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Nuclear Power in India

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- » World of Awards

Special



Nuclear Power in India

JUNE 2010

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Learn, Inspire and Win...

You can learn from May 6, 2010. This day brought the great news of inspiration. And inspiration is first propellant of success in life.

Read the news:

“Shah Faisal, a 27 year old doctor from J&K topped the UPSC exam much to the surprise of many. For a boy who was brought up in a remote villlage in Jammu and Kashmir and who studied in a government school, the achievement is really huge. His achievement is made even more significant by the fact that he had a childhood trauma that would drive most children out of their sensibilities. Faisal’s father was killed by militants and the boy was brought up by a single mother who is a teacher.”

So You must take a lesson and think how to convert all odd situations into a big chance. Faisal sure can serve as a role model for other people and other families who are tied down by their mental setbacks. He may become role model for all those who get victimised and later become terrorists themselves after being brainwashed and taught that common innocent people are responsible for his misery. Why only Faisal, you all have same potential to prove yourselves as a winner. But you must ready to learn and have a spark to illuminate life. You have to decide that to surrender before the situation is important or to fight with. I think you must fight with the situation, like Faisal fought and taught a lesson to all who easily demoralised and surrender before the situation.

Do you want to make a change? If you have a dream to directly impact the lives of those around you and if answer is yes, then you should have positive attitude and learn always to make the changes in ourselves and in society.

If anyone has appeared in this year’s pre examination, He/She must take inspiration from Shah Faisal and try to best in coming main examination. During these days of your struggle, Aspirant Times is with you.

In this 15th issue of Aspirants Times a new section of Featured Article is started and “Nuclear Power in India” included as Featured Article. While in section of articles Indian Premier League, 16th SAARC Summit, European Sovereign Debt Crisis are given.

As Hot Topics First Indian Origin Woman PM of Trinidad and Tobago, North-South Korea Conflict, 63rd Cannes Film Festival 2010 are raised with regular columns Current Affairs, Sports and World of Awards.

So my message is learn, inspire and win the *Battle of Life*.

With Best Wishes
Ram Kumar Pandey
& UPSCPORTAL Team

Nuclear Power in India

Future Energy Source for Development

By: Ram Kumar Pandey



"When the agreement goes through, India is expected to generate an additional 25,000 MW of nuclear power by 2020, bringing total estimated nuclear power generation to 45,000 MW."

Nuclear power is the fourth-largest source of electricity in India after thermal, hydro and renewable sources of electricity. As of 2010, India has 19 nuclear power plants in operation generating 4,560 MW while 4 other are under construction and are expected to generate an additional 2,720 MW. India is also involved in the development of fusion reactors through its participation in the ITER project.

Since early 1990s, Russia has been a major source of nuclear fuel to India. Due to dwindling domestic uranium reserves, electricity generation from nuclear power in India declined by 12.83% from 2006 to 2008. Following a waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group in September 2008 which allowed it to commence international nuclear trade, India has signed nuclear deals with several other countries including France, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Namibia, Mongolia, Argentina, Kazakhstan. In February 2009, India also signed a \$700 million deal with Russia for the supply of 2000 tons nuclear fuel.

India now envisages to increase the contribution of nuclear power to overall electricity generation capacity from 4.2% to 9% within 25 years. In 2010, India's installed nuclear power generation capacity will increase to 6,000 MW. As of 2009, India stands 9th in the world in terms of number of operational nuclear power reactors and is constructing 9 more, including two EPRs being constructed by France's Areva. Indigenous atomic reactors include TAPS-3, and -4, both of which are 540 MW reactors. India's \$717 million fast breeder reactor project is expected to be operational by 2010.

Nuclear Power Growth in India

India, being a non-signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has been subjected to a defacto nuclear embargo from members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) cartel. This has prevented India from obtaining commercial nuclear fuel, nuclear power plant components and services from the international market, thereby forcing India to develop its own fuel, components and services for nuclear power generation. The NSG embargo has had both negative and positive consequences for India's Nuclear Industry.

On one hand, the NSG regime has constrained India from freely importing nuclear fuel at the volume and cost levels it would like to support the country's goals of expanding its nuclear power gen-

eration capacity to at least 20,000 MW by 2020. Also, by precluding India from taking advantage of the economies of scale and safety innovations of the global nuclear industry, the NSG regime has driven up the capital and operating costs and damaged the achievable safety potential of Indian nuclear power plants.

On the other hand, the NSG embargo has forced the Indian government and bureaucracy to support and actively fund the development of Indian nuclear technologies and industrial capacities in all key areas required to create and maintain a domestic nuclear industry. This has resulted in the creation of a large pool of nuclear scientists, engineers and technicians that have developed new and unique innovations in the areas of Fast Breeder Reactors, Thermal Breeder Reactors, the Thorium fuel cycle, nuclear fuel reprocessing and Tritium extraction & production.

Ironically, had the NSG sanctions not been in place, it would have been far more cost effective for India to import foreign nuclear power plants and nuclear fuels than to fund the development of Indian nuclear power generation technology, building of India's own nuclear reactors, and the development of domestic uranium mining, milling and refining capacity.

The Indian nuclear power industry is expected to undergo a significant expansion in the coming years thanks in part to the passing of The Indo-US nuclear deal. This agreement will allow India to carry out trade of nuclear fuel and technologies with other countries and significantly enhance its power generation capacity. When the agreement goes through, India is expected to generate an additional 25,000 MW of nuclear power by 2020, bringing total estimated nuclear power generation to 45,000 MW.

India has already been using imported enriched uranium and are currently under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, but it has developed various aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle to support its reactors. Development of select technologies has been strongly affected by limited imports. Use of heavy water reactors has been particularly attractive for the nation because it allows Uranium to be burnt with little to no enrichment capabilities.

India has also done a great amount of work in the development of a Thorium centered fuel cycle. While Uranium deposits in the nation are limited there are much greater reserves of Thorium and it could provide hundreds of times the energy with the same mass of fuel. The fact that Thorium can theoretically be utilized in heavy water reactors has tied the development of the two. A prototype reactor that would burn Uranium-Plutonium fuel while irradiating a Thorium blanket is under construction at the Madras/Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station.

Uranium used for the weapons program has been separate from the power program, using Uranium from indigenous reserves. This domestic reserve of 80,000 to 112,000 tons of uranium (approx 1% of global uranium reserves) is large enough to supply all of India's commercial and military reactors as well as supply all the needs of India's nuclear weapons arsenal. Currently, India's nuclear power reactors consume, at most, 478 metric tonnes of uranium per year. Even if India were quadruple its nuclear power output (and reactor base) to 20GW by 2020, nuclear power generation would only consume 2000 metric tonnes of uranium per annum.

Based on India's known commercially viable reserves of 80,000 to 112,000 tons of uranium, this represents a 40 to 50 years uranium supply for India's nuclear power reactors (note with reprocessing and breeder reactor technology, this supply could be stretched out many times over). Furthermore, the uranium requirements of India's Nuclear Arsenal are only a fifteenth (1/15) of that required for power generation (approx. 32 tonnes), meaning that India's domestic fissile material supply is more than enough to meet all

needs for its strategic nuclear arsenal. Therefore, India has sufficient uranium resources to meet its strategic and power requirements for the foreseeable future.

Nuclear Power Plants

Currently, nineteen nuclear power reactors produce 4,560.00 MW (2.9% of total installed base).

Power station	Operator	State	Type	Units	Total capacity (MW)
Kaiga	NPCIL	Karnataka	PHWR	220 x 3	660
Kakrapar	NPCIL	Gujarat	PHWR	220 x 2	440
Kalpakkam	NPCIL	Tamil Nadu	PHWR	220 x 2	440
Narora	NPCIL	Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	220 x 2	440
Rawatbhata	NPCIL	Rajasthan	PHWR	100 x 1 200 x 1 220 x 4	1180
Tarapur	NPCIL	Maharashtra	BWR (PHWR)	160 x 2 540 x 2	1400
			Total	19	4560

The projects under construction are:

Power station	Operator	State	Type	Units	Total capacity (MW)
Kaiga	NPCIL	Karnataka	PHWR	220 x 1	220
Kudankulam	NPCIL	Tamil Nadu	VVER-1000	1000 x 2	2000
Kalpakkam	NPCIL	Tamil Nadu	PFBR	500 x 1	500
			Total	4	2720

Atomic Energy Commission of India

The Atomic Energy Commission is a governing body functioning under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. The DAE is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister. The Indian Atomic Energy Commission was first set up in August 1948 in the then Department of Scientific Research, which was created a few months earlier in June 1948. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was set up on August 3, 1954 under the direct charge of the Prime Minister through a Presidential Order. Subsequently, in accordance with a Government Resolution dated March 1, 1958, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was established in the Department of Atomic Energy. The then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru also laid a copy of this Resolution on the table of the Lok Sabha on March 24, 1958. Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha was the first chairman of the commission.

According to the Resolution constituting the AEC, the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy is ex-officio Chairman of the Commission. The other Members of the AEC are appointed for each calendar year on the recommendation of the Chairman, AEC with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Salient Milestones of Atomic Energy in India

» March. 12, 1944 : Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha writes to Sir Dorabji Tata Trust for starting Nuclear Research in India

» December 19, 1945 : Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Mumbai is inaugurated.

» April 15, 1948 : Atomic Energy Act is passed

» August 10, 1948 : Atomic Energy Commission is constituted

» July 29, 1949 : Rare Minerals Survey Unit brought under Atomic Energy Commission and named as 'Raw Materials Division' (RMD), with Headquarters at New Delhi. In 1958, this unit becomes Atomic Minerals Division (AMD), and later in 1974, shifts to Hyderabad. It is renamed as Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) on July 29, 1998.

» August 18, 1950 : Indian Rare Earths Limited (IRE), owned by the Government of India and Government of Travancore, Cochin, is set up for recovering minerals, processing of rare earths compounds and Thorium - Uranium concentrates. In 1963, IRE becomes a full-fledged government undertaking under DAE

» April 1951: Uranium Deposit at Jaduguda is discovered by AMD. Drilling operations commence in December 1951.

» December 24, 1952 : Rare Earths Plant of IRE at Alwaye, Kerala, is dedicated to the nation and production of Rare Earths & Thorium - Uranium concentrate commences.

» August 03, 1954 : Department of Atomic Energy is created.

» August 01, 1955 : Thorium Plant at Trombay goes into production. Thorium Plant at Trombay is closed.

» 1956 : AMD discovers uranium mineralisation at Umra, Rajasthan.

» August 04, 1956 : APSARA - first research reactor in Asia, attains criticality at Trombay, Mumbai.

» January 20, 1957 : Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) is inaugurated

» August 19, 1957 : AEET Training School starts functioning at Trombay.

» January 30, 1959 : Uranium Metal Plant at Trombay produces Uranium.

» February 19, 1960 : First lot of 10 Fuel Elements for CIRUS reactor, is fabricated at Trombay

» July 10, 1960 : CIRUS – the 40 MWt research reactor, attains criticality. After its successful refurbishment, the reactor was dedicated to the Nation on October 31, 2002.

» January 14, 1961 : Research Reactor ZERLINA attains criticality. (It is decommissioned in 1983).

» 1965: IRE takes over operation of Mineral Processing Unit at Manavalakurichi in Tamil Nadu and at Chavara in Kerala.

» January 22, 1965 : Plutonium Plant is inaugurated at Trombay.

» January 22, 1967 : AEET is named as Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

» April 11, 1967 : Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) is set up at Hyderabad for producing electronic systems, instruments and components.

» June 1, 1967 : Power Projects Engineering Division (PPED), Mumbai is formed. The Division is subsequently converted to Nuclear Power Board on August 17, 1984.

» October 4, 1967: Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) is established with head quarters at Jaduguda Mines in Jharkhand (then Bihar).

» May 1968: Uranium Mill at Jaduguda, with a capacity of 1,000 TPD, commences commercial production of Magnesium diuranate (yellow cake). Jaduguda Mine Shaft is commissioned in November 1968.

» December 31, 1968 : Nuclear Fuel Complex is set up at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

» March 12, 1969 : Reactor Research Centre (RRC) starts at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. The Centre is fully established in 1971. It is named as Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) on December 18, 1985.

» May 01, 1969 : Heavy Water Projects is constituted at Mumbai. This later becomes Heavy Water Board.

» October 02, 1969 : Tarapur Atomic Power Station starts commercial operation.

» 1970 : AMD hands over the Uranium Deposit at Narwapahar to UCIL.

» September 06, 1970 : Uranium-233 is separated from irradiated Thorium

» February 18, 1971 : Plutonium fuel for Research Reactor PURNIMA-I is fabricated at Trombay.

» 1972 : AMD hands over the beach sand heavy mineral deposits of Chhatrapur, Orissa and Neendakara-Kayankulam, Kerala to IRE.

» February 3, 1972 : DAE Safety Review Committee is formed.

» May 18, 1972 : Research Reactor PURNIMA-I attains criticality.

» November 30, 1972 : Unit-1 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station at Rawatbhatta, near Kota, Rajasthan, begins commercial operation. Unit II goes commercial on November 1, 1980.

» 1974: By-product Recovery Plant of UCIL at Jaduguda is commissioned.

» May 18, 1974 : Peaceful underground Nuclear Experiment is conducted at Pokhran, Rajasthan.

» March 1975 : Commercial production of Uranium Mineral Concentrates from Copper plant tail-

ings at Surda, Hindustan Copper Limited commenced.

» May 1975 : Commercial production of by-products - Molybdenum and Copper concentrates starts.

» September 1975 : Surda Uranium Recovery Plant of UCIL is commissioned.

» June 16, 1977 : Variable Energy Cyclotron becomes operational at Kolkata.

» 1978 : High-sensitivity airborne spectrometric and magnetometric surveys started.

» 1979 : AMD hands over Bhatin and Turamdih (East) uranium deposits (now in Jharkhand State) to UCIL.

» Nov 18, 1979 : Plutonium-Uranium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel is fabricated at Trombay.

» November 19, 1982 : BARC's Power Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant at Tarapur is commissioned.

» 1983 : FBTR attains first criticality.

» February 1983 : Rakha Uranium Recovery Plant of UCIL is commissioned.

» November 15, 1983 : Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in Mumbai is constituted.

» 1984 : Sandstone-type uranium deposit at Domiasiat, Meghalaya is discovered.

» January 27, 1984 : Madras Atomic Power Station - Unit I at Kalpakkam starts commercial operation. Unit II goes commercial on March 21, 1986.

» February 19, 1984 : Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) at Indore (Madhya Pradesh) is inaugurated.

» March 08, 1984 : Plutonium - Uranium mixed Carbide Fuel for Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) is fabricated at Trombay.

» May 10, 1984 : Research Reactor PURNIMA-II, a Uranium-233 fuelled homogenous reactor, attains criticality.

» 1985 : AMD hands over the Bodal uranium deposit to UCIL.

» March 05, 1985 : Waste Immobilisation Plant (WIP) at Tarapur is commissioned.

August 08, 1985 : Research Reactor DHRUVA (100 MWt) attains criticality. It attains full power on January 17, 1988.

October 18, 1985 : FBTR at IGCAR attains criticality.

» 1986 : Dredge Mining, Mineral Separation and Synthetic Rutile Plant at OSCOM, Chhatrapur, Orissa is commissioned by IRE. HERO Project at Alwaye, Kerala, is commissioned. Production is started at OSCOM.

» October 1986 : Bhatin Mine is commissioned by UCIL and the ore is transported to Jaduguda mill for processing.

» December 1986 : Mosaboni Uranium Recovery Plant of UCIL is commissioned.

