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S N Jha



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In The News

APPOINTED

M. Veerappa Moily

Marpadi Veerappa Moily, the petroleum and natural gas Minister on 24 December 2013 took an additional charge of the Environment and Forests Ministry after the exit of Jayanthi Natarajan. The last Environment minister from congress was Jayanthi Natarajan. Marpadi Veerappa Moily (born 12 January 1940) is a congress MP from the state of Karnataka, and the current Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. He was the former Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Power in the Indian government. Moily was elected as MP of the Chickballapur district. Moily was the former Chief Minister (and the first ethnic Tuluva CM) of the Indian state of Karnataka (19 Nov 1992 - 11 Dec 1994). He was elected to Karnataka state legislative assembly from Karkala constituency of Udupi district. He is also currently serving as the All India Congress Committee General Secretary in charge of Andhra Pradesh.

Angela Merkel

Angela Merkel was on 17 December 2013 elected as the German Chancellor for third term by the German Parliament- Bundestag. Angela Merkel's conservative Union bloc - the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) had secured a stunning hat-trick win in the 22 September 2013 elections but failed to grab an outright majority, forcing them to enter into coalition with the rival Social Democrats (SPD). With a whopping 504 of the 631 seats, Angela Merkel's centre-right Christian Democrats Union (CDU) bloc and the SPD now hold a comfortable

majority in the Bundestag, the lower house of parliament. Angela Merkel was confirmed by 462 votes on 17 December 2013, with nine abstentions. For the vote, 621 members of parliament were present, of whom 150 voted against Merkel. Angela Merkel is the third chancellor to win a third four-year term after Helmut Kohl (1982-1998) and Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963). Germany, as the EU's most industrialised and populous state, with its biggest economy, it dominates decision-making for the Eurozone.

Vinod Kumar Duggal

Vinod Kumar Duggal, the former Home Secretary has been appointed the new Governor of Manipur on 23 December 2013. His appointment will come into effect from the date on which, he will assume the charge of the office. He will replace the present Governor of the state, Ashwani Kumar, who was given an additional charge of Manipur, while being a Governor of Nagaland. The post of Manipur Governor had fallen vacant in July 2013, when former Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief Gurbachan Singh Jagat's tenure of five years had ended. Ashwani Kumar was given the additional charge till Duggal appointment. At the time of appointment, he was serving as a member of the National Disaster Management Authority and was in charge of the relief operations after the natural disaster that struck Uttarakhand and Odisha in 2013.

Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed

Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed appointed as Prime Minister by the President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud last week was approved overwhelmingly by the

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Somalian Parliament. Abdiweli replaced outgoing Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon. Abdi was ousted in November 2013 by the Parliament following a rift with the Somali President over policy differences. In the voting held for the endorsement of the new Prime Minister in the Parliament, 239 votes out of total 243 were put in favour of Abdiweli. The result was announced by the Somali Parliament Speaker Mohamed Sheikh Osman Jawari on 22 December 2013. The endorsement of Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed as Prime Minister was welcomed by the head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) Nicholas Kay.

About Somalia

Somalia is a country located in the Horn of Africa and its capital is Mogadishu. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. Somalia has the longest coastline on the mainland.

Somalia's Political System:

Somalia was renamed as Federal Republic of Somalia on 20 August 2012 following the end of interim mandate provided by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). The TFG was formed in November 2004 as part of Roadmap for the End of Transition, which was a political process that provided clear benchmarks leading toward the establishment of permanent democratic institutions in Somalia by late August 2012. Concurrent with the end of the TFG's interim mandate on 20 August 2012, the Federal Parliament of Somalia was inaugurated, ushering in the Federal Government of Somalia, the first permanent central government in the country since the start of the civil war in 1991.

Federal Parliament:

Federal Parliament of Somalia is 225-member bicameral parliament comprising of an upper house seating 54 Senators as well as a lower house. 30% of the total seats in the Parliament are earmarked for women. The President is appointed via a constitutional election. The President selects a Prime Minister, who then appoints a Cabinet.

Lal Thanhawla

Lal Thanhawla of Congress party has sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram for the second successive term on 14 December 2013. Governor of Mizoram, Vakkom B. Purushothaman administered the oath of office and secrecy to Lal Thanhawla and his Cabinet colleagues at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl. The first session of the seventh Mizoram Assembly will commence on 16 December 2013. Lal Thanhawla was formally elected as its leader by Congress Legislature Party on 11 December 2013. The result of the Mizoram Assembly polls, held on 25 November 2013 was declared on 9 December 2013. In the elections, Congress swept 34 seats of the 40 seats and the main opposition parties, Mizo National Front (MNF) was able to secure only five seats and Mizoram People's Conference (MPC) secured only one berth.

S.B. Nayar

S.B. Nayar was appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of India Infrastructure Finance Co. Ltd (IIFCL). IIFCL is a state-owned firm that funds infrastructure projects. Nayar will have a term of three years. He presently works as head of Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCIL), another state-owned financier.

About IIFCL:

India Infrastructure Finance Corporation Ltd (IIFCL) was incorporated in 2006 as a wholly-owned Government of India company. It was set up as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to provide long term finance to viable infrastructure projects. A SPV is a legal entity formed to direct the resources for a single, well defined and narrow purpose. In India, the genesis of SPV is found in the Union Budget 2005-06.

Ranjan Mathai

Ranjan Mathai, the former Foreign Secretary of India on 9 December 2013 took over as the India's High Commissioner to the UK. He has succeeded Jaimini Bhagwati, who retired recently from the post.

Ashraf Jehan

Ashraf Jehan a female judge on 30 December 2013 sworn-in at Pakistan's national sharia court which hears cases under the Islamic legislation.

Ashraf Jehan took oath and became the first female judge to be appointed in the court's history. She was serving as an additional judge at the Sindh High Court. The Court was established during the rule of military dictator Ziaul Haq as part of his policy towards Islamisation of Pakistan's institutions. The law is also known as the Hudood Laws, which run parallel to the penal code.

Anurag Bhushan

Anurag Bhushan, a career diplomat on 30 December 2013 took charge as the Consul General of India in Dubai and Northern Emirates in the UAE. Before taking the charge as the Consul General, he was serving as the head of the Regional passport office in New Delhi. He is the 14th Consul General of India in Dubai, since 1973 and he is the successor of Sanjay Verma, who has been appointed as the ambassador of India to Ethiopia. He joined the Indian Foreign services in 1995. Apart from being the Consul General of India in Dubai, his other overseas assignments have included economic, commercial, visa and administration responsibilities in Dhaka, political, information and cultural work in Tokyo and administration wings in the Indian Embassy in Berlin. While being at the Foreign Service Instituted in New Delhi, he was responsible for training the foreign diplomats as well as Indian Foreign officers. He is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur and holds a Post Graduate Diploma degree in Executive Management from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Sushma Singh

Ms. Sushma Singh, a former IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed as the next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India and will succeed Ms. Deepak Sandhu, whose term is ending on 31 December 2013. She will become the second woman to be appointed as the CIC after Deepak Sandhu. The decision on appointing Ms Singh as the next CIC was taken unanimously by a panel comprising Prime Minister Manmohan Singh,

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj and Law Minister Kapil Sibal. After retiring from Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 2009, Ms Singh became Information Commissioner on September 23, 2009 in the Central Information Commission.

She has served at various Secretarial positions in the Government of India, namely Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region (DONER).

J.N.Chaudhary

J.N.Chaudhary was appointed as new head of NSG (National Security Guard) on 26 December 2013. He is a 1978 batch IPS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre. J.N.Chaudhary got his name clear from the Union Home Ministry.

He will take his charge from incumbent Arvind Ranjan. He had also served in Intelligence Bureau. He is due to retire in may 2015.

Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

The Union Government on 13 December 2013 appointed Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as the Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for a period of five years. Prior to this appointment, Bhanwala was an Executive Director at India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), a state-owned infrastructure lender. Bhanwala succeeds Prakash Bakshi, who retired as NABARD Chairman in September 2013. Before joining IIFCL, Bhanwala was senior vice president in IL&FS Water Ltd, which was involved in development work in water and waste water projects. He has also worked in various capacities as an officer in NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development) and was the Managing Director of Delhi State Cooperative Bank Ltd (DSCB) during its turning around (2000 to 2005).

Lt Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag

Eastern Army Command, Lieutenant General Dalbir Singh Suhag on 12 December 2013 was designated as the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCoAS).

He will take over from Lieutenant General SK Singh as the Vice Chief of Army Staff retires on 31 December 2013. He will be replaced by Lieutenant General MMS Rai at the Kolkata based Eastern Army Command. Lieutenant General Arun Kumar Sahni will head the Jaipur-based Southwestern Army Command. It is expected that, Lieutenant General Suhag by seniority after the post of Vice Chief of Army Staff would succeed as the Chief of the Indian Army Staff, after the retirement of General Bikram Singh on 31 July 2014. Earlier, the former Army Chief V K Singh in 2012 imposed a promotion ban on him for disciplinary reasons. The ban was later lifted by Gen Bikram Singh.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar became the Ambassador of US in December 2013. He is the successor of Nirupama Rao and his position in Beijing will be taken by Ashok K. Kanthia.

Jaishankar, who has played a key role in negotiation of US-India nuclear agreement, was named as the next Ambassador to the USA on 14 September 2013.

Ahmet Uzumcu

Ambassador Ahmet Uzumcu on 4 December 2013 was re-appointed as the OPCW Director General at the 18th Session of the Conference of State Parties. This will be his second term in the office. The Director-General called 2013 a truly historical year in his statement during the opening of the conference as the year has witnessed an unprecedented challenge for the OPCW in the form of eliminating Syria's chemical weapons in the midst of an active war.

Siddharth Birla

Sidharth Birla, Chairman of Xpro India Limited took the charge as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on 21 December 2013. Sidharth Birla succeeded the HSBC India Country Head Naina Lal Kidwai. Chairperson and Managing Director of Bharat Hotels, Joytsna Suri elected as Senior Vice-President of FICCI and Chairman of Ambuja Neotia group, Harshavardhan Neotia as Vice-President of FICCI.

CVR Rajendran

CVR Rajendran was on 13 December 2013 appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Andhra Bank. He was appointed by Union Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Rajendran is appointed for a period of five years or until superannuation, whichever is earlier. He is due to superannuate in April 2015. Prior to this post, Rajendran was Executive Director of Bank of Maharashtra. Rajendran started his career in Corporation Bank, and has experience in international banking and investment banking, among other divisions. He also held the post of general manager of the treasury and information technology division of Corporation Bank.

Krishna Iyer

Krishna Iyer was appointed President and CEO of Wal-Mart India. It was announced by the US retail giant Wal-Mart on 13 December 2013. The appointment will be effective January 20, 2014, the company said in a statement. Iyer, who will report to Wal-Mart Asia regional President and CEO Scott Price, will replace interim CEO Ramnik Narsey, who is taking a new role as senior vice president, Wal-Mart International. According to Scott Price, president and CEO of Wal-Mart Asia, Krish will be responsible for leading the growth and success of our India operations while also continuing to develop our future retail strategy there.

Devendra Kumar Pathak

Devendra Kumar Pathak has been appointed as the Special DG, Border Security Force (BSF) on 30 December 2013. At the time of his appointment in BSF, he was serving as the Special DG, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). His appointment as the Special DG, BSF started with immediate effect and will continue till the date of superannuation in March 2016 or until any further orders. Pathak is an (Indian Police Service) IPS of 1989-batch of Assam-Meghalaya cadres. He has been serving Central Reserve Police Force since 11 November 2011.

P.H. Parekh

Senior advocate P.H. Parekh has been

appointed as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for 2013-14. This is Mr. Parekh's sixth term as SCBA President.

Arvind Ranjan

Arvind Ranjan was appointed the full time chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on 26 December 2013. Ranjan's name for the post was cleared by Union Home Ministry. He is a 1977 batch Kerala cadre IAS officer. Ranjan took over his charge from January. He will take his charge from incumbent Director General Rajiv.

Shivakumar appointed as the CEO of PepsiCo India

D Shivakumar was appointed as the Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo India. The post was lying vacant since Manu Anand quit the US food and beverage maker PepsiCo India in June 2013 to join foods company Cadbury Kraft.

He will now be responsible for the strategic deployment of the Rs 33,000-crore investment in the country announced by the company in November 2013. In his new role, Shivakumar will oversee all aspects of PepsiCo's India business, which includes food and beverage brands such as Pepsi, Frito Lay's potato chips, Slice mango beverage, Kurkure snacks, Tropicana juices and Quaker oats. Besides, he will also oversee the business of NourishCo – a joint venture with Tata Global Beverage – and franchise businesses in Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Shivakumar will report to Sanjeev Chadha, CEO - PepsiCo Asia, Middle East and Africa (AMEA). Shivakumar is PepsiCo India's first outsider CEO since Rajeev Bakshi, who led the firm from 2001 to 2006. D Shivakumar is an engineer from IIT-Chennai and an MBA from IIM-Calcutta and has worked at Hindustan Unilever, Philips and Nokia.

Pradeep Kumar

P Pradeep Kumar on 29 December 2013 was appointed as the Managing Director (Corporate Banking) of State Bank of India (SBI), the biggest lender of the country. As one of the four managing Directors, he will look after the corporate banking

portfolio of the bank. As per a Government of India's notification P Pradeep Kumar will be the Managing Director and Group Executive (Corporate Banking) of SBI with effect from 27 December 2013.

