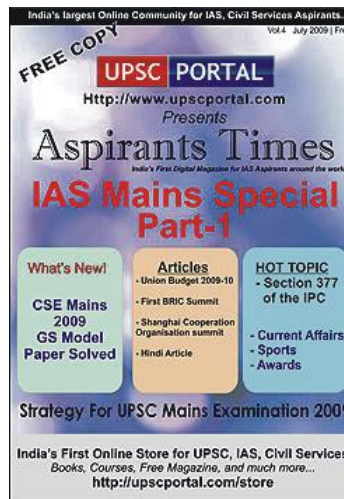
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Current Affairs

Current Relevant Facts



» Aamir Khan starrer comedy-drama "3 Idiots" has grossed over Rs 315 crore (\$70 million) globally in the 19 days since its release. Based on Chetan Bhagat's bestseller Five Point Someone,

the film has been produced by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and directed by Rajkumar Hirani.

Reliance BIG Entertainment said that 3 Idiots' has opened new vistas for the Indian film industry. The huge response across continents reinforces their belief that a well-made, well-exploited film can still create magic in the darkened auditorium. They are proud to be associated with Vinod, Aamir, Raju and the talented team of '3 idiots'.

According to a statement, more than 60 million people have so far watched the film in theatres since its release Dec 25. Its box office collections have exceeded the over Rs 260 crore earned by another Aamir starrer, "Ghajini", considered Hindi cinema's highest grosser till date. "3 Idiots" is also being touted as the highest grossing Indian film ever to release in the US, Middle East, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Kenya and Fiji.

Indian multiplexes added on an average 14 to 21 new shows in the second week of the movie compared to its first week with 150 additional shows.

The paid previews of the movie also garnered over Rs 9 crore worldwide, above those of the paid preview collections of "Ghajini" that were Rs 7 crore globally. The film also stars R Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Boman Irani and Kareena Kapoor in pivotal roles.

» Obesity increases risk of developing cancer. And now, a mice study has confirmed that obesity does indeed act as a "bona fide tumour promoter." Published in the January 22nd issue of the journal Cell

, a Cell Press publication, scientists also have good evidence to explain how that happens.

Michael Karin of the University of California said that Doctors always worry about our weight, but the focus is often on cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, both of which can be managed pretty well with existing drugs.

In the study, Karin's team showed that liver cancer is fostered by the chronic inflammatory state that goes with obesity and two well known inflammatory factors in particular. To reach the conclusion, Karin's team investigated mice prone to develop hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

The mice are typically given HCC either by exposure to a chemical carcinogen, known as DEN, when they are two weeks old, or by exposure to that same carcinogen at three months of age followed by the tumor-promoting chemical phenobarbital.

In the new study, the researchers gave two-week-old mice DEN and then divided them into two groups – one fed a normal, relatively low-fat food and the other fed on high-fat chow.

To further confirm the link, they gave DEN to two-week-old mice that were fed a normal diet but carried a gene that made them obesity-prone. Those mice, too, developed more liver cancers, evidence that it wasn't the high-fat diet that led to cancer, but rather something about the animal's obese state.



» More than 110,000 people have been confirmed dead in the Haiti earthquake, nearly twice as much as the government's previous estimate of 75,000

killed. The government has put the death toll from the devastating quake at 111,499, with an estimated 193,891 people injured.

Haitian officials have already said that the death toll from the Americas' deadliest quake on record would probably reach 200,000.

The latest death toll comes as seismologists warn that Haiti will be hit with another major earthquake. The US Geological Survey (USGS), which described the Haiti disaster as the most destructive on record in the region, estimated there is a 25 per cent probability that one or several magnitude 6.0 aftershocks could strike in the coming weeks, although they will space out more and more over time.

While the magnitude 7.0 quake that hit on January 12 freed much of the tension accumulated on one portion of the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault zone, another segment east of the epicentre and adjacent to Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince has barely moved, according to the USGS.

» Some viruses may be able to accelerate around the body by helping each other find uninfected cells to attack, scientists said. The mechanism, caught on camera by experts at London's Imperial College, may explain the improbable speed with which some viruses spread.

The virus detects if a cell is occupied by another virus and simply "bounces" off in search of a free one. The study in the journal *Science* says researchers used the vaccinia virus which was used to eradicate smallpox.

When a virus meets an unoccupied cell it burrows inside leaving a protein marker on the outside membrane. It is these "occupied" signs that actually push other viruses away towards uninfected cells.

» The accumulation of copper in the body due to copper water pipes can lead to Alzheimer's and heart disease, reveals a new study. The researchers at the University of Michigan learned that old copper water pipes used in households lead to amassing of the metal in human body, thus creating various health problems early in life and becoming fatal as one crosses 50.

The study revealed that copper and iron may be vital when one is young, but with age the body cannot deal with such elements effectively. Therefore, people are advised to donate blood frequently to cut iron levels, and take additional zinc to bring down copper levels in the body.

» A novel British research suggests that perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a chemical used in non stick cookware, and water resistant fabrics increase the chances of developing of thyroid disease.

Thyroid is a disease of the neck which affects the body metabolism and often leads to losing hair, gaining weight and feeling lethargic. The condition, which is more prevalent in women, can be treated.

The study authors suggest that people with large levels of the PFOA chemical in their blood are more prone to being diagnosed with thyroid than those with little or no PFOA in their blood.

Dr Tamara Galloway, a professor of ecotoxicology at the Exeter University and her colleagues initiated the present study which found a link between the chemical and thyroid disease.

» Cells that cause a common type of childhood leukaemia have been discovered by scientists at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and the University of Melbourne in Australia. Targeting of these cells may lead to improved treatments for this disease and help prevent relapse.

The team, led by Dr Matthew McCormack and Dr David Curtis of the Rotary Bone Marrow Research Laboratories and the University's Department of Medicine at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, made the discovery whilst studying mice prone to developing this leukaemia. The results have been published online by the prestigious international journal *Science*.

The team found that with irradiation treatment in animal models, over 99 per cent of cells in the thymus were killed, but these stem cell-like cells per-

sisted and rapidly recovered. This suggests that these cells may survive therapy and be responsible for relapsed disease following treatment.

Currently, children with T-ALL are given extended therapy over two to three years in an attempt to stop a relapse. More targeted therapy on the thymus cells could reduce the length and toxicity of treatment and prevent relapse.

Approximately 50 new cases of T-ALL are diagnosed every year in Australia, two thirds of these in children or adolescents. Adults also contract T-ALL, and the majority succumb to resistant or relapsed disease. The team will now focus on novel treatments capable of killing these cells, which may lead to clinical trials within the next five years.



» US Internet giant Google last days said the company was reviewing its operations in China after "a highly sophisticated and targeted attack on our corporate infrastructure originating from China" last month and attempts by the Chinese government to limit free speech on the web. The US side had criticised China's policies on Internet administration, alluding that China restricts Internet freedom.

» While China asked the US to "respect facts and stop unreasonable accusations in the name of so-called Internet freedom". Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ma Zhaoxu made the remarks while responding to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's comment in Washington.

Ma stressed China's Internet is open and the country has witnessed the most active development of Internet in the world. Ma added that China has its own domestic situation and cultural tradition, and it is in line with the world's common practice that China administers the Internet according to its laws and policies.

» The Supreme Court has decided to consider a complex issue whether religious customs can prevail over the right to vote. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan and Justice Deepak Verma gave two weeks time to the petitioner Ajmal Khan, who had filed a petition in the Supreme Court pleading that Muslim women should be allowed to vote in the election in burqa. The Judges were, however, were not convinced with the contention of the petitioner that Muslim women must remain in 'purdah' and can not be forced to show her face to the election officer or to anybody else while exercising her right to vote. Justice Verma reacted strongly by saying "If your religious feelings are so strong then don't go to vote".

The Chief Justice also inquired from the petitioner "what if a Muslim woman wants to contest election and will people vote for a candidate who they are not able to see?" The petitioner had challenged a Madras High Court order vide which his petition for exemption for Muslim women from removing her burqa at the time of casting vote was dismissed.

» Rajendra Pachauri, head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said the UN body's fifth assessment report scheduled in 2013 will focus on "socio-economic factors and humanitarian" issues. Pachauri said IPCC will ensure a consistent evaluation of key uncertainties and risks of climate change.

According to Pachauri they have a comprehensive and integrated synthesis report for which they have started focusing very early. They shall make sure that the synthesis report is kept in focus and therefore the working group will deal with issues which are integrated and synthesised in nature.

The IPCC has decided to include Frequently Asked Questions in the fifth report for people to understand climate change issues.

The group of over 2,500 scientists worldwide is likely to address some new issues like cryosphere dealing with changes in ice sheets in polar and gla-

cier regions, biochemical changes in ocean, including acidification and geoengineering involving clouds and aerosols.

The other areas to be addressed include migration and population displacement, conflict, adaptation measures, carbon accounting, lifestyle changes and assessment of policies, institutions and finance. Pachauri said the IPCC has launched a scholarship with its Nobel Peace Prize winnings to strengthen climate change science capabilities in developing countries.

» Ruling out his resignation as chief of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) after its goof-up on melting of Himalayan glaciers, Rajendra Pachauri said that the UN body will exercise more surveillance to ensure such a mistake does not occur again. While admitting the mistake for the third time in four days Pachauri said it did not take away from the IPCC report's overall conclusion that glaciers in the Himalayas were receding. The fourth IPCC report in 2007 had said that Himalayan glaciers will disappear by 2035. The fifth report is scheduled in 2013.



» Former Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon took over as the new National Security Advisor replacing M K Narayanan, who has been appointed as West Bengal Governor.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh appointed former Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon as his new National Security Advisor (NSA).

Menon is the second former Foreign Secretary to have been appointed as the NSA and will hold the rank of Minister of State. J.N.Dixit, was the first former Foreign Secretary to held the coveted National Security Advisor's post from May 2004 to January 2005. It is worth mention that Menon, a career diplomat, played a crucial role in the signing of the Indo - US civil nuclear cooperation agreement.

Before becoming Foreign Secretary, Menon had

served as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Pakistan and, as India's Ambassador to China and Israel. With Union Home Minister P Chidambaram pursuing reforms in his ministry, Menon is likely to focus his attention on matters relating to strategic affairs and diplomacy. Diplomacy runs in the veins of Menon family, which hails from Ottapalam in Kerala's Palakkad District.

K. P. S. Menon (Senior), India's first Foreign Secretary, is his grandfather and K. P. S. Menon (Junior), a former Indian ambassador to China, is his uncle. His father P.N. Menon was also a career diplomat and served as Ambassador to Yugoslavia.

» Noted journalist Mrinal Pande was appointed chairperson of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. President Pratibha Patil has appointed Pande as chairman of the Prasar Bharati Board for a term upto April 30, 2011 from the day she assumes office. The Prasar Bharati Board oversees the functioning of state-run All India Radio and Doordarshan.

The government had accepted the resignation of previous board chairman Arun Bhatnagar last month. Pande has been editor of the Hindi daily Hindustan. She has also worked in television and written short stories.

» A strong pitch for multilateralism was made by speakers from Africa, European Union and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the 16th edition of Partnership Summit 2010 at Chennai. The summit was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Michael Yeoh, the chief executive officer of the Asian Strategic and Leadership Institute, Malaysia said that the important question in the coming years is if the resumed WTO (World Trade Organisation) negotiations on trade practices would be able to reach a consensus. It is important for regional associations to explore on the ways to forge global partnerships.

According to Tarun Khanna, the Jorge Paulo Lemann professor at Harvard Business School, much of the trade will happen south-south, that is between neighbouring countries in the southern regions. He said trade will happen between developing countries and developed countries within the same region where the economic gap was smaller and scalable than between developing countries in the south and developed countries of the north.

Britain's Member of Parliament and UK-India Business Council chair Patricia Hewitt, pitching for multilateralism, said small developing nations fear of the fallout of multilateral regimes and also are overwhelmed in bilateral deals by "smarter nations".

» Malaysia and India should work to finalise an under-negotiation comprehensive bilateral free trade pact by the end of this year, Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammed Najib Tun Abdul Razak said on Jan 20 during India visit.

The Malaysian leader reached Delhi to begin a five-day state visit. Buoyed by improving ties, India and Malaysia signed an extradition treaty and decided to fast-track negotiations to wrap up a free trade area agreement by the end of this year. Razak said the economic cooperation agreement would "spur additional bilateral trade and investment", and create job, investment and economic opportunities for people of both countries. He also stressed on the need for expanding the scope of India's free trade agreement with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which came into force Jan 1 and covers only goods.

» The Supreme Court on Jan. 22 directed the government to ensure implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The apex court made its direction acting on public interest litigation (PIL) filed by child rights group, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) on child labour and trafficking of children for forced labour.

The JJ Act deals with the provisions related to all children in need of care and protection including

the neglected children, trafficked children as well as children in conflict with the law.

The act is one of the most comprehensive laws in the country dealing with the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of child labourers, creation and running of short-stay homes for children, and even matters pertaining to privacy of children. A division bench of Justice Dalveer Bhandari and Justice A K Patnaik said that we have to look towards the enforcement of child rights laws.

The court directed the government to ensure that all provisions relating to the Act are complied with this, including formation of Child Welfare Committees (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB), in each district and appointment of Special Juvenile Police Officers (SJPO) to ensure law enforcement within the next six weeks.

The court has also appointed National Commission of Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) as nodal agency for monitoring of today's order and reporting the same to the court.



» Lieutenant General V.K. Singh, who was named the new Indian Army chief in the rank of general on Jan 22, will be the 25th in line to occupy the post in the world's fourth largest army.

Singh, who will succeed Gen. Deepak Kapoor, will be the 23rd Indian to occupy the post since the country gained independence in 1947. The first two chiefs were British officers - General Sir Robert McGregor Macdonald Lockhart and General Sir Francis Robert Roy Bucher.

Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa was the first Indian officer to occupy the post, in the rank of general, assuming office on January 15, 1949. Since then, Army Day is annually observed on Jan 15.

Cariappa belonged to the Rajput regiment, into which V.K. Singh was also commissioned.

Cariappa, who retired in 1953, was elevated to field marshal in 1983 in recognition of his services to the Indian Army.

There has been only one other five star officer in the Indian Army - Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, who was given the honour for his exemplary during the 1971 war with Pakistan that led to the creation of the independent nation of Bangladesh.

Of the 24 Indian Army chiefs so far, 13 have been from the infantry, six from the Armoured Corps and five, including the current incumbent, have been from the Regiment of Artillery.

This is not surprising, considering the infantry makes up the bulk of the 1.1 million strong Indian Army. Prior to independence, there were two elements of the army in India - the British Army in India comprising British officers and troops and the British Indian Army with British officers and Indian troops



» Four of the eight newly appointed governors - Shivraj Patil (Punjab), K. Sankaranarayanan (Maharashtra), E.S.L. Narasimhan (Andhra Pradesh) and M.O.H. Farook (Jharkhand) - took their oath on Jan 22 at ceremonies

held in respective state capitals.

Patil, a former union home minister and ex-Lok Sabha speaker, was administered the oath of office by Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Mukul Mudgal at the Punjab Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh. He will also hold the charge of administrator of the union territory of Chandigarh.

Patil replaces S.F. Rodrigues, a former Army chief, who completed his tenure. He is the first political personality in two decades to become Punjab governor. The post was mostly held by retired army chiefs.

K. Sankaranarayanan was sworn in as the new governor of Maharashtra at a simple ceremony in Mumbai by acting Chief Justice of Bombay High

Court J.N. Patel. Sankaranarayanan, a former minister in Kerala, was appointed governor of Nagaland in February 2007 and was moved to Jharkhand in July 2009.

Farook was administered oath of office and secrecy by Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi. A former chief minister of Puducherry, he was appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia in 2004.

Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court A.R. Dave administered the oath of office to E.S.L. Narasimhan at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad.

Narasimhan, governor of Chhattisgarh, was sworn in Dec 27 after being given additional charge of Andhra Pradesh, following the resignation of N.D. Tiwari over allegations of his involvement in a sex scandal. After being appointed full-time governor, Narasimhan was sworn in again in accordance with constitutional requirements.

» The ad market on television news channels will cross the Rupees 1,800 crore (Rs.18 billion/390 million dollars) mark this year, said a study.

The media lab of the Centre for Media Studies (CMS) said the size of TV news ad market has increased 16 times in the last decade, from Rs.100 crore in 2000 to Rs.1,600 crore in 2009. It will grow more in the current year, at a rate of 13 percent.

The upward movement is because the number of TV channels has increased 48 times in nine years, resulting in a massive expansion of viewership and ad market size. Parliamentary elections in 2009 also came as a boon for the news channels as political ads brought in a considerable revenue.

» India has put all Air India and Indian Airlines flights operating in South Asia and its airports on high security alert following inputs that a hijack attempt may be made by the Al Qaeda linked terrorists.

Ministry of Civil Aviation has directed the stepping up of security arrangements at all concerned airports and airlines following inputs received from security agencies as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Following the Ministry's directives, the level of security to counter threat perception has been upgraded and all necessary measures have been undertaken by the agencies in-charge of Civil Aviation security, including strengthening of anti-hijacking measures.

There will also be deployment of sky marshals on certain flights; introduction of stepladder frisking as an additional precaution and all other necessary steps with regard to the safety and security of the passengers, it said.