» 1987 : AMD hands over Turamdih (West) uranium deposits to UCIL, and beach sand deposits in Tamil Nadu to IRE.

» September 17, 1987 : Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is formed by converting the erstwhile Nuclear Power Board.

» 1988 : AMD hands over the Kuttumangalam and Vettumadia sand deposits, Tamil Nadu to IRE.

» December 30, 1988 : 12 MV Pelletron Accelerator is inaugurated in Mumbai. The accelerator is a joint endeavour of BARC & TIFR.

» 1989 : AMD Training School is inaugurated. Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) is constituted.

» January 3, 1989 : Regional Radiation Medicine Centre (RRMC) is inaugurated at Kolkata.

» March 12, 1989 : Narora Atomic Power Station Unit I attains criticality. Its Unit II attains criticality on October 24, 1991.

» 1990 : Dolostone -hosted uranium mineralisation in the western margin of Cuddapah basin is discovered.

Mineral Research Development Centre (MRDC) of IRE is launched at Kollam. HERO Plant is com-

missioned at Alwaye. Dredge & Wet Concentrator Plant at Chavara, Kerala, is commissioned.

» November 09, 1990 : Research Reactor PURNIMA-III, a Uranium-233 fuelled reactor, attains criticality.

» 1991: AMD discovers uranium mineralisation at Lambapur, Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh and produces upgraded xenotime concentrate at 'Pre-concentrate Upgradation Plant' (PUP) at Kunkuri.

» May 16, 1991: First ECR heavy ion source of the country becomes operational at the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre.

» 1992 : First remotely operated radiography camera is launched. Significant heavy mineral concentration along the East Coast, Andhra Pradesh, is identified. New Thorium Plant at OSCOM, Chhatrapur, Orissa is commissioned by IRE.

» September 03, 1992 : Kakrapar Atomic Power Station - Unit I attains criticality. Its Unit II attains criticality on January 08, 1995

» 1993 : BARC supplies one millionth radioisotope consignment.

» 1995 : Research Irradiator Gamma Chamber 5000 is launched by BRIT.

» January 1995 : Narwapahar mine is inaugurated.

» 1996 : 30kWt Kamini Reactor attains criticality. The reactor is taken to full power in September, 1997.

» March 27, 1996 : Kalpakkam Reprocessing Plant (KARP) is cold commissioned. KARP is dedicated to the nation on September 15, 1998.

» October 20, 1996 : Kalpakkam Mini Reactor (KAMINI), with Uranium-233 fuel, attains criticality at IGCAR, Tamilnadu.

» 1997 : AMD discovers of uranium mineralisation in brecciated limestone at Gogi, Gulbarga district, Karnataka in the Bhima basin. Microzir Plant is commissioned in Chavra, Kerala.

» March. 31, 1997 : Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-1 is re-commissioned.

» December 1997: Jaduguda Mill is expanded to treat 2,090 tonnes ore per day. PRYNCE (95% Neodymium Oxide) Plant is commissioned at Rare Earths Division.

» May 11 & 13, 1998 : Five underground nuclear tests are conducted at Pokhran Range, Rajasthan.

» May 27, 1998 : Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-2 is re-commissioned after enmasse replacement of coolant channels.

» August 10, 1998 : The 500 keV industrial electron accelerator developed indigenously by the BARC is commissioned for its first phase of operation. Ammonium diuranate (ADU) production commences at Rare Earths Division of IRE at Alwaye, Kerala.

» April 22, 1999 : 450 MeV Synchrotron Radiation Source Indus-1 achieves electron beam current of 113 milli-ampere superceding the design value of 100 milli-ampere.

» July 1999 : Solid Storage and Surveillance Facility (S3F) is commissioned at Tarapur.

September 24, 1999 : Unit-2 of Kaiga Atomic Power Station attains criticality. It is synchronised to the grid on December 02, 1999, and becomes commercial on March 16, 2000.

» December 24, 1999 : Unit-3 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station attains criticality. It is synchronised to the grid on March 10, 2000, and becomes commercial on June 2, 2000.

» January 1, 2000 : BRIT's Radiation Processing Plant at Vashi, Navi Mumbai is commissioned.

2000 : Boron Enrichment Plant is commissioned at IGCAR, Kalpakkam.

» March 8, 2000 : Tarapur Atomic Power Project -3&4 rises up.

» March, 2000 & May 2000 : First concrete pour of Unit-3 and Unit-4 of Tarapur Atomic Power Project-3 & 4.

» April 21, 2000 : Folded Tandem Ion Accelerator (FOTIA) at Trombay delivers first beam on target.

» September 26, 2000 : Unit-1 of Kaiga Atomic Power station attains criticality. It synchronises to the grid on October 12, 2000.

» November 03, 2000 : Unit-4 of Rajasthan Atomic Power station attains criticality. It creates history by synchronising with the grid within a period of 14 days on November 17, 2000. The unit becomes commercial on December 23, 2000.

» November 16, 2000 : Unit - 1 of Kaiga Atomic Power Station becomes commercial.

2001 : FBTR fuel reaches burn up of 100,000 MWd/T.

» March 18, 2001: Units 3 & 4 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Stations dedicated to the nation.

» February 12, 2002 : India signs the biggest contract with the Russian Federation for the Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu.

» 30 & May 10, 2002 : First pours of concrete respectively of Unit-3 and Unit-4 of Kaiga Atomic Power Project 3 & 4.

» March 31, 2002 : First pour of concrete of Units 1&2 of Kudankulam Atomic Power Project.

» September 18, 2002 : First pour of concrete of Unit-5 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 5 & 6

» October 31, 2002 : Waste Immobilisation Plant and Uranium-Thorium Separation Plant at (both at Trombay), and the Radiation Processing Plant Krushak at Lasalgaon, district Nasik, Maharashtra, are dedicated to the Nation.

» November 2002 : UCIL's Turamdih Mine, Jharkhand is inaugurated and Technology Demonstration Pilot Plant becomes operational at Jaduguda.

» 2003 : 1.7 MeV Tandetron Accelerator and the demo facility Lead Mini Cell (LMC), for reprocessing of FBTR carbide fuel on lab scale, are commissioned at IGCAR.

» 06-March-2005 : India's first 540 MWe Nuclear Power Reactor Tarapur Unit 4 Attains Criticality.

» 04-June-2005 : TAPS 4 synchronised to the grid



The IAEA is the world's center of cooperation in the nuclear field. It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations family. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

Organizational Profile

The IAEA Secretariat is headquartered at the Vienna International Centre in Vienna, Austria. Operational liaison and regional offices are located in Geneva, Switzerland; New York, USA; Toronto, Canada; and Tokyo, Japan. The IAEA runs or supports research centers and scientific laboratories in Vienna and Seibersdorf, Austria; Monaco; and Trieste, Italy.

The IAEA Secretariat is a team of 2200 multi-disciplinary professional and support staff from more than 90 countries. The Agency is led by Director General Yukiya Amano and six Deputy Directors General who head the major departments.

IAEA programmes and budgets are set through decisions of its policymaking bodies - the 35-member Board of Governors and the General Conference of all Member States. Reports on IAEA activities are submitted periodically or as cases warrant to the UN Security Council and UN General Assembly.

IAEA financial resources include the regular budget and voluntary contributions. The Regular Budget for 2008 amounts to € 277 million. The target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Co-operation Fund for 2008 is \$80 million.

IAEA Mission And Programmes

The IAEA's mission is guided by the interests and needs of Member States, strategic plans and the vision embodied in the IAEA Statute. Three main pillars - or areas of work - underpin the IAEA's mission: Safety and Security; Science and Technology; and Safeguards and Verification.

Relationship with United Nations

As an independent international organization related to the United Nations system, the IAEA's relationship with the UN is regulated by special agreement. In terms of its Statute, the IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly and, when appropriate, to the Security Council regarding non-compliance by States with their safeguards obligations as well as on matters relating to international peace and security.

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Indian Premier League

Chennai Super Kings Won Tournament

Sant Prasad Gupta



The 2010 Indian Premier League season, abbreviated as IPL 3 or the 2010 IPL, was the third season of the Indian Premier League, established by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2007. The tournament was hosted by India and had an estimated television audience of more than 200 million people in the country. It was played between 12 March and 25 April 2010. It was also the first ever cricket tournament that was broadcast live on YouTube. The final four matches of the tournament were screened in 3D across movie halls in India.

The tournament was won by the Chennai Super Kings, who defeated the Mumbai Indians in the final played at Navi Mumbai. The purple cap went to Pragyan Ojha of Deccan Chargers, while the orange cap and the player of the tournament award was awarded to Sachin Tendulkar of the Mumbai Indians. Saurabh Tiwary was declared the U-23 success of the tournament, while the Chennai Super Kings won the Fair Play Award.



Participant Teams

Ø Chennai Super Kings

Ø Deccan Chargers Hyderabad

Ø Delhi Daredevils

Ø Kings XI Punjab



Ø Kolkata Knight Riders

Ø Mumbai Indians

Ø Rajasthan Royals

Ø Royal Challengers Bangalore

IPL Awards 2010

Award	Player	Team
Best Batsman	Sachin Tendulkar	 Mumbai Indians
Fastest 100	Yusuf Pathan	 Rajasthan Royals
Highest Percentage of Runs Scored in Boundaries	Virender Sehwag	 Delhi Daredevils
Best Bowler	Pragyan Ojha	 Deccan Chargers
Most Economical Bowler	Ravichandran Ashwin	 Chennai Super Kings
Best Fielder	AB de Villiers	 Delhi Daredevils
Best Catch	David Hussey	 Kolkata Knight Riders
Best Captain	Sachin Tendulkar	 Mumbai Indians
Best Debut Performance	Kieron Pollard	 Mumbai Indians
Most Consistent Performer	Jacques Kallis	 Royal Challengers Bangalore
Most Stylish Player	Robin Uthappa	 Royal Challengers Bangalore
Most Fan-Friendly Cricketer	Adam Gilchrist	 Deccan Chargers
Best Dramatic Performance	Harbhajan Singh	 Mumbai Indians
Best Breakthrough Performance 2008	Brendon McCullum	 Kolkata Knight Riders
Best Breakthrough Performance 2009	Anil Kumble	 Royal Challengers Bangalore
Best Commentator	Ravi Shastri	
Best Ground	M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore	
Best Stadium Experience	DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai	

Indian Premier League (An Overview)

The Indian Premier League (IPL), is a Twenty20 cricket competition initiated by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) headquartered in Mumbai and supervised by BCCI Vice President Chirayu Amin, chairman & commissioner for IPL, and CEO, Sundar Raman. It presently includes 8 teams (franchises) consisting of players from different countries. It was started after an altercation between the BCCI and the Indian Cricket League.

In 2010, IPL became the first sporting event ever to be broadcast live on the popular video sharing website YouTube. Its brand value was estimated to be around \$4.13 billion (over Rs 18,000 crore) the same year.

According to global sports salaries review, IPL is the second highest-paid league, based on first-team salaries on a pro rata basis, second only to the NBA. It is estimated that the average salary of an IPL player over a year would be £2.5 million.

Venues

Five new venues were introduced for the third edition of IPL. These included Nagpur, Cuttack, Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Dharamsala. Nagpur, Cuttack, and Navi Mumbai amongst them hosted the home games for Deccan Chargers, and Ahmedabad and Dharamsala shared some of the home matches of Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab respectively. Additionally, Hyderabad, which hosted all Deccan's home games in 2008, did not host any games this season. This was attributed to the possibility of unrest due to a Telengana state succession.

The 60-game tournament also featured a third-place playoff between the losing semi-finalists as a qualifier for the Champions League and also saw the induction of ICL players. Both semi-finals were scheduled to be hosted in Bangalore but instead were played in Navi Mumbai. The final and the third place playoff games were played at Navi Mumbai and the season ended five days before the World Twenty20 in West Indies.

Rules and Regulations

The rules and format were the same as the previous season with the exception of the strategic timeout. Each innings had two mandatory timeouts of two-and-a-half minutes each. The fielding captain was bound to take one at the end of over six, seven, eight or nine, and the batsmen at the end of over 13, 14, 15 or 16.

Points in the group stage were awarded as follows:

Results	Points
Win	2 points
No Result	1 point
Loss	0 points

According to rules, if a match ended with the scores tied, the tie is broken with a one-over-per-side Super Over. The rules of the Super Over are as set out in the ICC Standard Twenty20 International match playing conditions (1 October 2009 version).

Ø Team with most runs wins

Ø If equal, the team with most number of boundary sixes throughout the entire match wins

Ø If still equal, the team with most number of boundaries throughout the entire match wins

Ø If still equal, the team taking the most wickets throughout the entire match wins

Ø If still equal, a count-back from the final ball of the Super Over eliminator shall be conducted. The team with the higher scoring delivery shall be the winner.

Ø If still equal, by coin toss.

2008 Indian Premier League

The inaugural season of the tournament started on 18 April 2008 and lasted for 46 days with 59 matches scheduled, out of which 58 took place and 1 was washed out due to rain. The final was played in DY Patil Stadium, Nerul, Navi Mumbai. Every team played each other both at home and away in a round robin system. The top four ranking sides progressed to the knockout stage of semi-finals followed by a final. Rajasthan Royals defeated Chennai Super Kings in a last ball thriller and emerged as the inaugural IPL champions.

2009 Indian Premier League

The 2009 season coincided with the general elections in India. Owing to concerns regarding players' security, the venue was shifted to South Africa. The format of the tournament remained the same as the inaugural one. Deccan Chargers, who finished last in the first season, came out as eventual winners defeating the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the final.

2011 Indian Premier League

On 21 March 2010, it was announced that 2 new teams from Pune and Kochi will be added to the IPL from next season. This will increase the number of franchises from 8 to 10 and the number of matches from 60 to 94 if the same format is used. However, the bid around the Kochi franchisee turned controversial resulting in the resignation of minister, Shashi Tharoor from the Central Government and investigations by various departments of the Government of India into the financial dealings of IPL and the other existing franchisees. Later, Lalit Modi was also removed from IPL chairmanship by BCCI.

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16th SAARC Summit

Towards a Green and Happy South Asia

Avadhesh Kumar Pandey



The 16th SAARC (South Asia association of Regional Cooperation) summit concluded in the capital of Bhutan. The theme of the summit was “Towards a green and happy south Asia”. South Asia is the home of 1.5 billion people, which comprise eight nations, namely India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. This is the silver jubilee year of SAARC. According

to a World Bank report the 2/3rd people of south Asia live on less than 2 dollar per day. Certainly, it is far behind from the other regional organizations when compared about the progress and development of the region.

In the summit, the leaders of member countries rightly raised this issue. First, our Prime Minister, Man Mohan Singh called the 25-year long journey of SAARC, “a glass half empty” then Bhutan’s PM Jigmi Y Thinley said that SAARC is losing its focus from core issues, such as poverty, food security etc. In one sense these statements are true, as there are many bilateral issues between member countries which used to affect the multilateral efforts and initiatives of the developments, e.g. India-Pakistan relations have always overshadowed the SAARC summits and this time also the summit started with the huge speculations of Indo-Pak meets at the sidelines of the summit. Though, according to SAARC charter, bilateral issues cannot be raised on its forum, still the mere possibilities of Indo-Pak high level meet used to occupy a lot of space of the summit’s unofficial or official agenda. This fact is clear through the comment of Mohammad Nasheed, president of Maldives, he said, “the summit will lead to a greater dialogue between India and Pakistan”. The state heads of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan also expressed the similar views. President Nasheed also asked for the more focus on important issues which are related to SAARC nations and their problems which used to be overshadowed by the Indo-Pak stern relation.