The position will be occupied by him till the end of October 2015. Pradeep Kumar is a post graduate in Statistics and he joined SBI in 1976 as a probationary officer. He has held several key assignments, which includes bank's US operations. He has served State Bank of Travancore as its managing Director.

At the time of his appointment at this position, he served as the deputy managing director and group executive of the corporate banking group that looks after the corporate accounts and project finance of the bank.

Usha Sangwan

Usha Sangwan was appointed as the first woman managing director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) by the Government. She is the first woman director of LIC in its near six decades of existence. With this appointment, LIC is set to function at its full strength of four MDs after almost two years. These would be S B Mainak, Sushobhan Sarkar, Sangwan and V K Sharma.

Imomali Rakhmon

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

Imomali Rakhmon belongs to People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan (PDPT). The President of Tajikistan is elected by popular vote. The term of the office is 7 years. The term of the President of Tajikistan is limited to not more than two terms. However, a constitutional amendment passed in 2003 allows President Imomali Rakhmon to run for a third term which, if he prevails, would keep him in office until 2020.

Justice Ajit Prakash Shah

Union Government on 22 November 2013 appointed Justice Ajit Prakash Shah as the new Chairman of the 20th Law Commission of India. Justice Ajit Prakash Shah succeeded **Justice D. K.**

Jain who resigned in October 2013 to take over as the President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. Justice Ajit Prakash Shah was born on 13 February, 1948 at Solapur, Maharashtra. He started practice at Solapur district Court and shifted to the Bombay High Court in the year 1977. He was Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi from May 2008 till his retirement in February 2010. He is known for his bold judgments, especially concerning social issues, including the world-headliner July 2009 ruling that found India's 150-year-old statute prohibiting homosexual acts (Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code) as discriminatory and, therefore, a "violation of fundamental rights".

20th Law Commission of India

The 20th Law Commission of India was constituted with the Order of the Government of India with effect from 1 September 2012. It has a three-year term ending on 31st August, 2015. The commission would be responsible for identification of obsolete laws and suggest measures suitable for quick grievance handling and redressal of the citizens. It would also be examining the laws that effects poor and suggest measures which would help in harnessing the law and the legal process for the economically weaker and poor section of the society.

Abdullah Yameen

Abdulla Yameen, the candidate of Progressive Party of Maldives on 16 November 2013 defeated the former premier, Mohammed Nasheed to win the Maldivian Presidential elections. Election Commission of Maldives announced the result of the election on 16 November 2013, in which Yameen defeated Mohamed Nasheed of Maldivian Democratic Party with a margin of six thousand votes. Yameen secured 51.39 percent (1 lakh 11 thousand) of votes, whereas Mohamed Nasheed received 48.61 (1 lakh 5 thousand votes). 45 foreign observers and 22 foreign monitors saw the transparency and credibility of the election. The winning candidate Abdullah Yameen will be sworn in as the President at a special seating of the Majlis, the Maldivian Parliament.

Neeraj Sahai

Neeraj Sahai, Indian-American has appointed as president of Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, the world's largest ratings firm. He was appointed by McGraw Hill Financial Company. Neeraj Sahai (56) will assume his new role at Standard & Poor's from 6 January 2014. Neeraj Sahai, who did his master's in economics from the University of Delhi, is currently head of Citi's Securities and Fund Services business and also acts as chief fiduciary officer of Citigroup. He succeeds Douglas Peterson, who became president and chief executive officer of McGraw Hill Financial on 1 November 2013.

Nisha Desai Biswal

Nisha Desai Biswal was on 21 November 2013 sworn in as the US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia. United States Secretary of State John K Kerry administered the oath to Nisha Desai Biswal as she was sworn in as the US Assistant Secretary of State at the George Marshall East Auditorium of the White House. Nisha Desai Biswal took over charge from **Robert Blake**, who moved recently to Indonesia as ambassador. Before her appointment to this position, Biswal was assistant administrator for Asia at the US Agency for International Development. Nisha Desai Biswal will oversee the US Foreign Policy and relations at the State Department for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This is the first time an **Indian-American** is heading the South Asia Bureau, a new milestone for the Indian community.

Satyananda Mishra

Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd on 27 November 2013 appointed Satyananda Mishra as the chairman of MCX's board. Market Regulatory authority, the **Forward Markets Commission (FMC)** also approved the appointment of Satyananda Mishra as the independent Director of MCX's board for a period up to 31 March 2016. The previous chairman of MCX, Venkat Chary, resigned in August 2013 due to the new guidelines of Forward Markets Commission (FMC). The FMC

new guidelines stated that the age limit of people on the board should not be more than 70 years.

Kushal Das

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on 20 November 2013 reappointed Kushal Das as AIFF General Secretary for a second term of another three years. Kushal Das, who had served as Chief Financial Officer of the ICC and International Management Group (IMG) India, was appointed as AIFF General Secretary in November 2010. The Executive Committee of AIFF also approved the recommendations of AIFF Technical Committee to extend the contract of national team coach Wim Koevermans and Technical Director Rob Baan by one year. National football team coach **Wim Koevermans**' contract was extended till October 2014. Besides the national team, Koevermans will also be in charge on India's campaign in 2014 Incheon Asian Games. In June 2012, The All India Football Federation appointed former **Netherlands** football player Wilhelmus Jacobus Koevermans, popularly known as **Wim Koevermans**, as the new head coach of the Indian national football team.

Parvinder Sohi Behuria

Parvinder Sohi Behuria, a Senior IRS officer was appointed as the Secretary General of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on 8 November 2013. Behuria was appointed in the rank and pay of the secretary. She is the successor of Ashok Sahu, a 1975 batch officer of Indian Economic Service, following his retirement. She is a 1977 batch IRS (Income Tax) officer. At present, she is the Member (Revenue) in Central Board of Direct Taxes under the Department of Revenue.

Usha Ananthasubramanian

The Union Government on 12 November 2013 appointed Usha Ananthasubramanian as the chairperson and managing director of public sector Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB), the first women's bank. Before joining BMB, she was an Executive Director with Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Usha Ananthasubramanian started her career in the actuarial department with LIC and banking

career in February 1982 with Bank of Baroda. She holds a master's degree in statistics from the University of Madras and a master's degree in ancient Indian culture from University of Mumbai.

During her tenure at Punjab National Bank, she was part of the panel formed for examination of the blueprint and other issues for setting up of the women's bank. The panel's report paved the way for India's first public sector women's bank.

About Bharatiya Mahila Bank

- The bank aims to service women and women-run businesses, support women's self-help groups and their livelihoods and promote further financial inclusion.
- An only-for-women bank first time in India.
- The Union Cabinet cleared the proposal for setting up of all-women bank on August 2013.
- The Reserve Bank of India gave its in-principal approval for the Bharatiya Mahila Bank in June 2013 and the banking company was set up.
- The Union government approved 1000 crore Rupees seed capital for the women-focused public sector bank, announced by Union finance minister P. Chidambaram in his 2013-14 budget speech.
- One of the key objectives of the bank is to focus on the banking needs of women and promote economic empowerment.

Five Central Information Commissioners appointed

Five new Information Commissioners are appointed to the Central Information Commission (CIC) on 22 November 2013. Chief Information Commissioner Deepak Sandhu administered the oath of office to them in New Delhi. The new commissioners are Yashovardhan Azad, Sharat Sabharwal, Manjula Parasher, M A Khan Yusufi and Madabhushanam Sridhar Acharyulu. With this the total number of Information Commissioners including the Chief Information Commissioner has gone up to 10.

1. **Yashovardhan Azad**, a former IPS Officer, before joining the Office of Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission,

- was holding the post of Secretary (Security) in Cabinet Secretariat.
2. **Sharat Sabharwal** a career diplomat, retired as High Commissioner of India in Pakistan before joining the Office of Information Commissioner.
 3. **Manjula Parasher** a former Indian Postal Service Officer had retired as Secretary from the Department of Posts before joining the Office of Information Commissioner.
 4. **MA Khan Yusufi**, a former Indian Legal Service Officer, before joining the Office of Information Commissioner in CIC was holding the post of Chairperson in Airport Appellate Tribunal.
 5. **Madhbhushanam Sridhar Acharyulu** was working as Professor at NALSAR, before joining the Office of Information Commissioner in CIC.

G. K. Pillai

G.K. Pillai, the former Union Home Secretary on 1 November 2013 was appointed as the Chairman of the MCX-SX. Thomas Mathew T, the former acting chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation has also been appointed as the Vice President of the bourse. The appointments were cleared by the board of directors on 24 October 2013 and have been also cleared by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). In October 2013, SEBI had also renewed the license of the exchange after extensively exam the same.

Sachin Tendulkar

Indian Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar on 28 November 2013 appointed as UNICEF's first brand ambassador for South Asia. Sachin Tendulkar will work for promoting hygiene and sanitation in the South Asian region for two years. Sachin Tendulkar was already involving with the UNICEF campaigns for polio and global hand washing. According to UNICEF, almost half the population in India defecates in the open and 681 million people practice open defecation in South Asia. Children under five years of age are the most vulnerable to the effects of poor sanitation and annually more than half a million children in South Asia die of

diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, poor hygiene and lack of sanitation. After sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia is the region with the highest number of under-five deaths, accounting for 2.3 million in 2011. Around 39 percent of children under five are stunted in this region which is also the worst in terms of lack of toilets; over 680 million people do not use toilets.

R. Banumathi

Justice R. Banumathi, Judge of the Madras High Court was on 12 November 2013 appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court. She was appointed by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. The Supreme Court's collegium has cleared her elevation as Chief Justice in August 2013 and the Union government has taken three months to process and notify the appointment. **Justice R. Banumathi** (58) entered the Tamil Nadu Higher Judicial Service in 1988 as a direct recruit district judge. She worked as District and Sessions Judge in Coimbatore and Vellore, and Principal District and Sessions Judge in Pudukottai, Madras, Tirunelveli and Salem. She also worked as Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chennai. She was made a judge of the Madras High Court on 3 April 2003.

According to clause (1) of **Article 217 of the Constitution of India** every Chief Justice of the High Court shall be appointed by the President of India after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the concerned State. In the case of appointment of a Judge of the High court, the President will also consult the concerned Chief Justice High Court. The Jharkhand High Court came into existence after reorganisization of state of Bihar in existing state of Bihar and Jharkhand on **15 November 2000**.

Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar

Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was sworn in as the 22nd Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh by Governor Ram Naresh Yadav at Raj Bhavan, Bhopal on 24 November 2013. He was appointed by President of India, under the Article 217 of the Constitution of India. Justice Khanwilkar was earlier the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh and has also been a judge in the Bombay High Court.

He was preceded by Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde who was elevated to the Supreme Court in April 2013. Justice Khanwilkar will take office at the principal seat of the MP High Court in Jabalpur on 26 November 2013.

Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was born on 30 July, 1957 at Pune, Maharashtra. He completed Bachelor of Commerce from Mulund College of Commerce, Mumbai University.

Bachelor of Laws from K.C. Law College, Mumbai University. He Enrolled as Advocate on 10 February, 1982. According to clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India every Chief Justice of the High Court shall be appointed by the President of India after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the concerned State. In the case of appointment of a Judge of the High court, the President will also consult the concerned Chief Justice High Court.

G B Pradhan

Union Government of India appointed on 17 October 2013 Gireesh B. Pradhan, former Secretary of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, as the Chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

About Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission is a statutory body functioning under section 76 of the Electricity Act 2003.
- It was initially constituted under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 on 24 July 1998.

Main Functions of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

- to regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government
- to regulate the inter-State transmission of electricity
- to determine tariff for inter-State transmission of electricity
- to issue licenses to persons to function as transmission licensee and electricity trader

- with respect to their inter-State operations
- to adjudicate upon disputes involving generating companies or transmission licensee
- to specify Grid Code having regard to Grid Standards;
- to specify and enforce the standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of service by licensees;
- to fix the trading margin in the inter-State trading of electricity, if considered, necessary;
- to discharge such other functions as may be assigned under the Act.

Ranjan Mathai

Former Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on 30 September 2013 was appointed as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He will succeed noted economist and veteran diplomat Dr Jaimini Bhagwati. However, he will take up the charge of the office later.

Arunendra Kumar

Arunendra Kumar was on 16 October 2013 appointed as Chairman of Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) and ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India.

Prior to this appointment he was acting as additional charge of Chairman of Railway Board since 1 July 2013 besides his regular posting as Member (Mechanical) Railway Board and ex officio Secretary to the Government of India.

Mulatu Teshome

Ethiopia's parliament on 7 October 2013 elected **Mulatu Teshome** as the country's new president for a six-year term. Mulatu Teshome will replace **Girma Wolde Giorgis**, who first took the post in 2001 and was re-elected in 2007.

Mulatu Teshome was elected at a joint session of the House of Peoples Representatives (HPR) and the House of Federation (HoF). Mulatu Teshome is the Fourth president of Ethiopia

Syed Ibne Abbas

Government of Pakistan decided on 9 October

2013 to appoint Pakistani veteran diplomat Syed Ibne Abbas as the new Pakistani envoy to India. He will succeed by Salman Bashir.

S.Varadarajan

S. Varadarajan on 1 October 2013 took over charge as chairman and managing director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). S.Varadarajan has succeeded R.K. Singh. Prior to his appointment as the CMD, Varadarajan was serving as the Director (finance) of the company.

Arup Raha

The Government of India on 29 October 2013 decided to appoint Air Marshal Arup Raha as the next Chief of the Air Staff. He will take the charge after the retirement of present Chief of the Air Staff NAK Browne on 31 December 2013. Air Marshal Arup Raha is presently the Vice Chief of Air Staff.