» Former central minister and Samajwadi Party leader Janeshwar Mishra died of cardiac arrest after a prolonged illness in Allahabad on Jan 22. He was 77. Mishra died at the TB Sapru Hospital in Allahabad.

A close associate of Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav, he was among the founders of the party. He was a central minister both in the 1977-79 Janata Party regime and in the Janata Dal government of 1989-90. He was among the few Samajwadi Party leaders who had worked with veteran socialist Ram Manohar Lohia. Mishra was often referred to as 'chote Lohia'.



» According to a new report from the World Bank India is expected to grow at 7.5 percent this year, powered by skilful macroeconomic management, even as the global economic recovery that is underway slows later this year as the impact of fiscal stimulus wanes,.

India's GDP is projected to grow further at 8 percent in 2011 - compared to 6 percent in 2008 - says

Global Economic Prospects (GEP) 2010, even as it warns that while the worst of the financial crisis may be over, the global recovery is fragile. It predicts that the fallout from the crisis will change the landscape for finance and growth over the next 10 years.

Growth in the East Asia and Pacific region as well as in South Asia, particularly India, has been resilient, buoyed by a massive fiscal stimulus package in China and by India's skilful macroeconomic management, the report noted.

Global GDP, which declined by 2.2 percent in 2009, is expected to grow 2.7 percent this year and 3.2 percent in 2011. Prospects for developing countries are for a relatively robust recovery, growing 5.2 percent this year and 5.8 percent in 2011 -- up from 1.2 percent in 2009.

GDP in rich countries, which declined by 3.3 percent in 2009, is expected to increase much less quickly - by 1.8 and 2.3 percent in 2010 and 2011. World trade volumes, which fell by a staggering 14.4 percent in 2009, are projected to expand by 4.3 and 6.2 percent this year and in 2011.

Excluding China and India, the remaining developing countries are projected to grow at 3.3 and 3.9 percent rate in 2010 and 2011, respectively, compared with 5.4 percent growth on average between 2003 and 2008, the GEP noted.

Combined, GDP growth in developing countries is projected to grow by some 5.2 percent in 2010, after a modest 1.2 percent rise in 2009 (2.2 percent if India and China are excluded), and by a relatively weak 5.8 percent in 2011.

Despite these relatively robust growth rates, the unusual depth of the recession will mean that spare capacity and unemployment will continue to plague economies in 2011 and some sectors may well still be shrinking.

» M.O.H. Farook became the seventh governor of Jharkhand on Jan 22, less than a month after Shibui

Soren took over as the state's seventh chief minister.

Farook was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra. He replaces K. Sankaranarayanan, who has been appointed governor of Maharashtra.

Farook was born at Karaikal in Pondicherry on Sep 6, 1937. He was chief minister of Pondicherry three times and represented it in the Lok Sabha on three occasions. In 2004, he was appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

» The Cabinet Committee on Prices on Jan 21, decided to step up ration supplies of wheat and rice by 10 kilograms per eligible family during January and February to ease prices of these commodities. The allocation would be over and above 35 kilograms of rice and wheat supplied to each eligible family now.

According to a statement issued: 'An ad-hoc allocation of 10 kg per family per month over and above the existing allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) will be made for two months - January and February, 2010 to cover all accepted cardholders.'

The CCP also reviewed the prices of essential commodities, including pulses, sugar, potato and onion.

The additional allocation of wheat and rice would be made at Minimum Support Price of Rs 10.80 per kilograms of wheat and Rs 15.37 for rice. The prevailing prices differ for various categories with Antodya Anna Yojna cardholders getting wheat at Rs two per kilograms and rice at Rs 3 a kilograms.



» The United States and India has announced the formulation of the U.S.-India Aviation Security Working Group, a bilateral interagency and inter-ministry working group led on the U.S. side by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration and on the Indian side by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The group, conceived during the 2009 U.S.-India Aviation Partnership Summit held in Washington, D.C. in December, held its first set of meetings in New Delhi on January 20 and 21.

A Memoranda of Understanding were signed during the working group meeting to strengthen bilateral cooperation on aviation security.

In accordance with the bilateral goals as reflected by the U.S.-India Air Transport Agreement of 2005, the purpose of the working group is to build upon the strategic partnership between the U.S. Government and the Government of India to enhance international civil aviation security. The group envisions subsequent meetings to be hosted alternatively by each country.

» The union cabinet on Jan 21 approved setting up of a national knowledge network (NKN) that will connect all major educational institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and top universities for exchange of information and research.

Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure said that one of the important recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions through high speed data communication network. This would encourage sharing of knowledge, specialized resources and collaborative research.

The government's decision to set up such a network was announced in 2008-09 and an initial amount of Rs.100 crore was allocated to the department of information technology, ministry of communications and IT for this.

The architecture of the NKN will be scalable and the network will consist of an ultra-high speed core (multiples of 10Gbps and upwards), to provide A nation-wide ultra high-speed data-network highway. The network will connect around 1,500 institutions and the setting up of core network is expected to be completed in a span of two years.

The cabinet said that the network will enable scientists, researchers and students from diverse spheres across the country to work together for advancing human development in critical and emerging areas.

"NKN will catalyze knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer between stakeholders seamlessly - that too across the nation and globally. NKN is expected to encourage a larger section of research and educational institutions to create intellectual property." It will allow sharing of high performance computing facilities, e-libraries, virtual classrooms and very large databases.

Health, education, grid computing, agriculture and e-Governance are the main applications identified for implementation and delivery on NKN. Applications such as "Countrywide Classrooms" will address the issue of faculty shortage and ensure quality education delivery across the country.

» More than two months after it banned pre-paid mobile connections in Jammu and Kashmir citing security concerns, the government revoked the ban, but with stringent terms for identity verification. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Jan 21 welcomed the move, saying it would bring relief to lakhs of customers.

The ban, imposed Nov 1 last year, had evoked sharp criticism from people of the state and the state government.

The decision to lift the ban was taken late Jan 20 after several rounds of talks over the past one month between the home ministry, the telecom ministry, the state government and mobile telephone service providers. The issue was earlier even taken to the Supreme Court.

The ban had affected nearly 85 percent of the estimated 45 lakh mobile phone subscribers in the state after the central government said it had reports that many of these pre-paid SIMs were being issued without proper verification. Some of the SIM cards were used by militants to stay in touch with one another and also to trigger landmines.



» Minister of Tourism Kumari Selja inaugurated the India pavilion at the Jan 20-24 Feira Internacional de Turismo (FITUR) in Spain where hospitality industry professionals from around the globe have gathered.

The 130 sq m-Indian pavilion had been set up by the India Tourism office in Paris. The aim to participate in the global event is to promote India as a major tourist hub.

The annual event is a meeting point for tourism professionals from around the world to discuss lines of action, strategies and business alliances to energize and consolidate the tourism business.

» The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Jan 21, gave approval to the proposal of M/s Alstom Power Holdings SA, France, M/s. Alstom Technology Ltd, Switzerland and Alstom SA, France to establish two joint venture companies in India with Ms Bharat Forge Limited and or its affiliate companies and to invest 70.5 million euros (approximately Rupees 490 crore) .

The project was cleared on the recommendations of the FIPB.

The project is for the manufacture of state-of-the-art super critical and sub-critical power plant equipment in India directly and/or through their respective associate entities.

» The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Jan 21 approved the introduction of a new Scheme to provide central assistance for setting up of a model degree college in each of the identified 374 educationally backward districts.

The districts where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education is less than the national GER are marked as the educationally backward districts.

The CCEA decided to provide assistance to the ex-

tent of one third of the capital cost for establishment of each college, limited to Rs.2.67 crore, for Special Category States, the Central share shall be 50 percent of the capital cost limited to Rs.4 crore for each college.

The land shall be provided free of cost by the State Governments. The balance amount of the capital cost, and the recurring cost of running these new colleges shall be met by the concerned State Governments.

The XI Five Year Plan document as approved by the National Development Council envisages, among other things, that 370 new Degree Colleges will be established in Districts with low Gross Enrolment Ratio based on careful selection.

» The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued the Power Market Regulations, 2010. According to a CERC order issued, the Electricity Act aims at taking measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and enhancing supply of electricity.

Provisions of these regulations would now govern transactions in various contracts related to electricity.

The main features of these regulations are: These regulations shall apply to various types of interstate contracts related to electricity, whether these contracts are transacted directly, through electricity traders, on power exchanges or on other exchanges.

These regulations will govern spot contracts, term ahead contracts, derivatives and other electricity related contracts as specified in the regulations.

Launching electricity related contracts on exchanges would require permission of the Commission. However, the contracts already permitted on power exchanges will not require fresh approval.

These regulations provide that the derivative contracts which could be financially settled and certain other type of contracts shall be permitted by

Commission at a future date, taking into account the availability of electricity supply, liquidity and maturity of the electricity markets in the country.

The regulations give certain guidelines for the contracts to be dealt with by electricity traders which are to be complied with. No separate approval is required for the contracts to be dealt with by electricity traders. However, electricity traders would be able to deal with derivatives which could be financially settled only after such contracts have been permitted by the Commission.

Detailed capital structure and management structure for power exchanges has been specified in the regulations keeping in view the requirements of ring-fencing, demutualisation and creation of widely held market institutions.

Power exchanges have been required to realign their rules and by-laws with the new regulations within a period of three months.

The CERC has announced these measures under section 66 of the Electricity Act which mandates the CERC to promote development of markets in electricity (including trading) through regulations and in accordance with National Electricity Policy. These regulations have been specified in fulfillment of the statutory mandate of CERC after wide public consultation and a public hearing.

» The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure approved the Rupees 679.36 crore project for upgradation, operation and maintenance of Hyderabad Bengaluru section of NH-7 in Karnataka from 534.72 km to 556.84 km.

The project will be executed as BOT (Toll) on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) pattern under NHDP Phase-VII.

The concession period is 20 years including construction period of 30 months. The project is covered in two districts of Karnataka--Bengaluru (Urban) and Bengaluru (Rural).

The project road runs between Devanahalli and

Hebbal near Bengaluru International Airport and will provide uninterrupted connectivity to Bengaluru International Airport.

The main features of the project include underpasses for pedestrian and cattle crossing; construction of approaches and widening of flyovers; reconstruction of existing service road; highway illumination and construction of bus bays.



» The Cabinet approved the implementation of the proposal for increase in the number of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) through CSIR-UGC National Eligibility Test (NET) in the country.

The number of JRFs had been doubled over the Tenth Plan period by which about 6000 students had benefited. In the Eleventh Plan too, the CSIR proposes to increase the number by two fold. By this, a total of about 12,000 students would be benefiting through JRF-NET.

The total cost of providing fellowships to these 12,000 students in the Eleventh Plan is estimated at Rs 444.34 crore.

The decision to raise the number of JRFs comes in the wake of concern expressed by educationists, scientists and policy makers over declining interest of students to take up careers in basic sciences.

The proposed increase in intake of JRF-NET fellowships with the attractive remuneration would help in attracting talented youth to take up scientific research as a career and help address the issues related to shortage of scientific manpower in the country.

The biggest beneficiaries of this programme would be the University system and scientific institutions across India as they shall be able to attract bright minds for their scientific programmes/research.

It will also benefit students from all over the country who are keen to take up scientific research as a

career.

The main objective of the JRF-NET is to identify, through this national competitive examination, those talented students who could be enrolled for PhD programmes in specific science domains, across India's scientific and academic institutions and also to identify those who fulfil the eligibility criteria for employment as lecturers across various academic institutions.



» To evolve new methods of ensuring better security of rail passengers, a high-powered meeting has adopted a seven-point joint resolution, under which an effective mechanism would be put in place for better coordination between various agencies.

Under the joint resolution, there would be a well-defined system of regular co-ordination between the Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and State Governments to review the position. The meeting also chalked out an effective action plan to tackle the problem of theft and drugging incidents in trains.

» The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Jan 21 approved the implementation of the 'Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) scheme on a pilot basis within the plan outlay of Rupees.248 crore during 11th five year plan.

The fund will be utilized for providing capital grant upto 35 percent of the pilot project to meet the viability gap for operations and maintenance in Public Partnership (PPP) mode after dovetailing funds from other Central Schemes and investment from private developers.

The implementation of the restructured scheme in the manner proposed as an innovative initiative being taken for the first time in rural areas. Through the implementation of proposed pilot

projects, the unique features of this scheme could be tested on the ground and would enable its upscaling in future.

The primary objectives of the scheme are provision of livelihood opportunities and urban amenities in rural area to bridge the rural - urban divide thereby reducing the migration from rural to urban areas.

The core funding will be ensured from the Central Sector Scheme of PURA complemented by additional support through prioritized convergence of Central Government programmes, funding and managerial support from the private sector and participation of the local Panchayats.

The scheme would be implemented and managed by the private sector on viability and sustainability considerations which shall be fully aligned with the overall objective of rural development.

» The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved new interventions in the Centrally sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission. The Horticulture Mission was launched during the X Five Year Plan from 2005-06.

Based on feed back received during implementation of the scheme, new interventions such as High Density Plantations (HDP), Horticultures Mechanization and certification of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) have been included.

Besides, the cost norms of some of the activities like setting up of nurseries, area expansion, rejuvenation programmes and protected cultivation have been revisited and revised to provide better incentives to the farmers for adopting improved technologies and cultivars.

The cost norms and pattern of assistance for post harvest management (PHM) have been enhanced to encourage private sector participation in building PHM infrastructure.

An outlay of Rs.10363.46 crore, with Centre's share

of Rs.8809 crore (85 percent) has been proposed for implementing the Scheme during the XIth Five Year Plan.

The focus of the Mission in its revised form will be on creating forward linkages in terms of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure both in public and private sectors involving pack houses and on farm collection centers, cold storage units, Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storages etc.

» India gave its approval to a proposal from Alstom of France to set up a joint venture with Bharat Forge to make power equipment involving foreign direct investment inflow of 70 million euros or Rs.490 crore.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which was presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, based on the recommendations of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

The proposal is to establish two joint venture companies in India with Bharat Forge or its affiliate companies and to invest 70.5 million euros to manufacture state-of-art super-critical and sub-critical power plant equipment in India.

Listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange, Alstom's India arm has a turnover of over USD 500 million, and employs 4,000 people at its research unit in Bangalore, a technology centre in Vadodara and four manufacturing units.

Apart from offering its capabilities in engineering, manufacturing, project management and supply of power generation equipment, the Indian arm also has a major presence in the transport sector, providing railway equipment and solutions.

Bharat Forge is the flagship of the USD 2.4-billion Kalyani Group, with interests in manufacturing various forged and machined components for the automotive and non-automotive sector.

It is also one of India's emerging multinationals, with manufacturing operations across 12 locations in six countries -- four in India, three in Germany, two in China and one each in Sweden, Scotland and the US.



» India's imports from China have been growing at over 35 percent during the past few years, said fresh data from the commerce ministry on Jan 21, under-

scoring the concern over balance of trade getting further skewed in favour of the neighbouring nation.

During 2008-09, imports from China touched Rs.147,605 crore (Rs.1,476 billion or USD 29.5 billion), an increase of 35.27 percent over the previous fiscal's figure of Rs.109,116 crore (Rs.1,091 billion or USD 21.8 billion).

In the year before, the rise in imports was higher at 38.1 percent with shipments valued Rs.79,008 crore (Rs.790.08 billion or USD 15.8 billion).

The fresh data comes against the backdrop of the Indian Commerce Minister Anand Sharma's visit to Beijing earlier this week where he took up the matter of easy access to Indian merchandise goods to China and the removal of non-tariff barriers.

» Indian government has announced trade defence measures to the domestic industry to counter unfair trade practices followed by exporters of goods from other countries, especially China.

In case a product is imported into the country at less than its normal value, and it causes injury to the domestic industry, the domestic industry can make an application to Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied duties (DGAD) in the Department of Commerce for imposition of anti-dumping duty.

Similarly, an application for imposition of safeguard duty can be made by the domestic industry to the

Directorate General of Safeguards under the Ministry of Finance, in case there is serious injury/market disruption, or threat of series injury/threat of market disruption to the domestic industry, as a consequence of increased imports of an article into India.

During 2008-09 and 2009-10 (up to November 2009) anti-dumping duty was imposed in 22 cases (final duty in 12 cases and provisional duty in 10 cases) and final Safeguard duty was imposed in 4 cases.

Imports from China during the last 3 years are:

Year	Imports (Rs.crore)
» 2006-07	79,008
» 2007-08	109,116
» 2008-09	147,605



» Former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam has expressed concern over unsafe handling of e-waste. Emphasising the need to conserve mineral resources for future consumption, former President A P J Abdul Kalam inaugurated the

country's first e-waste extraction plant.

All electronic items contain potentially hazardous elements like nickel, cadmium, lead and the like, which when handled unscientifically can cause grave damage to the environment including radioactive pollution, which can have serious implications.

The new technology focuses on maximum value extraction from e-waste in its indigenously developed metallurgical unit. E-waste in the country is being increased by 10 per cent every year and only five per cent of urban e-waste are recycled in India.

» Rise in rural consumption, which helped fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies beat the downward spiral in demand in urban areas triggered by global meltdown in 2008, can be attrib-

uted to rise in rural income in India as brought out in a study commissioned by an industry chamber.

Assocham said that Rural per capita income in India is expected to increase from Rs 7,335 in 1981 to Rs 15,396 in 2011, a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.5 per cent.