One more issue, which has maintained gap between members, is the “India factor”. India has geographically, economically and politically a big brother image among the rest member countries of SAARC. All the nations of south Asia are connected geographically with India (Afghanistan through POK). Only Maldives, the island nation has no land connectivity with India. This big brother image has always raised negative thoughts and fears among the other members, the political parties have frequently used the anti-India card to raise the public emotions, e.g. in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and off course Pakistan. This insecurity has provided a suitable opportunity for big powers to intervene in south Asia. Besides, ethnic, language, border and water disputes between the members, it has also created set-backs among bilateral and multilateral relations.

However, some significant events took place in Thimphu. The landmark decision was the announcement of a fund by Indian PM, to meet with the challenges of climate change and to cater for the needs of effective adaptation and capacity building of small nations. Though no proper action plan for climate change was drafted, still this is an important initiative as all the nations of south Asia are facing serious threats of global warming, such as, glacial melting, frequent cyclones, floods and droughts.

The next important event of summit was the Indo-Pak meeting on 29th April, between Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh and his counter part Yusuf Raza Gilani. It was the first meeting of both leaders after the one in Sharm- el –Sheikh in July 2009. In the meeting, India insisted on Pak to take some credential action against the 26/11 perpetrators, LeT and Hafeez Saeed, the mastermind of the Mumbai attack. India refused to start the conventional form of composite dialogue that is based on eight issues. Pakistan's emphasis remained on delinking of terror from talks and an immediate return of composite dialogue. However, India rejected this offer and no joint statement took place, but the positive side of talks was that both sides agreed to keep the dialogue process open and decided to meet as soon as possible at Foreign Ministers' level and at foreign secretary level.

Besides above developments, the 16th SAARC summit lacked behind on many issues. No progress took place on SAFTA (south Asia free trade agreement), nor the leaders of south Asia tried to find out any regional solution of Afghan problem. Though in a joint statement released by prime Minister Man Mohan Singh and President Karzai, Dr. Singh supported an " Afghan-led , Afghan-owned" rebuilding of Afghanistan, based on the principles of national sovereignty, independence and non –interference. The rising interference of superpowers such as USA and China in south Asia too did not become an issue of concern for the leaders of subcontinent. The leaders of SAARC though felt that bilateral issues are creating hurdles in the progress of the region and its 1.5 billion people but no concrete step has been taken to overcome those issues.

However, the summit remarked the need of dialogue and conversation among the members to resolve their differences. After all, it gives an open forum to its members to exchange their views and visions regarding south Asia's present, future and its potential role in international political and economic structure.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an economic and political organization of eight countries in Southern Asia. In terms of population, its sphere of influence is the largest of any regional organization: almost 1.5 billion people, the combined population of its member states. It was established on December 8, 1985 by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. In April 2007, at the Association's 14th summit, Afghanistan became its eighth member.

In the late 1970s, Bangladeshi President Ziaur Rahman proposed the creation of a trade bloc consisting of South Asian countries. The idea of regional cooperation in South Asia was again mooted in May 1980. The foreign secretaries of the seven countries met for the first time in Colombo in April 1981. The Committee of the Whole, which met in Colombo in August 1981, identified five broad areas for regional cooperation. New areas of cooperation were added in the following years.

The objectives of the Association as defined in the Charter are:

- Ø To promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;
- Ø To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential;
- Ø To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;
- Ø To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- Ø To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;

- Ø To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
- Ø To strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest; and
- Ø To cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.

The Declaration on South Asian Regional Cooperation was adopted by the Foreign Ministers in 1983 in New Delhi. During the meeting, the Ministers also launched the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) in nine agreed areas, namely, Agriculture; Rural Development; Telecommunications; Meteorology; Health and Population Activities; Transport; Postal Services; Science and Technology; and Sports, Arts and Culture. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established when its Charter was formally adopted on 8 December 1985 by the Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. ‘

Afghanistan was added to the regional grouping at the behest of India on 13 November 2005, and became a member on 3 April 2007. With the addition of Afghanistan, the total number of member states were raised to eight (8). In April 2006, the United States of America and South Korea made formal requests to be granted observer status. The European Union has also indicated interest in being given observer status, and made a formal request for the same to the SAARC Council of Ministers meeting in July 2006. On 2 August 2006 the foreign ministers of the SAARC countries agreed in principle to grant observer status to the US, South Korea and the European Union. On 4 March 2007, Iran requested observer status. Followed shortly by the entrance of Mauritius.

SAARC Secretariat

The SAARC Secretariat was established in Kathmandu on 16 January 1987 and was inaugurated by Late King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah of Nepal.

It is headed by a Secretary General appointed by the Council of Ministers from Member Countries in alphabetical order for a three-year term. He is assisted by the Professional and the General Services Staff, and also an appropriate number of functional units called Divisions assigned to Directors on deputation from Member States. The Secretariat coordinates and monitors implementation of activities, prepares for and services meetings, and serves as a channel of communication between the Association and its Member States as well as other regional organizations.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Secretariat which was signed by Foreign Ministers of member countries on 17 November 1986 at Bangalore, India contains various clauses concerning the role, structure and administration of the SAARC Secretariat as well as the powers of the Secretary-General.

In several recent meetings the heads of state or government of member states of SAARC have taken some important decisions and bold initiatives to strengthen the organisation and to widen and deepen regional co-operation.

The SAARC Secretariat and Member States observe 8 December as the SAARC Charter Day1.

Free Trade Agreement

Over the years, the SAARC members have expressed their unwillingness on signing a free trade agreement. Though India has several trade pacts with Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, similar trade agreements with Pakistan and Bangladesh have been stalled due to political and economic concerns on both sides. India has been constructing a barrier across its borders with Bangladesh and Pakistan. In 1993, SAARC countries signed an agreement to gradually lower tariffs within the region, in Dhaka. Eleven years later, at the 12th SAARC Summit at Islamabad, SAARC countries devised the South Asia Free Trade Agreement which created a framework for the establishment of a free trade area covering 1.4 billion people. This

agreement went into force on January 1, 2006. Under this agreement, SAARC members will bring their duties down to 20 per cent by 2007.

SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement

The Agreement on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed on 11 April 1993 and entered into force on 7 December 1995, with the desire of the Member States of SAARC (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives) to promote and sustain mutual trade and economic cooperation within the SAARC region through the exchange of concessions.

The establishment of an Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) to formulate an agreement to establish a SAPTA by 1997 was approved in the Sixth Summit of SAARC held in Colombo in December 1991.

South Asian Free Trade Area

The Agreement on the South Asian Free Trade Area is an agreement reached at the 12th SAARC summit at Islamabad, capital of Pakistan on 6 January 2004. It creates a framework for the creation of a free trade area covering 1.4 billion people in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives. The seven foreign ministers of the region signed a framework agreement on SAFTA with zero customs duty on the trade of practically all products in the region by end 2016. The new agreement i.e. SAFTA, came into being on 1 January 2006 and will be operational following the ratification of the agreement by the seven governments.

SAFTA requires the developing countries in South Asia, that is, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to bring their duties down to 20 percent in the first phase of the two year period ending in 2007. In the final five year phase ending 2012, the 20 percent duty will be reduced to zero in a series of annual cuts.

The least developed nations in South Asia consisting of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Maldives have an additional three years to reduce tariffs to zero. India and Pakistan have signed but not ratified the treaty.

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European Debt Crisis

A New Fear of Collapse

Dr. Sachchidanand



Fears of a sovereign debt crisis developed in early 2010 concerning some countries in Europe including: Greece, Ireland, Spain, and Portugal. This led to a crisis of confidence as well as the widening of bond yield spreads and risk insurance on credit default swaps between these countries and other EU members, most importantly Germany.

Concern about rising government deficits and debt levels across the globe together with a wave of downgrading of European Government debt has created alarm on financial markets. The debt crisis has been mostly centred on recent events in Greece, where there is concern about the rising cost of financing government debt. On 2 May 2010, the Eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund agreed to a €110 billion loan for Greece, conditional on the implementation of harsh Greek austerity measures. On 9 May 2010, Europe's Finance Ministers approved a comprehensive rescue package worth almost a trillion dollars aimed at ensuring financial stability across Europe.

Stimulates

The Greek economy was one of the fastest growing in the eurozone during the 2000s; from 2000 to 2007 it grew at an annual rate of 4.2% as foreign capital flooded the country. A strong economy and falling bond yields allowed the government of Greece to run large structural deficits. According to an editorial published by the Greek newspaper Kathimerini, large public deficits are one of the features that have marked the Greek social model since the restoration of democracy in 1974.

After the removal of the right leaning military junta, the government wanted to bring disenfranchised left leaning portions of the population into the economic mainstream. In order to do so, successive Greek governments have, among other things, run large deficits to finance public sector jobs, pensions, and other social benefits. Initially currency devaluation helped finance the borrowing. After the introduction of the euro Greece was initially able to borrow due the lower interest rates government bonds could command. Since the introduction of the Euro, debt to GDP has remained above 100%. The global financial crisis that began in 2008 had a particularly large effect on Greece. Two of the country's largest industries are tourism and shipping, and both were badly affected by the downturn with revenues falling 15% in 2009.

To keep within the monetary union guidelines, the government of Greece has been found to have consistently and deliberately misreported the country's official economic statistics. In the beginning of 2010, it was discovered that Greece had paid Goldman Sachs and other banks hundreds of millions of dollars in fees since 2001 for arranging transactions that hid the actual level of borrowing. The purpose of these deals made by several subsequent Greek governments was to enable them to spend beyond their means, while hiding the actual deficit from the EU overseers.

In 2009, the government of George Papandreou revised its deficit from an estimated 6% (or 8% if a special tax for building irregularities were not to be applied) to 12.7%. In May 2010, the Greek government deficit was estimated to be 13.6% which is one of the highest in the world relative to GDP. Greek government debt was estimated at €216 billion in January 2010. Accumulated government debt is forecast, according to some estimates, to hit 120% of GDP in 2010. The Greek government bond market is reliant on foreign investors, with some estimates suggesting that up to 70% of Greek government bonds are held externally. Estimated tax evasion costs the Greek government over \$20 billion per year.

Despite the crisis, Greek government bond auctions have all been over-subscribed in 2010 (as of 26 January). According to the Financial Times on 25 January 2010, "Investors placed about €20bn (\$28bn, £17bn) in orders for the five-year, fixed-rate bond, four times more than the (Greek) government had reckoned on." In March, again according to the Financial Times, "Athens sold €5bn (£4.5bn) in 10-year bonds and received orders for three times that amount."

Downgrading of Debt

On 27 April 2010, the Greek debt rating was decreased to 'junk' status by Standard & Poor's amidst fears of default by the Greek government. Yields on Greek government two-year bonds rose to 15.3% following the downgrading. Some analysts question Greece's ability to refinance its debt. Standard & Poor's estimates that in the event of default investors would lose 30–50% of their money. Stock markets worldwide declined in response to this announcement.

Following downgradings by Fitch, Moody's and S&P, Greek bond yields rose in 2010, both in absolute terms and relative to German government bonds. Yields have risen, particularly in the wake of successive ratings downgrading. According to the Wall Street Journal "with only a handful of bonds changing hands, the meaning of the bond move isn't so clear." As of 6 May 2010, Greek 10-year bonds were trading at an effective yield of 11.31%.

On 3 May 2010, the European Central Bank suspended its minimum threshold for Greek debt "until further notice", meaning the bonds will remain eligible as collateral even with junk status. The decision will guarantee Greek banks' access to cheap central bank funding, and analysts said it should also help increase Greek bonds' attractiveness to investors. Following the introduction of these measures the yield on Greek 10-year bonds fell to 8.5%, 550 basis points above German yields, down from 800 basis points earlier.

Austerity and Loan Agreement

On 5 March 2010, the Greek parliament passed the Economy Protection Bill, expected to save €4.8 billion through a number of measures including public sector wage reductions. Passage of the bill occurred amid widespread protests against government austerity measures in the Greek capital, Athens. On 23 April 2010, the Greek government requested that the EU/IMF bailout package be activated. The IMF has said it was "prepared to move expeditiously on this request". Greece needs some of the money before 19 May, when it faces a debt roll over of \$11.3bn. On 2 May 2010, a loan agreement was reached between Greece, the other eurozone countries, and the International Monetary Fund. The deal consists of an immediate €45 billion in low interest loans to be provided in 2010, with more funds available later. A total of €100 billion has been agreed. The interest for the Eurozone loans is 5%, considered to be a rather high level for any bailout loan. The government of Greece agreed to impose a fourth and final round of austerity measures.

These include:

- Ø Public Sector limit introduced of €1,000 to bi-annual bonus, abolished entirely for those earning over €3,000 a month.
- Ø Cuts of 8% on public sector allowances and 3% pay cut for DEKO (public sector utilities) pay cheques.
- Ø Freeze on increases in public sector wages for three years.
- Ø Limit of €800 to 13th and 14th month pension installment. Abolished for those pensioners receiving over €2,500 a month.
- Ø Return of special tax (LAFKA) on high pensions.
- Ø Changes planned to the laws governing layoffs and overtime pay.
- Ø Extraordinary taxes on company profits.

- Ø Increases in VAT to 23%, 11% and 5.5%.
- Ø 10% rise in taxes on alcohol, cigarettes, and fuels.
- Ø 10% increase in luxury taxes.
- Ø Equalisation of men's and women's pension age limits.
- Ø General pension age does not change but a mechanism is introduced to scale them to life expectations changes.
- Ø Creation of a financial stability fund.
- Ø Average retirement age for public sector workers increased from 61 to 65.
- Ø Public-owned companies to diminish from 6,000 to 2,000.

On 5 May 2010, a national strike was held in opposition to the planned spending cuts and tax increases. Protest on that date was widespread and turned violent in Athens, killing three people and injuring dozens.

According to research published on 5 May 2010, by Citibank, the EMU loans will be *pari passu* and not senior like those of the IMF. In fact the seniority of the IMF loans themselves has no legal basis but is respected nonetheless. The amount of the loans will cover Greece's funding needs for the next three years (estimated at 30bn for the rest of 2010 and 40bn each for 2011 and 2012). Citibank finds the fiscal tightening "unexpectedly tough". It will amount to a total of €30 billion (i.e. 12.5% of 2009 Greek GDP) and consist of 5 pp of GDP tightening in 2010 and a further 4 pp tightening in 2011.

Danger of Default

Without a bailout agreement, there was a possibility that Greece would have been forced to default on some of its debt. The premiums on Greek debt had risen to a level that reflected a high chance of a default or restructuring. One analyst gave a 80 to 90% chance of a default or restructuring. Martin Feldstein called a Greek default "inevitable." A default would most likely have taken the form of a

restructuring where Greece would pay creditors only a portion of what they were owed, perhaps 50 or 25 percent. This would effectively remove Greece from the euro, as it would no longer have collateral with the European Central Bank. It would also destabilise the Euro Interbank Offered Rate, which is backed by government securities. Since Greece is on the euro, it cannot print its own currency. This prevents it from inflating away a portion of its obligations or otherwise stimulating its economy with monetary policy.

For example, the U.S. Federal Reserve expanded its balance sheet by over \$1.3 trillion since the global financial crisis began, essentially printing new money and injecting it into the system by purchasing outstanding debt.

The overall effect of Greece being forced off the euro, would itself have been small for the other European economies. Greece represents only 2% of the eurozone economy. The more severe danger is that a default by Greece will cause investors to lose faith in other Eurozone countries. This concern is focused on Portugal and Ireland, all of whom have high debt and deficit issues. Italy also has a high debt, but its budget position is better than the European average, and it is not considered amongst the countries most at risk.