Tarun Chatarjee

The Uttar Pradesh Government on 25 October 2013 appointed retired Justice Tarun Chaterjee as the new chairman of the state Human Rights Commission. State government also nominated Justice UK Dhawan and Asha Tiwari as the members of the Commission. Tarun Chaterjee (68-year-old) was the chief justice at the Allahabad high court in 2003 and retired as a Supreme Court judge in 2010. The name of Tarun Chaterjee was cleared by a high-powered committee comprising Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, leader of opposition in both houses Naseemuddin Siddiqui and Swamy Prasad Maurya.

Arundhati Bhattacharya

Arundhati Bhattacharya on 7 October 2013 took over as the Chairperson of the State Bank of India (SBI). She is the first woman to take charge as the Chairperson of SBI, the largest bank of India. She succeeded Pratip Chaudhuri who retired on 30 September 2013.

P.S. Raghavan

P.S. Raghvan was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Russia on 28 October 2013. At present, Raghvan, the IFS of 1979 batch is serving

as the current Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He will succeed Ajai Malhotra, who will retire on 30 November 2013. Raghvan is expected to join the assignment shortly.

Sigrid Kaag

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed on 16 October 2013 Sigrid Kaag as head of the joint mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations. The main objective of the OPCW-UN Mission is to eradicate chemical weapons in Syria.

While announcing her as Special Coordinator, Ban Ki-moon told that Sigrid Kaag will be responsible for overseeing all activities on the ground undertaken by the OPCW and United Nations personnel.

About Sigrid Kaag

- Sigrid Kaag (The Netherlands) worked as UN Secretary-General as Assistant Secretary-General/Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy of the United Nations Development Programme in May 2010.
- Prior to joining UNDP, from 2007 to 2010, Ms. Kaag was acted as UNICEF's Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa based in Amman, Jordan.
- She served as the Chief of Staff for UNICEF's Executive Director and as Deputy Director of Programmes in New York.
- She also served as Senior UN Adviser in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Khartoum, Sudan.
- She was the Chief of Donor Relations with the International Organization for Migration, and Senior Programme Manager with the External Relations Office of the UN Relief and Works Agency in Jerusalem, covering Lebanon, Jordan, the occupied Palestinian territory and the Syrian Arab Republic from 1998 to 2004.
- Before joining the UN system in 1994, Ms. Kaag served with the Ministry of Foreign

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Affairs of The Netherlands, and as Deputy Head of Sector in its UN Political Affairs Department in The Hague.

- Sigrid Kaag holds a Master's of Philosophy in International Relations of the Middle East from Exeter University and a Master's in International Relations from St. Antony's College, University of Oxford.

Subhas Goswami

Subhas Goswami, director of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy appointed as the Director General (DG) of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on 30 October 2013. He will succeed Ajay Chadha, IPS.

DEATH

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid revolutionary of South Africa died on 5 November 2013. He was of 95 years old. He died in his house at Johannesburg following a long illness. He was also known as Madiba in South Africa. He was receiving intensive medical care at home for a lung infection after spending three months in hospital. His death was announced by the South African President, Jacob Zuma. He announced that Mandela will receive a full state funeral and the flags would be flown at half-mast until the state funeral. Nelson Mandela was one of the world's most revered statesman for preaching reconciliation despite being imprisoned for 27 years. He was the first black South African to hold the office of President from 1994 to 1999, and the first elected in a fully representative multiracial election. Mandela was married three times, fathered six children and had 17 grandchildren. The three wives were Evelyn Ntoko Mase, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Graca Machel Mandela.

About Nelson Mandela

- He was born on 1918 in Eastern Cape
- He joined the African National Congress in 1943
- In 1962, he was arrested and was convicted of incitement and leaving country without a passport. He was sentenced to five years in prison

- In 1964, he was charged with sabotage, sentenced to life
- He was freed from the prison in 1990
- In 1999, he stepped down as leader
- In 2001, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer

Awards received by Nelson Mandela

Mandela has received more than two hundred and fifty awards over four decades, some of the awards are:

- He was the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993
- He was the recipient of Bharat Ratna and Mahatma Gandhi peace award
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 18 July, Mandela's birthday, as Mandela Day, for his contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle
- In 1973 a nuclear particle discovered by scientists at the University of Leeds was named Mandela nelson
- In 1979 he became the recipient of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations New Delhi, India
- In 1981, a panel of International Judges, Vienna, Austria, chose him for the Bruno Kreisky Award for merit in the field of human rights

Politically an African nationalist and democratic socialist, he served as the President of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1991 to 1997. Internationally, Mandela was the Secretary General of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1998 to 1999. Mandela served 27 years in prison, initially on **Robben Island**, and later in **Pollsmoor Prison** and **Victor Verster Prison**. Mandela published his autobiography **Long Walk to Freedom** and opened negotiations with President F.W. de Klerk to abolish apartheid and establish multiracial elections in 1994, in which he led the ANC to victory. As South Africa's first black President Mandela **formed a Government of National Unity** in an attempt to defuse racial tension. He also **promulgated a new constitution and created the Truth and Reconciliation**

Commission to investigate past human rights abuses. Continuing the former government's liberal economic policy, his administration introduced measures to encourage land reform, combat poverty, and expand healthcare services. Internationally, he acted as mediator between Libya and the United Kingdom in the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial, and oversaw military intervention in Lesotho. He declined to run for a second term, and was **succeeded by his deputy, Thabo Mbeki**. Mandela subsequently became an elder statesman, focusing on charitable work in combating poverty and HIV/AIDS through the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Awarded the **US Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Order of Canada** he was the first living person to be made an honorary Canadian citizen. The last recipient of the Soviet Union's **Lenin Peace Prize** from the Soviet Union, in 1992 received Pakistan's **Nishan-e-Pakistan**. In 1992 he was awarded the **Atatürk Peace Award by Turkey** which he accepted in 1999. Elizabeth II awarded him the **Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order of St. John** and the **Order of Merit**.

Farooq Sheikh

Veteran Bollywood actor Farooq Sheikh died on 28 December 2013 due to heart attack in Dubai. He died at the age of 65 and was born on 25 March 1948. He is survived by wife Rupa and daughters Shaista and Sanaa. He was best known for roles in films like Garam Hawa (1973), Shatranj Ke Khiladi (1977), Noorie (1979), Chashme Baddoor (1981), Umrao Jaan (1981), Bazaar (1982) and Kissi Se Na Kehna (1983). He won 2010 National Film Award for best supporting actor in Lahore (a sports film). He started his Bollywood career in 1973 with Garam Hawa and his last performance was in 'Club 60'. Earlier he was seen in the film Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani in 2013. He was a theatre personality. He was the host of the popular show Jeena Issi Ka Naam Hai on television, in which he interviewed the celebrities of Bollywood. Sheikh worked with Directors like Satyajit Ray, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Muzaffar Ali. He started his Bollywood career in 1973 with Garam Hawa and his last performance was in Club 60. Earlier, he was seen in the film Yeh

Jawaani Hai Deewani in 2013. He was a theatre personality. He was the host of the popular show Jeena Issi Ka Naam Hai on television, in which he interviewed the celebrities of Bollywood. Sheikh worked with Directors like Satyajit Ray, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Muzaffar Ali.

Marthanda Varma

Uthradom Thirunal Marthanda Varma, head of Travancore royal family who ruled south Kerala before Independence died on 16 December 2013 due to cardiac arrest. He was 92 years of age. Varma was the younger brother of the last ruler of Travancore, Chithira Tirunal Balarama Varma. He assumed as the head of the royal family after the death of Balarama Varma. Varma was the chairman of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, recently where a treasure worth of 1 lakh crore rupees was discovered.

Mikhail Kalashnikov

Mikhail Kalashnikov, who invented the AK47 weapon died at the age of 94 due to ill-health on 23 December 2013 in Izhevsk, Udmurtia province of Russian Republic. Kalashnikov worked as weapon designer for the Soviet Union's Red Army during World War II. He designed the AK47 (Avtomat Kalashnikov), which was officially accepted by the Soviet in 1947. Kalashnikov was decorated with numerous honors including the Hero of Socialist Labour and Order of Lenin and Stalin Prize.

About AK47

The AK first used in East Berlin riots in 1953 and the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. AK47 is the world's most popular firearm favored by guerrillas, terrorists and the soldiers of many armies. The weapon was simple, easy to use and maintain. It was reliable in any extreme conditions (hot, cold, wet or sandy).

Sis Ram Ola

The Union Labour Minister, Sis Ram Ola died on 15 December 2013 after a prolonged illness in Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon, Haryana. He was of 83 years in age. He took over as the Labour Minister

in June 2013 after Mallikarjun Kharge was shifted to Railways. Under the UPA 1 Government under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he served as the as Labour Minister and Union Cabinet Minister of Mines. In the 11th Lok Sabha in 1996, he was elected and served as an Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers (Independent Charge) from 1996 to 1997. From 1997 to 1998, he served as a Union Minister of State for Water Resources (Independent Charge). In 1968, he became a recipient of Padma Shri award for social work

Shivarudrappa

The renowned Kannada, Rashtrakavi G. S. Shivarudrappa, poet died on 23 December 2013 in Bangalore. He was 87. He is known as the new age poet of Kannada in literary circles and his poems are acclaimed for balancing images and emotions.

Michiaki Takahashi

Dr. Michiaki Takahashi who developed a vaccine for the chicken pox virus died at the age of 85 due to heart failure on 23 December 2013 in Osaka, Japan. Takahashi developed the vaccine for the chicken pox in 1972, within few years Japan and some other countries had begun vaccination programs. The vaccine did not treat the disease, but it prompted immune systems to produce antibodies.

Ronnie Biggs

Ronnie Biggs who took part in the Great Train Robbery in Britain in 1963 died at the Carlton Court Care Home in East Barnet, north London on 18 December 2013 due to multiple strokes. He was 84 years old. The Great Train Robbery was called the Crime of the Century. The gang, of which Biggs was a part, escaped with 2.6 million pound (equivalent to 40 million pounds today) from the Glasgow to London mail train on 8 August 1963. He was given a 30-year sentence in 1964, but he escaped after 15 months by fleeing over the walls of London's Wandsworth prison in April 1965. He was again jailed in 2001 after being on the run for 36 years, mainly in Australia and Brazil. He was finally freed in 2009 on "compassionate grounds" by then Justice Secretary Jack Straw who said he

was not expected to recover. Christopher Pickard was the ghost writer of Biggs autobiography titled Odd Man Out. It was published in 1994. He was generally referred as the 'tea-boy' or 'The Brain'. The BBC would be releasing two film dramas made on Biggs. The name of films are A Robber's Tale and A Copper's Tale.

Narasimharaja Wodeyar

The last King of the erstwhile Mysore royal family, Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar passed away in Bangalore on 10 December 2013 due to heart attack. Maharaja Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar Bahadur also known as Srikanta Wodeyar was the last prince of Mysore Kingdom under Wodeyar dynasty. Wodeyar Dynasty ruled the Kingdom of Mysore between 1399 and 1950. Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar was born in 1953. He was the only son of Maharaja Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar, the last ruling Maharaja of Mysore and his second wife Maharani Tripura Sundari Ammani Avaru. He was elected as a Member of Parliament representing the Mysore Parliamentary Constituency four times as a candidate of Indian National Congress. Besides politics, he also had keen interest in fashion designing and was a regular at fashion shows. He used to design for his own brand of silk sarees -

Royal Silk. Maharaja Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar Bahadur was the last link with the Mysore city's royal past. He played a key role in conducting the ten-day Dasara celebrations each year in Mysore city. Every year the famous Mysore **Dasara festival** draws lakhs of tourists from across the world.

Pran Chopra

Pran Chopra, the veteran journalist and first editor of The Statesman died on 22 December 2013 at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. Born in 1921 in Lahore, Pran began his journalism in 1941 in civil and military gazette. In 1940s he served All India Radio as a War Correspondent in China and Vietnam. He wrote the foreword of the book If I'm Assassinated a book of former Pakistan Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.



The Editor's Guild of India has condoled the death of Chopra, who was the former executive member of the body.

Paul Walker

US actor Paul Walker died in a car accident in Southern California on 30 November 2013. He was 40. The incident occurred while he was coming back from his organization's charity event.

Paul Walker was working on the latest **"Fast & Furious"** movie at the time of his death. He also starred in the suspense drama, **"Hours"**, a movie that is set for release in December 2013.

The actor, who is best known for playing Brian O'Conner in the 'Fast & Furious' film series, has also done films like 'Into the Blue', 'She's All That', 'Eight Below' and 'Takers' among others. Paul William Walker IV was born on 12 September 1973. He became famous in 1999 after his role in the hit film Varsity Blues.

Paul Torday

Paul Torday, the British businessman who turned an author died on 19 December 2013 at the age of 67 in Northumberland. His debut novel Salmon Fishing in the Yemen was his comic best seller. Publisher, Weidenfeld and Nicolson announced about his death. His novel, Salmon Fishing won the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize in 2007 and went on to be filmed in 2011 and starred Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt. It also won the Waverton Good Read Award in 2008 and has been sold over 500000 copies in the UK. Light Shining in the Forest was his most recent novel and was published in 2013

Peter O' Toole

Peter O' Toole, the Lawrence of Asia star, died on 14 December 2013 at the Wellington Hospital in London after a prolong illness. He was 81 years. He began his acting career in 1955 with Bristol Old Vic theater and played notable role in Hamlet and Shylock in the Merchant of Venice. These stage plays were critically acclaimed.