It also said though rural India's contribution to the national gross domestic product (GDP) has declined over time (expected to reach 30 per cent in 2011 as compared to 53 per cent in 1981), rural income is expected to increase from Rs 8,00,000 crore in 2001 to Rs 13,00,000 crore in 2011.

Since per capita income in rural India is increasing, reflecting a rising consumption capacity for various products and services, many industries, especially FMCG companies, have recognised the potential of rural market and are taking innovative initiatives to tap it. Over 70 per cent of India's population lives in villages.

» Those who are a threat to national security, involved in sedition or convicted for rape-cum-murder will not be granted parole, according to the new guidelines which the central government submitted to the Delhi High Court. The court had earlier expressed its displeasure over the procedure for granting parole, and said it suspected the powerful and the influential received a preferential treatment in grant of parole.

The modified parole guidelines were submitted before a division bench of Chief Justice Ajit Prakash Shah and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw by Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam.

» Tax at source will be deducted at the highest level on income accruing to people without permanent account numbers, following a new notification that takes effect April 1.

The tax will be deducted at 20 percent or the highest prescribed rate for the category of income, whichever is higher, said a circular issued by the Central Board of Direct Tax.

The law will also apply to all non-residents in respect of payments and remittances liable to tax deduction at source. According to the new guidelines, assessing officer will not issue certificate for deduction at lower rate or zero-deduction unless an application bears the permanent account number.

» The Supreme Court has issued comprehensive, eight-point guidelines to high courts to distinguish a genuine public interest lawsuit (PIL) from a bogus one, while imposing a Rs.100,000 fine on an Uttarakhand advocate for filing a frivolous PIL in the state high court.

The courts must encourage genuine and bona fide PILs and effectively discourage those filed for extraneous considerations, ruled a bench of Justice Dalveer Bhandari and Justice Mukundakam Sharma, while imposing a Rs.1 lakh fine on advocate Balwant Singh Chauhal of Nainital for questioning the appointment of the state's advocate general L.P. Nathani in 2001.

In its judgment the apex court bench asked the high courts across the country to expeditiously frame their uniform rules within three months for differentiating between genuine and bogus PILs. The bench also requested the high courts to send copies of their rules on PILs to the apex court.

» Electricity consumption in India, currently at some 600TWh annually, is set to double by next decade, by then it would have surpassed Russian levels in the process, according to a recent survey.

KPMG's Global Advisory Practice released a power industry research published under the title 'Think BRIC!' reveals that in order to supply this extra electricity, total generating capacity should jump by 90 GW, to 241GW, with an increased emphasis on nuclear, clean coal and renewables, including solar and small-hydro.

The survey finds that while the state and federal

governments have initiated reforms, legislation designed to supply electricity to all consumer groups, conservative elements, social programs, systemic weaknesses and contradictions within frequently combine to stifle progress. Additionally factors like increasing economic activity, wealth and population, an improved standard of living and infrastructure developments are all expected to underline a continuous increase in demand for power in the next decade.

According to the study, the country's peak power capacity deficit is expected to widen in 2010 to 12.6 percent of total capacity, up from 11.9 percent last year. In addition to the generation deficit, this deficit is also contributed by the inefficiencies in the transmission and distribution systems and electricity theft.

To combat this, some respondents expressed confidence in government assurances on formation of an independent regulatory system which will support growth in private investment, in public-private partnerships. They also point to the private investors, who have already made a start in building independent power plants, with the share of privately generated electricity currently at around 13 percent of the total and rising.

Coal, which already provides almost 70 percent of India's power, will remain the dominant primary fuel, holding out commercial opportunities to those producers who are global leaders in high efficiency, clean-burn plant. But with India needing to diversify production, openings will exist for nuclear, gas and small hydro schemes.

Also the need to extend basic electricity to vast rural population means that there are massive opportunities in terms of wind, biomass and, if we can get the prices right, especially solar energy.

The respondents surveyed also feel that India is an attractive destination for foreign capital investment

since India has an advantage for future investment in production and manufacturing facilities. Government and private utilities are endeavoring to set up an infrastructure framework to facilitate investments in the country.

» The central government announced a health scheme to address the problem of acute shortage of doctors and health workers for mental health disorders, saying India will produce 1,756 such practitioners, including 520 doctors, every year.

Under the mental health scheme worth Rs.1,000 crore, 11 existing mental health hospitals are being upgraded and strengthened to produce qualified manpower.

Rs.30 crore per centre will be given for academic block, library, hostel, laboratories, supportive departments and lecture theaters.

An additional 44 post-graduate seats in psychiatry, 176 M.Phil seats in clinical psychology and psychiatric social work and 220 seats in diploma in psychiatric nursing will be available every year.

» India will have its first vaccine on H1N1 (swine flu) by April end or beginning of May. The government has funded four companies to produce the vaccine. While one company will be ready with the vaccine by April end or beginning of May, the three other companies will take some time.

» India and Finland signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here on Jan 21 to promote co-operation and exchange of information relating to the Information Security Sector between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by Union Communication and Information Technology Minister A. Raja and Finland's Communication Minister Suvi Linden. The MoU is in accordance with relevant laws and regulations of each country and on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit. The agreement that comes into effect on the date of signing will remain in force for a period of five years.

» The national authority for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects has so far approved 1,467 projects, which, if approved by its international counterpart, can net India 6.15 billion dollars by 2012.

CDM projects are carried out by developing countries to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere in some way -- such as saving energy or replacing a thermal by a hydel power plant. The carbon emissions saved are paid for by developed countries, which are legally obliged under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce their emissions.

The international CDM Executive Board has so far approved 469 of the projects recommended by its Indian counterpart, making India the world's second largest CDM market after China.

Though India does not have any legal obligation to reduce carbon emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, if all the CDM projects are approved by the executive board it will reduce 615 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions by 2012.

India accounts for 3-4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions are leading to climate change, which is affecting farm output, making droughts, floods and storms more severe and more frequent and raising the sea level.

» Government said that India's exports to the Latin America region increased from 2.16 billion dollars in 2004-05 to 6.01 billion dollars in 2008-2009, recording a growth of about 178 per cent.

Likewise, India's exports to Africa region increased from 5.6 billion dollars in 2004-05 to 14.57 billion dollars in 2008-2009, up by 160 per cent.

Government said that it has initiated a process for expanding the existing India-Chile preferential trade agreement (PTA) and India-MERCOSUR (trade bloc of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) trade agreement for further increasing exports to South American and African regions. Besides, India is also negotiating a PTA with South

Africa Customs Union (SACU) comprising Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

» India accounts for only three-four per cent of the global Green House Gas (GHG) emission. This has been stated in the National Communication submitted to UNFCCC.

As on date, the National CDM Authority has accorded Host Country Approval to 1467 projects. Out of these, 469 projects have been registered by the CDM Executive Board.

If all the 1467 projects get registered by the CDM Executive Board, it could attract approximately 6.15 billion US dollars into the country by 2012 through sale of Certified Emission Reduction (CER) Certificates.

As per Kyoto Protocol, only Annex-I Parties of the UNFCCC have quantified emission limitation reduction targets. Developing countries including India have no such obligation to mitigate emissions and accordingly no target is set.

India does not have emission reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol. However, CDM projects as mentioned above, if registered by the CDM Executive Board, have the potential to reduce 615 million metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by year 2012.

Growing India-Pakistan rivalry in Afghanistan

New Delhi's growing role in the war-torn nation has stoked fears of encirclement in Pakistan, which considers Afghanistan part of its sphere of influence.

Following are details of their competition in Afghanistan:

India's Assistance to Afghanistan

India's \$1.2 billion of aid to Afghanistan makes it the sixth-largest donor, four times higher than an estimated \$300 million by Pakistan. Indian agencies are involved in construction of highways, buildings and urban infrastructure, seeking to win goodwill through a series of simple but targeted forms of help.

It offered to rebuild the Afghan national airline Ariana, donating Airbus aircraft despite a shortage in its own fleet. It also trained Afghan commercial pilots.

New Delhi has donated 600 buses, provided experts who have restored telecommunication networks in at least 11 provinces, and built power transmission lines in northern Afghanistan. It is also building the new premises for the Afghan parliament, again a symbolic move to underline close ties between the two countries.

Its most significant development activity, however, is the construction of a road that connects Delaram in western Afghanistan with Zaranj on Afghanistan's border with Iran and another that links Kandahar with Spin Boldak, a town near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The construction of these roads provides access to strategic ports for India and landlocked Afghanistan, lessening the latter's dependence on Pakistan.

New Delhi, denied overland access to Afghanistan through Pakistan, is seeking to ship goods to the Iranian port of Chabahar and then transport them into Afghanistan on the roads that it is building.

Pakistan's aid effort, by contrast, has been much more restrained, in part perhaps because of the differing economic conditions in India and Pakistan.

Islamabad sees India's rapid insertion of material support as a strategic loss and one that rolls back decades of efforts to establish an Islamic alliance between Kabul and Islamabad.

Indian Consulates in Afghanistan

Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, India has raised its diplomatic footprint in Afghanistan, opening new consulates in Herat in the west and Mazar-i-Sharif in the north. It also reopened two others in the southern city of Kandahar and Jalalabad in the east which had been shut since 1979.

India says the consulates are necessary because of various development projects it has underway in Afghanistan.

Pakistan says the consulates are largely staffed by intelligence agents involved in stirring up unrest inside Pakistan, especially in southwest Baluchistan province on the Afghan border where a low-key insurgency that has raged for decades is showing signs of escalation.

India denies any involvement in the Baluch insurgency. In July last year it agreed to include a reference to Baluchistan in a joint statement signed by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani at the end of a meeting in Egypt to improve ties.

India's Military Involvement in Afghanistan

India does not have any troops on the ground in Afghanistan. But there are more than 500 men from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Bor-

der Roads Organisation involved in construction of roads. These forces are not part of NATO and their objective is to provide security to consulates, Indian labourers and businesses.

India also trains a small number of officers from the Afghan National Army at defence institutions in India. In April 2008, Afghanistan's then defence minister Abdul Rahim Wardak visited New Delhi and met his Indian counterpart A.K. Antony. He also travelled to Srinagar, capital of Indian Kashmir and visited the headquarters of the Indian army's 15 Corps involved in fighting the revolt in the Himalayan territory.

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Sports



» Australian cricketer Betty Wilson, dubbed the 'female Bradman' for her cricketing prowess passed away at the age of 88.

Wilson was a household name in post-war Australia, and in 11 Test matches between 1947-48 and 1957-58 she averaged 57.46 as a batter and took 68 wickets with her off-breaks, at an average of 11.80. Wilson had an immediate impact in her international career, as she made 90 and took 10 wickets in her debut game against New Zealand in 1948.

A decade later, in the St. Kilda Test against England in 1957-58, she became the first cricketer, male or female, to score a 100 and take 10 wickets in a Test. On a wet wicket, she took 7/7 in the first innings, which included the first ever hat trick in a women's Test.

She top scored with 12 in Australia's low first innings and a 100 in the second. Taking 4/9 in 19 overs in the second, she set another record for the best bowling of 11/16 in a match, which stood as a record till 2004.

In 1985, she became the first woman cricketer to be inducted into the Australian Sporting Hall of Fame, and her name adorns the trophy for the national under-21 female championships.



» The Indian Premier League (IPL) on Jan 22 committed to a strong vision of green growth by launching a partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Under the new initiative, the IPL will green its cricket league and bring environmental awareness to millions of cricket fans around the world.

Through this long-term partnership with UNEP, the IPL joins the ranks of global events, such as the Olympic Games and the FIFA World Cup, which are working with the UN Environment Programme to green their events.

The new partnership, which kicks off with the India Premier League that will be played over 45 days starting on 12 March, is a first-of-a-kind initiative undertaken by any sporting body in India. UNEP will advise the IPL in its commitment to green its sport events, spread environmental messaging to fans through its star players and green its merchandising.

In close cooperation with UNEP, the IPL will calculate its carbon footprint and compensate the emissions of some of its games. As the partnership develops, the IPL will compensate more and more of its games and green its operations, from waste management to energy efficiency and water.

UNEP will assist the IPL in its long-term green vision of achieving climate neutrality, supporting the IPL's efforts to reduce emissions through the introduction of renewable energy and to compensate for emissions generated by the League.

» India, ICC's top ranked Test team, comfortably won the first Test against minnows Bangladesh by 113 runs despite a valiant century by Mushfiquir Rahim.

The inexperienced Bangladesh could never really capitalize after they got India out pretty cheaply for 243 in the first innings. Perhaps it would be better to say, India's Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma and Amit Mishra never let them capitalize.

The trio got eight wickets between them in the first innings. In the second innings, they scalped nine with Khan taking two, Sharma, three and



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Mishra, four. Skipper Sehwag took the other one. Sreesanth took two wickets in the first innings, but could not get anyone out in the second innings. India had set a target of 415 for the home team in the second innings and at the end of day 4, they were 67/2. On the fifth day, no Bangladeshi batsman could really fight back against the Indian bowling attack other than Mushfiqur Rahim (101), who scored the fastest century by any Bangladeshi cricketer. However, he failed to get much support from this teammates and his efforts could not take not take the match away from India.

matches in the third season starting from March 12 can be watched on the internet giant's You Tube platform.

According to IPL Commissioner Lalit Modi Under the terms of the agreement, Google will have the exclusive online rights for IPL contents. The two bodies would share revenues from sponsorships and advertising on www.youtube.com/ipl

Scores Bord

India

Sachin Tendulkar 105
Virender Sehwag 52
Zaheer Khan 3/54
First Innings Amit Mishra 3/66

India

Gautam Gambhir 116
VVS Laxman 69
Amit Mishra: 4/92
Second Innings Ishant Sharma 3/48

Bangladesh

Shakib Al Hasan 5/62
Shahadat Hossain 5/71
Mahmudullah 69
Mushfiqur Rahim 44

Bangladesh

Mahmudullah 2/52
Shakib Al Hasan 2/112
Mushfiqur Rahim 101
Tamim Iqbal 52

Sachin Tendulkar, who not only scored his 44th Test hundred, but also crossed 13,000 runs in Test cricket in this match, was named man of the match. He also received a memento from the Bangladesh Cricket Board for his 13,000 runs. India are now 1-0 ahead in the two match series.

» The Indian Premier League (IPL) on Jan 20 signed a groundbreaking two-year deal with Google, which will see live cricket broadcast on the internet. According to the deal, all the 60

According to the IPL Chairman and Commissioner, the synergy between the Twenty20 League and Google will make the tournament a truly global event as anyone from anywhere in the world, with a computer and net connection, can watch the action for free. The agreement is part of the IPL's global expansion strategy. This is the first time Google is live streaming a mega cricket tournament, spanning 60 matches over 45 days, for a major global sport on YouTube.

This partnership also marks a first-of-its-kind innovation in live streaming of any global cricketing event providing boundary-less access to the billions of fans across the world, except in USA where re-broadcast options will be available, it was announced.



» Pakistani player Shahid Afridi was not sold at the base price of 250,000 USD at the IPL auction that went underway on Jan 19 while West Indies player Kieron Pollard was taken for 750,000 USD by Mumbai Indians.

66 players are going under the hammer at the auction and Pakistani players, who won the Twenty20 World Cup, were considered hot favourites initially. The country's rich and famous, including Bollywood stars like Preity Zinta, attended the auction.

But it seemed at the auction that there were no takers for the biggest fish from Pakistan- Shahid Afridi- for whatever reasons.

Kieron Pollard, the sparkling all-rounder from Trinidad, received high bidding and his name went for a tie-breaker at 750,000 USD.

He was finally bagged by Mumbai Indians, owned by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries through its subsidiary IndiaWin Sports.

South African Wayne Parnell was sold to Delhi Daredevils for 610,000 USD. There was a tiebreaker for pacer Shane Bond of New Zealand and he was finally taken by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for 750,000 USD. Another player who was not sold was wicket-keeper Brad Haddin from Australia. Mohammed Kaif also remained unsold.

» Amr Khaled Khalifa of Egypt and Hong Kong's Joey Chan won the PSA and WISPA Challenger squash titles in Chennai on Jan 23.

Unseeded Khalifa overcame fourth seeded Abdullah Al Mezayen of Kuwait 11-9, 10-12, 11-

7, 7-11, 13-11 in 65 minutes in the men's final while in the women's final, a focused second-seeded Chan defeated third-seeded Laura Siddall of England 11-2, 11-6, 11-6 in 25 minutes.

Mezayen, exhibited his skills in winning the crunch points, but lacked the punch in yielding the last two points, which he repented seconds after the match was over.



» Indian Olympic Association President Suresh Kalmadi on Jan 22 announced that the Sports Ministry has collected Rupees 1 crore for the women's hockey team.

It is reported that the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has given the money to the Sports Ministry for the women's team. Earlier, the women's hockey team had said that they wanted to meet Kalmadi to discuss their incentives. The team staged an open revolt over non-payment of dues.

» Host Punjab won the overall championship of the second under-18 National Level Rural Games Group- 3, which concluded in Anandpur Sahib on Jan 20. Haryana got second place by securing 20 points whereas Andhra Pradesh came third with 14 points.

Punjab won the Kho-Kho and volleyball events in both boys and girls section and also won boys Kabaddi event in the games. Punjab won the gold medal in both Boys and Girls sections of Kho-Kho event. In boys section Punjab boys outplayed Maharashtra by 10-8 points in the finals. The third place went to Andhra Pradesh who defeated Karnataka by 20-10 points.