Recent rumours raised by speculators about a Spanish bail-out were dismissed by Spanish President Mr. Zapatero as "complete insanity" and "intolerable". Spain has a comparatively low debt amongst advanced economies, at only 53% of GDP in 2010, more than 20 points less than Germany, France or the US, and more than 60 points less than Italy, Ireland or Greece, and it doesn't face a risk of default. Spain and Italy are far larger and more central economies than Greece, both countries have most of their debt controlled internally, and are in a better fiscal situation than Greece and Portugal, making a default unlikely unless the situation gets far more severe.

Objections to Proposed Policies

The crisis is seen as a justification for imposing fiscal austerity on Greece in exchange for European funding which would lower borrowing costs for the Greek government. The negative impact of tighter fiscal policy could offset the positive impact of lower borrowing costs and social disruption could have a significantly negative impact on investment and growth in the longer term. Joseph Stiglitz has also criticised the EU for being too slow to help Greece, insufficiently supportive of the new government, lacking the will power to set up sufficient "solidarity and stabilisation framework" to support countries experiencing economic difficulty, and too deferential to bond rating agencies.

An alternative to the bailout agreement, would have been Greece leaving the Eurozone. Wilhelm Hankel, professor emeritus of economics at the University of Frankfurt am Main suggested in an article published in the Financial Times that the preferred solution to the Greek bond 'crisis' is a Greek exit from the euro followed by a devaluation of the currency. Fiscal austerity or a euro exit is the alternative to accepting differentiated government bond yields within the Euro Area. If Greece remains in the euro while accepting higher bond yields, reflecting its high government deficit, then high interest rates would dampen demand, raise savings and slow the economy. An improved trade performance and less reliance on foreign capital would result.

EU Emergency Measures

On 9 May 2010, Europe's Finance Ministers approved, in an emergency meeting, a rescue package that could provide 750 billion Euros for crisis aid aimed at ensuring financial stability across Europe.

The package announced has three components: The first part expands a €60 billion (US\$70 billion) Eurogroup's stabilisation fund (European Financial

Stabilization mechanism). Countries will be able to draw on that fund but activation will be subject to strict conditionalities. It is intended to help any member of the eurozone that is struggling to finance its debts because of high interest rates demanded by the financial markets. All EU countries contribute to this fund on a pro-rata basis, whether they are eurozone countries or not.

The second part worth €440 billion (US\$570 billion) consists of government-backed loans to improve market confidence. The loans will be issued by a Special purpose vehicle (SPV) managed by the Commission and backed by the explicit guarantee of the EMU member states and the implicit guarantee of the European Central Bank. All eurozone economies will participate in funding this mechanism, while other EU members can choose whether to participate.

Sweden and Poland have agreed to participate, while the UK's refusal prompted strong criticism from the French government, along with a threat that eurozone countries would not support the pound in the case of speculative attacks. Denmark will not contribute despite its participation in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

Finally the third part consists of €250 billion (US\$284 billion), half the size of the EU participation, with additional contribution from the International Monetary Fund.

The agreement also allowed the European Central Bank to start buying government debt which is expected to reduce bond yields. (Greek bond yields fell from over 10% to just over 5%; Asian bonds also fell with the EU bailout.)

The ECB has also announced a series measures aimed at reducing volatility in the financial markets and at improving liquidity:

First, it began open market operations buying government and private debt securities.

Second, it announced two 3-month and one 6-month full allotment of Long Term Refinancing Operations (LTRO's).

Thirdly, it reactivated the dollar swap lines with Federal Reserve support.

Subsequently, the member banks of the European System of Central Banks started buying government debt.

Stocks worldwide surged after this announcement as fears that the Greek debt crisis would spread subsided, some rose the most in a year or more. The Euro made its biggest gain in 18 months, before falling to a new four-year low a week later. Commodity prices also rose following the announcement. The dollar Libor held at a nine-month high. Default swaps also fell. The VIX closed down a record almost 30%, after a record weekly rise the preceding week that prompted the bailout.

Despite the moves by the EU, the European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Olli Rehn, called for "absolutely necessary" deficit cuts by the heavily indebted countries of Spain and Portugal. Private sector bankers and economists also warned that the threat from a double dip recession has not faded. Stephen Roach, chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, warned about this threat saying "When you have a vulnerable post-crisis economic recovery and crises reverberating in the aftermath of that, you have some very serious risks to the global business cycle.

" Nouriel Roubini said the new credit available to the heavily indebted countries did not equate to an immediate revival of economic fortunes: "While money is available now on the table, all this money is conditional on all these countries doing fiscal adjustment and structural reform."

After initially falling to a four-year low early in the week following the announcement of the EU guarantee packages, the euro rose as hedge funds and other short-term traders unwound short positions and carry trades in the currency.

Long-Term Solutions

European Union leaders have made two major proposals for ensuring fiscal stability in the long term. The first proposal is the creation of a common fund responsible for bailing out, with strict conditions, an EU member country. This reactive tool is sometimes dubbed as the European Monetary Fund by the media. The second is a single authority responsible for tax policy oversight and government spending coordination of EU member countries. This preventive tool is dubbed the European Treasury. The monetary fund would be supported by EU member governments, and the treasury would be supported by the European Commission.

However, strong European Commission oversight in the fields of taxation and budgetary policy and the enforcement mechanisms that go with it have been described as infringements on the sovereignty of eurozone member states and are opposed by key EU nations such as France and Italy, which could jeopardise the establishment of a European Treasury.

Some think-tanks such as the CEE Council have argued that the predicament some EU countries find themselves in is the result of a decade of debt-fueled Keynesian policies pursued by local policy makers and complacent EU central bankers, and have recommended the imposition of a battery of corrective policies to control public debt. Some senior German policy makers went as far as to say that emergency bailouts should bring harsh penalties to EU aid recipients such as Greece.

Others argue that an abrupt return to "non-Keynesian" financial policies is not a viable solution and predict the deflationary policies now being imposed on countries such as Greece and Spain might prolong and deepen their recessions. The Economist has suggested that ultimately the Greek "social contract," which involves "buying" social peace through public sector jobs, pensions, and other social benefits, will have to be changed to one predicated more on price stability and government restraint if the euro is to survive. As

Greece can no longer devalue its way out of economic difficulties it will have to more tightly control spending than it has since the inception of the Third Hellenic Republic.

Regardless of the corrective measures chosen to solve the current predicament, as long as cross border capital flows remain unregulated in the Euro Area, asset bubbles and current account imbalances are likely to continue. For example, a country that runs a large current account or trade deficit (i.e., it imports more than it exports) must also be a net importer of capital; this is a mathematical identity called the balance of payments. In other words, a country that imports more than it exports must also borrow to pay for those imports. Conversely, Germany's large trade surplus (net export position) means that it must also be a net exporter of capital, lending money to other countries to allow them to buy German goods. The 2009 trade deficits for Spain, Greece, and Portugal were estimated to be \$69.5 billion, \$34.4B and \$18.6B, respectively (\$122.5B total), while Germany's trade surplus was \$109.7B. A similar imbalance exists in the U.S., which runs a large trade deficit (net import position) and therefore is a net borrower of capital from abroad. Ben Bernanke warned of the risks of such imbalances in 2005, arguing that a "savings glut" in one country with a trade surplus can drive capital into other countries with trade deficits, artificially lowering interest rates and creating asset bubbles.

A country with a large trade surplus would generally see the value of its currency appreciate relative to other currencies, which would reduce the imbalance as the relative price of its exports increases. This currency appreciation occurs as the importing country sells its currency to buy the exporting country's currency used to purchase the goods. However, many of the countries involved in the crisis are on the Euro, so this is not an available solution at present.

Alternatively, trade imbalances might be addressed by changing consumption and savings habits. For example, if a country's citizens saved more instead of consuming imports, this would reduce its trade deficit.

Likewise, reducing budget deficits is another method of raising a country's level of saving. Capital controls that restrict or penalize the flow of capital across borders is another method that can reduce trade imbalances. Interest rates can also be raised to encourage domestic saving, although this benefit is offset by slowing down an economy and increasing government interest payments.

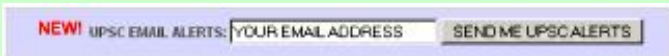
The suggestion has been made that long term stability in the eurozone requires a common fiscal policy rather than controls on portfolio investment. In exchange for cheaper funding from the EU, Greece and other countries, in addition to having already lost control over monetary policy and foreign exchange policy since the euro came into being, would therefore also lose control over domestic fiscal policy.

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First Indian Origin Woman PM of Trinidad and Tobago



Kamla Persad-Bissessar, whose forefather came Port-of-SPAIN from India as an indentured labourer, has been elected the first woman prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago after the political alliance led by her emerged victorious and ended the ruling party's 43 years in power. Ms. Persad-Bissessar's People's Partnership won 29 out of the 41 parliamentary seats in the elections held on May 25th, 2010.

Ms. Persad-Bissessar, a grandmother of two and a devout Hindu, said: "I am grateful for the immense support from women and women's groups across the country and to the extent that this helps to break the barriers so many competent women face. Outgoing Prime Minister Patrick Manning conceded defeat after being in power since 2002.

Ms. Persad-Bissessar was a topper in law school and she did her masters in business administration and diploma in education from the University of the West Indies. She was the first woman attorney general and also served as minister of legal affairs as well as minister of education.

Her forefather was amongst the 148,000 Indian labourers who were brought here between 1845 and 1917 to work on the sugar and cocoa plantations. The Indian diaspora comprises 44 per cent of the population of 1.3 million people.

Ms. Persad-Bissessar, who has represented her Siparia constituency for 15 years, had held the reins of power during the absence of then Prime Minister Basdeo Panday.

She has become the first woman to lead any political party in oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago. Her meteoric rise began January 24 last year when she successfully challenged her mentor, Basdeo Panday, for the leadership of the United National Congress which he had founded 20 years ago.

Prime Minister Patrick Manning broke with tradition and dissolved the 41-seat parliament April and called for general elections May 24, some 30 months before it was due constitutionally.

For the first time since independence in August 1962, a coalition of four other parties joined to confront the ruling People's National Movement which has been in power for 43 years.

The five parties are Ms. Persad-Bissessar's United National Congress, Congress of the People (COP), the National Joint Action Committee, Tobago Organisation of Peoples, and the Movement for Social Change.

These parties came under the banner of the "People's Partnership", with each party maintaining its own symbol on the ballot paper.

The election was fought on several issues including massive corruption in all sectors of the national economy, the lack of medical facilities, a total breakdown in the infrastructural capacity and the mismanagement of the nation. Rising crime with over 3,000 people being murdered over the last eight years was also an issue.

Non-Resident Indian

A Non-Resident Indian (NRI) is an Indian citizen who has migrated to another country, a person of Indian origin who is born outside India, or a person of Indian origin who resides permanently outside India. Other terms with the same meaning are overseas Indian and expatriate Indian. In common usage, this often includes Indian-born individuals (and also people of other nations with Indian ancestry) who have taken the citizenship of other countries.

In North America, the terms East Indian and Asian Indian are often used to distinguish people who have originated from India (including people from nations of the Indian subcontinent), from the indigenous people, the American Indians.

A Person of Indian Origin (PIO) is usually a person of Indian origin who is not a citizen of India. For the purposes of issuing a PIO Card, the Indian government considers anyone of Indian origin up to four generations removed to be a PIO. Spouses of people entitled to a PIO card in their own right can also carry PIO cards. This latter category includes foreign spouses of Indian nationals, regardless of ethnic origin. PIO Cards exempt holders from many restrictions applying to foreign nationals, such as visa and work permit requirements, along with certain other economic limitations.

The NRI and PIO population across the world is estimated at over 30 million.

As of January 2006, The Indian government has introduced the "Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)" scheme to allow a limited form of dual citizenship to Indians, NRIs and PIOs for the first time since independence in 1947. It is expected that the PIO Card scheme will be phased out in coming years in favour of OCI.

Historical Emigration

The most significant historical emigration from India was that of the Romani people, traditionally known by the term "Gypsies". Linguistic and genetic evidence indicates the Romanies originated from the Indian subcontinent, emigrating from India towards the northwest no earlier than the 11th century. The Romani are generally believed to have originated in central India, possibly in the modern Indian state of Rajasthan, migrating to northwest India (the Punjab region) around 250 B.C. In the centuries spent here, there may have been close interaction with such established groups as the Rajputs and the Jats. Their subsequent westward migration, possibly in waves, is believed to have occurred between 500 A.D. and 1000 A.D.

Contemporary populations sometimes suggested as sharing a close relationship to the Romani are the Dom people of Central Asia and the Banjara of India.

Another major emigration from the subcontinent was to South East Asia. It started as a military expedition by Hindu, and later Buddhist, kings of South India and resulted in the settlers' merging with the local society. The Cholas, who were known for their naval power, conquered Sumatra and Malay Peninsula. The influence of Indian culture is still strongly felt in South East Asia, especially in places like Bali (in Indonesia). In such cases, it is not reasonable to apply the label 'PIO' to the descendants of emigrants from several centuries back. Intermixture has been so great as to negate the value of such nomenclature in this context.

The Indian merchant diaspora in Central Asia and Persia emerged in the mid-16th century and remained active for over four centuries. Astrakhan at the mouth of the Volga was the first place in Tsardom of Russia where an Indian merchant colony was established as early as the 1610s. Russian chroniclers reported the presence of Hindu traders in Moscow and St. Petersburg in the 18th century.

During the 19th century and until the end of the Raj, much of the migration that occurred was of poor workers to other British colonies under the indenture system. The major destinations, in chronological order, were Mauritius, Guyana, the Caribbean, Fiji and East Africa. There was also a small amount of free emigration of skilled labourers and professionals to some of these countries in the twentieth century. The event that triggered this diaspora was the Slavery Abolition Act passed by the British Parliament on August 1, 1834, which freed the slave labour force throughout the British colonies.

This left many of the plantations devoid of adequate work force as the newly freed slaves left to take advantage of their freedom. This resulted in an extreme shortage of labour throughout many of

the British colonies which was resolved by a massive importation of workers engaged under contracts of indentured servitude. An unrelated system involved recruitment of workers for the tea plantations of the neighbouring British colonies of Sri Lanka and Burma and the rubber plantations of British Malaya (now Malaysia and Singapore).

After the 1970s oil boom in the Middle East, numerous Indians emigrated to work in the Gulf countries. With modern transportation and expectations, this was on a contractual basis rather than permanent as in the 19th century cases. These Gulf countries have a common policy of not naturalizing non-Arabs, even if they are born there.

The 1990s software boom and rising economy in the USA attracted numerous Indians who emigrated to the United States of America. Today, the USA has the third largest number of Indians.



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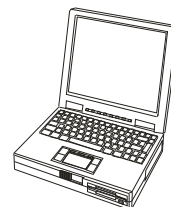
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North-South Korea Conflict



North Korea announced on 25 May it was cutting all ties with South Korea in retaliation for Seoul imposing sanctions on Pyongyang after torpedoing one of the South's warships. North Korea also said that Pyongyang would expel all South Koreans from a joint-industrial zone in Kaesong, near the border.

The announcement, leaves relations at their worst point for years. It came as a monitoring group in Seoul reported that the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, last week ordered his military to prepare for war in case the South attacks. Military officials in Seoul were unable to confirm the report, and said they had detected no unusual troop movements.

The North's statement followed an announcement by South Korea's president, Lee Myong-bak, that Seoul would suspend trade, ban Northern ships from its waters and take Pyongyang to the UN security council. This, he announced that Seoul would redesignate the North as its "main enemy" a term it dropped six years ago, when relations were thawing.

Citing the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, KCNA said Pyongyang would engage in no dialogue or contact while Lee was in power; he is due to leave office in 2013.