He moved to films with a small role in Walt Disney's family adventure Kidnapped in 1960. He shot to stardom with the title role of Lawrence of

Arabia, which earned seven Oscars, including best picture and director for David Lean. Peter O'Toole's grand performance as British adventurer T.E. Lawrence brought him his first best-actor nomination but set him on an unenviable path of Oscar futility. His eight losses without a win is a record among actors.

O'Toole earned best-actor Oscar nominations for Becket (1964), The Lion in Winter (1968), Goodbye, Mr. Chips (1969), The Ruling Class (1972), The Stunt Man (1980) and My Favorite Year (1982). Seamus Peter O'Toole was born Aug. 2, 1932, the son of Irish bookie Patrick 'Spats' Peter O'Toole and his wife Constance. There is some question about whether Peter was born in Connemara, Ireland, or in Leeds, northern England, where he grew up. A Book titled Hellraisers: The Life and Times of Burton, Harris, O'Toole & Reed written by Robert Seller talks about the life of three Hollywood actors who were contemporaries of each other.

Reshma

Legendary Pakistani folk singer Reshma passed away in Lahore, Pakistan on 3 November 2013 after a long battle with throat cancer. She was 66 years old. She is known for her popular songs such as *Lambi Judai* and *Dama Dam Mast Kalandar*. She is survived by a son and a daughter. Reshma was born in 1947 in Bikaner, Rajasthan, in a Banjara family. She has no formal education in music, but at the age of just 12 years, she was seen singing at the Shahbaz Qalander's shrine. Thereafter, her iconic song *Laal Meri* was recorded on the state-run Pakistan Radio. With this, she became the most popular folk singer of Pakistan. She appeared on the television in the year 1960 and recorded songs for not just Pakistani film industry, but also the Indian cinema. Some of her most popular songs also include *Hai O Rabba nahion lagda dil mera* and *Ankhiyan no rehen de ankhiyan de kol kol*. She won various national awards such as *Sitara-i-Imtiaz* as well as *Legends of Pakistan*, by the President of Pakistan. She performed in India during 1980s when exchange of artists was allowed between India and Pakistan. Indian filmmaker Subhash Ghai used her voice in

Hero which also featured her most famous song *Lambi Judai*.

Omprakash Valmiki

Noted Dalit writer Omprakash Valmiki passed away on 17 November 2013 at Dehradun, Uttarakhand. He died at the age of 63 after prolonged illness due to cancer.

Omprakash Valmiki is one of the most famous Dalit litterateurs in Hindi and he portrayed the life of Dalits with an authentically Dalit voice. He was born in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh in 1950. He worked with Government Ordnance Factory Dehradun. Valmiki's autobiography *Joothan* is one of his famous works. In his autobiography *Joothan* (1997) he spoke in detail about the caste discrimination, persecution and humiliation that he faced, when he is growing up. *Joothan* is regarded as a milestone in Hindi literature. Valmiki's other works also include three collections of poetry (in Hindi): *Sadiyon ka santap* (*The centuries-old anguish*, 1989), *Bas! bahut ho chuka* (*Stop it! That's enough*, 1997) and *Ab aur nahin* (*Not any more*, 2009).

Jagadguru Kripaluji Maharaj

Ram Kripalu Tripathi, popularly known as Jagadguru Kripaluji Maharaj passed away on 15 November 2013 at New Delhi. He was 91 years old. He was given the title of Jagadguru (the world teacher) at the age of 34 years, in 1957. Ram Kripalu Tripathi was born in October 1922 at Allahabad, India. He was the preceptor of Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat, which is the worldwide Hindu non-profit organization with 5 main spiritual centers. This is considered as one among the largest Hindu Temple complexes in entire Northern Hemisphere. His discourses were broadcasted everyday on various religion channels such as Zee Jagran, Aastha TV and Sanskar TV. He authored various books such as *Prem Ras Siddhant*, *Bhakti Shatak* and *Radha Govind Geet*.

Frederick Sanger

Frederick Sanger, a British biochemist who is the only person to win Nobel Prize two times for Chemistry died on 19 November 2013 in

Cambridge, eastern England. He was aged 95. For the first time, he won the Nobel Prize in 1958 for development of the methods, which helped to unravel the chemical structure of Protein, mainly insulin. Second Nobel Prize was given to him in 1980, jointly with Walter Gilbert and Paul Berg for the development of the techniques to read the sequences of DNA, which carries the basic code for life. By winning two Nobel, Sanger became one of the four people who had won the Nobel Prizes two times. The other winners of Nobel Prize two times are Marie Curie, John Bardeen and Linus Pauling.

Sher Choudhury

Assamese music director Sher Choudhury passed away on 6 November 2013 at B. Baruah Cancer Institute in Guwahati, Assam. He was 69. Sher Choudhury received National Award for best music director for the Gautam Bora directed film '**Wosobipo**' in 1990. His first film as music director was 'Prothom Ragini', directed by late Dhiru Bhuyan, for which he received an award from EIMPA. Sher Choudhury had also composed music for Sanjib Hazarika's national-award winning film 'Halodhar'. He gave music for award-winning films like 'Mimangsha', 'I Killed Him Sir', 'Raag Birag', 'Adajyo', 'Rongbin', 'Chakrabehu', 'Nissihido Nodi', 'Ahir-Bhairav' and 'Dwaar-The Voyage Out'. He also won best music director award for 'Raag Birag', 'Adajyo' and 'Nishiddho Nodi' in Assam. He composed music for several documentary films and directed the documentary 'Sound of the dying Colours' which won the best promotional national film award.

Tarla Dalal

Tarla Dalal, one of the first celebrity chefs of India as well as prolific cookbook writer died on 6 November 2013 due to heart attack in Mumbai. She was 77 years old and is survived by three children. She authored more than 100 cookbooks which sold three million copies. Her website tarladalal.com is the largest food website of Asia.

Doris Lessing

British Nobel Prize-winning author Doris

Lessing was died on 17 November 2013 at London. She was 94 years old. Her best-known works are **The Golden Notebook**, **Memoirs of a Survivor** and **The Summer Before the Dark**. In her life time she wrote more than 80 books, including poetry, two operas, short stories, plays and non-fiction. In 2007, the 88-year-old Doris Lessing became the **oldest recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature**, and only the 11th woman to win the award. Doris Lessing was born on 22 October 1919, in Kermanshah, Iran. When she was 3, the family settled in southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

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

Ishwar Das Rohani

Iswardas Rohani, the speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly died on 5 November 2013 due to cardiac arrest at Jabalpur. He was the speaker of the assembly of Madhya Pradesh from 2003. He was 67. BJP fielded him from the Jabalpur's Cantt segment for the elections of the state to be held on 25 November 2013.

Rajendra Yadav

Rajendra Yadav, the noted Hindi writer passed away on 28 October 2013 at Mayur Vihar, Delhi because of prolonged illness. He was 84 years old.

About Rajendra Yadav

- Rajendra Yadav was born on 28 August 1929 in Agra.
- He was a pioneer of Hindi literary movement known as Nayi Kahani in the 60s.
- He re-launched Munshi Premchand's magazine HANS, which he himself had been editing since 1986.
- **Pret Bolte Hain** was his first novel and it was published in the year 1951. This was the first Hindi novel to try to shock orthodox Indian cultural traditions.
- **Pret Bolte Hain** written by Rajendra Yadav was adapted into the movie of the same title,

Sara Akash, by Basu Chatterjee in 1969.

- His other novels included **Ukhre Huey Log** and **Shaah aur Maat**.
- He wrote various stories during his career.
- He was also nominated as a member of the Board of Prasar Bharati, from 1999 to 2001.
- Rajendra Yadav's wife Mannu Bhandari is also a renowned Hindi writer.
- He authored two other novels entitled **Kulta** (**The Wayward Wife**), and **Shaah aur Maat** (**Check and Mate**).
- Apart from these novels, his other works included **Ek Inch Muskaan** (**A Little Smile**), which was co-authored by his wife Mannu Bhandari. It was the love tragedy of schizophrenic individuals.

Manna Dey

Manna Dey, the legendary singer died on 23 October 2013 in Bangalore hospital. He was 94 years old. He was treated for respiratory illness died of cardiac arrest. He is survived by his daughters Shuroma and Sumita.

About Manna Dey

- He was born in the year 1919
- His original name was Prabodh Chandra Dey but he was nicknamed Manna
- He sang many songs in different languages like Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, Hindi, Assamese, Punjabi and Bhojpuri

Awards Given to Manna Dey

- In 1970 he won National Film Award Best Male Playback Singer for the Hindi film **Mere Huzoor**. The same year he also won National Award as Playback singer for the Bengali film **Nishi Padmo**
- In the year 1971 he also won National Award as Playback singer for the Hindi Film **Mera Naam Joker** and this year he also won the Padmasree Award by the Government of India
- In 1985, he won Lata Mangeskar Award; he was awarded by Government of Madhya Pradesh
- In 1988 he won the Michale Sahittyo Puraskar

and was awarded by Renaissance Sanskritik Parishad, Dacca

- In 1990, Mithun Fans Association gave him the Shyamal Mitra Award
- In 1991, Shree Khetra Kala Prakashika, Puri awarded him with Sangeet Swarnachurr Award
- In 1993, he was awarded with P.C. Chandra Award and this was given to him by the P.C. Chandra Group & others
- In the 1999 he was awarded by the Kamala Devi Roy Award and was given by Kamala Devi Group
- In the year 2001, he was awarded Anandalok Award by the Anandabazar Group
- In 2002 he was awarded with the Yesudas Award Special Jury award for outstanding performance in music
- In 2003 he was awarded with the Alauddin Khan Award by the Government of the West Bengal
- He was awarded with the National Award as Playback singer in the year 2004 by the Govt. of Kerala
- In 2004 he was also awarded by the D Lit Honour by the Rabindra Bharati University
- He was awarded with the Life Time Achievement Award by the Government of Maharashtra in the year 2005
- The same year in 2005 he also received the Padmabhusan Award by the Government of India
- In 2007 he received the First Akkshaya Mohanty Award by the Government of Orissa
- In 2007 he was given the Dadasaheb Phalke Award from Government of India

Dr. Ravuri Bharadwaja

Eminent Telugu writer and Gyanpeeth award recipient, Dr. Ravuri Bharadwaja passed away in Hyderabad on 18 October 2013. He was 86. Ravuri Bharadwaja won Gyanpeeth award for the year 2012 for his well known Telugu novel, Paakudu Raallu, which reflected real life behind the silver screen of the film industry.

About Ravuri Bharadwaja

- He has written six short novels for children

namely Kadambari, Pakudurallu, Jeevana Samaram, Inupu Tera Venuka and Koumudi – these novels have been translated into several Indian languages as well as English.

- Earlier he has been awarded with awards like Sahitya Akademi Award, Soviet Land Nehru Award, Balsahitya Parishad Award, and Telugu Akademi Award.
- He was also awarded with a honorary doctorate from Nagarjuna University.

Lou Reed

Lou Reed, the poet of rock 'n' roll, passed away on 27 October 2013 at Southampton, New York, United States. He was 71 years old. He died because of an illness associated to liver transplant which took place recently.

Lawrence R Klein

Lawrence R Klein, Nobel Prize winning economist died on 20 October 2013 in Gladwyne, near Philadelphia. He was 93 years old.

He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on 14 September 1920. He studied at the University of California, Berkeley and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Then he joined the Penn faculty in 1958. He developed the statistical models there known as the Wharton Models which got him his Nobel Prize in 1980 in Economics.

In 1946, Klein correctly predicted that restricted demand for consumer goods coupled with the purchasing power of returning soldiers would protect against a depression.

Klein also predicted correctly that the end of the Korean War would result in a mild recession. Klein is survived by his wife Sonia, son Jonathan Klein and daughters Hannah, Rebecca, and Rachel.

G.P. Deshpande

Noted Marathi playwright and political thinker Govind P Deshpande died on 16 October 2013 due to age-related ailments. He was 75. G P Deshpande won acclaim for his plays including Udhvasta Dharmashala and Satyashodhak. (His famous Satyashodhak centred on the mission of pioneering social reformer Mahatma Phule).

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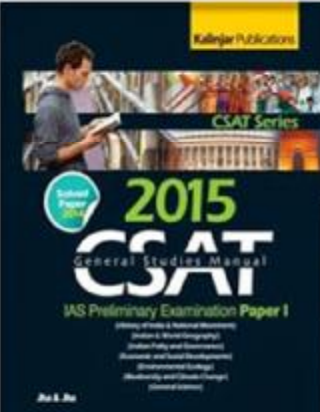
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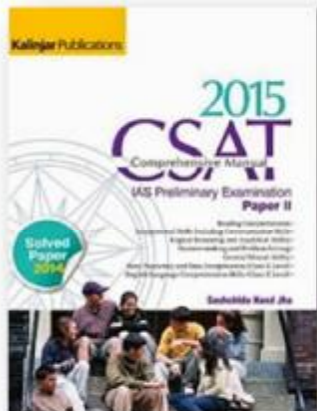
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Abraham Nemeth

Abraham Nemeth, the creator of the Nemeth Code, a form of Braille, passed away on 2 October 2013 at his home in Southfield, Mich. He was 94 years old. He died because of congestive heart failure.

The Nemeth Code improved the capabilities of visually-impaired to study complex Mathematics.