Punjab girls defeated Andhra Pradesh 6-2 in a well contested match. Maharashtra won the Bronze medal by defeating its rival team Gujarat in a one sided match by 15-2 points.

Punjab bagged gold medal in Boys one-sided Volleyball event by defeating Haryana in straight sets

25-21,25-20,25-21. Kerala came third by defeating Karnataka 25-19,25-18,20-25,26-24.

Punjab girls also won the gold medal in Volleyball who defeated Gujarat in an easy going match by 3-0 (25-17,25-15,25-18) where as Haryana defeated Karnataka for the bronze by 3-0 (25-8,25-16,25-22) in a one-sided match.

In the Finals of boys Kabaddi boys Punjab crushed Delhi by 38-15 points. However, in girls section Delhi clinched gold medal by defeating Haryana in a well fought match by 39-36. Punjab outclassed Andhra Pradesh by 22-3 points to win bronze medal.

Haryana dominated the boxing events for both boys and girls. In Boys event Haryana bagged gold by getting 47 points, Andhra Pradesh won the Silver with 44 points whereas Manipur got Bronze with 18 points.

In girls section also the team championship won by Haryana with 43 points, Manipur won the Silver with 26 points whereas Andhra bagged Bronze by getting 17 points. Maharashtra won the team championship in the Archery event.

» A.K. Mattoo has resigned as president of Hockey India and all other administrative positions in various sports bodies, saying that hockey has been maligned in the past few days.

Mattoo told that he was the treasurer of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and also an office bearer of the 2010 Commonwealth Games.



» Smriti Mehra won the fifth leg of the women's Professional Golf Tour at the Qutab Golf Club in New Delhi on Jan 15.

Smriti, totalling 233, won by a margin of three strokes over Sharmila Nicollet. Playing level par for most of the morning, Smriti made two spectacular birdies on the 16th and 17th holes.

» Sharmila played a consistent first nine but made a double bogey on the par five 12th hole. Nalini Singh Siwach failed to find form and that affected her confidence. Just a stroke behind the overnight leader, Nalini was expected to put up a better challenge against her two rivals, but disappointed the spectators with her indifferent performance.

» An assistant sub-inspector and a woman constable of central paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have won two gold medals in the 2010 Commonwealth Judo Championship in Singapore. Virender Singh won gold in 81-kg category and Kalpana Devi won the gold in 52-kg weight category.

The Indian team consisting of seven men and seven women was sent to participate in the championship. Singh and Kalpana Devi were the only participants from the ITBP for the event that began from Jan 8. The Indian team has rounded off their campaign with 18 medals in which 13 golds, four silvers and one bronze.

» India drubbed Brazil to win the bronze in the World Team Chess Championship which concluded in Turkey.

The team comprising Grand Masters Krishnan Sasikiran, P. Harikrishna, Surya Sekhar Ganguly, G.N.Gopal, Arun Prasad and International Master B.Adhiban triumphed over Brazil 3.5-0.5 points to finish third.

Sasikiran was held to a draw on the top board but the other three Grandmasters Harikrishna, Ganguly and Gopal won their respective games to give the country their best team championship result against World class competition.

It may be recalled that India got to play only because of the last minute withdrawal of China from the elite competition comprising the best teams of the world. Russia won the championship and the United States of America came second. India finished ahead of chess powerhouses Azerbaijan, Armenia and Israel.



» The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has confirmed Grand Master title to Sriram Jha of Delhi based on his Elo rating of 2,511.

According to an All India Chess Federation, the FIDE also confirmed four International Master titles to Rahul Sangma (Delhi), Swapnil Dhopade (Amaravati), Debashis Das (Cuttack) and Sahaj Grover (Delhi) as the four have crossed the 2,400 rating mark. India boasts of 21 Grand Masters and 65 International Masters.



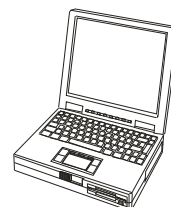
» Indian mountaineer Reena Kaushal Dharmshaktu has become the first Indian woman to ski to the South Pole. Dharmshaktu (38) was part of the eight-membered Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition team.

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.

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AWARDS



» The 56th National Film Awards for 2008 were announced on Jan 23. It was celebration time at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) as their student films have

bagged as many as 11 national Awards, including the gold medal for best direction. The 56th National Film Awards 2008.

'Trip', a documentary film (directed by Emmanuel Palo) won the best scientific film award, comprising a silver medal and cash prize of Rs 50,000 each for the producer and director.

The film is about the Indian Railways, the most extensive railway system in the world, which caters to millions of passengers every day. Tonnes of aluminium, plastic and other non-biodegradable waste is being dumped along the tracks across the country, marring the beauty of the Indian landscape.

'Stations', also directed by Palo, won the best short fiction film award comprising a silver medal and cash prize of Rs 50,000 each for the producer and director. It also won best editing award for Manoj Kanoth who will get a silver medal and Rs 50,000.

'Stations' is about the stations in life that people go through – birth and death, rites of passage, relationships, marriage and infidelities, dislocation and migration and homecoming. It is a story of dysfunctional relationships, of characters who are emotionally detached and unable to fit in the world around them. It deals with feelings of existential malaise and urban alienation, of immigrant isolation and assimilation, of characters letting loose and moving on to a new setting and a new life.

'Three of Us' directed by Umesh Kulkarni, won an award for best direction, carrying a gold medal and Rs 1 lakh cash. It also bagged the best cinematog-

raphy award for cameraman Shariqva Badar Khan, who will receive a silver medal and Rs 50,000.

The movie is about 40-year-old Yogendra who is confined to his metal cot as he is severely disabled. His ageing parents love him, but are afraid of what will happen to him after they are gone. Together they play the game of existence in a single room where they live. 'Three of Us' is the touching tale of the indomitable spirit of the Thakar family, who play themselves in the film.

'When This Man Dies' won the best cinematography award for Jayakrishna Gummadi who will get a silver medal and Rs 50,000.

The film is about the monotony of an office worker's life that gets disrupted when he receives a letter offering him money when a particular person dies. As these letters and the promised money is delivered to him regularly, his other fixed daily patterns start to alter, as does his lifestyle. 'Narmeen' won the best music direction award for Vipin Mishra.

He will receive a silver medal and Rs 50,000. The film tells a story of loss of identity, of humanity, of association, of memories and of attachment in the trying times of partition. The partition of the country is drawing to a close. Noor is a young woman grieving the death of her daughter. She exists in a dreamlike state, unable to come to terms with reality.

Bollywood ruled the 56th National Film Awards, bagging as many as 13 awards, with films like Fashion, Rock On!!, Firaq and Jodha Akbar winning two awards each in various categories. But Bengali film Antaheen won the best feature film award and three more.

While Madhur Bhandarkar's Fashion, a dark tale about the Indian fashion industry, won its lead Priyanka Chopra the best actress award and got

Kangana Ranaut the best supporting actress honour, Farhan Akhtar's cult music-based film *Rock On* got the best Hindi film award. Actor Arjun Rampal won the best supporting actor for the same film.

Ashutosh Gowariker's epic *Jodha Akbar* won Chinni Prakash and his wife Rekha Prakash the best choreography award for the song *Azeem-o-shaan shehensha*, a number that depicts dance forms of different Indian states. Designer Neeta Lulla, who styled actress Aishwarya Rai in the film, won the best costume designer award.

Nandita Das' directorial debut *Firaaq*, based on the 2002 Gujarat riots, won the awards for best editing (A. Sreekar Prasad) and best art direction (Gautam Sen).

Even films like *A Wednesday*, *Roadside Romeo*, *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!*, *Mumbai Meri Jaan* and *Thanks Maa* took one award each.

While Neeraj Pandey's *A Wednesday* has bagged the Indira Gandhi award for Best First Film of a director, Yash Raj Films' *Roadside Romeo* bagged the best animation film.

Dibakar Banerjee's satirical *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!* has been adjudged the best popular film providing wholesome entertainment, *Mumbai Meri Jaan* won the award for best special effects (Govardhan), and *Thanks Maa* has got Shams Patel the best child artist award.



» Media can empower people including the poor, Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur said while giving away the awards of excellence to printing companies across the country on Jan 21.

Inaugurating the fifth National Awards for Excellence in Printing (NAEP), Ms Kaur said, "the print media has command over the length and breadth of the country and a free press is the ticket to progress and economic development of a nation." Lauding the All India Federation of Master Print-

ers (AIFMP), the apex body of India's printing industry for its initiative in instituting awards in printing technology, she also unveiled the AIFMP Black Book on the occasion.

The award ceremony was organised by AIFMP with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) under the chairmanship of Mr Vijaykumar Chopra, owner of Hind Samachar Group of Newspapers.

The printing awards divided in three categories-- big, medium and small enterprise-- were bestowed upon 73 printing companies. A total of 1704 entries, 600 from South, 323 from North, 86 from East and 695 from West were received.

JAK Printers Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai bagged 26 awards, including Gold, Silver and bronze, under different categories, followed by Archana Advertising Pvt Ltd, New Delhi securing 20, Silver Point Press Pvt Ltd, Mumbai received 19 among the long list of awardees comprising Big, Medium and Small printing enterprises.

Vijay Printing Press, Jalandar bagged three awards-- one gold, one silver and one bronze-- for its publication *Punjab Kesari*, *Jag Bani* and *Hind Samachar*.

Highlighting the efforts of Mr Vijaykumar Chopra, Ms Kaur said the Hind Samachar Group has been doing commendable work in the field of journalism under its publications-- *Punjab Kesari*, *Jag Bani* and *Hind Samachar*.



» Legendary cinematographer V K Murthy has been chosen for the Dada Saheb Phalke Award for the year 2008. The award is conferred annually by the Government of India for outstanding contributions to films, based on the recommendations of a Committee of eminent persons.

This is the first time ever that a cinematographer has been selected for this award. Murthy is cred-

ited with providing some of Indian cinema's most breathtaking visual moments embedded in the collective memory of the nation.

He broke new grounds, ushered in modern and highly sophisticated techniques and brought in rich visual artistry into Indian cinema.

Murthy shot India's first cinemascope movie 'Kagaz Ke Phool' and is best remembered as the cinematographer for all of Guru Dutt's films. Murthy is regarded as one of the pioneers of colour cinematography. His picturization of the title song of 'Chaudavin ka Chand' mesmerised the audience.

Murthy in fact started his career in cinema as a violinist. Classics like 'Kagaz Ke Phool' and 'Sahib, Bibi aur Ghulam' won him Filmfare Awards. His other well known works include 'Baazi', 'Jaal', 'Chaudavin ka Chand', 'Pyasa', '12 O'Clock', 'Ziddi' etc.

He also partnered for 'Pakeezah' and 'Razia Sultan'. His working life spans four long decades, from his early collaboration with Guru Dutt from the 50's to his work in Shyam Benegal's mega-serial 'Bharat Ek Khoj' and one of the most acclaimed Kannada movies titled 'Hoova Hannu' in 1993. He is an inspiration to a whole generation of cinematographers.

Born in 1923 in Mysore, Murthy earned his diploma in cinematography from S J Polytechnic, Bangalore in its very first batch 1943-46. As a student, Murthy also took part in India's freedom struggle and was jailed in 1943 and is a recipient of freedom fighter's pension.

Having spent nearly five decades in Mumbai, the ace cinematographer is now based in Bengaluru. He is a recipient of the IIFA Lifetime Achievement Award at Amsterdam in 2005. Murthy will be the 56th recipient of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

The award for a particular year is given along with the National Film Awards. The President of India will confer the award which carries a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh, a Swarna Kamal and a shawl.

» Two members of national women hockey team- Rani Rampal and Savita Poonia have been chosen to receive a grant from the GoSports Foundation on Jan 23.

The foundation will award the 15-year old Rani Rampal and 19-year old Savita Poonia a monthly amount of Rs 4000 each.

Rani, who hails from Shahbad in Haryana, was the top scorer and was also adjudged the Young Player of the Tournament at the Champion's Challenge Tournament held in Kazan, Russia in June last year. Rani played a pivotal role in the team winning the silver medal at the Asia Cup held in November 2009.

Poonia, who also belongs from Haryana (Hissar) is an upcoming goalkeeper with a desire to learn and achieve accolades at the top level.



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Comprehensive Study of General Studies

Part - 2

History of Modern India: At a Glance

First War of Independence 1857

» Although dismissed by some as merely a sepoy's mutiny or revolt, or as a protest against the violation of religious rights by the British, the great uprising of 1857 is slowly gaining recognition as India's first war of independence. And in its broad sweep it was the greatest armed challenge to colonial rule during the entire course of the nineteenth century.

» Attracting people from all walks of life - both Hindus and Muslims, it triggered demands for radical social and economic reforms, calling for a new society that would be more democratic and more representative of popular demands.

» Neither was it a bolt out of the blue. Although not very well known, the period between 1763 and 1856 was not a period during which Indians accepted alien rule passively.

» Numerous uprisings by peasants, tribal communities and princely states confronted the British. Some were sustained - others sporadic - a few were isolated acts of revolutionary resistance - but nevertheless they all challenged colonial rule.

» Precipitated by the policy of unchecked colonial extraction of agricultural and forest wealth from the region - the period saw tremendous growth in rural poverty, the masses being reduced to a state of utter deprivation.

» Even as official taxation was backbreaking enough, British officers routinely used their pow-

ers to coerce additional money, produce, and free services from the Indian peasants and artisans. And courts routinely dismissed their pleas for justice.

» In the first report of the Torture Commission at Madras presented to the British House of Commons in 1856, this was acknowledged along with the admission that officers of the East India Company did not abstain from torture, nor did they discourage its use.

» A letter from Lord Dalhousie to the Court of Directors of the East India Company confirms that this was a practice not confined to the Madras presidency alone in September 1855 where he admits that the practice of torture was in use in every British province.

» Desperate communities had often no choice but to resist to the bitter end. Armed revolts broke out practically every year - only to be brutally suppressed by the British. Lacking the firepower of the British arsenal - they were invariably outgunned.

» And lacking the means of communication available to the British - individual revolts were also unable to trigger sympathetic rebellions elsewhere. Disadvantageous timing led to crushing defeats. Yet, some of these struggles raged for many years.

» Amongst the most significant were the Kol Uprising of 1831, the Santhal Uprising of 1855, and the Kutch Rebellion, which lasted from 1816 until 1832. There was also precedence for a soldiers' mutiny when Indian soldiers in Vellore (Tamil Nadu, Southern India) mutinied in 1806. Although unsuccessful, it led to the growth of unofficial po-

litical committees of soldiers who had several grievances against their British overlords.

» For instance, in the Bengal Army, the 140,000 Indians who were employed as "Sepoys" were completely subordinate to the roughly 26,000 British officers. These sepoys bore the brunt of the First British-Afghan War (1838-42), the two closely contested Punjab Wars (1845-6, and 1848-9) and the Second Anglo-Burmese War.

» They were shipped across the seas to fight in the Opium Wars against China (1840-42) and (1856-60) and the Crimean War against Russia (1854). Although at constant risk of death, the Indian sepoy faced very limited opportunities for advancement - since the Europeans monopolized all positions of authority.

» Many of the sepoys in the Bengal Army came from the Hindi speaking plains of UP where (excluding Oudh) the British had enforced the "Mahalwari" system of taxation, which involved constantly increasing revenue demands.

» In the first half of the 19th century - tax revenues payable to the British increased 70%. This led to mounting agricultural debts with land being mortgaged to traders and moneylenders at a very rapid rate. This inhumane system of taxation was then extended to Oudh where the entire nobility was summarily deposed.

» As a result, the dissatisfaction against the British was not confined to the agricultural communities alone. By bankrupting the nobility and the urban middle class - demand for many local goods was almost eliminated. At the same time local producers were confronted with unfair competition from British imports.

» The consequences of this were summarized by the rebel prince Feroz Shah, in his August 1857 proclamation: "the Europeans by the introduction

of English articles into India have thrown the weavers, the cotton dressers, the carpenters, the blacksmiths and the shoe-makers and others out of employ and have engrossed their occupations, so that every description of native artisan has been reduced to beggary."

» Contrast this turn of events with the arrival of Mughal rule in India. Babar, in spite of his distaste for the Indian climate and customs, noted the tremendous diversity and skill of Indian craftspeople, and saw in that a great potential for expanding Indian manufacturing.

» Quite unlike the British, the Mughals built on the manufacturing strengths of the Indian artisan - (already well establish in the earlier Sultanate period) - and took them to dazzling heights in the later periods. But by the mid-19th century, this pre-industrial virtuosity in manufacturing had been virtually choked of by British policies.

» All this inevitably prepared the ground for the far more widespread revolt of 1857. Although concentrated in what is now UP in modern India - the 1857 revolt spread from Dacca and Chittagong (now Bangladesh) in the East to Delhi in the West. Major urban centres in Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar including Cuttack, Sambhalpur, Patna and Ranchi participated.

» In Central India - the revolt spread to Indore, Jabalpur, Jhansi and Gwalior. Uprisings also took place in Nasirabad in Rajasthan, Aurangabad and Kolhapur in Maharashtra and in Peshawar on the Afghan border. But the main battleground was in the plains of UP - with every major town providing valiant resistance to the British invaders.