Relations on the divided peninsula deteriorated sharply after he became president last year, ending his predecessor's "sunshine policy" of free-flowing aid to the North.

KCNA described the retaliation as a response to Seoul's "smear campaign" the accusation, based on a report by an international team, that a Northern torpedo caused the sinking in March of the Cheonan, which killed 46 people. Pyongyang denies any involvement.

Despite rising alarm at the tit-for-tat developments, analysts believe neither side wants military action, fearing the cost would prove too great. But they warn there is a risk of skirmishes, and that these could get out of hand.

Several analysts have suggested that the North's proposal to send a team to investigate the sinking a suggestion the South rejected may have been intended as an opportunity for talks as well as propaganda.

Experts said the announcement appeared to mean Southern NGOs would no longer be able to work in the North, spelling an end to low-level economic and, in some cases, government links.

It also spells an end to hopes of reviving cross-border reunions between families split by the border at the end of the 1950-53 war.

The South's military resumed propaganda radio broadcasts across the border this morning after a six-year hiatus, with programmes airing news, western music and comparisons of the political and economic situations on the two parts of the peninsula.

The psychological warfare will enrage the North, which has warned it will fire at any propaganda facilities in the demilitarised zone.

North Korea Statement

The following are key points from the text of the report issued by the North's KCNA news agency.

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, accordingly, formally declares that from now on it will put into force the resolute measures to totally freeze the inter-Korean relations, totally abrogate the agreement on non-aggression between the north and the south and completely halt the inter-Korean cooperation.

In this connection, the following measures will be taken at the first phase:

All relations with the puppet authorities will be severed.

There will be neither dialogue nor contact between the authorities during (South Korean President) Lee Myung Bak's tenure of office.

The work of the Panmunjom Red Cross liaison representatives will be completely suspended.

All communication links between the north and the south will be cut off.

The Consultative Office for North-South Economic Cooperation in the Kaesong Industrial Zone will be frozen and dismantled and all the personnel concerned of the south side will be expelled without delay.

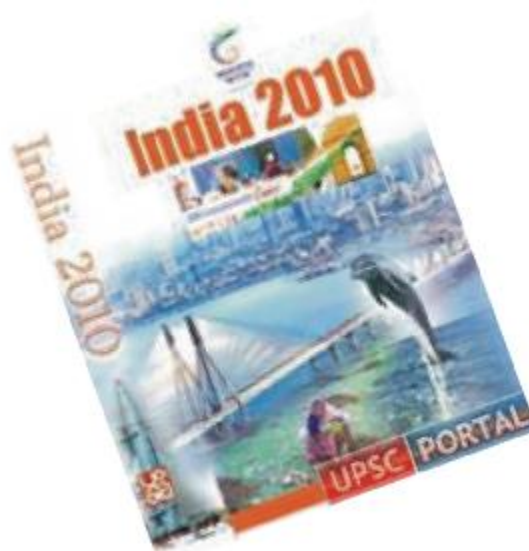
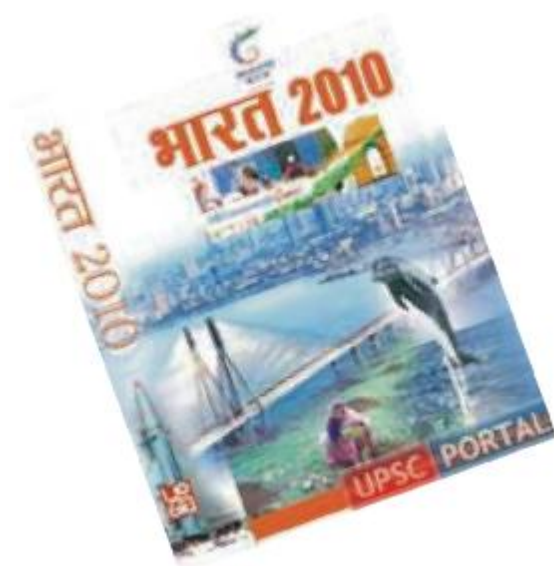
We will start all-out counterattack against the puppet group's 'psychological warfare against the north.'

The passage of south Korean ships and airliners through the territorial waters and air of our side will be totally banned.

All the issues arising in the inter-Korean relations will be handled under a wartime law.

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63rd Cannes Film Festival 2010



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Cannes Film Festival 2010

Thai director Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* won the coveted Palme d'Or, at the 63rd Cannes Film Festival awards ceremony on May 23, 2010.

The weirdly poetic movie traces the last days of a man dying of kidney failure, who is visited by the ghost of his late wife and long-lost son who has become in ape.

Director Tim Burton, no stranger to surreal movies and president of this year's Cannes jury, announced Weerasethakul as the Palme d'Or winner. The Thai director previously won the Cannes third-place Jury Prize in 2004 for *Tropical Malady*. The award for Best Actor (shared) and Best Actress in particular were unpopular choices. The top award in the Un Certain Regard section was bagged by *HaHaHa*. This section was considered to have many high quality films, which even surpassed films in the main competition.

A film, *Outside of the Law* by Rachid Bouchareb, was about three Algerian brothers whose lives are torn apart by the brutality of the French administration. The screenings for the only time in the Festival brought out uniformed security. The creditable fact is that Cannes screened quite a few films deeply critical of France.

Although India was present in full force, there was an aspect of it that raised comment. The much touted India Pavilion left much to be desired when it came to furthering the cause of Indian cinema. Its décor was unimpressive, seating arrangements



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

were inadequate, and its daily panel discussions were disorganised. The same people gathered there as a matter of course for relaxation and not for work or business meetings. Next time, the India Pavilion should be under the professional management of the NFDC, which has proved its market and business mettle in recent years.

Cannes Awards

Palme d'Or: Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (Thailand)

Grand Prix: Xavier Beauvois's *Of Gods and Men* (France)

Jury Prize: Mahamat Saleh Haroun's *A Screaming Man* (France)

Best Director: Mathieu Amalric's *On Tour* (France)

Best Actress: Juliette Binoche in *Abbas Kiarostami's Certified Copy* (Italy/France)

Best Actor (shared): Javier Bardem in *Alejandro*

González Iñárritu's *Biutiful* (Spain), and Elio Germano in Daniele Luchetti's *Our Life* (Italy/France)

Un Certain Regard Grand Prix: Hong Sangsoo's *Hahaha* (South Korea)

FIPRESCI Film Critics Best Film: Mathieu Amalric's *Tournee* (France)

Cannes Film Festival An Overview

The Festival International du Film was supposed to begin in Cannes in 1939, but due to the war, the launch date was put off. Finally, on 20 September 1946 the Festival de Cannes opened its doors, the first great international cultural event of the post-war period.

The Festival was organised as a non-profit organisation, managed by a Board of Directors and was to become "state-approved" as in 1972.

It has taken place every year - with the exception of 1948 and 1950 - first in the month of September, then in May as of 1952. After years of "Grand Prix", the Palme d'Or was created in 1955.

New sections were equally created in parallel to the official organisation: the International Critics' Week (1962) and the Directors' Fortnight (1969) are effectively totally independent.

At the outset, the Festival principally resembled a tourist and social event. It professionalised with the creation in 1959 of a Marché du Film which began with a few dozen projections and a single screening room. Today, it draws more than 10,000 buyers and sellers from around the world. The Village international was created in 2000 around the Palais des Festivals to enable numerous countries to support their producers and film industry. The Producers Network, which has since 2004 enabled producers from around the globe to come together on their projects. The same year, the Short Film Corner, a welcome and promotional platform for shorts, was created.

One measure marked a historic date in the history of the Festival: in 1972, it became the sole decision-maker for film selection. Previously, only the films designated by their countries of origin could make such decisions.

In 1978, upon the initiative of Gilles Jacob, then General Delegate, the Caméra d'Or prize was created to be awarded to the best first film presented in any of the three selections. The same year, the selection Un Certain Regard, was formed.

In 1998, Gilles Jacob set up the Cinéfondation, a selection of short and medium-length motion pictures from film schools around the world, whose goal is to discover and promote new talent. Henceforth, over 1,000 films per year from every continent are sent to the Festival de Cannes in the hope of being selected.

The Cinéfondation opened in the fall of 2000 the Residence in Paris to provide young filmmakers with the chance of developing their projects outside their countries of origin.

In 2005, the Atelier was launched with some twenty projects selected to enable directors to complete their financing plans within the privileged context of the event.

In 2000, Gilles Jacob was elected President by the members of the Board of Directors, succeeding Pierre Viot, who held this position since 1985 and became in turn President of the Cinéfondation. In 2001, Gilles Jacob was supported in his position by Veronica Cayla, General Manager, and Thierry Frémaux, Artistic Delegate.

In September 2005, Gilles Jacob appointed Catherine Démie to the post of General Director of the Festival, replacing Véronique Cayla, named General Manager of the National Cinema Centre (CNC).

In July 2007, upon Gilles Jacob's proposal, the Board of Directors appointed Thierry Frémaux General Delegate of the Festival, succeeding to Robert Favre-Le Bret, Maurice Bessy and Gilles Jacob.

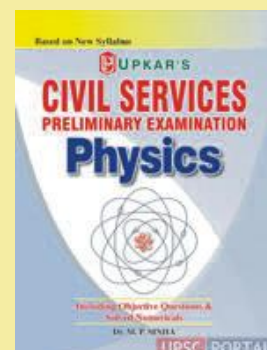
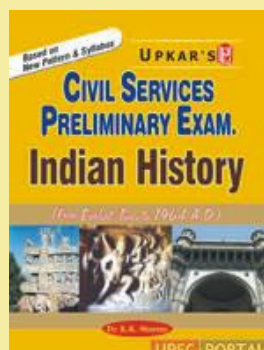
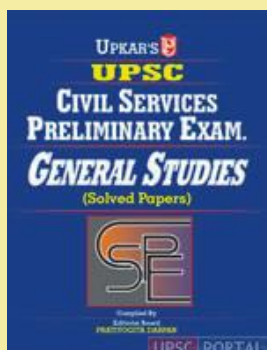
In 2007, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Festival de Cannes, Gilles Jacob invited 33 of the greatest filmmakers in the entire world to take part in the anniversary film *To Each His Cinema*, by directing in 3 minutes each, a short based on the theme of the motion-picture theatre.

The poster of the 60th Festival revealed the "new jumpology" project, introduced in 2006 in association with the Magnum press agency: to honour the dynamism of creation, a hundred artists responded to the Festival's request to come before the lens of photographer Alex Majoli. From November to February 2007, the "One Jump!" exhibit presented, in its world premiere at Pinacothèque de Paris, a selection of 55 of these works representing the "taking off" of celebrities of international renown.



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National News



CBSE New Curriculum For Schools Abroad

Giving an international face to Indian education, the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) on 25 May launched an upgraded international syllabus for its schools abroad.

The new curriculum, which focuses on the education needs of Indian diaspora as well as local communities, was launched by Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal at Indian High School in Dubai, according to an official press release here. The curriculum which will be launched in 30 schools in nine countries aims at carrying forward the basic strength of the Indian system of education and promoting critical and creative skills of the students.

Speaking at the function, Sibal emphasised the need for quality education for all children, with learning being a continuous and comprehensive process. 'We need a globalised community of children. I hope that it would grow and provide an alternative international curriculum to the students, both of the Indian diaspora and to local citizens in the countries,' he said.

The board aims to expand the curriculum to its other schools abroad as well in a phased manner.

The syllabus has been designed keeping in view the foundations of the National Curricular Framework (NCF 2005) and the experience gathered by the board over the last seven decades in imparting effective learning to millions of learners, many of whom are now global citizens.

The earlier curriculum focused largely on issues related to Indian interest which were proving a hurdle in expanding the coverage to international students.

The CBSE at present has 74 schools abroad, 63 of them in Gulf countries alone.



Air India Aircraft Overshoots Runway

Only seven people have survived after an Air India Express plane from Dubai with 166 persons on board the Boeing aircraft crashed and caught fire today after it overshoot the runway and ploughed into the forest area while trying to land at the Mangalore airport on May 22, 2010.

The state-of-the-art Boeing 737-800, which was inducted on January 15, 2008 and piloted by British national of Serbian origin Capt Zlatko Glusica, had 160 passengers and a six-member crew on board the budget carrier, flight IX-812. The passengers included four infants. India's worst aviation accident occurred in 1996 when two passenger planes collided in mid-air near New Delhi with the loss of all 349 on board both flights.



Census 2010-11

The 15th national census exercise, the biggest census ever to be attempted in human history to cover India's 1.2 billion population, began on April 1, 2010 with President Pratibha Patil being the first to be enumerated in the decennial exercise. The census is the most credible source of information on demography (population characteristics), economic activity, literacy and education, housing and household amenities, urbanisation, fertility and mortality, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, language, religion, migration, disability and many other socio-cultural and demographic data since 1872.

Census is the only source of primary data at village, town and ward level. It provides valuable information for planning and formulation of policies for Central and State governments and is widely used by national and international agencies, scholars, business people, industrialists, and many more.

National Population Register

The Union government has given a go-ahead to the creation of National Population Register (NPR), a unique mechanism to record biometric particulars of the entire populace of India. The work on

the project will start in April 2010 and is expected to complete by September 2010.

The project would cover an estimated population of 1.2 billion and the total cost of the scheme is Rs 3,539.24 crore.

The creation of a digital database with identity details of all individuals, along with their photographs and finger biometrics, will result in the creation of a biometrics based identity system in the country. Once finalised, the NPR database will be sent to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for biometric de-duplication and assigning of a unique identification number. This UID number will be added to the NPR database.

Such a database will enhance the efficacy of providing services to the residents under government schemes and programmes, improve the security scenario and check identity frauds in the country.



Civil Services (Prelims) Exam to Change

The first big reform in the way India selects its civil servants is around the corner. The Union government has decided to replace the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination with the Civil Service Aptitude Test (CSAT), which will test candidates on their aptitude and analytical abilities rather than their ability to memorise. The CSAT is expected to come into effect from 2011.

The UPSC is further expected to push for changes in the Civil Service (Mains) Examination also.

Permanent Commission For Women Officers

On March 12, 2010, in a path-breaking judgement, the Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to offer within two months Permanent Commission (PC) to Short Service Commissioned (SSC) women officers of the Air Force and the Army at par with male SSC officers with all consequential benefits, including promotion. At present, the Indian Army offers permanent commission to women after 10 years of SSC. This is applicable to those who were recruited after March 2009 and that too only in two streams — the Judge Adjutant General (JAG) branch and the Education corps. Women are also recruited in Signals, Engineers, Ordnance and Air Defence but are not eligible for PC.

In the IAF, women are offered a permanent option in the Legal, Accounts and Education corps. Women chopper and transport pilots, engineering corps, Logistics and Meteorological streams are not eligible for permanent commission. At present, there are about 1,050 and 827 women officers in the Army and the IAF, respectively. Separately, the Navy has 280 women. The benefit would be extended to women officers recruited prior to change of policy (March 2009) and the PC shall be offered to them after completion of five years. However, these benefits would be available only to women officers in service or who approached the HC but retired when the case was pending in the court, the Bench clarified.

The court made significant remark on having women in combat roles saying “the claim of absorption in areas of operation not open for recruitment of women officers cannot be sustained being a policy decision.”

Live-In Not An Offence

The Supreme Court has opined that a man and woman living together without marriage cannot be construed as an offence. “Living together is not an offence. It cannot be an offence,” a three judge bench of Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Deepak Verma and B.S. Chauhan observed.

The court said even Lord Krishna and Radha lived together according to mythology. The apex court made the observation while reserving its judgement on a special leave petition filed by noted south Indian actress Khusboo seeking to quash 22 criminal cases filed against her after she allegedly endorsed pre-marital sex in interviews to various magazines in 2005.