Madhuri Chattopadhyay

Renowned musician Madhuri Chattopadhyay died on 19 October 2013. She breathed her last at her Kolkata residence after suffering for a prolonged period. She was 73. Apart from film songs she had innumerable records. She was from West Bengal. She contributed immensely in the field of Bangla music. Madhuri sang a few songs for Salil Chowdhury, and each one of them was a masterpiece. Songs such as Nijere haraaye khunji and Oi je sabuj bono bithika were unforgettable. Madhuri had an unique voice with quite a range. Salil composed 'Oi je sabuj bono bithika' which spans two-and-half octaves and uses fairly tricky jumps from one note to the other. Madhuri hits the notes without any flaw. Music lovers will immediately recognise a glimpse of Beethoven's 6th Symphony (Pastoral) in the interlude of oi je sobuj bono beethika. In fact, Madhuri has recently re-recorded some of her songs from that golden period. Usha Mangeshkar had also done recording of 4 songs of Madhuri in the '80s for the Megaphone company.

Sir Anthony Caro

British sculptor Sir Anthony Caro passed away on 23 October 2013. He was 89 years old. He died after a heart attack.

He was the renowned British sculptor of his generation and also worked as the assistant to Henry Moore in the 1950s.

K. Raghavan

Noted Malayalam music composer K Raghavan died at Thalassery in Kannur district of Kerala on 19 October 2013. He was 99. Raghavan infused the folk element into Malayalam film music

and his rustic melodies replaced the then prevailing trend of imitations of popular Hindi tunes of the day.

Jovanka Broz

Jovanka Broz, the widow of Josip Broz Tito, the Yugoslavian communist leader, died on 20 October 2013 in Belgrade at the age of 88. Jovanka was Tito's personal secretary before becoming his third wife in 1952. However after Tito's death in 1980 she lived in isolation and under house arrest for a time. She was admitted to hospital in August 2013 with serious heart ailments.

Polly Anthony

Polly Anthony, the former Epic Records President died in the last week of September 2013. She was 59 years old. She led Epic Records from the year 1997 to 2003. She died because of pancreatic cancer in Beverly Hills, California.

Life History of Polly Anthony

- Polly Anthony worked along with Celine Dion, Michael Jackson and Rage against the Machine.
- She became the President of the Dreamworks and then Co-President of Geffen Records.
- She worked with Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Macy Gray and Pearl Jam.
- She also oversaw soundtracks to Chicago and Titanic and took them to great success.
- Recently, she also worked in the movie projects and TV, which included HBO series Off the Record and CBS' Jimmy Smits starrer Cane.

Wilfried Martens

Wilfried Martens, nine-times Prime Minister of Belgium and who led the European Union's Christian Democrat group, died on 9 October 2013 at Lokeren, in East Flanders. He was 77 years old.

About Wilfried Martens

- He served as the Prime Minister of Belgium from 3 April 1979 to 6 April 1981 and 17 December 1981 to 7 March 1992. He served as the PM in nine coalition governments during these tenures.

- He was the Chairman of Belgian Christian People's Party, which is now renamed as Christian Democratic and Flemish party from 1972–79.
- He was the co-founder of the European People's Party (EPP) in 1976 and remained its President since 1992. He was preceded by Jacques Santer.
- He also remained the President of the Christian Democrat International (CDI) from October 2000 to November 2001.
- He was honoured with Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Falcon, Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, Grand Cross of the Order of Christ and Grand Cross of the Order of Prince Henry.

R N Mahadevan

R N Mahadevan, the former director of news at All India Radio and the Registrar of Newspaper died on 25 October 2013. He was 84 years old. He served the Press Information Bureau in different Capacities for 33 years. He is survived by his wife and four daughters.

Oscar Hijuelos

Oscar Hijuelos, the Cuban-American writer died on 13 October 2013 in New York City. He was 62 years old and died because of heart attack. He was the first Latino to win the Pulitzer Prize. He is survived by his wife.

About Oscar Hijuelos

- His first novel was *Our House in the Last World*.
- He is known for second novel which was eventually adapted for the movies, *The Mambo Kings*.
- He won the 1990 Pulitzer Prize.
- He was also honoured with the Ingram Merrill Foundation Award in 1983.
- His first novel- *Our House in the Last World* received the Rome Prize in the year 1985 by the American Academy in Rome.
- In the year 2000, he also won the Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature.
- He also published a memoir entitled *Thoughts Without Cigarettes* in the year 2011.

Noel Harrison

Singer Noel Harrison has died at his home in Devon, aged 79 on 22 October 2013. He was best known for recording the hit song *The Windmills Of Your Mind* on *The Thomas Crown Affair* soundtrack. He was the son of the actor Rex Harrison. It won best song at the 1968 Oscars and was later covered by artists including Dusty Springfield. Harrison was born in London on 29 January 1934.

His father's name was Rex Harrison and his mother was Collette Thomas. Noel Harrison spent most of his life in America, as an actor and performer. However he moved back to the UK in the last decade to live in South Devon. He starred in the TV series *The Girl from UNCLE* and had chart hits with *A Young Girl* and *Suzanne*, by Leonard Cohen while he was living in US.

General Vo Nguyen Giap

General Vo Nguyen Giap, the commander who led Vietnam to victory over the US and France, died on 4 October 2013 at Hanoi, Vietnam. He was 102 years old. He was the main commander in two crucial wars- the First Indochina War (1946–1954) and the Vietnam War (1960–1975).

Life History of General Vo Nguyen Giap

- He participated in some of the significant battles such as *Lũng Sơn* (1950); *Hòa Bình* (1951–1952); *ĐiCn Biên Phc* (1954); the *Tết Offensive* (1968); the *Easter Offensive* (1972); and the final *HỒ Chí Minh Campaign* (1975).
- He served as the military commander of the *Việt Minh*, the commander of the *Vietnam People's Army (PAVN)*, and defense minister.
- He is the most prominent military commander of Vietnam apart from *Ho Chi Minh*.
- He also authored extensively on military theory and strategy. Some of his works included *Big Victory*, *Great Task*; *People's Army*, *People's War*; *ĐiCn Biên Phc*; and *We Will Win*.
- He became a part of the clandestine nationalist movement at the age of 14 years.
- He founded the *Viet Minh*, which is dedicated to ending French colonial rule in Vietnam.

Mohan Dharia

Mohan Dharia, the former Union Minister died on 14 October 2013 in New Delhi. He was 88 years old. He contributed extensively in the fields of politics and environment protection. He was accorded the state funeral.

About Mohan Dharia

- He was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in 2005.
- He was a lawyer by profession and later became a part of the Praja Socialist Party during the Freedom struggle.
- During the Indira Gandhi government, he was the Minister of State. He strongly opposed the Emergency, which fetched him the title of Young Turk.
- Through his organisation called Vanrai, he led the movement for water conservation, after retiring from the active politics.
- He was a distinguished Parliamentarian and an able administrator who served the nation in different spheres.
- He served the nation as a Union Minister and as the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission.

Vijay Soni

Vijay Soni, a noted painter and theatre personality died on 27 October 2013 in New Delhi. The 76 year old Vijay Soni was battling with Parkinson disease for past 12 years. He is survived by his wife Aanita Soni, two daughters and three grandsons.

ACCUSED/RESIGNED/CONTROVERSY

Jayanthi Natarajan

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan resigned as the minister of state for environment and forest from the Council of Ministers (COM) on 21 December 2013. The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, accepted the resignation of Jayanthi Natarajan from the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister advised the President of India that M. Veerappa Moily, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas shall be given additional charge of the work of

Ministry of Environment & Forests. Jayanthi Natarajan expected to return to party work which is relating to manifesto and other election matters of the Congress Party.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh resigned from the Vidisha assembly seat on 20 December 2013 and retained the Budhni seat. Earlier, he was elected from Budhni and Vidisha assembly segments in the recently concluded state assembly elections. As per the rules, if a person is elected from two constituencies, he/she has to tender resignation from one segment within 14 days of the constitution of the new Assembly. He submitted his resignation from Vidisha seat to Vidhan Sabha Secretariat on 20 December 2013, which was accepted. In the recent concluded election, Chouhan declared that he will retain the seat that will give him the highest victory margin. From Budhni seat, he won by 84805 votes, which was the second highest margin in Madhya Pradesh, whereas from Vidisha seat, he won by 16996 votes gap against Shashank Bhargava of Congress. Earlier, in the last assembly elections the Vidisha seat was represented by a former leader of BJP Raghavji. In July 2013, Raghavji resigned from the seat over the allegations of sexually harassing his domestic help and was later expelled from BJP and arrested.

Sheila Dikshit

Sheila Dikshit, the Chief Minister of Delhi resigned from her post on 8 December 2013 after Congress party faced a defeat in the Delhi Assembly polls. She sent her resignation to the Lt Governor. Sheila Dikshit was defeated in her constituency in New Delhi from Arvind Kejriwal of Aam Aadmi Party by over 5000 votes. She has been the Chief Minister of Delhi three times. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) with 28 seats has emerged as the second largest party in New Delhi in its debut elections after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Hisham Qandil

Hisham Qandil, the former Prime Minister of Egypt was arrested by Egyptian police on 24

December 2013. He served under the ousted President Mohammed Morsi. As per the interior ministry, Qandil was caught in a mountainous area with smugglers, while he was trying to flee to Sudan. He was arrested on the order of the Court that was issued against him. He was sentenced for a year in prison, while he was in office for failing to carry out the ruling of the court to re-nationalise a company Tanta Flax and Oil Company, which was privatized in 1996. The lawsuit was instigated against the former Prime Minister by a number of company's workers.

The sentence was upheld by a Cairo appeals Court in September 2013 after two months when Morsi, the then President was overthrown. He Qandil in July 2012 became the youngest Prime Minister of Egypt since 1954. He won the first truly democratic elections of Egypt, which was followed the fall of Hosni Mubarak, the autocrat President in 2011. He is not a member of Muslim Brotherhood or any other Islamist political organization. He represented an alliance of pro-Morsi Islamist groups in meets with the mediators of Europe, who tried to defuse tensions with the military installed government.

Ali Osman Taha

Ali Osman Taha, the Vice President of Sudan resigned to pave way for the new Government. His resignation was announced by the Sudanese President, Omar al-Bashir in Khartoum on 7 December 2013. He resigned and vacated his office at the presidency ahead of his cabinet reshuffle. Taha has been replaced by Lieutenant General Bakri Hassan Saleh. The second Vice President selected is Hasbo Mohamed Abdulrahman and the parliament head is Alfateh Ezziddin. Taha has been the first Vice President of Sudan, the second highest political party. He was the main negotiator of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, which led to the end of Sudanese Civil War.

Chandra Kant Birla

Chandra Kant Birla, Chairman of Hindustan Motors Limited resigned from the board on 29 December 2013. He also stepped down from the post of director of Hindustan Motors (HM). During

the 18- month period, that is April 2012 – September 2013, company incurred a huge loss of 71 crore rupees as compared to a loss of 29 crore rupees in 2011-12. The slowdown in the economy has affected HM. HM faced some additional challenges in term of cash flow problems for the company.

Panruti Ramachandran

Panruti S. Ramachandran, the Chairman of the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) on 10 December 2013 announced his retirement from active politics. He has also decided to quit from the post of Member of Legislative Assembly from Alandur constituency from where he was elected in 2011 Assembly elections. Ramachandran of 76 year has handed over his resignation to the Assembly Speaker, P Dhanpal. He has retired on the health grounds.

Shoma Chaudhury

Shoma Chaudhury, managing editor of Tehelka, on 27 November 2013 announced her resignation from the Tehelka, an investigative magazine.

This resignation came in the wake of the sexual harassment case in which a young Tehelka reporter alleged that the magazine's editor in chief Tarun Tejpal had sexually assaulted her during an event the magazine's group conducted in Goa. Shoma Chaudhury's resignation came after six other senior journalists quit the magazine after the alleged sexual assault came to light.

Writers including Jay Mazoomdaar, Ayesha Siddiq, Revati Laul and Rana Ayyub put in their papers following the incident. Tehelka magazine's editor in chief Tarun Tejpal also stepped down as editor following allegations of sexual assault on 21 November 2013.

Yogesh Agarwal

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

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

Valdis Dombrovskis

The Latvian Prime Minister, Valdis Dombrovskis announced his resignation and thereby the fall of the Government on 27 November 2013. He resigned due to the deadly collapse of Maxima supermarket of Riga on 21 November 2013. His announcement came during the meeting with Andris Berzins, the President of Latvia. Dombrovskis is the longest serving prime minister in Latvia's history.

About 54 people died in the collapse of the supermarket. This collapse is the biggest loss of life in the country since its independence from the USSR in 1991. The police had opened a criminal investigation into the cause of the disaster. The possible explanations to the collapse include a flawed design, substandard construction materials, and corruption. Further it depends on the President, Andris Berzins to accept or reject the resignation and nominate an acting Prime Minister, who will be responsible to form a new cabinet.

Rasheed Masood

Rasheed Masood, the arrested Congress leader resigned from the post of Chairman of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on 9 October 2013. He was sentenced to four years of jail term on 1 October 2013 on the grounds of corruption as well as other offences.

He was appointed as Chairman APEDA, under the Commerce Ministry, for a three-year-term in April 2013. He had become the first political appointee in the expert body. Earlier, customarily, it was headed by the bureaucrat. After, Rasheed Masood's resignation, Asit Tripathy, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce became the Chairman of the body. It is important to note that the exports of agri-products in 2012-13 were 120450 crore Rupees, a growth of 40 percent in comparison to

86028 crore rupees of 2011-12. Rajya Sabha member Rasheed Masood became the first politician to lose his parliamentary seat after a recent Supreme Court ruling on convicted law makers.