Starting As A Revolt of The Sepoys

» Starting out as a revolt of the Sepoys - it was soon accompanied by a rebellion of the civil popu-

lation, particularly in the North Western Provinces and Oudh. The masses gave vent to their opposition to British rule by attacking government buildings and prisons. They raided the "treasury", charged on barracks and courthouses, and threw open the prison gates.

» The civil rebellion had a broad social base, embracing all sections of society - the territorial magnates, peasants, artisans, religious mendicants and priests, civil servants, shopkeepers and boatmen.

» For several months after the uprising began in Meerut on May 10, 1857 - British rule ceased to exist in the northern plains of India. Muslim and Hindu rulers alike joined the rebelling soldiers and militant peasants, and other nationalist fighters.

» Among the most prominent leaders of the uprising were Nana Sahib, Tantia Tope, Bakht Khan, Azimullah Khan, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Kunwar Singh, Maulvi Ahmadullah, Bahadur Khan and Rao Tula Ram. Former rulers had their own grievances against the British, including the notorious law on succession, which gave the British the right to annexe, any princely state if it lacked "legitimate male heirs".

» The rebels established a Court of Administration consisting of ten members - six from the army and four civilians with equal representation of Hindus and Muslims. The rebel government abolished taxes on articles of common consumption, and penalized hoarding. Amongst the provisions of its charter was the liquidation of the hated 'Zamindari' system imposed by the British and a call for land to the tiller.

» Although the former princes who joined with the rebels did not go quite as far, several aspects of the proclamations issued by the former rulers are noteworthy. All proclamations were issued in popular languages.

» Hindi and Urdu texts were provided simultaneously. Proclamations were issued jointly in the name of both Hindus and Muslims. Feroz Shah - in his August 1857 proclamation included some significant points. All trade was to be reserved for Indian merchants only, with free use of Government steam vessels and steam carriages. All public offices were to be given to Indians only and wages of the sepoys were to be revised upwards.

» Threatened by such a radical turn of events, the British rulers poured in immense resources in arms and men to suppress the struggle. Although the rebels fought back heroically - the betrayal by a number of rulers such as the Sikh princes, the Rajasthani princes and Maratha rulers like Scindia allowed the British to prevail.

» Lord Canning (then Governor General) noted that " If Scindia joins the rebels, I will pack off tomorrow". Later he was to comment: " The Princes acted as the breakwaters to the storm which otherwise would have swept us in one great wave". Such was the crucial importance of the betrayal of the princes. The British were also helped by the conservatism of the trading communities who were unwilling to put up with the uncertainties of a long drawn out rebellion.

» But equally important was the superior weaponry and brutality of the British in defending their empire. British barbarity in suppressing the uprising was unprecedented. After the fall of Lucknow on May 8, 1858 Frederick Engels commented: " The fact is, there is no army in Europe or America with so much brutality as the British. Plundering, violence, massacre - things that everywhere else are strictly and completely banished - are a time honoured privilege, a vested right of the British soldier."

» In Awadh alone 150,000 people were killed - of which 100,000 were civilians. The great Urdu poet, Mirza Ghalib wrote from Delhi, " In front of me, I see today rivers of blood". He went on to describe

how the victorious army went on a killing spree - killing every one in sight - looting people's property as they advanced.

» Bahadur Shah's three sons were publicly executed at "Khooni Darwaaza" in Delhi and Bahadur Shah himself was blinded and exiled to Rangoon where he died in 1862. Refusing to plead for mercy from the British, he courageously retorted: "The power of India will one day shake London if the glory of self-respect remains undimmed in the hearts of the rebels".

» The 1857 revolt, which had forged an unshakable unity amongst Hindus and Muslims alike, was an important milestone in our freedom struggle - providing hope and inspiration for future generations of freedom lovers. However, the aftermath of the 1857 revolt also brought about dramatic changes in colonial rule.

» After the defeat of the 1857 national revolt - the British embarked on a furious policy of "Divide and Rule", fomenting religious hatred as never before. Resorting to rumors and falsehoods, they deliberately recast Indian history in highly communal colors and practised pernicious communal politics to divide the Indian masses.

» That legacy continues to plague the sub-continent today. However, if more people become aware of the colonial roots of this divisive communal gulf - it is possible that some of the damage done to Hindu-Muslim unity could be reversed. If Hindus and Muslims could rejoin and collaborate in the spirit of 1857, the sub-continent may yet be able to unshackle itself from its colonial past.

Outcome of 1857

» By the middle of the nineteenth century, the British Empire was the largest and richest empire in the world. This naturally gave rise to the belief that the British themselves, were the chosen race; chosen to bring the benefits of western civiliza-

tion to the less developed and civilized areas of the world.

» This white supremacy was enforced in Britain's colonies, especially in India and naturally, saw much native opposition. Indian uprisings against British rule, however, were unsuccessful due to the superior technology and organization of the British army.

» In 1857, with the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny, India witnessed its first war of independence against the British. Thanks to the efficiency of British media coverage, the Britishers followed the developments of the mutiny avidly.

» The British saw the India Mutiny as a fight against barbarians who were rejecting the civilizing influence of Victorian Britain. But as the suppression developed, the atrocities committed by both sides became obvious. The British armies swept across Northern India in an enraged and cruel rampage of rape, murder and savagery, which shocked Victorian society.

Background of 1857

» British presence in India stretched all the way from the 17th century when the East India Company (EIC) acquired its first territory in Bombay to 1947 when India and Pakistan were granted self rule. Over the years the EIC expanded by both direct (force) and indirect (economic) means eventually, chasing the French out (after the War of Plassey, 1757) and dominating the whole of the Indian sub-continent.

» British rule in India rested on its military might and as long as the British army in India was invincible, British rule was assured. This of course depended on the Indian army, which comprised of Indian troops under British officers.

» British rule inevitable brought western influences into India. The spread of Christianity was to cause great unease among the Indians. Evangelical Christian missionaries had little or no understanding and respect for India's ancient faiths and their efforts to convert many natives quickly brought clashes with the local religious establishments.

» As the missionaries were mostly British citizens, the Colonial Administration often had to intervene to protect them, which naturally gave an impression of official condolence for Christianity.

» It was against this backdrop of uneasiness in which the mutiny erupted in 1857. But the spark was interestingly not so much of religious clashes, but the grease used in the new Enfield rifle. The cartridge of the Enfield rifle was heavily greased - with animal fat, to facilitate an easier load into the muzzle.

» Rumors began to circular among sepoys that the grease was made of cow (sacred to Hindus) and pig (taboo to Muslims) fat. As such, biting such a cartridge was sacrilegious to both Hindus and Muslims alike. Their British officers realized their mistake and changed the grease to vegetable oils, but in this atmosphere of distrust, the mutiny seemed inevitable.

After 1857

» By the first six months of 1858, the British managed to regain their losses in spite of heavy resistance from the locals. With the relief of Lucknow, the possibility of British defeat became remote. The British saw themselves as dispensers of divine justice and given the initial atrocities committed by the mutineers, their cruelties were simply repayment in kind.

» Every mutineer was a "black-faced, blood-crazed savage" which do not deserve mercy from the British troops. Their fellow countrymen derided some British like the Governor Lord Canning, who spoke

of restraint as "weak" and "indifferent to the sufferings of British subjects". In fact, Canning became known contemptuously as 'clemency Canning'.

» After the British recovery, there were few sepoys captured as British soldiers bayoneted any who survived the battle. Whole villages were hanged for some real or imagined sympathy for the mutineers and the widespread looting of Indian property, was common and endorsed by the British officers.

» Later, convicted mutineers were lashed to the muzzles of cannon and had a round shot fired through their body. It was a cruel punishment intended to blow the body to pieces thus depriving the victim of any hope of entering paradise. Indians called this punishment "the devil's wind".

» Apart from the fury reprisals of the British, another significant impact for India was the abolishment of the East India Company. The British Parliament finally realized that it was inappropriate for a private company like the East India Company to exercise such enormous powers and control a land the size of India.

» In 1858, the East India Company was dissolved, despite a brilliant defense of its achievements by John Stuart Mill, and the administration of India became the responsibility of the Crown. Direct rule on India was exercised through the India Office, a British department of state and till 1947, India became known as the Raj, the Crown Jewel of Queen Victoria's extensive empire.

Vernacular Press Act, 1878

» Vernacular Press Act, 1878 a highly controversial measure repressing the freedom of vernacular press. The regime of viceroy lord lytton is particularly noted for his most controversial press policy which led to the enactment of the Vernacular Press Act on 14 March 1878. Earlier dramatic perfor-

mances act (1876) was enacted to repress the writing and staging of the allegedly seditious dramas.

» Vernacular Press Act (1878) was aimed at repressing seditious propaganda through vernacular newspapers. Introducing the Bill the Law Member of the Council narrated how the vernacular newspapers and periodicals were spreading seditious propaganda against the government.

» The viceroy Lord Lytton strongly denounced newspapers published in the vernacular languages as "mischievous scribblers preaching open sedition". He remarked that the avowed purpose of most of the vernacular newspapers was an end to the British raj.

» The papers that made the government worried were Somprakash, Sulabh Samachar, Halisahar Patrika, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Bharat Mihir, Dacca Prakash, Sadharani and Bharat Sanskarak. All these papers were said to have been leading the seditious movement against the government. The Act provided for submitting to police all the proof sheets of contents of papers before publication.

» What was seditious news was to be determined by the police, and not by the judiciary. Under this Act many of the papers were fined, their editors jailed. Obviously this repressive measure came under severe criticism. All the native associations irrespective of religion, caste and creed denounced the measure and kept their denunciations and protestations alive.

» All the prominent leaders of Bengal and of India condemned the Act as unwarranted and unjustified, and demanded for its immediate withdrawal. The newspapers themselves kept on criticizing the measure without an end. The succeeding administration of Lord Ripon reviewed the developments consequent upon the Act and finally withdrew it.

The First Factories Act

» In 1875, the first committee appointed to inquire into the conditions of factory work favoured legal restriction in the form of factory laws. The first Factories Act was adopted in 1881. The Factory Commission was appointed in 1885. The researcher takes only one instance, the statement of a witness to the same commission on the ginning and processing factories of Khandesh: "The same set of hands, men and women, worked continuously day and night for eight consecutive days.

» Those who went away for the night returned at three in the morning to make sure of being in time when the doors opened at 4 a.m., and for 18 hours' work, from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., three or four annas was the wage. When the hands are absolutely tired out new hands are entertained. Those working these excessive hours frequently died." There was another Factories Act in 1891, and a Royal Commission on Labour was appointed in 1892. Restrictions on hours of work and on the employment of women were the chief gains of these investigations and legislation.

Indian National Congress

» Events like the passage of the Vernacular Press Act in 1878 and the Ilbert Bill of 1882, as well as the reduction of the age limit for the Civil Services Exams in 1876 resulted in a wave of opposition from the middle class Indians. Consequently some of them came together and formed a number of small political parties that came out in the streets for protests and rallies.

» The British foresaw the situation resulting in another rebellion on the pattern of the War of Independence of 1857. To avoid such a situation, the British decided to provide an outlet to the local people where they could discuss their political problems.

» In order to achieve this goal, Allan Octavian Hume, a retired British civil servant, had a series of meetings with Lord Dufferin, the Viceroy. He also visited England and met people like John Bright, Sir James Caird, Lord Ripon and some members of the British Parliament. Hume also had the support of a large number of Englishmen in India, including Sir William Wedderburn, George Yule and Charles Bradlaugh.

» On his return from Britain, Hume consulted the local Indian leaders and started working towards the establishment of an Indian political organization. He invited the convention of the Indian National Union, an organization he had already formed in 1884, to Bombay in December 1885. Seventy delegates, most of whom were lawyers, educationalists and journalists, attended the convention in which the Indian National Congress was established. This first session of Congress was presided over by Womesh Chandra Banerjee and he was also elected as the first president of the organization.

» To begin with, Congress acted as a 'Kings Party'. Its early aims and objectives were:

» To seek the cooperation of all the Indians in its efforts.

» Eradicate the concepts of race, creed and provincial prejudices and try to form national unity.

» Discuss and solve the social problems of the country.

» To request the government, give more share to the locals in administrative affairs.

» As time went by, the Congress changed its stance and apparently became the biggest opposition to the British government.

» Muslims primarily opposed the creation of Congress and refused to participate in its activities. Out of the 70 delegates who attended the opening session of the Congress, only two were Muslims.

» Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, who was invited to attend the Bombay session, refused the offer. He also urged the Muslims to abstain from the Congress activities and predicted that the party would eventually become a Hindu party and would only look after the interests of the Hindus. Syed Ameer Ali, another important Muslim figure of the era, also refused to join Indian National Congress.

The Plague Epidemic

» In September 1896 the first case of Bubonic plague was detected in Mandvi. It spread rapidly to other parts of the city, and the death toll was estimated at 1,900 people per week through the rest of the year. Many people fled from Bombay at this time, and in the census of 1901, the population had actually fallen to 780,000.

» In the first year of the plague, a research laboratory was set up at the J. J. Hospital. It moved in 1899 to the Government House in Parel under the directorship of Dr. W. M. Haffkine. This was the beginning of the Haffkine Institute.

» Those who could afford it, tried to avoid the plague by moving out of the city. Jamsetji Tata tried to open up the northern suburbs to accommodate such people. The brunt of the plague was borne by mill workers.

» The anti-plague activities of the health department involved police searches, isolation of the sick, detention in camps of travellers and forced evacuation of residents in parts of the city. These measures were widely regarded as offensive and as alarming as the rats.

» In 1900, the mortality rate from plague was about 22 per thousand. In the same year, the correspond-

ing rates from Tuberculosis were 12 per thousand, from Cholera about 14 per thousand, and about 22 per thousand from what were classified as "fevers". The plague was fearsome only because it was contagious. More mundane diseases took a larger toll.

» On 9th December 1898 the Bombay City Improvement Trust was created by an act of the (British) parliament. It was entrusted with the job of creating a healthier city. One of the measures taken by the CIT was the building of roads, like Princess Street and Sydenham Road (now Mohammedali Road), which would channel the sea air into the more crowded parts of the town.

Lord Curzon

» In November, 1891, Marquis of Salisbury appointed Curzon as his secretary of state for India. Curzon lost office when Earl of Rosebery formed a Liberal Government in 1894.

» After the 1895 General Election, the Conservative Party regained power and Curzon was rewarded with the post of under secretary for foreign affairs. Three years later the Marquis of Salisbury granted him the title, Baron Curzon of Kedleston, and appointed him Viceroy of India.

» Curzon introduced a series of reforms that upset his civil servants. He also clashed with Lord Kitchener, who became commander-in-chief of the Indian Army, in 1902. Arthur Balfour, the new leader of the Conservative Party, began to have doubts about Curzon and in 1905 he was forced out of office.

» Curzon returned to England where he led the campaign against women's suffrage in the House of Lords. In 1908 he helped establish the Anti-Suffrage League and eventually became its president.

» In 1916 the new prime minister, David Lloyd George, invited Curzon into his War Cabinet.

Curzon served as leader of the House of Lords but refused to support the government's decision to introduce the 1918 Qualification of Women Act. Despite Curzon's objections, it was passed by the Lords by 134 votes to 71.

» Curzon was appointed foreign secretary in 1919 and when Andrew Bonar Law resigned as prime minister in May, 1923, Curzon was expected to become the new prime minister. However, the post went to Stanley Baldwin instead. He continued as foreign secretary until retiring from politics in 1924. George Curzon died on 20th March, 1925.

Partition of Bengal

» Partition of Bengal, 1905 effected on 16 October during the viceroyalty of lord curzon (1899-1905), proved to be a momentous event in the history of modern Bengal. The idea of partitioning Bengal did not originate with Curzon. Bengal, which included Bihar and Orissa since 1765, was admittedly much too large for a single province of British India. This premier province grew too vast for efficient administration and required reorganisation and intelligent division.

» The lieutenant governor of Bengal had to administer an area of 189,000 sq miles and by 1903 the population of the province had risen to 78.50 million. Consequently, many districts in eastern Bengal had been practically neglected because of isolation and poor communication, which made good governance almost impossible. Calcutta and its nearby districts attracted all the energy and attention of the government.

» The condition of peasants was miserable under the exaction of absentee landlords; and trade, commerce and education were being impaired. The administrative machinery of the province was under-staffed. Especially in east Bengal, in countryside so cut off by rivers and creeks, no special attention had been paid to the peculiar difficulties of police work till the last decade of the 19th century. Organised piracy in the waterways had existed for at least a century.

» Along with administrative difficulties, the problems of famine, of defence, or of linguistics had at one time or other prompted the government to consider the redrawing of administrative boundaries. Occasional efforts were made to rearrange the administrative units of Bengal. In 1836, the upper provinces were sliced off from Bengal and placed under a lieutenant governor.

» In 1854, the Governor-General-in-Council was relieved of the direct administration of Bengal, which was placed under a lieutenant governor. In 1874 Assam (along with Sylhet) was severed from Bengal to form a Chief-Commissionership and in 1898 Lushai Hills were added to it.

» Proposals for partitioning Bengal were first considered in 1903. Curzon's original scheme was based on grounds of administrative efficiency. It was probably during the vociferous protests and adverse reaction against the original plan, that the officials first envisaged the possible advantages of a divided Bengal. Originally, the division was made on geographical rather than on an avowedly communal basis. 'Political Considerations' in this respect seemed to have been 'an afterthought'.