The judges grilled the counsel for some of the complainants in the case and repeatedly stressed that the perceived immoral activities cannot be branded as offence.

The apex court further said the views expressed by Khusboo were personal. “How does it concern you. We are not bothered. At the most it is a personal view. How is it an offence? Under which provision of the law ?” the bench asked the counsel.

Khusboo had approached the apex court after the Madras High Court in 2008 dismissed her plea for quashing the criminal cases filed against her throughout Tamil Nadu.



Promotion Fundamental Right

The Supreme Court has ruled that governments at the Centre and States should “act as model employers” and that all eligible employees virtually had a “fundamental right” to promotion as guaranteed under Article 16 of the Constitution.

A Bench comprising Justices R.V. Raveendran and Asok Kumar Ganguly made the clarification while directing the Centre and the Union Public Service Commission to grant promotion with retrospective effect to members of the Uttar Pradesh State

Civil Service (SSC) who had been affected by a delay of more than two years in the cadre review following the creation of Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand) in 2000.

The Centre and the UPSC contended that the statutory mandate of a cadre review exercise every five years “is qualified by the expression ordinarily” and as such it was not necessary to undertake it every five years. The Bench, however, did not buy this argument. “We hold that the statutory duty which is cast on the State government and the Central government to undertake the cadre review exercise every five years is ordinarily mandatory subject to exceptions which may be justified in the facts of a given case.

“Surely, lethargy, inaction, an absence of a sense of responsibility cannot fall within the category of just exceptions,” the apex court ruled, obviously indicting the UP government for not responding to the Centre’s reminders.

The court accepted the government’s arguments that Rule 4(2) did not have retrospective effect, but refused to interfere with the Delhi HC order which had, by using its special power under Article 142 of the Constitution, directed the Centre to “mitigate the hardship and denial of legitimate rights of the employees” in view of the “facts and circumstances of the case.”

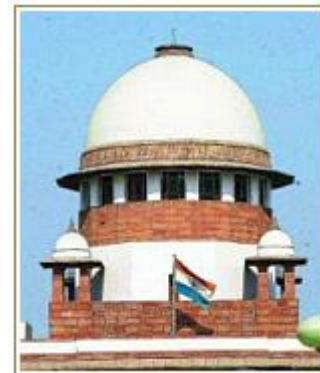
Foreign Education Bill

After several years of debate, the Union Cabinet, on March 15, 2010, unanimously approved a Bill that would allow foreign education providers to set up campuses in India and offer degrees. A Bill to this effect was first introduced in the Rajya Sabha in August 1995. The new one is expected to be introduced in Parliament and be voted into law by the monsoon session of 2010.

This is a milestone which will enhance choices, increase competition and benchmark quality. A larger revolution than even in the telecom sector awaits us,” said Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development (MHRD).

The Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations, Maintenance of Quality and Prevention of Commercialisation) Bill will allow foreign universities to invest at least 51 per cent of the total capital expenditure needed to establish the institute in India. Such institutes will be granted deemed university status under Section 3 of the Universities Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956.

The Bill aims to regulate the entry, operation and maintenance of quality assurance and prevention of commercialisation by foreign educational institutions, besides protecting the interest of the student community from sub-standard and ‘fly by night’ operators. The Bill is aimed at not only bringing in investment in the education sector, but also draw in foreign students, besides helping check the flight of Indians to study (then work and settle) abroad.



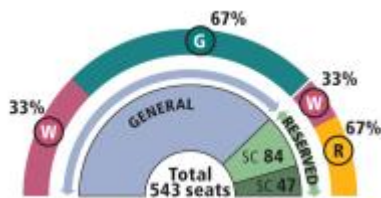
SC Okays Quota For Andhra Muslims

On March 25, 2010, the Supreme Court okayed religion-based reservation in government jobs and educational institutes in Andhra Pradesh but referred the matter to a constitution bench to decide on its constitutional validity.

In an interim order, a bench headed by Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan extended the benefit of four per cent reservation in jobs and education to 14 other backward classes of Muslims in the State. In the process, it stayed the February order of the State High Court that had quashed the Andhra Pradesh Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes of Muslims Act, 2007.

But the apex court refused to grant quota benefit to a 15th category of Muslims mentioned in the Act as the social groups were not specified. It also made it clear this was a temporary measure. The constitution bench is expected to take up the case in August 2010.

According to Andhra government, the reason for giving four per cent quota to backward Muslims was because they constitute 5-6 per cent of the State's population. The creamy layer—those who earn over Rs 4 lakh annually, children of class-I officers working with the State/Central governments and those who hold constitutional posts—are not entitled. All parties barring the BJP welcomed the decision.



Women's Reservation Bill

Fourteen years after it was envisaged, the Rajya Sabha, on March 10, 2010, passed the landmark Women's Reservation Bill that will pave the way for reserving 33 per cent seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. But prior to that, the legislation has to be seen through in the Lok Sabha.

Of the 186 members present in the Rajya Sabha, 185 voted in favour of the Bill. Barring the parties from the Hindi-belt—Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal and BSP—all other parties that included the constituents of Congress-led UPA and BJP-led NDA supported the Bill that was to carry out the 108th amendment to the Constitution for enabling reservation.

The Congress-led UPA, the BJP-led NDA and also the Left parties were on the same side as the Parliament authored the "historic move", which could upstage several well ensconced politicians but ensure proper representation of women, which languishes at 11 per cent in Lok Sabha.

SP and RJD MPs walked out even before the discussion began. BSP's leader in Upper House Satish Chandra Misra walked out after expressing his party's point of view: "We support the cause of reservation, however, oppose the Bill in its present form."

The proposed legislation to reserve 33.3 percent seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for women was drafted first by the H D Deve Gowdale United Front government. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on September 12, 1996. Though it has been introduced in Parliament several times since then, the Bill could not be passed because of lack of political consensus.

Main Points of The Legislation:

- Ø Seeks to reserve one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- Ø Allocation of reserved seats shall be determined by the authority prescribed by the Parliament.
- Ø One-third of the total seats reserved for SCs and STs shall be reserved for women from these groups in LS and Assemblies.
- Ø Reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in the State or Union Territory.
- Ø Reservation of seats for women shall cease to exist 15 years after the commencement of the Act.

Tougher Laws To Deal With Hijackers

With terror threats in the aviation sector looming large, the Union government has decided to make the Anti-Hijacking Act of 1982 tougher by including death sentence as a punishment for hijacking a plane with intention of creating a terror strike. A cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh approved the amendments to be incorporated in the existing Act, which at present only provides for life imprisonment and fine.

The anti-hijack policy that was revised and approved by the Cabinet Committee for Security in 2005 could not be made a law primarily due to lack

of consensus on the punishment for the hijacker, having intent of creating terror strike and caught alive.

The policy also has provision for immobilisation of the plane and disallowing it to take off, if the hijack occurs on the Indian soil. Notably, during the Kandahar hijack in December 1999, in which passengers and crew members were exchanged for four dreaded terrorists, security forces had failed to immobilise the plane when it had landed at the Amritsar airport.

The CCS, in August 2005, had cleared the proposal to shoot down a commercial plane if it was hijacked. It also strictly ruled out any negotiations with hijackers on meeting any of their demands.

According to the policy, if a rogue aircraft paid no heed to ATC warnings and deviated from its specified path or headed towards any strategic spot, a decision on shooting it down would come into play. In case of an emergency situation, the shoot down orders could be given by the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister or the Home Minister, whoever could be contacted.



Liveability Index 2010

According to the Liveability Index 2010, prepared jointly by the CII and the Institute for Competitiveness, Delhi is the best city to live in, followed by Mumbai.

A liveable city, according to the report, is not just an urbanised area in an urbanised region defined by the presence of a municipality. Liveability refers to an urban system that contributes to the physical, social and mental well being and personal developments of all its inhabitants.

Economy News



Government Got Rs. 70,000 Crore From 2G Spectrum

Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology A. Raja on 21 May 2010 on the allocation of 2G spectrum, said that the Union government had made over Rs.70,000 crore from the allocation by adopting the revenue-sharing route. He said the 2G operators would have to pay more. There was no escape for operators from paying more for spectrum held in excess of 6.2 MHz. He said he would push ahead with the move to charge for spectrum allocated beyond 6.2 MHz. He and his officials were in touch with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on this.

Number Portability

The Minister said he was confident that number portability across mobile telephone networks would be made possible by July this year.

This major initiative will enable subscribers to move across different service providers while retaining their phone number. Targets set earlier for the introduction of the system could not be met.

Cyber Park Set Up in Kasaragod

Decks have been cleared for the information technology sector to strike roots in the northernmost district of Kerala. Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan laid the foundation stone for a cyber park at Cheemeni in Kasaragod on May 21, 2010.

The new campus will be the first spoke of Cyber Park, Kozhikode, which was recently established to act as the hub for development of the IT/ITeS sector in the northern region. It will be developed on 40 hectares of land, of which 10 hectares will be developed initially as an IT/ITES-specific special economic zone.

The first building will cover 1.5-lakh sq.ft. and will generate employment for over 2,000 professionals. The second spoke of Cyber Park, Kozhikode, is scheduled to come up in Kannur. With Cyber Park, Kasaragod, the IT sector in Kerala can now tap into the large pool of locally available skilled resources and reputed educational institutions not just in North Malabar but also from Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka.

It has the potential to provide employment opportunities on a large scale and contribute to the economic development Under the hub-and-spoke model of development adopted by Kerala, Technopark-Thiruvananthapuram, Infopark-Kochi and Cyber Park-Kozhikode will act as the hubs, while satellite centres are being developed in Kollam, Ambalappuzha, Cherthala, Thrissur, Kannur and Kasaragod.



RBI Raises Repo, Reverse Repo

On March 19, 2010, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) surprised banks and money market players by raising key policy rates 25 basis points. The move, aimed at taming inflation and anchoring inflationary expectations, marked a reversal in the easy monetary policy regime amid signs of strong economic revival.

The central bank said the repo rate, or the rate at which banks borrow from RBI, is being increased 25 basis points to 5 per cent. Similarly, the reverse repo rate, or the rate at which surplus cash is parked with the central bank, was increased to 3.5 per cent, from 3.25 per cent earlier.

This was the second action since January 2010, when RBI announced a 75-basis point rise in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to 5.75 per cent.

But, unlike CRR, which is used to manage liquidity in the system, an increase in the repo and reverse repo rates is aimed at signalling an increase in interest rates.



Text From North Korea Statement

North Korea announced on 25 May it was cutting all ties with South Korea in retaliation for Seoul imposing sanctions on Pyongyang after torpedoing one of the South's warships.

The following are key points from the text of the report issued by the North's KCNA news agency. The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, accordingly, formally declares that from now on it will put into force the resolute measures to totally freeze the inter-Korean relations, totally abrogate the agreement on non-aggression between the north and the south and completely halt the inter-Korean cooperation.

In this connection, the following measures will be taken at the first phase:

- Ø All relations with the puppet authorities will be severed.
- Ø There will be neither dialogue nor contact between the authorities during (South Korean President) Lee Myung Bak's tenure of office.
- Ø The work of the Panmunjom Red Cross liaison representatives will be completely suspended.
- Ø All communication links between the north and the south will be cut off.
- Ø The Consultative Office for North-South Economic Cooperation in the Kaesong Industrial Zone will be frozen and dismantled and all the personnel concerned of the south side will be expelled

without delay.

Ø We will start all-out counterattack against the puppet group's 'psychological warfare against the north.'

"The passage of south Korean ships and airliners through the territorial waters and air of our side will be totally banned. All the issues arising in the inter-Korean relations will be handled under a wartime law.



India's Food Security Goals in Danger

An alarming new report by the World Bank has shown that an increasing number of aquifers in India are reaching unsustainable levels of exploitation, endangering long-term food security goals. If current trends continue, in 20 years about 60 per cent of all aquifers in the country will be in a critical condition, putting at risk over a quarter of the harvest, concludes the report "Deep Wells and Prudence: Towards Pragmatic Action for Addressing Groundwater Overexploitation in India".

The report rings alarm bells for policy makers, warning them against status quo. A rainfall deficit in 1963-66 had decreased India's food production by 20 per cent, but a similar drought in 1987-88 had very small impact on food production due to widespread prevalence of groundwater, which is now declining.

India is the largest groundwater user in the world, exploiting 230 cubic kilometres of groundwater every year—over a quarter of the global total. Today, groundwater supports 60 per cent of irrigated agriculture and more than 80 per cent of rural and urban water supplies.

Even though there is a major dependence of many sectors on groundwater and it is being overexploited, there is little investment in its manage-

ment. This inaction has arisen mainly because the solutions often proposed for groundwater management are very controversial, including "command-and-control" regulation of wells and curbing the supply of free or cheap power for groundwater irrigation.

IMF paints grim picture of fiscal tightening needs
Developed countries with big budget deficits must start now to prepare public opinion for the belt-tightening that will be needed starting 2011, says John Lipsky, the International Monetary Fund's first deputy managing director. He added that the scale of the adjustment required was so vast that it would have to come through less-generous health and pension benefits, spending cuts and increased tax revenues.

Policy-makers should already be making it clear to their citizens why a return to prudent policies is a necessary condition for sustained economic health, Lipsky said.

The IMF estimates that, by raising real interest rates, maintaining public debt at its post-crisis levels could reduce potential growth in advanced economies by as much as half a percentage point annually.

Second, fiscal institutions must be strengthened to withstand adjustment fatigue. Options include reinforcing fiscal responsibility legislation and improving tax collection.

Third, entitlement reforms such as increases in the retirement age would have favourable long-term fiscal effects but do little near-term damage to aggregate demand.

RBI To Buy IMF Notes Worth \$10 Billion

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to purchase notes worth up to \$10 billion to improve the ability of the international lender to provide timely and effective balance-of-payment assistance to member countries. IMF will issue the

notes in the special drawing rights (SDR)-denominated form. The pact is a temporary bilateral arrangement for one year, which might be extended to two years.

The pact is part of the international effort to support IMF's lending capacity following the decision of the Group of 20 nations at its London Summit (held in April 2009) to treble IMF's resources to \$750 billion.

Generally, IMF will give a five-day notice to RBI about its intention to issue notes, including the amount. It will restrict issuance to a principal amount not exceeding SDR 500 million in any calendar week.

At the beginning of each quarter, IMF will also provide estimates for the amount for which notes will be issued during a three-month period.

Permanent increases in IMF's resources are expected to take place through an increase in quotas and standing borrowing arrangements currently under negotiation.



Loan Agreement With Japan

India has signed an agreement for Rs 10,500 crore (Yen 215.611 billion) Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan. This includes Rs 1,648.36 crore for the second phase of Delhi mass rapid transport system project (DMRTS), Rs 4,422.83 crore for the dedicated rail freight corridor and Rs 2,933 crore for Chennai metro.

Six projects will be covered under the loan, including Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project, Kolkata East-West Metro Project (II) and Rengali Irrigation Project (III).

With this, the cumulative commitment of ODA from Japan has reached Rs 15,5840 crore.

Per Capita Income in Delhi Has Increased

In an indication of sustained economic growth, the per capita income in Delhi has increased to Rs 78,690 in the financial year 2007-08 as against the national figure of Rs 33,283. Delhi's per capita income is the third highest in the country with Chandigarh having per capita income of Rs 110,676 topping the list and closely followed by Goa at Rs 105,582.

India & World

Copenhagen Pact

On March 9, 2010, India and China formally backed the Climate Change Accord hammered out in Copenhagen in 2009, calling for voluntary cut in greenhouse gas emissions. Both the countries submitted official letters to the UN Climate Change Secretariat saying that they agreed to being listed in the preamble of the Accord, subject to certain conditions.