Silvio Berlusconi

A special Senate committee in Italy on 4 October 2013 voted to strip Silvio Berlusconi of his Parliament seat after he was convicted for tax fraud. The panel's decision will need to be confirmed with a full vote of the Senate in the coming weeks.

But it is being interpreted as a further sign of the end of the political career of the centre-right leader and media tycoon, who has dominated Italy's politics for almost 20 years. On 1 August 2013, Berlusconi was convicted of a tax fraud by the Italian Supreme Court and sentenced to four years of prison, automatically reduced to one year under a 2006 pardon act. He was also banned from holding public office. After dozens of trials in almost 20 years of political career, it was the first definitive conviction and made him formally ineligible for parliament under a 2012 anti-corruption law. Berlusconi is the former Prime minister of Italy. He served four times as Prime Minister of Italy, from 1994 to 1995, 2001 to 2006 and 2008 to 2011.

Shreekant Javalgekar

Shreekant Javalgekar resigned as the Managing Director and CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on 19 October 2013. Multi Commodity Exchange is the only commodity exchange in India which is listed on a stock exchange.

Multi Commodity Exchange was promoted by Jignesh Shah-led Financial Technologies India Ltd (FTIL), which also promoted the now-defunct National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL). Jignesh Shah Managing Director and CEO of the Financial Technologies India Ltd also resigned from the board on 9 October 2013. Joseph Massey Managing Director and CEO of the MCX-SX also resigned from the board on 9 October 2013.

HONOUR

Pope Francis

Pope Francis on 11 December 2013 was named as the Person of the Year 2013 by Time Magazine. He was named the Person of the Year for changing the perception of the Catholic Church within nine months. As per Time magazine, Pope's dedication to humility and his fight against poverty placed him at the top position of the year. Edward Snowden the person who leaked the secret documents about NSA surveillance activities was selected at the second position in the list. Edith Windsor—the gay marriage pioneer, Bashar Al-Assad—President of Syria and Ted Cruz—the US Senator from Texas has placed on the top five slots. Earlier, Vanity Fair Italia also named Pope Francis, the Man of the Year in July 2013. Time Magazine has chosen a Pope as its Person of the Year for the third time and the others to be honoured with the title were Pope John XXIII in 1962 and Pope John Paul II in 1994. Pope Francis is the first non-European pope in almost 1300 years and first pontiff from the America. He took Francis as his Papal name after Saint Francis of Assisi, who was the reformer of 13th Century. His original is Jorge Bergoglio, who was chosen as the new Pope by the cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church on 13 March 2013 after the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. He is a first Pope from Latin America and the first Jesuit.

Alyz Henrich

Miss Venezuela Alyz Henrich on 7 December 2013 was crowned with the pageant of Miss Earth 2013 at the Versailles Palace, Philippines. She was crowned with the pageant of Miss World by Tereza Fajksova, the Miss Earth 2012 from Czech Republic. This was the 13th edition of the annual Miss Earth. With this winning, Alyz Henrich has joined the roster of beauty queens and will be an ambassador for environmental preservation.

Other winners are:

- Miss Earth Fire: Miss Korea Catharina Choi
- Miss Earth Water: Miss Thailand Punika Kulsoontornrut
- Miss Earth Air: Miss Austria Katia Wagner

India's participant for the pageant was Sobhita Dhulipala, who failed to make it in the list of top 16. Earlier, she won the Miss Photogenic and the Miss Eco Beauty Title contests. For the crown of the Miss Earth, 88 beauties competed from across the earth.

The show was presented by popular television show host, Oli Pettigrew and Singapore-based fashion model, Linda Black. The contest began in 2001 to promote the preservation of the environment. Nicole Faria is the first Indian contestant to have won the title in 2010.

150th birth celebrations of Swami Vivekananda

Jitin Prasada, the Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development on 28 November 2013 released a music album to commemorate 150th birth celebrations of Swami Vivekananda. The released album contains original poem of Swami Vivekananda among others. The poems have been sung by Akshayaa Vibho and Amrutaa Vibho – 11 year old twin sisters from Delhi. Akshayaa Vibho has rendered the song and Amrutaa Vibho has accompanied on the acoustic drums. Akshayaa learns Hindustani classical vocal from Pandit Sitangshu Chaudhary of Rampur Sehaswan Gharana. She also specializes in rendering of patriotic songs and film songs of Lata Mangeshkar. Whereas, Amrutaa is being trained under the legendary mridanga vidwan Dr. T. K. Murthy, international drum star Shri Sivamani and Shri Chandrakant Mohanti of Bollywood fame. Amrutaa is the only the youngest female drum player in India.

Prof CNR Rao

Eminent Scientist and Bharat Ratna Awardee Prof CNR Rao was on 4 November 2013 elected as honorary foreign member of Chinese Academy of Science (CAS). He is first Indian to be elected to this prestigious Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) which comprises of many Nobel laureates and eminent scientist across the world.

CNR Rao has been elected to almost all scientific academies of the world including The Royal Society-London, National Academy of Science-USA, Pontifical Academy of Science, Japan Academy and Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences, among others.

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Miss Venezuela Gabriela Isler

Gabriela Isler from Venezuela won Miss Universe 2013 contest on 9 November 2013 held at Crocus City Hall in Moscow, Russia. Patricia Yurena Rodriguez from Spain finished as the first runner-up, whereas Constanza Baez from Ecuador was the second runner up. Manasi Moghe from India had been shortlisted for the top 10 finalists of Miss Universe 2013 but failed to win the crown.

Miss Universe is the oldest International beauty pageant. The top 10 finalists comprised India, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Ukraine, Ecuador, USA, Brazil, Great Britain, Spain and Philippines. Top 5 finalists included Ecuador, Spain, Brazil, Philippines, Venezuela. María Gabriela Isler was born on 21 April 1988 in Valencia, Carabobo, Venezuela. She is a Venezuelan fashion model and beauty pageant titleholder who was crowned Miss Venezuela 2012. She is the third Miss Universe from Venezuela in 6 years.

Commemorative Coins on Abul Kalam Azad

The Union Finance Minister P.Chidambaram released a Commemorative Coin of 20 Rupees a circulation coin of 5 Rupees to mark the culmination of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad at New Delhi on 11 November 2013. 2013 marked the culmination of 125th Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Maulana Azad was one of India's most prominent freedom fighters, who espoused the cause of an undivided India.

He was the first Minister of Education of India and was also awarded country's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna in 1992. On that occasion, two commemorative coins were brought out by the Ministry of Finance.

BOOKS/AUTHORS

Nirbhaya: Ek Atmachintan

Mumbai University on 16 December 2013 launched a book titled '**Nirbhaya: Ek Atmachintan**' to mark a year since the brutal gangrape of a Delhi paramedic student. The book's prologue is written by Justice Chandrashekar

Dharamadhikari and is edited by the vice-chancellor of the Mumbai University, Rajan Welukar. Several notable writers and thinkers, such as, Nirja Dhulekar, Kumar Ketkar, Asha Bage, Vijaya Wad, Judge Mrudula Bhatkar, etc have contributed to the book. The topics that these writers have covered include women empowerment in the fields of economic, social and political spheres, the rights which are given to them and their safety. The 23-year old para-medical student (also known as Damini or Nirbhaya) was gang raped in New Delhi on 16 December 2012. She passed away in Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore on 29 December 2012. She was raped in the moving bus by six men, one of which included a minor. The 16 December gang rape led to massive protests across the country.

Unbreakable unveiled

Olympic medal-winning boxer M C Kom's autobiography, titled Unbreakable was unveiled by the Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan on 9 December 2013. Mary said that her struggle has been one that many in country face, especially women. The reason behind to pen down her story was so that others could read it and feel that if she could achieve what she had, so can they. Mary kom was born on 1 March 1983 in Kangathei, Manipur, India. Mary Kom turned professional boxer after her victory in the Manipur state women's boxing championship in 2000. Mary made her international debut at the first AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship held in the United States, where she bagged a silver medal in the 48 kg weight category. Subsequently, she won a gold medal in the 45 kg class at the second AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship in Turkey in 2002. Kom has total 5 world boxing championship titles in her name.

- The government of India had awarded her with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 2009, which is the country's highest award given to a sportsman.
- She also received the Arjuna Award in 2003 and Padma Shree Award in 2006.
- She was also appointed the International Boxing Association's Ambassador for Women's Boxing in 2009.

- She won bronze at Summer Olympics held in London in 2012.

VARIOUS

Kisan Diwas

Kisan Diwas was observed across the country on 23 December 2013 to celebrate the birthday of Chaudhary Charan Singh. On this occasion, farmer seminars were organised at the divisional, district and block levels. Political leaders cutting across party lines paid tributes to fifth PM of India on his 11th birth anniversary. Leaders visited the former PM's samadhi at Kisan Ghat in New Delhi. Government in 2001 had decided to observe 23 December every year as Kisan Diwas (Farmers Day).

Sashi Tharoor

Sashi Tharoor, the Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development was named as the Person of the Year by the animal rights body PETA – India for taking steps to advance animal protection.

The director of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was encouraged by Tharoor to examine PETA's Central Board of Secondary Education approved programme for incorporation into its textbooks. He also wrote a letter to Health Minister Gulam Nabi Azad urging him to implement non-animal methods of teaching in medical courses. In 2012, the Ministry of Environment and Forests issued a directive instructing all the institutes or establishments associated with teaching of medical, pharmacy and other courses in life sciences to follow UGC guidelines for discontinuation of dissection and animal experimentation in universities and colleges and introduce use of alternatives to animal experimentation. Past recipients of the award are Hema Malini and R Madhavan.

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day was observed on 1 December 2013 across the globe to raise awareness about the HIV/ AIDS. The theme for the year 2013 is:

Getting to Zero

- HIV/AIDS remains a major global issue, having

claimed more than 36 million lives so far since the discovery of the virus more than 20 years ago.

- According to the World Health Organisation, there were approximately 35.3 million people living with HIV in 2012.
- Since the inception of World AIDS Day in 1988, it has been observed on 1st December every year with different themes.
- The theme for this year is "Getting to Zero"- means zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.
- The theme will be repeated until 2015, focusing on "Zero AIDS Related Deaths" as well as pushing towards better access to treatment for all.

World AIDS Day is celebrated around the world on December 1st each year. It has become one of the most recognized international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories, such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

Prithvi -2 Missile

India on 3 December 2013 successfully test fired its surface to surface ballistic missile Prithvi-II from Chandipur in the Balesore district of Odisha. The test which is a part of the user training exercise of the Indian Army and it was conducted from lunch complex 3 of the ITR in Chandipur along the Odisha coast. The last user trial of Prithvi-II was successfully carried out from the same base on 7 October 2013.

Prithvi-II Missile features

1. Inducted into India's Strategic Forces Command in 2003, the Prithvi II missile is the first missile to be developed by DRDO under India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.
2. It is capable of carrying 1000 kg of warheads and thrust by liquid propulsion twine engines, uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory.
3. The nine meter long Prithvi-II missile is equipped with advanced high accuracy navigation system and guided by an

- innovative guidance scheme.
4. The improved Circular Error Probability (CEP) achieved by the missile is a testimony to specify the efficacy of this missile system.
 5. Prithvi uses an advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring capabilities and comes within metres of its target.

TEJAS Team Set New Record

Tejas, India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) set a new record on 27 December 2013 of flying 500 sorties in 2013. This is the highest sorties achieved in a calendar year so far. The previous record stood at 300 sorties. In 2013, the team participated in seven detachments across the country and carried out tests like shutting off and reignition of the engine, high energy brake testing, flight envelope expansion, missile firing with radar guidance, air-to-ground weapon testing and wet runway trials, the DRDO said.

Minorities Rights Day

Minorities Rights Day was observed on 18 December 2013 across the Nation to create awareness on rights of minorities. Minorities Rights Day is celebrated on 18th December every year. The day is celebrated to protect rights of the minority communities as well as bringing the better understanding among religious minorities in India.

AGNI-III

Agni-III the nuclear capable ballistic missile was successfully test-fired by India on 23 December 2013. It was test-fired for its full range of 3000 kilometer from the Wheeler Island of Odisha Coast. The test fire of the surface-to-surface missile was conducted by Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of the Indian Army with the logistic support from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The missile was flight-tested from a mobile launcher at launch complex number 4 of the Integrated Test Range. The Agni-III missile is powered by a two-stage solid propellant system.

The entire trajectory of the trial was monitored through various telemetry stations, electro-optic systems and sophisticated radars located along the coast and by naval ships anchored near the impact point for data analysis. It has a

length of 17 metres, 2 metres diameter and launch weight is around 50 tonnes. It can carry a warhead of 1.5 tonne, which is protected by carbon all composite heat shield. The missile has already been inducted into the armed forces is equipped with the hybrid navigation, guidance and control systems along with advanced on-board computer. The electronic systems are hardened for higher vibration, thermal and acoustic effects.

Yellowstone National Park

Scientists in the first week of December 2013 in their report claimed that the super volcano lying beneath Yellowstone National Park in US is much larger than it was thought previously. As per the study, the magma chamber is 2.5 times bigger than previous estimations and the carven stretches for more than 90 Kilometers and contain 200 to 600 cubic kilometer of molten rock. The findings were presented at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in San Francisco. In case the Yellowstone Super Volcano is blown now than it would bring in catastrophic consequences.