» The government contention was that the Partition of Bengal was purely an administrative measure with three main objectives. Firstly, it wanted to relieve the government of Bengal of a part of the administrative burden and to ensure more efficient administration in the outlying districts.

» Secondly, the government desired to promote the development of backward Assam (ruled by a Chief Commissioner) by enlarging its jurisdiction so as to provide it with an outlet to the sea. Thirdly, the government felt the urgent necessity to unite the scattered sections of the Uriya-speaking population under a single administration.

» There were further proposals to separate Chittagong and the districts of Dhaka (then Dacca) and Mymensigh from Bengal and attach them to

Assam. Similarly Chhota Nagpur was to be taken away from Bengal and incorporated with the Central Provinces.

» The government's proposals were officially published in January 1904. In February 1904, Curzon made an official tour of the districts of eastern Bengal with a view to assessing public opinion on the government proposals. He consulted the leading personalities of the different districts and delivered speeches at Dhaka, Chittagong and Mymensigh explaining the government's stand on partition.

» It was during this visit that the decision to push through an expanded scheme took hold of his mind. This would involve the creation of a self-contained new province under a Lieutenant Governor with Legislative Council, an independent revenue authority and transfer of so much territory as would justify a fully equipped administration.

» The enlarged scheme received the assent of the governments of Assam and Bengal. The new province would consist of the state of Hill Tripura, the Divisions of Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi (excluding Darjeeling) and the district of Malda amalgamated with Assam. Bengal was to surrender not only these large territories on the east but also to cede to the Central Provinces the five Hindi-speaking states.

» On the west it would gain Sambalpur and a minor tract of five Uriya-speaking states from the Central Provinces. Bengal would be left with an area of 141,580 sq. miles and a population of 54 million, of which 42 million would be Hindus and 9 million Muslims.

» The new province was to be called 'Eastern Bengal and Assam' with its capital at Dhaka and subsidiary headquarters at Chittagong. It would cover an area of 106,540 sq. miles with a population of 31 million comprising of 18 million Muslims and 12 million Hindus. Its administration would consist of Legislative Council, a Board of Revenue of

two members, and the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court would be left undisturbed.

» The government pointed out that the new province would have a clearly demarcated western boundary and well defined geographical, ethnological, linguistic and social characteristics. The most striking feature of the new province was that it would concentrate within its own bounds the hitherto ignored and neglected typical homogenous Muslim population of Bengal. Besides, the whole of the tea industry (except Darjeeling), and the greater portion of the jute growing area would be brought under a single administration. The government of India promulgated their final decision in a Resolution dated 19 July 1905 and the Partition of Bengal was effected on 16 October of the same year.

» The publication of the original proposals towards the end of 1903 had aroused unprecedented opposition, especially among the influential educated middle-class Hindus. The proposed territorial adjustment seemed to touch the existing interest groups and consequently led to staunch opposition.

» The Calcutta lawyers apprehended that the creation of a new province would mean the establishment of a Court of Appeal at Dacca and diminish the importance of their own High Court. Journalists feared the appearance of local newspapers, which would restrict the circulation of the Calcutta Press. The business community of Calcutta visualised the shift of trade from Calcutta to Chittagong, which would be nearer, and logically the cheaper port.

» The Zamindars who owned vast landed estates both in west and east Bengal foresaw the necessity of maintaining separate establishments at Dhaka that would involve extra expenditure.

» The educated Bengali Hindus felt that it was a deliberate blow inflicted by Curzon at the national consciousness and growing solidarity of the Bengali-speaking population. The Hindus of Ben-

gal, who controlled most of Bengal's commerce and the different professions and led the rural society, opined that the Bengalee nation would be divided, making them a minority in a province including the whole of Bihar and Orissa.

» They complained that it was a veiled attempt by Curzon to strangle the spirit of nationalism in Bengal. They strongly believed that it was the prime object of the government to encourage the growth of a Muslim power in eastern Bengal as a counterpoise to thwart the rapidly growing strength of the educated Hindu community. Economic, political and communal interests combined together to intensify the opposition against the partition measure.

» The Indian and specially the Bengali press opposed the partition move from the very beginning. The British press, the Anglo-Indian press and even some administrators also opposed the intended measure. The partition evoked fierce protest in west Bengal, especially in Calcutta and gave a new fillip to Indian nationalism.

» Henceforth, the Indian national congress was destined to become the main platform of the Indian nationalist movement. It exhibited unusual strength and vigour and shifted from a middle-class pressure group to a nation-wide mass organisation.

» The leadership of the Indian National Congress viewed the partition as an attempt to 'divide and rule' and as a proof of the government's vindictive antipathy towards the outspoken Bhadrakol intellectuals. Mother-goddess worshipping Bengali Hindus believed that the partition was tantamount to the vivisection of their 'Mother province'.

» 'Bande-Mataram' (Hail Motherland) almost became the national anthem of the Indian National Congress. Defeat of the partition became the immediate target of Bengalee nationalism. Agitation against the partition manifested itself in the form of mass meetings; rural unrest and a swadeshi movement to boycott the import of British manufactured goods.

» Swadeshi and Boycott were the twin weapons of this nationalism and Swaraj (self-government) its main objective. Swaraj was first mentioned in the presidential address of Dadabhai Naoroji as the Congress goal at its Calcutta session in 1906.

» Leaders like Surendranath Banerjea along with journalists like Krishna Kumar Mitra, editor of the *Sanjivani* (13 July 1905) urged the people to boycott British goods, observe mourning and sever all contact with official bodies. In a meeting held at Calcutta on 7 August 1905 (hailed as the birthday of Indian nationalism) a resolution to abstain from purchases of British products so long as 'Partition resolution is not withdrawn' was accepted with acclaim.

» This national spirit was popularised by the patriotic songs of Dwijendralal Roy, Rajanikanta Sen and Rabindranath Tagore. As with other political movements of the day this also took on religious overtones. Pujas were offered to emphasise the solemn nature of the occasion.

» The Hindu religious fervour reached its peak on 28 September 1905, the day of the Mahalaya, the new-moon day before the puja, and thousands of Hindus gathered at the Kali temple in Calcutta. In Bengal the worship of Kali, wife of Shiva, had always been very popular. She possessed a two-dimensional character with mingled attributes both generative and destructive.

» Simultaneously she took great pleasure in bloody sacrifices but she was also venerated as the great Mother associated with the conception of Bengal as the Motherland. This conception offered a solid basis for the support of political objectives stimulated by religious excitement. Kali was accepted as a symbol of the Motherland, and the priest administered the Swadeshi vow.

» Such a religious flavour could and did give the movement a widespread appeal among the Hindu masses, but by the same token that flavour aroused hostility in average Muslim minds. Huge protest rallies before and after Bengal's division on 16 October 1905 attracted millions of people heretofore not involved in politics.

» The Swadeshi Movement as an economic movement would have been quite acceptable to the Muslims, but as the movement was used as a weapon against the partition (which the greater body of the Muslims supported) and as it often had a religious colouring added to it, it antagonised Muslim minds.

» The new tide of national sentiment against the Partition of Bengal originating in Bengal spilled over into different regions in India Punjab, Central Provinces, Poona, Madras, Bombay and other cities. Instead of wearing foreign made outfits, the Indians vowed to use only swadeshi (indigenous) cottons and other clothing materials made in India.

» Foreign garments were viewed as hateful imports. The Swadeshi Movement soon stimulated local enterprise in many areas; from Indian cotton mills to match factories, glassblowing shops, iron and steel foundries. The agitation also generated increased demands for national education. Bengali teachers and students extended their boycott of British goods to English schools and college classrooms.

» The movement for national education spread throughout Bengal and reached even as far as Benaras where Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya founded his private Benaras Hindu University in 1910.

» The student community of Bengal responded with great enthusiasm to the call of nationalism. Students including schoolboys participated en

masse in the campaigns of Swadeshi and Boycott. The government retaliated with the notorious Carlyle Circular that aimed to crush the students' participation in the Swadeshi and Boycott movements.

» Both the students and the teachers strongly reacted against this repressive measure and the protest was almost universal. In fact, through this protest movement the first organised student movement was born in Bengal. Along with this the 'Anti-Circular Society', a militant student organisation, also came into being.

» The anti-partition agitation was peaceful and constitutional at the initial stage, but when it appeared that it was not yielding the desired results the protest movement inevitably passed into the hands of more militant leaders.

» Two techniques of boycott and terrorism were to be applied to make their mission successful. Consequently the younger generation, who were unwittingly drawn into politics, adopted terrorist methods by using firearms, pistols and bombs indiscriminately.

» The agitation soon took a turn towards anarchy and disorder. Several assassinations were committed and attempts were made on the lives of officials including Sir Andrew Fraser. The terrorist movement soon became an integral part of the Swadeshi agitation. Bengal terrorism reached its peak from 1908 through 1910, as did the severity of official repression and the number of 'preventive detention' arrests.

» The new militant spirit was reflected in the columns of the nationalist newspapers, notably the *Bande Mataram*, *Sandhya* and *Jugantar*. The press assisted a great deal to disseminate revolutionary ideas.

» In 1907, the Indian National Congress at its annual session in Surat split into two groups - one

being moderate, liberal, and evolutionary; and the other extremist, militant and revolutionary. The young militants of Bal Gangadhar Tilak's extremist party supported the 'cult of the bomb and the gun' while the moderate leaders like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Surendranath Banerjea cautioned against such extremist actions fearing it might lead to anarchy and uncontrollable violence. Surendranath Banerjea, though one of the front-rank leaders of the anti-Partition agitation, was not in favour of terrorist activities.

» When the proposal for partition was first published in 1903 there was expression of Muslim opposition to the scheme. The Muslim chronicle, the central national Muhammadan Association, Chowdhury Kazemuddin Ahmad Siddiky and Delwar Hossain Ahmed condemned the proposed measure. Even Nawab Salimullah termed the suggestion as 'beastly' at the initial stage.

» In the beginning the main criticism from the Muslim side was against any part of an enlightened and advanced province of Bengal passing under the rule of a chief commissioner. They felt that thereby, their educational, social and other interests would suffer, and there is no doubt that the Muslims also felt that the proposed measure would threaten Bengali solidarity.

» The Muslim intelligentsia, however, criticised the ideas of extremist militant nationalism as being against the spirit of Islam. The Muslim press urged its educated co-religionists to remain faithful to the government. On the whole the Swadeshi preachers were not able to influence and arouse the predominantly Muslim masses in east Bengal.

» The anti-partition trend in the thought process of the Muslims did not continue for long. When the wider scheme of a self-contained separate the educated section of the Muslims knew province they soon changed their views. They realised that the partition would be a boon to them and that their special difficulties would receive greater attention from the new administration.

» The Muslims accorded a warm welcome to the new Lieutenant-Governor Bampfylde Fuller. Even the Moslem Chronicle soon changed its attitude in favour of partition. Some Muslims in Calcutta also welcomed the creation of the new province. The Mohammedan Literary Society brought out a manifesto in 1905 signed by seven leading Muslim personalities.

» The manifesto was circulated to the different Muslim societies of both West and East Bengal and urged the Muslims to give their unqualified support to the partition measure. The creation of the new province provided an incentive to the Muslims to unite into a compact body and form an association to voice their own views and aspirations relating to social and political matters.

» On 16 October 1905 the Mohammedan Provincial Union was founded. All the existing organisations and societies were invited to affiliate themselves with it and Salimullah was unanimously chosen as its patron.

» Even then there was a group of educated liberal Muslims who came forward and tendered support to the anti-partition agitation and the Swadeshi Movement. Though their number was insignificant, yet their role added a new dimension in the thought process of the Muslims.

» This broad-minded group supported the Indian National Congress and opposed the partition. The most prominent among this section of the Muslims was Khwaja Atiqullah.

» At the Calcutta session of the Congress (1906), he moved a resolution denouncing the partition of Bengal. Abdul Rasul, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Yusuf (a pleader and a member of the Management Committee of the Central National Mohammedan Association), Mujibur Rahman, AH Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, Ismail Hossain Shiraji, Muhammad Gholam Hossain (a writer and a pro-

motor of Hindu-Muslim unity), Maulvi Liaquat Hussain (a liberal Muslim who vehemently opposed the 'Divide and Rule' policy of the British), Syed Hafizur Rahman Chowdhury of Bogra and Abul Kasem of Burdwan inspired Muslims to join the anti-Partition agitation.

» There were even a few Muslim preachers of Swadeshi ideas, like Din Muhammad of Mymensingh and Abdul Gaffar of Chittagong. It needs to be mentioned that some of the liberal nationalist Muslims like AH Ghaznavi and Khan Bahadur Muhammad Yusuf supported the Swadeshi Movement but not the Boycott agitation.

» A section of the Muslim press tried to promote harmonious relations between the Hindus and the Muslims. Ak Fazlul Huq and Nibaran Chandra Das preached non-communal ideas through their weekly Balaka (1901, Barisal) and monthly Bharat Suhra (1901, Barisal). Only a small section of Muslim intellectuals could rise above their sectarian outlook and join with the Congress in the anti-partition agitation and constitutional politics.

» The general trend of thoughts in the Muslim minds was in favour of partition. The All India Muslim League, founded in 1906, supported the partition. In the meeting of the Imperial Council in 1910 Shamsul Huda of Bengal and Mazhar-ul-Huq from Bihar spoke in favour of the partition.

» The traditional and reformist Muslim groups - the Faraizi, Wahabi and Taiyuni - supported the partition. Consequently an orthodox trend was visible in the political attitude of the Muslims. The Bengali Muslim press in general lent support to the partition.

» The Islam Pracharak described Swadeshi as a Hindu movement and expressed grave concern saying that it would bring hardship to the common people. The Muslim intelligentsia in general felt concerned about the suffering of their co-religionists caused by it. They particularly disliked the

movement as it was tied to the anti-partition agitation.

» Reputed litterateurs like Mir Mosharraf Hossain were virulent critics of the Swadeshi Movement. The greater body of Muslims at all levels remained opposed to the Swadeshi Movement since it was used as a weapon against the partition and a religious tone was added to it.

» The economic aspect of the movement was partly responsible for encouraging separatist forces within the Muslim society. The superiority of the Hindus in the sphere of trade and industry alarmed the Muslims. Fear of socio-economic domination by the Hindus made them alert to safeguard their own interests. These apprehensions brought about a rift in Hindu-Muslims relations.

» In order to avoid economic exploitation by the Hindus, some wealthy Muslim entrepreneurs came forward to launch new commercial ventures. One good attempt was the founding of steamer companies operating between Chittagong and Rangoon in 1906.

» In the context of the partition the pattern of the land system in Bengal played a major role to influence the Muslim mind. The absentee Hindu zamindars made no attempt to improve the lot of the raiyats who were mostly Muslims.

» The agrarian disputes (between landlords and tenants) already in existence in the province also appeared to take a communal colour. It was alleged that the Hindu landlords had been attempting to enforce Swadeshi ideas on the tenants and induce them to join the anti-partition movement.

» In 1906, the Muslims organised an Islamic conference at Keraniganj in Dhaka as a move to emphasise their separate identity as a community. The Swadeshi Movement with its Hindu religious flavour fomented aggressive reaction from the

other community. A red pamphlet of a highly inflammatory nature was circulated among the Muslim masses of Eastern Bengal and Assam urging them completely to dissociate from the Hindus.

» It was published under the auspices of the anjuman-i-mufidul islam under the editorship of a certain Ibrahim Khan. Moreover, such irritating moves as the adoption of the Bande Mataram as the song of inspiration or introduction of the cult of Shivaji as a national hero, and reports of communal violence alienated the Muslims.

» One inevitable result of such preaching was the riot that broke out at Comilla in March 1907, followed by similar riots in Jamalpur in April of that year. These communal disturbances became a familiar feature in Eastern Bengal and Assam and followed a pattern that was repeated elsewhere. The 1907 riots represent a watershed in the history of modern Bengal.

» While Hindu-Muslims relations deteriorated, political changes of great magnitude were taking place in the Government of India's policies, and simultaneously in the relations of Bengali Muslim leaders with their non-Bengalee counterparts.

» Both developments had major repercussions on communal relations in eastern Bengal. The decision to introduce constitutional reforms culminating in the morley-minto reforms of 1909 introducing separate representation for the Muslims marked a turning point in Hindu-Muslim relations.

» The early administrators of the new province from the lieutenant governor down to the junior-most officials in general were enthusiastic in carrying out the development works. The anti-Partition movement leaders as being extremely partial to Muslims accused Bampfylde Fuller. He, because of a difference with the Government of India, resigned in August 1906.

» His resignation and its prompt acceptance were considered by the Muslims to be a solid political victory for the Hindus. The general Muslim feeling was that in yielding to the pressure of the anti-Partition agitators the government had revealed its weakness and had overlooked the loyal adherence of the Muslims to the government.

» Consequently, the antagonism between the Hindus and Muslims became very acute in the new province. The Muslim leaders, now more conscious of their separate communal identity, directed their attention in uniting the different sections of their community to the creation of a counter movement against that of the Hindus.

» They keenly felt the need for unity and believed that the Hindu agitation against the Partition was in fact a communal movement and as such a threat to the Muslims as a separate community. They decided to faithfully follow the directions of leaders like Salimullah and Nawab Ali Chowdhury and formed organisations like the Mohammedan Provincial Union.