India made it clear, however, that the accord is a political document and not a legally binding one.



India Has Signed An Agreement With Japan

India has signed an agreement for Rs 10,500 crore Official Development Assistance from Japan. This includes Rs 1,648 crore for the second phase of Delhi Metro project.



India To Sign Extradition Treaties With Iran, Sri Lanka, Brazil, France & Israel

After signing extradition treaties with Saudi Arabia and South Korea, India has finalised draft agreements with five more nations—Iran, Sri Lanka, Brazil, France and Israel. The government is now working out the dates on which the treaties can formally be signed. The treaty with Saudi Arabia was signed in February, during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Riyadh. Another such treaty was signed with South Korea when its President, Lee Myung-Bak, visited New Delhi in January 2010.

With bilateral cooperation in security and counter-terrorism measures assuming significance, India has stepped up efforts to formalise agreements with other nations so suspects can be brought back to the country to be tried under Indian laws. Indian government is giving extradition treaties the utmost importance as intelligence inputs suggest that some nations could be used as safe heavens by terrorists and the underworld.

India has extradition treaties with several countries, including Nepal, Belgium, Netherlands, Canada, UK, Switzerland, Bhutan, USA, UAE and the Russian Federation.



India-USA Agree On N-Reprocessing

India and the United States have reached a deal on reprocessing American-origin spent nuclear fuel to be supplied to India under the landmark civil nuclear agreement signed in September 2008.

The talks were wrapped up well before the August deadline. The US statement noted that these arrangements will enable Indian reprocessing of US-obligated nuclear material under IAEA safeguards. Completion of these arrangements will facilitate participation by US firms in India's rapidly expanding civil nuclear energy sector.

The reprocessing arrangements were negotiated pursuant to Article 6 (iii) of the US-India civil nuclear cooperation agreement, also called the 123 Agreement. Under the 123 Agreement, India will construct new facilities dedicated for reprocessing the safeguarded nuclear material under IAEA safeguards.

The advanced consent agreement is only the third of its kind ever undertaken by the US. The US has such agreements with the European consortium EURATOM and Japan. China, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, which have 123 Agreements with the US, do not have such agreements.

World Affairs



Alcohol kills 2.5 million people worldwide: WHO

Harmful use of alcohol kills 2.5 million people annually and is the eighth leading factor for deaths globally, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said. Of the 2.5 million people, 320,000 people are between 15 and 29 years of age, it said.

For the first time, representatives from 193 member states of the WHO have reached a consensus at the World Health Assembly May 17-21 on a resolution to confront the harmful use of alcohol.

The resolution urges countries to support initiatives to tackle the problem.

Ten recommended target areas for policy intervention include health services' responses, community action, pricing policies and reducing public health impact of illicit alcohol. The WHO was urged to support countries to implement the strategy and monitor progress.

Law on Healthcare Passed

On March 23, 2010, US President Barack Obama signed into law the landmark Health Care Bill that introduces sweeping reforms in the USA's healthcare system, capping a historic legislative victory that had eluded several of his predecessors. It will take four years to implement fully many of the reforms.

Obama said that henceforth insurance companies will no longer be able to drop people's coverage, when they get sick or they won't be able to place lifetime limits or restrictive annual limits on the amount of care they can receive. The President said once this reform is implemented, health insurance exchanges will be created, a competitive marketplace, where uninsured people and small businesses will finally be able to purchase affordable quality insurance.

Obama said this legislation will also lower costs for families and for businesses and for the federal government, reducing deficit by over \$1 trillion in the next two decades.



Google Leaves China

Late on March 23, 2010 night, the Internet giant Google shut its Chinese website and shifted its search engine services to uncensored Hong Kong after two months of confrontation with Beijing over censorship and alleged hacking attacks.

But those re-routed to Hong Kong still couldn't access sensitive websites as these were blocked by Chinese filters.

Google's bold censure of the business environment in the world's number three economy and the biggest online market of 384 million netizens had left the fate of its future China operations in doubt.

Soon after Google's announcement, Beijing lashed out by calling the action "totally wrong" and saying it "violated the written promise" it made four years ago, when it arrived, promising to self-censor online services as required by Chinese law.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said the exit would not affect Sino-US relations unless someone politicised the issue.

China believes its citizens need strict censorship. It blocked YouTube after the Tibet riots in March 2008, fearing the spread of mass unrest through the Internet. Facebook and Twitter were blocked after the Xinjiang riots in July 2009.



US President Obama's Visit To Afghanistan

On March 28, 2010 US President Barak Obama sneaked into Afghanistan under the cover of darkness, to avoid being targeted by militants. This was his first visit to the country since taking office. For security reasons, the trip was cloaked in secrecy.

Obama met Afghan President Karzai in the palace's outdoor grounds and stood under a pavilion for a brief welcoming ceremony. The President spent roughly six hours in the country. During their meeting the Afghan leader was invited to the White House on May 12, 2010. Mr Obama also tackled Mr Karzai on his failure to make any meaningful reforms since he narrowly won a second term in fraud-ridden polls in 2009.

Mr. Karzai made grandiose promises in his inauguration speech but so far he has failed to deliver. At the time, US officials said he had six months to reform or risk losing American support.

Mr. Obama also addressed 2,500 US troops at Bagram air force base, nine miles from Kabul. He praised them for their courage, sacrifice and focus, and warned of tough days ahead.



US, Russia Seal N-Arms Cut Deal

US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev sealed a landmark arms-control treaty on March 28, 2010 to slash their countries' nuclear arsenals by a third. After months of deadlock and delay, a breakthrough deal on a replacement for the Cold War-era START pact marked Obama's most significant foreign policy achievement since taking office and also bolsters his effort to "reset" ties with Moscow.

Russia made clear, however, that it reserved the right to suspend any strategic arms cuts if it felt threatened by future US deployment of a proposed Europe-based missile defence system that Moscow bitterly opposes. The agreement replaces a 1991 pact that expired in December 2009. Each side would have seven years after the treaty takes effect to reduce stockpiles of their most dangerous weapons—those already deployed—to 1,550, from the 2,200 now allowed, and also cut their numbers of launchers to half.

Chechen Insurgency Re-Surfaces in Russia

During the six years since the last suicide bomb attack on the Moscow subway, Muscovites came to think of themselves as insulated from the guerilla warfare. Terror, however, returned to the heart of Russia on March 30, 2010, with two deadly

suicide bombings on the Moscow subway at rush hour, including an attack at the station beneath the headquarters of the secret police. At least 40 people were killed and more than 60 wounded in the blasts.

Russian police had killed several Islamic militant leaders in the North Caucasus recently, which raised fears of retaliatory strikes and escalating bloodshed by the militants. The bombings showed that the beleaguered rebels are still strong enough to inflict harm on an increasingly assertive Russia, and they followed a warning in February 2010 from Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov that "the war is coming to their cities."

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who built much of his political capital by directing a fierce war against Chechen separatists a decade ago, promised to track down and kill the organizers of what he called a "disgusting" crime.

Headley Pleads Guilty To All 12 Charges

In a volte-face, Pakistani-American LeT operative David Coleman Headley, accused of plotting the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and conspiring to target a Danish newspaper, has pleaded guilty before a US court. Charged on 12 counts, he admitted guilty in all of them.

Headley (49), who was arrested by FBI's joint terrorism task force on October 3, 2009, told US District Judge Harry Leinenweber that he wanted to change his plea to guilty, in an apparent bid to get a lighter sentence than the maximum death penalty.

Headley, son of a Pakistani diplomat and a Philadelphia socialite, admitted to using his friend Tahawwur Rana's immigration company as a cover for surveillance activities in India and Denmark on behalf of Pakistan-based terrorist groups, including LeT.

Headley admitted guilty in all six counts of conspiracy involving bombing public places in India, murdering and maiming persons in India and providing material support to foreign terrorist plots and LeT; and six counts of aiding and abetting the murder of US citizens in India.

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians On Population and Development

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) hosted a conference in Manila, Philippines, in March 2010, on indigenous peoples, climate change and rural poverty.

Science&Technology

Browse At The Speed of Light

Scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a new infra-red laser made from germanium that operates at room temperature, which has made light-speed computing come one step closer to reality.

The research removes the cryogenic cooling systems previously needed for infrared lasers and could lead to powerful computer chips that operate at the speed of light.

Using a germanium laser as a light source, you could communicate at very high data rates at very low power," said Jurgen Michel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who developed the new germanium laser. "Eventually, you could have the computing power of today's supercomputers inside a laptop," he said.

The creation of a new laser, even one based on germanium, is not newsworthy; more than 15,000 different lasers, some of which use germanium, have been created since the 1950s. What makes this particular germanium laser unique is that it creates an infra-red beam at room temperature.

Until now, infra-red germanium lasers required expensive cryogenic cooling systems to operate. The new germanium laser operates at room temperature.

To create the germanium laser, the scientists take a six-inch, silvery-gray disk of silicon and spray it with a thin film of germanium. These same disks are actually used to produce chips in today's computers.

An electrically powered, room-temperature, infra-red laser for laptop computers is still years away, however, cautioned Michel. If and when those laptops do arrive, they will be powerful—more powerful in fact than even today's super-computers.



Super Cruiser BrahMos Test-Fired Successfully

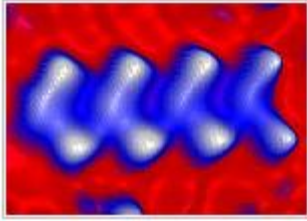
On March 21, 2010, India joined the league of select nations to have a 'manoeuvrable' supersonic cruise missile when it successfully test-fired the vertical-launch version of 290-km range BrahMos from a warship in the Bay of Bengal off the Orissa coast.

After the latest test, India has become the first and only country in the world to have a "manoeuvrable supersonic cruise missile in its inventory".

The test-firing was part of the pre-induction tests by the Navy as moves are afoot to deploy the vertical-launch version of the missile in ships. The weapon system has been designed and developed by the Indo-Russian joint venture company.

All the three Indian Navy's Talwar class ships, under construction in Russia, have been fitted with vertical launchers and many other ships will also be equipped with them. The Navy had earlier carried out several tests of the BrahMos but most of

them had been done from inclined launchers abroad INS Rajput. The missile is already in service with the Navy and its Shivalik class frigates have been equipped with it. BrahMos has also been inducted into the Army.



World's Smallest Superconductor Developed

Scientists have developed the world's smallest superconductor less than one nanometre wide which could be used for making miniature electronic devices. The superconductor, a sheet of four pairs of molecules, provides the first evidence that nano-scale molecular superconducting wires can be fabricated.

Superconducting materials have an electrical resistance of zero, and so can carry large electrical currents without power dissipation or heat generation. Superconductivity was first discovered in 1911, and until recently, was considered a macroscopic phenomenon. The current finding suggests, however, that it exists at the molecular scale, which opens up a novel route for studying this phenomenon.



CERN Scientists Recreate How Universe Began

On March 30, 2010, scientists came a little closer to understanding the Big Bang the event that created the universe when they slammed together two streams of sub-atomic particles, moving at very

high speed, at an energy level never before achieved in the laboratory.

The collision was orchestrated at around in the world's largest particle collider, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva.

The collision sought to recreate on a vastly reduced scale the conditions that scientists believe came into being right after the Big Bang. Once analysed, the results could change the way physicists understand the origin and structure of the universe. When sub-atomic particles slam together at very high speeds, they shatter, leaving behind new elements. Scientists are hoping one of the new elements created by the collision and shattering will be the fabled Higgs boson popularly called 'God Particle' the particle that some theories claim is responsible for the mass of everything in the universe.

The LHC is a 26.6 km circular tube buried nearly 100 meter below the earth's surface. Indian scientists have contributed to the Compact Muon Solenoid, one of the ultra-sensitive detectors that scientists at CERN used to monitor and photograph the collision. The TIFR, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, Punjab University and Delhi University have all been involved in the project.

Breakthrough in Malaria Study

Scientists from India and the US have found what they call an internal "switch" that controls mosquitoes' immunity to malaria-causing Plasmodium parasites. If scientists can find a way to flip this switch, they could block the spread of malaria from mosquitoes to humans, according to Sanjeev Kumar, lead author of the study and a researcher in the biological sciences group at the Birla Institute of Technology (BITS) in Pilani.

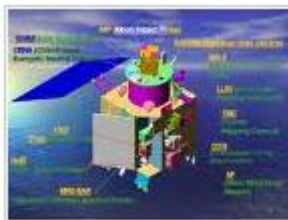
A natural reaction inside the mosquito's body after it sucks human blood might be responsible for protecting Plasmodium parasites from the natural

germ-fighting agents in its stomach, found the scientists. Because of this reaction, the parasites can multiply and spread to humans.

As soon as a mosquito ingests a meal, the blood heads for the gut. Normally, a mosquito has strong anti-germ agents that hunt down and kill any invasive bacteria and parasites. But, the scientists found that, this germ-fighting ability was blocked by a reaction in the mosquito's body. Once blood reaches the gut, it triggers two proteins, an Immuno-Modulatory Peroxidase (IMPer) and dual oxidase (Duox). These proteins form a protective net-like bag around the blood meal.

The blood and any parasites it contains passes through the digestive system unscathed. The parasites multiply and move into the mosquito's salivary glands, from where they pass into their next human victim. When the scientists switched off the functioning of the two proteins, the bag didn't form and all the Plasmodium parasites were killed.

The findings have implications for the study of human immunity. It has been long suspected that a similar reaction is what allows the good bacteria to survive in the stomach.



Chandrayaan-I Finds Deepest Crater on Moon

Scientists have discovered moon's biggest and deepest crater, some 2,400 km-long and 9 km deep, using data from a NASA instrument that flew aboard India's maiden unmanned lunar mission Chandrayaan-I. The US space agency's Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) detected the enormous crater, the South Pole-Aitken basin, that was created when an asteroid smacked into moon's southern hemisphere shortly after the formation of earth's only natural satellite.

Chandrayaan-I Finds Ice on Moon

The success story of Chandrayaan-I, the maiden Indian moon mission, turned a new chapter with the discovery of ice deposits on the moon by an American payload aboard the spacecraft.

Analysis of data obtained by the Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar (Mini-SAR) aboard Chandrayaan-I spacecraft has provided evidence for the presence of ice deposits near the moon's North Pole. The Mini-SAR instrument found more than 40 small craters (two to 15 km in diameter) with sub-surface water ice located at their base. The interior of these craters are permanently shadowed and thus, oblivious to the extreme solar heat found on the moon.

Earlier, the Moon Mineralogy Mapper, another NASA instrument aboard the Indian mission, discovered water molecules in the moon's polar region. The two pioneering discoveries made by payloads aboard the Chandrayaan-I have arguably made the Indian mission the most successful lunar expedition after the Apollo-11 manned mission to the moon in 1969.



Cloud Computing

Most of us who use web-based email services, watch a video online, share snaps using photo-hosting services, read news online or watch TV shows on the internet may not realise that we use 'cloud computing' services.

A metaphor for the internet, cloud computing stores data and applications on the internet. Users do not have to invest in hardware (reducing costs considerably) and maintenance experts. They can simply pull up applications when needed and use them like we use utilities, for example electricity. Most players provide these services for free for individual users. For enterprise users, it's generally a paid subscription-based model.

Major Indian players like Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Patni offer cloud computing solutions as “software as a service” or SaaS or on-demand computing. Cloud computing, however, still faces questions within IT about security and the guarantee of up-time for companies which rely on the cloud.