The major volcanic eruption happened 640000 years ago, which sent ash across North America and affected the climate of earth. To map the magma chamber, the team of scientists used a network of Seismometers situated around the park. They recorded the earthquakes in and around Yellowstone to measure the seismic waves as they travel through ground. The waves from the hot and molten material travel slower and this helps the scientists to measure, what is beneath the earth over there. As per the findings the scientists found a colossal, magma chamber that reach depths from 2 kilometer and 15 kilometer. They also identified that the carven was 90 kilometers long and 30 kilometer wide. BY now, there have been only three major eruptions so far, the first happened around 2.1 million years ago, the second one happened around 1.3 million years ago and the third one happened 640000 years ago.

International Anti-Corruption Day

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed across the world on 9 December 2013 to raise awareness about the menace of Corruption and

what people can do to fight it. The theme for the year 2013 is: **Act against Corruption Today**. The day is observed on December 9 each year to raise awareness about the corruption. The UN General Assembly by resolution of 58/4 of 31 October 2003 designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day. This decision aimed to raise people's awareness of corruption and of the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in combating and preventing it. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the secretariat for the Convention's Conference of States Parties. The Convention entered into force in December 2005.

Tyler Armstrong

Tyler Armstrong on 27 December 2013 became the youngest person to reach the summit of Aconcagua, the highest mountain of America. The nine year old boy of United States climbed the mountain in the Argentine Andes with his father and Tibetan Sherpa, Lhawang Dhondup. In 2012, he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro - Africa's highest peak. More than 100 people have died attempting to conquer Aconcagua, which rises 6962 metres above the sea level. Before Tyler, Matthew Moniz from the United States was the youngest person to climb the mountain at the age of 10 in the year 2008.

Procurement of Israeli Barak-I missile approved by DAC

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by the Defence Minister, A K Antony, lifted restrictions on the further procurements of Israeli Barak missiles on 22 December 2013.

- Additional 226 Israeli Barak Surface-to-air precision-guided missiles
- Two naval projects for 16 Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) warships which is capable of operating in shallow waters, worth of 13440 crore rupees
- Two diving support vessels meant for rescuing sailors from disabled submarines, worth of 1500 crore rupees.
- 41 Dhruv Advanced light Helicopters (ALH) worth of 300 crore rupees being

manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) was cleared.

The diving support vessels or deep-submergence rescue vessels (DSRVs) will be acquired through floating global tender and the ASW boats will be built with foreign collaboration for torpedoes. Final nod from the Cabinet Committee on Security is required to go-ahead with the acquisition of Barak-I missiles.

Barak Missiles

The Barak deal was originally signed in 2000 by India during the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime. The Barak missiles are effective missile interceptors used as the last layer of defence to destroy advancing missiles within a 10 km range.

Hoquiam

Nirvana Day will be celebrated in Hoquiam, a small town of US on 10 April 2014. Nirvana Day will be celebrated as the bands Nirvana was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame the same day. This is the first time that the day will be celebrated by Hoquiam. The day will be celebrated to pay a tribute to the band's late frontman, Kurt Cobain. He was born and raised just four miles away from Hoquiam in Aberdeen and he lived in Hoquiam, Washington for a very short time. As per Jack Durney, the Mayor of the city, Nirvana will bring great honour to the entire community of the town. Nirvana was a band formed by Cobain and Krist Novoselic in 1987 and a drummer Dave Grohl joined it in 1990. The debut album of Nirvana band was each was launched in 1989. Cobain committed suicide at the age of 27.

Vijay Diwas

Vijay Diwas was observed on 16 December 2013 across the Nation to celebrate the India's military victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. Vijay Diwas commemorates the victory of the Indian Armed Forces and the Mukti Bahini in the Indo-Pak war which culminated in the liberation of Bangladesh, then East Pakistan, on 16 December 1971 and the historic surrender of over 93000 Pakistani soldiers. After the India's victory, Lt. Gen. A K Niazi, Pakistani Army Commander in the Eastern

Command was surrendered to the Indian Armed Forces, which led by the then General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora and also signed the **Instrument of Surrender** that resulted in the birth of Bangladesh. The day is also observed across the country by paying tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation. This year is the 42nd anniversary of the War. Union Defence Minister A K Antony accompanied by three Services Chiefs laid wreathes at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate in the National Capital -New Delhi.

MBLR Pinaka

India on 19 December 2013 successfully test-fired the indigenously developed Pinaka from a base at Chandipur-on-sea near Balasore, off the Odisha coast. Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL). Six rounds of Pinaka were successfully tested from the proof and experimental establishment at Chandipur. The tests were conducted by personnel from Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune unit. Since 1995, the Pinaka has undergone several tests has been inducted in the armed forces and the present trials were conducted with some improvements in the system. To supplement the artillery guns, rockets with a range of 40 kilometer capable as a force multiplier has been developed. The quick reaction time and high rate of fire of the system gave an edge to the Army during a low-intensity conflict situation. Earlier in July 2013, more advanced second generation Pinaka Mark II Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher System had undergone successful firing trials at Chandhan area in Pokhran field firing ranges in western Rajasthan.

The Main Features of Pinaka

- Pinaka is an area weapon system with a range of 40 km.
- The quick reaction time and high rate of fire of Pinaka will give an edge to the Army during a minor conflict situation.
- Pinaka system can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds. The battery of six launchers can neutralise at a time a target area of 3.9 sq km.
- Pinaka is capable to incorporate several types of warheads, which make the weapon deadly

for the enemy as it can even destroy solid structures and bunkers.

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day was observed across the world on 10 December 2013 to bring to light the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2013 Theme of the day is 20 Years Working for Your Rights. NHRC in India organized a programme in New Delhi on this Day.

Wipha

A powerful typhoon Wipha on 16 October 2013 caused landslides and flooding on Izu Oshima Island, South of Tokyo. The storm brought strong winds and record rainfall - 122mm (4.8 inches) in one hour to Izu Oshima Island, which lies some 120km (75 miles) south of Tokyo. It caused damage to property and human lives. Wipha is the equivalent of a category 3 hurricane. Wipha is the 12th typhoon and 26th named storm of the west Pacific typhoon season.

It was the strongest storm to impact the region since Typhoon Tokage in October, 2004.

44th International Film Festival of India

The **44th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** began at Panaji in Goa on 20 November 2013 with great fanfare. Academy award winning actress Suasan Sarandon inaugurated the 11- day cinematic extravaganza by lighting the traditional lamp in the distinguished presence of Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Manish Tewari, Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parriker and a galaxy of cine stars. The 44th International Film Festival of India (from 20 to 30 November 2013) is organized by the IFFI Secretariat under the aegis of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Goa. A variety of film screening programmes, academic sessions and cultural exchange programmes will mark the occasion. Around **160 foreign films** are to be showcased in this edition under various categories.

44th edition of IFFI is unique on several accounts. The festival would highlight for the first time **Cinema from the North Eastern** states of

India. A package of 19 films from the North-East will explore the immense ethnic, traditional and cultural diversity in the 8 states of North-East. The Lifetime Achievement Award is being conferred on the legendary Czech film director **Jiri Menzel** whose films have been acknowledged as the Czech New Wave Cinema. Renowned actress **Waheeda Rehamn** will be conferred with the first **Centenary Award** for Indian Film Personality of the Year.

The 44th IFFI will showcase **Japanese** films in the **country focus section**. Czech comedy **THE DON JUANS** directed by Jiri Menzel will open the 44th International Film Festival of India. Indian Panorama category comprises of 26 feature films and 16 non-feature films from contemporary Indian cinema.

Ratan Tata

Ratan Tata, India's leading industrialist was inducted into National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in the US for his outstanding contributions to industrial development in India as well as the world. Apart from Ratan Tata, eight Indian-Americans were also inducted in the NAE. 75-year-old Ratan tata, the Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group was inducted as the Foreign Associate.

About the National Academy of Engineering (NAE)

- The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) was founded in the year 1964.
- It is the private, independent, nonprofit institution which offers the engineering leadership to the US.
- In the year 2013, NAE elected 69 new members and 11 foreign associates, after which the membership of NAE became 2250 and the number of foreign associates became 211.

Other Indian-Americans inducted into National Academy of Engineering

- Ganesh Kailasam, from Dow Chemical
- Vijay Kumar, from University of Pennsylvania
- Bal Raj Sehgal, emeritus professor of nuclear power safety, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

- Pradeep SSindhu, founder, Juniper Networks
- Krishna P Singh, president and chief executive officer, Holtec International

It is important to note that the percentage of US engineering graduates among all its graduates is 1/3 of the European average and 1/6 of the Asian competitor average.

Wankhede Stadium

The Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Programmes and Fixtures committee headed by Rajiv Shukla announced on 16 October 2013 that Sachin Tendulkar's landmark 200th and final test will host in the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai. Rajiv Shukla, in the meanwhile also announced the match schedule between India and West Indies.

Aga Khan

Aga Khan, a Swiss-Born Philanthropist and Muslim Spiritual Leader visited India from 17 to 29 September 2013. During the visit in New Delhi, Aga Khan met President of India Pranab Mukharji, Vice-President of India Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh.

Manmohan Singh visited China

Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh was on a 3-day Official Visit to Beijing on 22-24 October 2013 at the invitation of the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. During this visit India and China signed 9 agreements in total. The most important among them was the agreement on defence cooperation. The Prime Ministers of India held discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues with a view to strengthening the partnership between the two countries.

The two nations vowed to strengthen coordination and cooperation in multilateral forums including the BRICS, the BRICS and G20.

Nation Against Early Marriage

Breakthrough, the global human rights organisation on 21 October 2013 launched the campaign called Nation Against Early Marriage. The objective of the campaign is to influence, inform as well as initiate the changes on how early

marriages are professed or accepted as the traditional norm.

Major Initiatives Planned During the Campaign

- The campaign includes training at the block levels with NGOs, CBOs, youth groups and self-help groups, mass media intervention as well as community mobilizations.
- The team included in the campaign engages the students at high school and middle school levels through leadership training, folk theatre, video vans as well as mobile shows.

Statistics Related to the Survey Carried out by Breakthrough

- The organisation in its survey included 3560 households in districts of Ranchi and Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) and Gaya (Bihar).
- The survey revealed that traditions and customs, lack of education and information, absence of the supportive environment, lack of livelihood, unequal gender norms as well as poverty lead to practices of early marriage.
- Around 50 percent women in the sample revealed that they got married between 13 to 18 years of age.
- The survey, in the meanwhile, also found that around 60 percent households had access to facilities such as television but girls watched televisions less than the boys.
- The survey found that men, when exposed to the social messages, were able to recall them in a better way than the women.

Rashmi Singh, Executive Director for the National Resource Centre for Women (NRCW) under the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) explained that there is already the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 but other institutional mechanisms such as Child Marriage Prohibition Officers were required to enforce the laws and curb child marriage and early marriage. Breakthrough has its centres in India as well as in the US. It also has collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development for this campaign.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum

Prime minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on 29 October 2013 inaugurated the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum was established in the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was an Indian freedom fighter. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum has been developed at the cost of 28.54 crore rupees in 36 thousand sq meter area. Eight feet tall statue of Sardar Patel along with Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru is the main attraction of this National museum. Museum has rich and rare collection of personal belongings of Sardar Patel apart from valuable gifts received by him. Miniature of Sardar Patel's residence, school, jail and other places associated with his life are also created in this museum. Visitors can also see the special 3D film on role of Sardar Patel in India's freedom struggle apart from 14 multimedia interactive displays.

Ali Zeidan

Prime Minister of Libya, Ali Zeidan was abducted by gunmen on 10 October 2013. They held him captive for several hours. Ali Zeidan was later rescued. The incident underscored the lawlessness gripping Libya two years after the ouster of autocrat Moammar Gadhafi. The gunmen who abducted Zeidan were believed to be militiamen. They did that in apparent retaliation for a US special-forces raid that captured an al-Qaida suspect. They accused Zeidan's government of colluding in the operation. Ali Zeidan is the Prime Minister of Libya. He was appointed by the General National Congress on 14 October 2012, and took office on 14 November after Congress approved his cabinet nominees.

Ease of Doing Business List report

India ranked to the 134th spot in the ease of doing business list according to the annual Doing Business report released on 29 October 2013 by World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

In the Ease of Doing Business ranking of 189

countries India has dropped from 131 spot in 2013 to 134th spot in 2014.

Highlights of the report

- The top ten nations in the Ease of Doing Business ranking are Singapore (1), Hong Kong (2), New Zealand (3), United States (4), Denmark (5), Malaysia (6), Korea (7), Georgia (8), Norway (9) and the United Kingdom (10).
- Among BRICS grouping, Russia is placed at 92nd spot, Brazil is ranked 116, South Africa is ranked the 41st rank and China ranked at 96th position.
- India is also ranked lowest among the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- Other neighbouring nations of India Nepal (105), Pakistan (110) and Bangladesh (130) are also ranked above India.

First Bitcoin ATM

The world's first Bitcoin ATM machine which can exchange digital currency - Bitcoins -for any official currency has launched in Vancouver, Canada on 29 October 2013.

The ATM machine, named **Robocoin**, installed at Waves Coffee Shop at Howe and Smithe, allows users to buy or sell the digital currency known as bitcoins. The ATM in Vancouver is operated by Las Vegas-based **Robocoin** and Vancouver-based **Bitcoinia**.

About Bitcoins

- Bitcoin is a virtual currency that is unregulated by any central bank or government, but still works for purchasing goods and services from retailers willing to accept it.
- Bitcoins, which are created when they are "mined" or generated by a super computer, also trade on an open market that fluctuates much like a stock market.

How Bitcoin ATM works?