» Though communalism had reached its peak in the new province by 1907, there is evidence of a sensible and sincere desire among some of the educated and upper class Muslims and Hindus to put an end to these religious antagonisms. A group of prominent members of both communities met the Viceroy Lord Minto on 15 March 1907 with suggestions to put an end to communal violence and promote religious harmony between the two communities.

» The landlord-tenant relationship in the new province had deteriorated and took a communal turn. The Hindu landlords felt alarmed at the acts of terrorism committed by the anti-partition agitators.

» To prove their unswerving loyalty to the government and give evidence of their negative atti-

tude towards the agitation, they offered their hands of friendship and co-operation to their Muslim counterparts to the effect that they would take a non-communal stand and work unitedly against the anti-government revolutionary movements.

» In the meantime the All-India Muslim League had come into being at Dacca on 30 December 1906. Though several factors were responsible for the formation of such an organisation, the Partition of Bengal and the threat to it was, perhaps, the most important factor that hastened its birth.

» At its very first sitting at Dacca the Muslim League, in one of its resolutions, said: 'That this meeting in view of the clear interest of the Muhammadans of Eastern Bengal consider that Partition is sure to prove beneficial to the Muhammadan community which constitute the vast majority of the populations of the new province and that all such methods of agitation such as boycotting should be strongly condemned and discouraged'.

» To assuage the resentment of the assertive Bengali Hindus, the British government decided to annul the Partition of Bengal. As regards the Muslims of Eastern Bengal the government stated that in the new province the Muslims were in an overwhelming majority in point of population, under the new arrangement also they would still be in a position of approximate numerical equality or possibly of small superiority over the Hindus. The interests of the Muslims would be safeguarded by special representation in the Legislative Councils and the local bodies.

» Lord Hardinge succeeded Minto and on 25 August 1911. In a secret despatch the government of India recommended certain changes in the administration of India. According to the suggestion of the Governor-General-in-Council, King George V at his Coronation Darbar in Delhi in December 1911 announced the revocation of the Partition of Bengal and of certain changes in the administration of India.

» Firstly, the Government of India should have its seat at Delhi instead of Calcutta. By shifting the capital to the site of past Muslim glory, the British hoped to placate Bengal's Muslim community now aggrieved at the loss of provincial power and privilege in eastern Bengal.

» Secondly, the five Bengali speaking Divisions viz The Presidency, Burdwan, Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong were to be united and formed into a Presidency to be administered by a Governor-in-Council. The area of this province would be approximately 70,000 sq miles with a population of 42 million. Thirdly, a Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council with Legislative Council was to govern the province comprising of Bihar, Chhota Nagpur and Orissa. Fourthly, Assam was to revert back to the rule of a Chief Commissioner. The date chosen for the formal ending of the partition and reunification of Bengal was 1 April 1912.

» Reunification of Bengal indeed served somewhat to soothe the feeling of the Bengalee Hindus, but the down grading of Calcutta from imperial to mere provincial status was simultaneously a blow to 'Bhadralok' egos and to Calcutta real estate values. To deprive Calcutta of its prime position as the nerve centre of political activity necessarily weakened the influence of the Bengali Hindus. The government felt that the main advantage, which could be derived from the move, was that it would remove the seat of the government of India from the agitated atmosphere of Bengal.

» Lord Carmichael, a man of liberal sympathies, was chosen as the first Governor of reunified Bengal. The Partition of Bengal and the agitation against it had far-reaching effects on Indian history and national life. The twin weapons of Swadeshi and Boycott adopted by the Bengalis became a creed with the Indian National Congress and were used more effectively in future conflicts.

» They formed the basis of Gandhi's Non-Cooperation, Satyagraha and Khadi movements. They

also learned that organised political agitation and critical public opinion could force the government to accede to public demands.

The annulment of the partition as a result of the agitation against it had a negative effect on the Muslims.

» The majority of the Muslims did not like the Congress support to the anti-partition agitation. The politically conscious Muslims felt that the Congress had supported a Hindu agitation against the creation of a Muslim majority province. It reinforced their belief that their interests were not safe in the hands of the Congress.

» Thus they became more anxious to emphasise their separate communal identity and leaned towards the Muslim League to safeguard their interest against the dominance of the Hindu majority in undivided India. To placate Bengali Muslim feelings Lord Hardinge promised a new University at Dacca on 31 January 1912 to a Muslim deputation led by Salimullah.

» The Partition of Bengal of 1905 left a profound impact on the political history of India. From a political angle the measure accentuated Hindu-Muslim differences in the region. One point of view is that by giving the Muslim's a separate territorial identity in 1905 and a communal electorate through the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 the British Government in a subtle manner tried to neutralise the possibility of major Muslim participation in the Indian National Congress.

» The Partition of Bengal indeed marks a turning point in the history of nationalism in India. It may be said that it was out of the travails of Bengal that Indian nationalism was born. By the same token the agitation against the partition and the terrorism that it generated was one of the main factors, which gave birth to Muslim nationalism and encouraged them to engage in separatist politics. The birth of the Muslim League in 1906 at Dacca

(Dhaka) bears testimony to this. The annulment of the partition sorely disappointed not only the Bengali Muslims but also the Muslims of the whole of India. They felt that loyalty did not pay but agitation does. Thereafter, the dejected Muslims gradually took an anti-British stance.

The Muslim League

» The foundation of Indian National Congress in 1885 was an attempt to narrow the Hindu-Muslim divide and place the genuine grievances of all the communities in the country before the British. But Sir Sayed and other Muslim leaders like Ameer Ali projected the Congress as a representative body of Hindus and thus, thwarted the first genuine attempt in the country for Hindu-Muslim unity. Poor participation of Muslims in Congress proves it.

» Of the seventy-two delegates attending the first session of the Congress only two were Muslims. Muslim leaders opposed the Congress tooth and nail on the plea that Muslims' participation in it would create an unfavorable reaction among the rulers against their community.

» Muslim orthodoxy or its patrons in elite sections in the community with the sword of 'religious identity' and slogan - 'Islam is in danger' continuously challenged the political awakening in Indian society if it directly or indirectly affected their superior status and influence. They therefore viewed the democratic and secular movement launched by the Congress - as challenge to their supremacy over the Hindus. Acceptance of Devanagari script and Hindi as an official language of United Province now Uttar Pradesh in place of Persian in 1900 by Lieutenant Governor A. Macdonnell was another significant development to stir the Muslims on communal line.

» No such aggressive resistance was made when the British replaced Persian with English in late thirties of nineteenth century. Sir Sayed Ahmed

died in 1898 but his followers in defense of Urdu language launched agitation against the decision of the representative of British power in United Province.

» On first October 1906 a 35-member delegation of the Muslim nobles, aristocracies, legal professionals and other elite section of the community mostly associated with Aligarh movement gathered at Simla under the leadership of Aga Khan to present an address to Lord Minto.

» They demanded proportionate representation of Muslims in government jobs, appointment of Muslim judges in High Courts and members in Viceroy's council etc. Though, Simla deputation failed to obtain any positive commitment from the Viceroy, it worked as a catalyst for foundation of AIML to safeguard the interests of the Muslims.

» Under the active leadership of Aligarhians, the movements for Muslim separatism created political awakening among the Muslims on communal line. This ideology of political exclusivism in the name of religion gave birth to AIML in the session of All India Mohammedan Educational Conference held in Dacca (December 27-30, 1906). Nawab Salimullah, Chairman of the reception committee and convener of the political meeting proposed the creation of AIML.

» A 56-member provisional committee was constituted with prominent Muslim leaders from different parts of the country. Even some Muslim leaders within Congress like Ali Imam, Hasan Imam, Mazharul Haque (All Barristers from Bihar) and Hami Ali Khan (Barrister from Lucknow) were included in the committee.

» Mohsin-ul-Mulk and Viqar-ul-Mulk were jointly made the secretaries. After the death of Mohsin-ul-Mulk in 1907, Viqar-ul-Mulk was in full control of the League. First session of the League was held at Kara©chi on December 29 & 30, 1907 with Adamjee Peerbhoy as its President.

» Mohammad Ali Jinnah, a prominent leader of the Congress did not join the AIML till 1913 though, he supported the League movement for separate electorate for Muslims. He even successfully contested against the League candidate for the election of Viceroy's Legislative Council. Within the Congress he however always tried to bargain for one-third reservation for his community.

All India Muslim League

» The formation of All India Muslim League (AIML) was a major landmark in the history of modern India.

The first formal entry of a centrally organized political party exclusively for Muslims had the following objectives:

» To promote among the Muslims of India, feelings of loyalty to the British Government, and remove any misconception that may arise as to the instruction of Government with regard to any of its measures.

» To protect and advance the political rights and interests of Muslims of India, and to respectfully represent their needs and aspirations to the Government.

» To prevent the rise among the Muslims of India of any feeling of hostility towards other communities without prejudice to the afore-mentioned objects of the League.

» Initially AIML remained a pocket organization of urbanized Muslims. However, the support of the British Government to the political Islamists in their non-secular intention as well as contemptuous attitude towards majority rule helped the League to become the sole representative body of Indian Muslims.

» To confront the challenge of modern political system, the AIML successfully achieved the status of separate electorates for the Muslims within three years of its formation. It was the first big achievement of the party, which granted separate constitutional identity to the Muslims. Lucknow Pact in 1916 put official seal on the separate identity of Muslims, which was another landmark in the separatist movement launched by the AIML.

Delhi Durbar

» Delhi Coronation Durbar was held on 12 December 1911 before an assembly of about 80,000 select people of British India and the princely states apparently to mark the accession of King George V to the throne of Great Britain on the death of Edward VII. But the real intention behind holding the Durbar in the presence of the King and Queen was to pacify the Bengal agitators who were becoming increasingly militant in realizing their manifold demands, such as, annulment of the partition of Bengal, having Governor-in-Council for Bengal, releasing political prisoners, reform of the local government and education system, and liberalizing recruitment and promotions in the army and the bureaucracy.

» The Coronation at Westminster Abbey took place on June 22, 1911. On the advice of the cabinet, the King George V had resolved to create a new precedent by proceeding himself with the Queen to India at the close of the year, in order to preside over the projected Durbar which was, for political reasons again, to be held at Delhi, and not at Calcutta, the capital of India.

» The grand Durbar was held with all the trappings of the imperial Mughal Durbar. The King was to play the Great Mughal at the Durbar, which he did well by endowing every interest group with what it looked for.

» The King announced for the generality some imperial boons and benefits, which included land

grants, a month's extra pay for soldiers and subordinate civil servants, establishment of a new university at Dhaka and allotment of five million Taka for it, declaration of the eligibility of the Indians for the Victoria Cross, and so on. Bestowing of honours on the elite with the aristocratic titles of Sirs, Rajas, Maharajas, Nawabs, Roybahadurs and Khanbahadurs followed the distribution of benevolence.

» Finally came the royal announcement of changes of far greater magnitude. These were the transference of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi, the annulment of the 1905-Partition of Bengal, the creation of a Governor-in-Council for united Bengal, separating Bihar, Orissa and Chhotanagpur from Bengal's jurisdiction and integrating them into a new Lieutenant Governor's province, and the reduction of Assam once more to a Chief-Commissionership.

» The King then pronounced that henceforth the Viceroy would be progressively concerned with imperial interests only and the Governor-in-Council and elected bodies should progressively run the provincial concerns autonomously.

» These changes were deeply constitutional and political and undoubtedly very striking and dramatic. The agitators, in fact, did not expect that the King would at all raise the constitutional and political issues, which were the preserves of parliament. Subsequent to the Durbar, George V made a visit to Calcutta where he got hero's receptions. However, the contemporary public opinion in Britain had received the royal edicts with considerable suspicion and cynicism.

» It was argued in the press that if the King made all these constitutional and political concessions on his own, he had encroached upon the rights of the parliament very grotesquely and dangerously, and if the politicians used His Majesty's dignity to implement their own secret plans without taking the parliament into confidence, it was again unconstitutional.

Shift of Imperial Capital

» The revolt of 1857 led to the British Crown assuming complete control of the Indian territories. Queen Victoria assumed the Government of India on 1st November 1858. Calcutta became the Royal Capital of India ruled by a Governor General and Viceroy.

» Queen Victoria became the Empress of India on 1st January 1877 and Calcutta became the Imperial Capital. The Government house was built between 1799-1803 by Lord Wellesley as he thought that India should be governed from a palace.

» As the empire's second city, Calcutta's importance continued to increase and Calcutta became a municipality in 1852. Imposing buildings were built and Calcutta became the "city of palaces". The city got a telegraph line in 1851, railway service in 1854.

» The University of Calcutta was established in 1857. Public sewerage system in 1859, filtered water supply in 1860, horse drawn tram carriages in 1873, the Hogg Market in 1874, telephone exchange in 1882, electricity supply in 1899, followed by electric trams in 1902. Calcutta grew as an important Asian trading center with the East India Company having a monopoly in jute, tea, saltpeetre, indigo and opium.

Educational Resolution

» The occasion for a strong and sustained intervention arose when Lord Curzon became the Governor General of India. He was of the view that Indian education had grown too fast at the secondary and university stages, that its administration had become flabby because of undue freedom given to Indian private enterprise, that standards had deteriorated and that the uncontrolled expansion of secondary and higher education was leading to indiscipline and disaffection against Government.

» He was, therefore, of the view that the Government of India should no longer be a 'king log' and that a policy of intensive central interest in education must be enunciated and sustained. He created the office of the Director-General of Public Instruction in India under the Central Government (1897).

» Lord Curzon also convened a Conference of the Directors of Public Instruction in the Provinces at Simla (1900), appointed the Indian Universities Commission (1902), passed the Indian Universities Act (1904) in the Central Legislature, and issued the Government Resolution on Educational Policy in 1904.

» He also initiated a system of large Central grants to the Provinces for educational development and these continued to be in vogue for several years afterwards. An Indian Education Service (IES) was also created in 1897 and its officers held all key posts in the Education Departments. A second Government of India Resolution on Educational Policy was also passed in 1913.

» The two Resolutions of 1904 and 1913 may also be described as National Policies on Education and form a continuing sequence with the orders of Lord Bentinck, the Educational Despatch of 1854, and the Resolution of the Government [of India on the Recommendations of the Indian Education Commission (1884).

Defence of India Act - 1915

» Action by armed revolutionaries, characterized as 'extremists' and 'terrorists', with supposed links abroad inspired new and more draconian legislation between 1905-1914, and the advent of World War I served as a pretext for strengthening the forces of the state, of course in the name of 'national security'.

» In 1908, the government passed the Newspa-

pers (Incitement to Offences) Act and the Explosives Substances Act, and shortly thereafter the Indian Press Act, the Criminal Tribes Act, and the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act.

» Although these pieces of legislation have not been etched into the pre-history of anti-terrorist legislation, the purported intent was to prevent 'terrorists' from calling public meetings, publishing material inciting the people to revolt, disseminating revolutionary literature, and so forth.

» In actual fact, as numerous studies have shown, the legislation was of such wide scope as to render suspect all political activity that was even mildly critical of the British Government of India, and it put an effective end to whatever freedom of expression the Indian press had been allowed. The Foreigners Ordinance of 1914, which restricted the entry of foreigners into India, accomplished the exclusion from India of men harboring evil designs towards the Government of India, 'suspects' in the official vocabulary.

» The 'foreign hand' theory, which is invoked with notorious monotony by the Indian state to the present day to account for the rise of secessionist and communal movements, owes its origins partially to this ordinance. Meanwhile, the Ingress into India Ordinance (1914) allowed the government to indefinitely detain and compulsorily domicile suspects, while the Defence of India Act (1915) allowed suspects to be tried by special tribunals sitting in camera whose decisions were not subject to appeal. Regulation III also continued to be available for the indefinite detention of suspects.

» 1915 legislation was designed to give the government of British India special powers to deal with revolutionary and German-inspired threats during World War I, especially in the Punjab. A special legal tribunal was set up to deal with such cases without prior commitment and with no appeal. Power was also taken for the internment of suspects.

Home Rule League

» On April 23, 1916 Bal Gangadhar Tilak formed The Home Rule League in Bombay. Six months later Mrs. Annie Besant founded the league in Madras. The Home Rule League became popular and it broke fresh ground even in small towns that hitherto had little or no political consciousness.

» Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mrs. Annie Besant, the two pivots of the movement, designed a new flag. It comprised five red and four green horizontal stripes arranged alternately, with seven stars denoting the Saptrishi configuration. On the left upper quadrant, towards the hoist it had the Union Jack, and on the upper right quadrant, towards the flag's fly there was a crescent and a star. It is believed to have been hoisted at the 1917 Congress session held in Calcutta for the first time.

» Dr. Annie Besant is one of those foreigners who inspired the love of the country among Indians. She declared in 1918 in her paper "New India": "I love the Indian people as I love none other, and... My heart and my mind... have long been laid on the alter of the Motherland." Annie Besant, born of Irish parents in London on October 1, 1847, made India her home from November 1893.

» Dr. Besant, said Mahatma Gandhi, awakened India from her deep slumber. Before she came to India, Dr. Besant passed through several phases of life-housewife, propagator of atheism, trade unionist, feminist leader and Fabian Socialist. By 1889, "there was scarcely any modern reform (in England) for which she had not worked, written spoken and suffered.

» Dr. Besant started the Home Rule League in India for obtaining the freedom of the country and reviving the country's glorious cultural heritage. She started a paper called "New India." She attended the 1914 session of the Indian National Congress

and presided over it in 1917. She could not see eye to eye with Gandhiji in regard to the latter's satyagraha movement.