MISCELLANEOUS



Koirala, Girija Prasad

Veteran democratic leader of Nepal politics and former Prime Minister of Nepal, he died on March 20, 2010. He was 87. He had the distinction of becoming the Prime Minister of Nepal five times. He had led the peaceful April Uprising in 2006 and abolished the 239-year-old authoritarian royal regime of Nepal.



Sonia Gandhi

UPA chairperson and Congress President, she has been appointed as the head of National Advisory Council (NAC), four years after quitting the post over an office-of-profit controversy. She will hold the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister.



S. Ramadorai

He has been appointed as the Chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).



G.P. Birla

Noted industrialist and second most eldest member of the Birla clan. He was 86.



Capt. Tejdeep Singh Rattan

A 31-year-old Dentist, he has become the first Sikh in over 25 years to be allowed to complete US Army officer basic training without giving up his turban or shaving his full beard.

GJM Opponent Tamang Stabbed to Death

Gorkha leader Madan Tamang was stabbed to death while he was addressing a public meeting in Darjeeling on 21 May 2010.

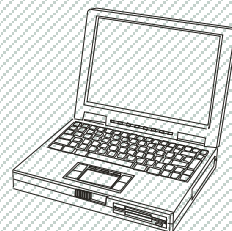
Gorkha Janmukthi Morcha supporters are believed to be behind the assassination of Tamang who was the president of the Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League. Tamang, who led the anti-GJM Democratic Front in the Darjeeling Hills, was attacked with a khukri and swords on Laden La Road near the Planters' Club around 9.30 am. He was 64.

Indian-origin scientists part of new cell research
Three Indian-origin scientists are part of a team that has for the first time created a synthetic cell, controlled by man-made genetic instructions, which can also reproduce itself.

The 24-member team included Sanjay Vashee, Radha Krishnakumar and Prashanth P. Parmar. "We call it the first synthetic cell," said genomics pioneer Craig Venter, who oversaw the project. "These are very much real cells." Developed at a cost of \$30 million by the researchers at the J. Craig Venter Institute, the experimental one-cell organism opens the way to manipulation of life on a previously unattainable scale, the Wall Street Journal reported.

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Cricket



ICC World Twenty20, 2010

The ICC World Twenty20 2010 is a 20/20 cricket tournament scheduled to take place in West Indies in April-May 2010. It will be the third World Twenty20 cricket series.

The ICC World Twenty20 2010 will be contested by 12 teams which have been 'seeded' and divided into four groups are A, B, C and D.

» Group A - Pakistan (A1), Bangladesh (A2) and Australia

» Group B - Sri Lanka (B1), New Zealand (B2) and Zimbabwe

» Group C - South Africa (C1), India (C2) and Afghanistan

» Group D - West Indies (D1), England (D2) and Ireland

» Result : England won the 2010 ICC World Twenty20

Deodhar Trophy

North Zone beat West Zone by 49 runs to win the Deodhar Trophy cricket tournament. The final was played at Vadodara.

Bangladesh-England Test Series

England crushed Bangladesh by nine wickets in the second and final Test to sweep the series.

India Finish Second in ICC ODI Rankings

Indian cricket team finished the season as number two ranked, behind Australia, in One-Day cricket rankings of ICC.

Kapil Inducted in ICC Hall of Fame

Legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev, who led India to their only ODI World Cup triumph in 1983, has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.

A commemorative cap was presented to Kapil by ICC President David Morgan, in front of fellow Hall of Famer Clive Lloyd, as well as an audience of ICC officials and other invited guests at the governing body's headquarters in Dubai.

The Hall of Fame, run in association with the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA), recognises some of the legends of the game.

NetBall



National Championship, 29th

Punjab lifted the men's title of the 29th National Netball championship by defeating Delhi. Chattisgarh defeated Andhra Pradesh to win the bronze medal. In the women's section Delhi edged Kerala for the top honours. Chattisgarh won the bronze medal.

Shooting



ISSF World Cup

World champion marksman Manavjit Singh Sandhu lived up to his top billing and clinched the trap gold in the ISSF World Cup at Acapulco, Mexico. Another Indian, Anirudh Singh also impressed by entering his first ever World Cup final with a score of 122.

In the women's trap event, none of the three Indian shooters could make it to the final round. Shagun Chowdhary finished 13th, Shreyasi Singh ended 16th and Seema Tomar 17th. Chinese shooter Yang Huan claimed the gold.

Archery



Asian Grand Prix

Recurve Men: India's Rahul Banerjee won the gold. The team gold medal was also won by India.
Recurve Women: India's Deepika Kumari won the gold. The team event was also won by India.
Compound Men: India's Hansdah won the gold. The host nation Thailand won the gold medal in the team competition. India took the bronze.
Compound Women: Ngeain Aung of Myanmar won the gold. India took the team gold medal.
Mixed Teams: India won the gold medal in the recurve category. In compound, Myanmar won the gold over India, and the bronze went to Vietnam.

Boxing



Commonwealth Championship, 2010

India won six gold medals, which till date is the biggest haul in the Championships, as also the tournament, held at New Delhi. India bettered their record of four gold, two silver and three bronze medals they had achieved in Scotland in 2005.

Vijender Singh, the Olympic Games bronze-medallist, came out trumps, clinching his maiden gold in the Commonwealth Boxing Championships.

Asian bronze-medallist Paramjeet Samota (+91), Asian champion Suranjay Singh (52kg), World Cup

bronze-medallist Dinesh Kumar (81kg), Jai Bhagwan (60kg) and Amandeep Singh (49kg) were the other gold-medallists.

Tennis



Open De Nice Tennis

India's Rohan Bopanna and Pakistan's Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi blew up a first set lead to go down fighting 6-1, 3-6, 5-10 to third-seeded Brazilians Marcelo Melo and Bruno Soares in the doubles final of the Open de Nice tennis in Nice on May 22. This was Melo and Sa's first ATP World Tour doubles title and it came after a 73-minute battle. Melo and Sa picked up 250 points and will split 21,650 euros in prize money. Bopanna and Qureshi earned 11,350 euros and 150 points.

Bopanna and Qureshi captured their first title at the SA Tennis Open in Johannesburg in February. They also finished runners-up at the Grand Prix Hassan II in Casablanca last month.

Hockey



World Cup, 2010

Australia defeated Germany 2-1 to deny Germany a historic hat-trick of titles. Germany had won the title in 2002 and 2006. The Netherlands came back strongly from a 1-3 first half deficit to prevail over England 4-3 and win the bronze medal. India could manage eight spot only.

Guus Vogls of The Netherlands was declared the player of the tournament.

Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup 2010

India and South Korea were declared joint winners in the Sultan Azlan Shah hockey cup 2010 in a rain-affected final match played in Ipoh (Malaysia) on May 16.

Following a sudden rainshower, the final match could not be played beyond six-minutes.

The officials later decided to declare both the teams as combined champions.

Indian team that participated in the tournament as defending champions had already defeated S.Korean team in the league match of the tournament.

Indian team qualified for the final match after thrashing Egypt 7-1, Indians were on number one position with 13 points. The first hat-trick of the tournament was made by Indian player Dhananjay Mandip with a goal in 34, 40 and 42nd minutes.

(The Teams)

India : Rajpal Singh (captain), Amit Prabhakar, Rupinder Pal Singh, Arjun Halappa, Prabodh Turkey, Dhananjay Mahdik, Sardar Singh, Mandip Antil, Ravi Pal, Sarvanjit Singh, Bharat Chetri (GK), Gurbaj Singh, Tushar Khandker, Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran (GK), Vikas Vishnu Pillay, Shivendra Singh, Danish Mujtaba, Bharat.

South Korea: Lee Myung Ho (GK), Lee Seung Il, Ro Jong Hwan, Nam Hyun Woo, Lee Nam Yong, Cho Suk Hoon, Jung Hwan Uk, Yoon Sung Hoon, You Hyo Sik, Yang Soo Hyuk, Jin Kyung Min, Oh Dae Keun, Shin Yong Ho, Hong Eun Seong, Yoo Min Ho, Kim Young Jin, Kim Yong Bae, Lee Seung Hoon

Chess



FIDE World Chess Championship

India's Viswanathan Anand retained the FIDE World Chess Championship, defeating Bulgarian Veselin Topalov with black pieces in the final classic game of the series in Sofia on May 11. Anand won the 12-game match with a score of 6.5-5.5 to defend the title he had claimed in 2007.

Topalov, blundering on his moves, handed the decisive win to Anand at the end of 56 moves. Earlier, Anand had got off to the worst possible start in the Championship, losing the first game before bouncing back with wins in games two and four. Topalov managed to regain parity by winning in the eighth, but Anand's latest victory, the first time that either player had won with black pieces in the series, put an end to the contender's challenge.

Anand became the Undisputed World Chess Champion after winning an eight-player tournament in 2007 and defended his title against Vladimir Kramnik in 2008. Topalov won the right to challenge Anand after getting the better of Gata Kamsky in 2009.

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Awards



International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards 2010

The technical awards winners of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards 2010 have been announced and Aamir Khan's 3 Idiots has won eight of them. 3 Idiots beat other films by bagging awards for Best Screenplay, Cinematography, Dialogue, Background Score, Editing, Best Sound Recording, Best Song Recording, Sound Re-recording. It was nominated in 14 categories including best film, best actor, best director and best actress.

The list of the technical award winners are as follows:

- » Best Screenplay : Abhijat Joshi, Rajkumar Hirani, Vidhu Vinod Chopra (3 Idiots)
- » Best Cinematography : C.K. Muraleedharan (3 Idiots)
- » Best Dialogue : Rajkumar Hirani, Abhijat Joshi (3 Idiots)
- » Best Background Score : Sanjay Wandrekar, Atul Raninga, Shantanu Moitra (3 Idiots)
- » Best Editing : Rajkumar Hirani (3 Idiots)
- » Best Sound Recording : Bishwadeep Chatterjee, Nihal Ranjan Samel (3 Idiots)
- » Best Song Recording : Bishwadeep Chatterjee, Sachi K Sanghvi (3 Idiots)
- » Best Sound Re-recording : Anup Dev (3 Idiots)

- » Best Choreography : Bosco Martis, Caesar Gonsalves (Love Aaj Kal)
- » Best Costume Designing : Anahita Shroff Adajania, Dolly Ahluwalia (Love Aaj Kal)
- » Best Art Direction : Sabu Cyril (Aladdin)
- » Best Special Effects (Visual) : Charles Darby - Eyecube Labs (Aladdin)
- » Best Action : Shyam Kaushal (Kaminey)
- » Best Make up Artist : Christien Tinsley, Domini Till (Paa).

SAARC Environment Award, 2010



Environmentalism Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal has been selected for the award for setting new milestones in the field of environment, especially his initiative on cleaning the Kali Bein rivulet passing through Kapurthala, Punjab.

Saraswati Samman, 2009



“Lafzan Di Dargah”, a poetry collection in Punjabi by Surjit Patar, has been awarded the 19th Saraswati Samman for 2009.

The award, instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991, carries an award of Rs 5 lakh, a citation and a plaque. It is recognised as the most prestigious and the highest literary honour in India and is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in an Indian language and published during the last 10 years.

The first recipient of the award was Harivansh Rai Bachchan in 1991 for his autobiography. Other awardees include Marathi playwright Vijay Tendulkar, Oriya writer Manoj Das, Malayalam poetess Balamaniamma, Tamil writer Indira Parthasarathy, Bengali novelist Sunil Gangopadhyay and Urdu literary critic Shamsur Rahman Faruqi.



Oscar Awards, 2010

- » Best Movie: The Hurt Locker.
- » Best Director: Kathryn Bigelow (The Hurt Locker). She has become the first woman director to win the honour.
- » Best Actor: Jeff Bridges (Crazy Heart).
- » Best Actress: Sandra Bullock (The Blind Side).
- » Best Supporting Actress: Mo'Nique.
- » Best Supporting Actor: Christoph Waltz.
- » Best Animated Movie: Up
- » Best Foreign Film: The Secret in Their Eyes (Argentina).

Chameli Devi Jain Award, 2009

The award for an outstanding woman media-person has been shared by Shoma Chaudhary, executive editor of Tehelka, Delhi and Monalisa Changkija, Editor of Nagaland Page, Dimapur.

Mother Teresa Award, 2010

UGC chairman Sukhadeo Thorat has been given the prestigious Mother Teresa Lifetime Achievement Award for 2010. Thorat, who has authored 21 publications, has been instrumental in introducing several academic and administrative reforms in higher education during ongoing XIth plan.



Cannes film Festival 2010

Feature films

Palme d'Or : LUNG BOONMEE RALUEK CHAT
(Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives)
directed by Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL

Grand Prix

DES HOMMES ET DES DIEUX (OF GODS AND MEN) directed by Xavier BEAUVOIS

Award for Best Director

Mathieu AMALRIC for **TOURNÉE (ON TOUR)**

Award for Best Screenplay

LEE Chang-dong for **POETRY**

Award for Best Actress

Juliette BINOCHE in **COPIE CONFORME (CERTIFIED COPY)** directed by Abbas KIAROSTAMI

Award for Best Actor Ex-aequo

Javier BARDEM in **BIUTIFUL** directed by **Alejandro GONZÁLEZ IÑÁRRITU**
Elio GERMANO in **LA NOSTRA VITA (OUR LIFE)** directed by **Daniele LUCHETTI**

Jury Prize

UN HOMME QUI CRIE (A screaming man) directed by **Mahamat-Saleh HAROUN**

Short Films

Palme d'Or - Short Film

CHIENNE D'HISTOIRE (BARKING ISLAND) directed by Serge AVÉDIKIAN

Jury Prize - Short Film

MICKY BADER (BATHING MICKY) directed by Frida KEMPF



NDTV Tech Life Awards 2010

Winners in the various categories:

- » Best Computing Device: Dell Inspiron Zino DT
- » Best Consumer Electronic Device of the Year: Western Digital HDTV Live Media Player
- » Gadget Eye Candy: Dell Adamo XPS Laptop
- » Best Gaming Product of The Year: Sony Playstation 3 Slim (120 GB)
- » Best Imaging Device of the Year: Canon EOS 550D
- » Best Computer Peripheral of the Year: Microsoft Lifecam Cinema
- » Best Television Display of the Year: Samsung 3D LED TV UA46B7000
- » Best Audio Product of the Year: Philips HTS 7540
- » Best Portable Audio Product of the Year: Bose QuietComfort 15 Acoustic Noise Cancelling Headphones
- » Best SmartPhone of the Year: Motorola Milestone
- » Best Budget Mobile Phone of the Year: Samsung Corby S3653
- » Best Mobile Application of the Year: Opera Mini 5

- » Green Award of the Year: Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- » Celebrity Endorsement of the Year: Kareena Kapoor
- » NDTV Gadget of the Year: (Jury Choice) Broadband on the Move (Tata and Reliance)
- » NDTV Gadget of the Year: (Popular Choice) Samsung LED 3D TV

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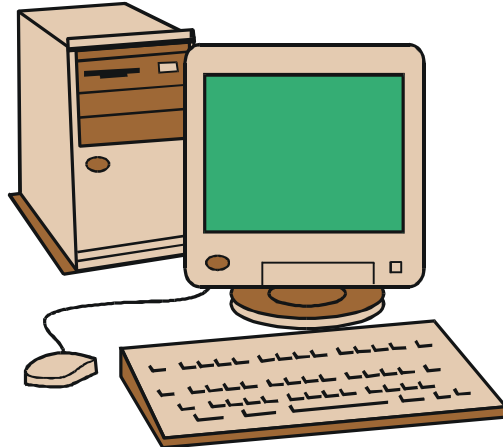
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