» An orator and writer with poetic temperament, Dr. Besant was a veritable tornado of power and passion. By her eloquence, firmness of convictions and utter sincerity she attracted some of the best minds of the country for the national cause. She was largely responsible for the upbringing of the world-renowned philosopher K. Krishnamurti. Dr. Besant died in 1933.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

» Jallianwala Bagh massacre of April 13, 1919 was one of the most inhuman acts of the British rulers in India. The people of Punjab have gathered on the auspicious day of Baisakhi at Jallianwala Bagh, adjacent to Golden Temple (Amritsar), to lodge their protest peacefully against persecution by the British Indian Government. General Dwyer appeared suddenly with his armed police force and fired indiscriminately at innocent empty handed people leaving hundreds of people dead, including women and children. General Dwyer, the butcher of Jallianwala Bagh, was later murdered by Udham Singh to avenge this barbaric act.

Khilafat And Non-Cooperation Movement

» Khilafat Movement (1919-1924) was a Pan-Islamic movement influenced by Indian nationalism. The Ottoman Emperor Abdul Hamid II (1876-1909) had launched a Pan-Islamic programme to use his position as the Sultan-Khalifa of the global Muslim community with a view to saving his disintegrating empire from foreign attacks and to crush the nationalistic democratic movement at home.

» The visit of his emissary, Jamaluddin Afghani, to India in the late nineteenth century to propa-

gate Pan-Islamic ideas received a favorable response from some Indian Muslim leaders.

» These sentiments intensified early in the twentieth century with the revocation in 1911 of the 1905 partition of Bengal, the Italian (1911) and Balkan (1911-1912) attacks on Turkey, and Great Britain's participation in the First World War (1914-18) against Turkey.

» The defeat of Turkey in the First World War and the division of its territories under the Treaty of Sevres (10 August 1920) among European powers caused apprehensions in India over the Khalifa's custodianship of the Holy places of Islam. Accordingly, the Khilafat Movement was launched in September 1919 as an orthodox communal movement to protect the Turkish Khalifa and save his empire from dismemberment by Great Britain and other European powers.

» The Ali brothers, Muhammad Ali and Shawkat Ali, Maulana abul kalam azad, Dr MA Ansari, and Hasrat Mohani initiated the Movement. Khilafat Conferences were organised in several cities in northern India. A Central Khilafat Committee, with provisions for provincial branches, was constituted at Bombay with Seth Chotani, a wealthy merchant, as its President, and Shawkat Ali as its Secretary. In 1920 the Ali Brothers produced the Khilafat Manifesto. The Central Khilafat Committee started a Fund to help the Nationalist Movement in Turkey and to organise the Khilafat Movement at home.

Declaration of Non-Cooperation Movement

» Contemporaneously, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi led his non-violent nationalist movement satyagraha, as a protest against government repression evidenced, for example, in the Rowlatt Act of 1919, and the Jalian Wallah Bagh Massacres of April 1919.

» To enlist Muslim support in his movement, Gandhi supported the Khilafat cause and became a member of the Central Khilafat Committee. At the Nagpur Session (1920) of the Indian National Congress Gandhi linked the issue of Swaraj (Self-Government) with the Khilafat demands and adopted the non-cooperation plan to attain the twin objectives.

» By mid-1920 the Khilafat leaders had made common cause with Gandhi's non-cooperation movement promising non-violence in return for Gandhi's support of the Khilafat Movement whereby Hindus and Muslims formed a united front against British rule in India. Support was received also of Muslim theologians through the Jamiyat-al Ulama-i-Hind (The Indian Association of Muslim Theologians). Maulana mohammad akram khan of Bengal was a member of its Central Executive and Constitution Committee.

» However, the movement's objectives of communal harmony and nonviolence suffered a setback because of the Hijrat (Exodus) to Afghanistan in 1920 of about 18,000 Muslim peasants, mostly from Sind and North Western Provinces, the excesses of Muslims who felt that India was Dar-ul-Harb (Apostate land), the Moplah rebellion in South India in August 1921, and the Chauri-Chaura incident in February 1922 in the United Provinces where a violent mob set fire to a police station killing twenty-two policemen. Soon after Gandhi called off the Non-cooperation movement, leaving Khilafat leaders with a feeling of betrayal.

» The extra-territorial loyalty of Khilafat leaders received a final and deadly blow from the Turks themselves. The charismatic Turkish nationalist leader Mustafa Kemal's startling secular renaissance, his victories over invading Greek forces culminating in the abolition of the Sultanate in November 1922, and the transformation of Turkey into a Republic in October 1923, followed by the abolition of the Khilafat in March 1924, took the Khilafatists unaware. By 1924 the Khilafat Movement, had become devoid of any relevance and significance and met its end.

» The first stirrings in favour of the Khilafat Movement in Bengal was seen on 30 December 1918 at the 11th Session of the All India muslim league held in Delhi. In his presidential address, ak fazlul huq voiced concern over the attitude of Britain and her allies engaged in dividing and distributing the territories of the defeated Ottoman Empire.

» When the Paris Peace Conference (1919) confirmed these apprehensions, Bengali Khilafat leaders such as Maulana Akram Khan, Abul Kasem, and mujibur rahman khan held a Public meeting in Calcutta on 9 February 1919 to enlist public support in favour of preserving the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and saving the institution of Khilafat.

» In Bengal, the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement (1918 to 1924) became a mass movement in which both Muslims and Hindus participated. The Bengal movement benefited from coordinated action by and between the Central and Provincial Khilafat leaders. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad propagated Khilafat ideas in rural Bengal.

» In the initial stage, the movement was popularised by Bengali leaders such as Maulana Akram Khan, maniruzzaman islamabadi, Mujibur Rahman Khan, the brothers Maulana abdullahil kafi and Maulana abdullahil baqi, ismail hossain shiraji, Abul Kasem and AK Fazlul Huq. Maulana Akram Khan and Maniruzzaman Islambadi toured Bengal and organised Khilafat meetings, particularly in Dhaka and Chittagong.

» In an article Asahojogita-o-Amader Kartabya, Maniruzzaman Islambadi declared that to protect Khilafat and to acquire Swaraj were the twin aims of the movement and that it was the sacred duty of every Indian to support these ideas.

» During the observance of the first Khilafat Day on 17 October 1919, most Indian-owned shops remained closed in Calcutta, prayers were offered at

different mosques, and public meetings were held all over Bengal. On 23-24 November 1919 the first All-India Khilafat Conference held in Delhi was presided over by AK Fazlul Huq from Bengal. It was resolved that pending a resolution of the Khilafat problem there would be no participation in the proposed peace celebrations, that British goods should be boycotted, and that a policy of non-cooperation with the government would be adopted.

» In early 1920 the Bengal Provincial Khilafat Committee was organised with Maulana Abdur Rauf as President, Maniruzzaman Islambadi as Vice President, Maulana Akram Khan as General Secretary, and Mujibur Rahman and Majid Baksh as Joint Secretaries respectively. The office of the organisation was located at Hiron Bari Lane of Kolutola Street in Calcutta.

» The first Bengal Provincial Khilafat Conference was held at the Calcutta Town Hall on 28-29 February 1920. Several members of the Central Khilafat Committee attended. Prominent Bengali Khilafat leaders such as A K Fazlul Huq, Abul Kasem, Mujibur Rahman participated in the conference and reiterated the view that unless their demands on the Khilafat problem were met non-cooperation and boycott would continue. The conference decided to observe 19 March 1920 as the Second Khilafat Day.

» In March 1920 a Khilafat delegation led by Maulana Muhammad Ali went to England to plead for the Khilafat cause. Abul Kasem represented Bengal in this delegation. Local Khilafat Committees were also constituted. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Maulvi Abdur Rahman became President and Secretary respectively of the Calcutta Khilafat Committee.

» On 20 December 1919 the Dhaka Committee was founded at the ahsan manzil with Nawab khwaja habibullah as President, Syed Abdul Hafez

as alternate President, and Gholam Quddus as Secretary. In response to the demands of the citizens of Dhaka, a "Sadar Khilafat Committee" was formed; Khwaja Sulaiman Kadar was its President, Maulana Abdul Jabbar Ansari, Hafez Abdur Razzak, Hafez Abdul Hakim its Vice-Presidents, and Maulvi Shamsul Huda its Secretary.

» At this critical juncture, a rift arose between Khilafat and Non-cooperation leaders on the issue of boycotting educational institutions and legislative councils. Some Muslim leaders believed that such boycott would be suicidal for Muslims. They were in favor of participating in the elections under the India Act of 1919 that assured self-governing institutions in India.

» Prominent among this group of Swarajist leaders were CR Das, Bipin Chandra Pal, Motilal Nehru, Surendranath Banerjea, Ashutosh Chowdhury, Asutosh Mookerjee and Sarat Chandra Bose.

» Notable Muslims subscribing to the same ideas were AK Fazlul Huq, Abul Kasem, Khwaja Muhammad Azam, Khwaja Afzal, Nawab Khwaja Habibullah, Hakim Habibur Rahman, Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, Sir Syed Shamsul Huda, Sir Abdullah al-Mamun Suhrawardi, Maulana Abu Bakr Siddiky (Pir of Furfura), Shah Ahsanullah, Kazem Ali and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. Indian National Congress and the Muslim nationalists were strongly opposed to the idea of joining the councils.

» Eminent Hindu personalities in Bengal who supported the Khilafat movement were Bipin Chandra Pal, Shrish Chandra Chattopadhyaya, Kaminikumar Bandyopadhyaya, Dr Rai Kumar Chakravarty, PC Ghosh, Basanta Kumar Majumdar, Aswini Kumar Dutta, Pyarilal Roy, Gurucharan Aich, Sarat Kumar Gupta, Poet Mukunda Das, Haranath Ghosh, Nagendra Bhattacharya, Satindra Sen, Dr Tarini Gupta, Sarol Kumar Dutta, Nishi Kanta Ganguly, Monoranjan Gupta, Sarat Kumar Ghosh, Nagendra Bijoy Bhattacharya, Nalini Das, Sailendra Nath Das, Khitish Chandra Roy Chowdhury and many others.

» In addition to the front-rank leaders of the Khilafat movement, a new class of Muslim leaders emerged during this period from urban as well as from distant parts of Bengal. They gained experience in organizing and mobilizing the public. The Khilafat movement provided an opportunity to throw up a new Mofassil based leadership, which played a key role in introducing a coherent self-assertive political identity for Bengali Muslims. After the 1947 Partition, these personalities played effective roles in their respective areas of activity.

» Mahatma Gandhi initiated non-Cooperation Movement. To advance the Indian nationalist cause, the Indian national congress under the leadership of Gandhi decided in 1920 to follow a policy of passive resistance to British rule.

» The Rowlatt Act, the Jalliwandawala Bagh massacre and martial law in Punjab had belied the generous wartime promises of the British. The Montagu-Chelmsford report with its ill-considered scheme of diarchy satisfied few. Gandhi, so far believing in the justice and fair play of the government, now felt that Non-Cooperation with the government must be started.

» At the same time, the harsh terms of the Treaty of Sevres between the Allies and Turkey was resented by the Muslims in India. The Muslims started the Khilafat movement and Gandhi decided to identify himself with them. Gandhi's 'skilful top level political game' secured in winning over the Muslim support in the coming Non-Cooperation Movement in India.

» The movement was launched formally on 1st August 1920, after the expiry of the notice that Gandhi had given to the Viceroy in his letter of 22 June, in which he had asserted the right recognized 'from time immemorial of the subject to refuse to assist a ruler who misrules'. At the Calcutta Session (September 1920) the programme of the movement was clearly stated.

» It involved the surrender of the titles and offices and resignation from nominated posts in the local bodies. The Non-Cooperators were not to attend Government duties, Durbars and other functions and they were to withdraw their children from schools and colleges and establish national schools and colleges. They were to boycott the British courts and establish private arbitration courts; they were to use swadeshi cloth. Truth and non-violence were to be strictly observed by Non-Cooperators.

» The Calcutta decision was endorsed at the Nagpur Session of the Congress (December 1920). There the betterment of party organization was emphasized. Congress membership was thrown open to all adult men and women on payment of 4 annas as subscription. The adoption of the Non-Cooperation resolution by the Congress gave it a new energy and from January 1921, it began to register considerable success all over India. Gandhi along with Ali Brothers undertook a nation-wide tour during which he addressed hundreds of meetings.

» In the first month, 9,000 students left schools and colleges and joined more than 800 national institutions that had sprung up all over the country. The educational boycott was particularly successful in Bengal under the leadership of Chitta Ranjan das and Subhas Chandra Bose. Punjab, too, responded to the educational boycott and Lala Lajpat Rai played the leading role. Other areas that were active were Bombay, UP, Bihar, Orissa and Assam; Madras remained lukewarm.

» The boycott of law courts by lawyers was not as successful as the educational boycott. Many leading lawyers, like, CR Das, Motilal Nehru, MR Jayakar, S Kitchlew, V Patel. Asaf Ali Khan and others gave up lucrative practices, and their sacrifice became a source of inspiration for many. In number again, Bengal led followed by Andhra, U P, Karnataka and Punjab.

» But perhaps, the most successful item of the programme was the boycott of foreign cloth. The value of imports of foreign cloth fell from Rs. 102 crore in 1920-21 to 57 crore in 1921-22.

» In July 1921, a new challenge was thrown to the government. Mohammad Ali along with other leaders was arrested for holding the view that it was 'religiously unlawful for the Muslims to continue in the British army'. Gandhi as well as the Congress supported Mohammad Ali and issued a manifesto.

» The next dramatic event was the visit of the Prince of Wales that began on 17 November 1921. The day the Prince landed in Bombay was observed as a day of hartal all over India.

» He was greeted with empty streets and downed shutters wherever he went. Emboldened by their successful defiance of the government, Non-Cooperators became more and more aggressive. The Congress volunteer corps emerged as a powerful parallel police, and the sight of its members marching in formation and dressed in uniform was hardly one that warmed the government heart.

» The Congress had already granted permission to the Provincial Congress Committees to sanction mass civil disobedience including the non-payment of taxes wherever they thought that the people were ready. The Non-Cooperation Movement had other indirect effects as well. In UP it became difficult to distinguish between a Non-Cooperation meeting and a peasant meeting.

» In Malabar in Kerala it helped to rouse Muslim tenants against their landlords. In Assam, laborers on tea plantations went on strike. In Punjab, the Akali movement was a part of the general movement of Non-Cooperation.

» As the Non-Cooperation Movement continued it became clear that the women of Bengal were

willing to play an active role in the protest movement. The women nationalists here organised themselves under the Mahila Karma Samaj or the Ladies Organisation Board of the Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee.

» Women of the Samaj organised meetings and propagated the spirit of Non-Cooperation. Women volunteers were enlisted. Basanti Devi and Urmila Devi, wife and sister respectively of CR Das, Nellie Sengupta, and wife of JM Sengupta, along with others like Mohini Devi, Labanya Prabha Chanda played a prominent role in this movement. Picketing of foreign wine and cloth shops and selling of Khaddar on the streets happened to be the main areas of their activities.

» The government promulgated Sections 108 and 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure at various centres of the agitation. Volunteers' Corps was declared illegal and by December, over 30,000 people were arrested from all over India. Among prominent leaders, only Gandhi remained out of jail.

» In mid-December there was an abortive attempt at negotiations, initiated by Malaviya, but the conditions offered were such that it meant sacrificing the Khilafat leaders, a course that Gandhi would hardly accept. At that time he had been also under considerable pressure from the Congress rank and file to start the phase of mass civil disobedience.

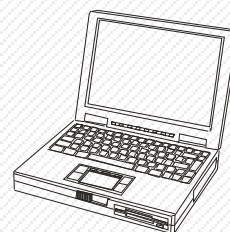
» Gandhi presented an ultimatum to the government but as the government did not respond he started to initiate the civil disobedience movement in Bardoli taluqa of Surat district. Unfortunately at this time the tragedy of Chauri Chaura occurred which changed the course of the movement. A mob of 3,000 killed twenty-five policemen and one inspector.

» This was too much for Gandhi who stood for complete non-violence. The result was that he gave order for the suspension of the movement at once. Thus on 12 February 1922, the Non-Cooperation Movement came to an end.

» As regards the limitations and achievements of the Non-Cooperation Movement, it apparently failed to achieve its object of securing the Khilafat and making good of the Punjab wrongs. The Swaraj was not attained in a year as promised. Still, the retreat that was ordered on 12 February 1922 was only a temporary one. The battle was over, but the war would continue.

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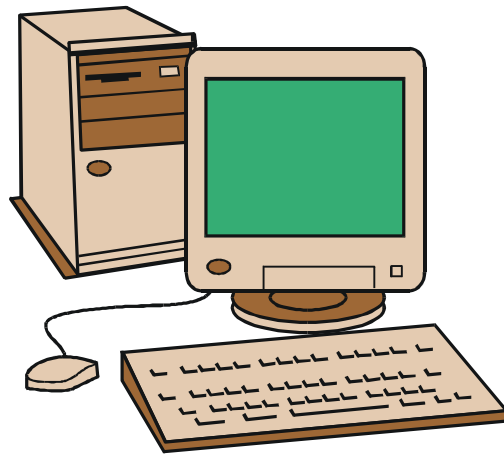
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