- Customers will need to have their palms scanned in order to exchange up to 3000 US dollars worth of bitcoins per day.
- The bitcoins will then be transferred to and

from the customer's on-line bitcoin wallet.

- Users will have the option to receive a paper voucher representing the transaction.

Bitcoin, which came into existence in 2009, is not controlled by any authority such as a central bank. The concept was introduced in 2008 by a pseudonymous developer known only as "Satoshi Nakamoto." The currency has reportedly gained notoriety for its use to buy illicit goods such as drugs on websites. However, bitcoins are increasingly being accepted by legitimate businesses around the world.

Mumbai

The largest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower of India was inaugurated outside the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai on 18 October 2013.

The tallest ATC tower stands at the length of 84 metres or around 30 storey building. The tower was inaugurated by the Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh and Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan. Because of its height, the ATC tower will enable all the controllers in having easy and nonstop view of complete operational area.

It will also help in optimising the separation of the air traffic, while enhancing the traffic handling capacity at the same time.

The ATC tower is spread over an area of 2800 square metre area and is also equipped with state-of-the-art technology such as electronic flight strips that can reduce the workload of controllers and enhance safety and capacity of the airport. It is important to note that India is the 9th largest aviation market of the world and has the traffic increasing at 10 percent annually.

The designing of the ATC was done by Hong Kong-based architectural firm HOK as well as the international engineering designer ARUP. These were chosen after the global competition.

Pranab Mukherjee visited Belgium and Turkey

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, paid a state visit to Belgium from 2 October 2013 to 5 October 2013, at the invitation of the King of the Belgium. It was the first visit by an Indian President

to Belgium. The President inaugurated *Europalia-India 2013-14* jointly with King Philippe. After his State Visit to Belgium, the President paid a state visit to Turkey from 5 October 2013 to 7 October 2013, at the invitation of the President of Turkey. It was the third visit by an Indian President to Turkey, after the visits by the President of India in 1993 and 1998.

India is Largest Recipient of Foreign Remittances

The World Bank report entitled **Migration and Remittance Flows: Recent Trends and Outlook-2013-16** released on 2 October 2013 revealed that India emerged as the largest recipient of foreign remittances among developing economies in 2013. In 2013 Non-Resident Indians (NRI) sent a record 71 billion Dollars home compared to 70 billion dollars in 2012. According to a World Bank report NRIs are estimated to remit up to 85 billion dollars a year by 2015. World Bank in its report stated India and China will represent nearly a third of total remittances to the developing world in 2013. The surge in remittances continues despite the recent decline in Rupees against the Dollar. The gulf countries account for nearly 40 per cent of remittances in India while it was 48 percent to South Asian countries.

Report Highlights

1. The developing world is expected to receive 414 billion Dollars in migrant remittances in 2013, an increase of 6.3 percent over the previous year (2012). This is projected to rise to 540 billion Dollars by 2016.
2. Globally, the world's 232 million international migrants are expected to remit earnings worth 550 billion Dollars in 2013 and over 700 billion Dollars by 2016.
3. The top recipients of officially recorded remittances for 2013 are India (with an estimated 71 billion Dollars), China (60 billion Dollars), the Philippines (26 billion Dollars), Mexico (22 billion Dollars), Nigeria (21 billion Dollars), and Egypt (20 billion Dollars). Other large recipients include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Ukraine.

4. As a percentage of GDP, the top recipients of remittances, in 2012, were Tajikistan (48 percent), Kyrgyz Republic (31 percent), Lesotho and Nepal (25 percent each), and Moldova (24 percent).
5. Growth of remittances has been robust in all regions of the world, except for Latin America and the Caribbean, where growth decelerated due to economic weakness in the United States.

In India, remittances are larger than the earnings from IT exports. With the weakening of the Indian rupee, a surge in remittances is expected as nonresident Indians take advantage of the cheaper goods, services and assets back home. Remittances to India are expected to reach 71 billion Dollars in 2013.

Remittance is the act of transmitting money to a distant location to fulfill an obligation. International remittances are transfers of funds by foreign workers—remitters—who are living and working in other countries typically to their families who are still living in their home countries.

Statute of Unity

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi on 31 October 2013 laid the foundation stone of the Statute of Unity—a 182-metre tall statue (World's largest statue) of iron man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 138th birth anniversary at Sardar Sarovar Dam site in Bharuch district in Gujarat. The Statue of Unity will be double of the height of the Statue of Liberty (93 metres) in the USA.

Manmohan Singh visited Russia

Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh was on a 3-day Official Visit to Moscow on 20-22 October 2013 to attend the 14th India-Russian Annual Summit at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin. The 14th India-Russian Annual Summit was held at Moscow on 21 October 2013. The summit was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of the India Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of the Russia Vladimir V. Putin. During the meeting they discussed priority areas of bilateral cooperation and noted common positions on current international and regional issues. Both sides

stressed their continued commitment to promote and strengthen in every possible way their special and privileged strategic partnership. During the 14th India-Russia Annual Summit, India and Russia signed bilateral Documents on transfer of Sentenced Persons, in the Field of Energy Efficiency, in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology, in the Fields of Science and in the area of Biotechnology.

LPG Portability Scheme

The Union government of India on 5 October 2013 launched the Inter Company LPG portability scheme in 24 cities across the country. It started with Bangaluru, Karnataka. The cities are Hyderabad, Patna, Dehradun, Faridabad, Kolkata, and Chandigarh among others. The scheme will not be launched in the five poll-bound states including Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh due to model code of conduct. Under the portability scheme, a consumer can now opt for the distributor of his choice within a cluster of LPG distributors in the vicinity and across the oil companies. Presently, an LPG consumer is attached to a distributor and cannot change its distributor even he is unhappy with the service.

The consumers will be able to see the service ratings of all the distributors in their clusters and choose the one they want to based on service levels. This will usher in improvement in consumer service by the distributors as it will bring in competition in the cluster of distributors.

Bheramara

India and Bangladesh on 5 October 2013 jointly inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Grid Inter-connection at Bheramara in Bangladesh. The joint venture was launched through video-conferencing from New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister described today's inauguration as an important milestone in connecting the two countries and the border region through a growing web of cross-border energy links and trade. The Prime Minister also assured Bangladesh that India will remain a

steadfast and long-term partner in development efforts. The transmission line in High Voltage Direct Current, HVDC, in Bheramara, will provide a safe and reliable interconnection between the power grids of the two countries. Dr Singh said, this will enable the supply of 500 megawatts of power from India to Bangladesh.

The initiative undertaken today will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and add a new dimension to bilateral relations. The initiative being undertaken today strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and Bangladesh and add a rich new dimension to our bilateral relation. Economic development is the biggest challenge for all countries in South Asia. Our destinies are interlinked and so must our economy be. Both the Prime Ministers also jointly laid the foundation stone for 1320 megawatt Maitri Thermal Power Project, being developed by Bangladesh-India friendship power-company which is a joint venture of India's NTPC and Bangladesh Power Development Board. The historic event has taken India Bangladesh relations to a greater height. The 500 MW of power which will become available to Bangladesh in November 2013 will substantially help to bridge the power deficit in Bangladesh.

Moscow

Moscow, the Capital of Russia hosted the 14th India-Russia Annual Summit on 21 October 2013. Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin co-chaired the summit.

During the summit both nations discussed priority areas of bilateral cooperation on current international and regional issues. Both nations emphasised their continued commitment to promote and strengthen their special and privileged strategic partnership. India and Russia signed many bilateral Documents including transfer of Sentenced Persons, in the Field of Energy Efficiency, in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology, in the Fields of Science and in the area of Biotechnology during the summit.

827 Million Undernourished People are Living in Developing Countries

The United Nations food agencies (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP)) released a report on The State of Food Insecurity in the World on 1 October 2013. It highlighted that some 842 million people or roughly one in eight suffered from chronic hunger in 2011-13 not getting enough food to lead active and healthy lives.

Highlights of the State of Food Insecurity in the World report

- A total of 842 million people in 2011-13 or around one in eight people in the world were estimated to be suffering from chronic hunger, regularly not getting enough food to conduct an active life. This figure is lower than the 868 million reported with reference to 2010-12. The total number of undernourished has fallen by 17 percent since 1990-92.
- The vast majority of hungry people 827 million live in developing regions where the prevalence of undernourishment is now estimated at 14.3 percent where as 15.7 million people live in developed countries.
- While the estimated number of undernourished people has continued to decrease, the rate of progress appears insufficient to reach international goals for hunger reduction in developing regions the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) target, which is to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, and the 2001 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) hunger target, which is to halve the proportion of hungry people in the total population by 2015.
- While at the global level there has been an overall reduction in the number of undernourished between 1990-92 and 2011-13, different rates of progress across regions have led to changes in the distribution of undernourished people in the world. Most of the world's undernourished people are still to be found in Southern Asia, closely

followed by sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Asia. The regional share has declined most in Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia. Meanwhile, the share has increased in Southern Asia, in sub-Saharan Africa and in Western Asia and Northern Africa.

- Africa remains the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment with more than one live in people estimated to be undernourished.
- Both the number and proportion of people undernourished have decreased significantly in most countries in Asia, particularly in South-Eastern Asia, but progress in Southern Asia has been slower, especially in terms of the number of people undernourished.
- The prevalence of undernourishment is lower in Western Asia than in other parts of the region but has risen steadily since 1990-92. With a decline in prevalence from 31.1 to 10.7 percent, the most rapid progress was recorded in South-Eastern Asia, followed by Eastern Asia.
- The Asia region as a whole is nearly on track to achieve the MDG hunger target. The target has already been reached in the Caucasus and Central Asia, East Asia and South-Eastern Asia, while it has nearly been reached in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Food security is a complex condition. Its dimensions – availability, access, utilization and stability are better understood when presented through a suite of indicators.

Moe Set Wine

Myanmar's Moe Set Wine, 25, was on 3 October 2013 selected as the first Miss Universe contestant to represent her country in more than 50 years time. The US-educated business graduate was chosen as the first Miss Universe contestant who will represent Myanmar in over 50 years. She will be seen on the stage at the global beauty pageant in Moscow in November 2013.

It is important to note that Myanmar last sent the Miss Universe contender in the year 1961. After being selected, Moe Set Wine explained that she

felt like a part of Myanmar's history. The controversy revolves around the dress code. The traditional dress of Myanmar is still mandatory in the high schools, universities as well as most of the state Workplaces. The traditional dress of Myanmar is the demure longyi, which is actually a sheet of cotton or silk cloth wrapped around the waist and stretching to the feet. Dress designer of Moe Set Wine- Htay Htay Tin, explained that in the past people in Myanmar did not dare to wear the clothes like these, but now the things were improving and so designers got a chance to create what they like.

Best Business Destinations in India

Bangalore topped the list of best business destinations in India as per the study done by Global Initiative for Restructuring Environment and Management on 21 October 2013. It was ranked on the basis of socio-economic and infrastructure factors. Chennai is at the second position, followed by Mumbai and Pune. Ahmedabad was placed at 8th position behind Indore (5th), Bhubaneshwar (6th) and Coimbatore (7th). Nagpur and Kochi are at ninth and tenth positions, respectively, while Hyderabad was ranked 12th. In the NCR region, Noida is at the 17th position while Gurgaon ranks 19th. Kolkata was placed at 18th position. Visakhapatnam is at 21st place. The study ranked the cities based on factors such as human capital, energy, water, transport, housing, healthcare, climate, office space availability and city culture, amongst others. These include basic eco-socio-economic factors critical in determining the growth of the city. The ranking offers companies across industries and sectors with valuable for future investment opportunities.

Viktor Orban visited India

Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary visited India on 16-17 October 2013. During his visit, India and Hungary signed several important agreements to further strengthen cooperation which includes a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of traditional Indian medicine systems.

Earlier this year, India's Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid had visited Hungary where he

discussed regional, bilateral and international issues with his Hungarian counterpart Janos Martonyi.

Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is situated in the Carpathian Basin and is bordered by Slovakia to the north, Ukraine and Romania to the east, Serbia and Croatia to the south, Slovenia to the southwest and Austria to the west.

Manila

The 2nd Meeting of the Philippines-India Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation was held on 21 October 2013, in Manila. The meeting was co-chaired by Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

India and Philippines held comprehensive discussions on political, defense, security, economic and cultural cooperation, and reviewed the progress of the Joint Working Groups on Trade and Investment, Tourism, Agriculture, Health and Medicine, Joint Committee on Renewable Energy and of the Joint Defense Cooperation Committee. They emphasized that the opportunity to meet regularly at high level is important, to reflect their growing and dynamic bilateral partnership.

The Ministers agreed that the next meetings of the Policy Consultations and Strategic Dialogue will be held in Manila, in 2014.

Global Slavery Index 2013

The inaugural Global Slavery Index published on 17 October 2013 revealed that around 30 million people across the world were living in the modern-day slavery. The Global Slavery Index 2013 was compiled by the Walk Free Foundation. The Walk Free Foundation explained in the meanwhile that India, by far, had the largest population of enslaved people. The problem of slavery was also prominent in West African nation of Mauritania, where the population of the slaves was 4 percent.

The Walk Free Foundation also explained that the annual Global Slavery Index will help all the Governments of the world to tackle with the problem.

What is Walk Free Foundation (WFF)?

- The Walk Free Foundation was established in May 2012.
- It is the 20-strong team based in Perth on the Australian west coast.
- WFF was founded by the philanthropists Andrew Forrest — the chairman of Fortescue Metals Group along with his wife Nicola.
- WFF receives backing from the former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, Britain's ex-prime minister Tony Blair, current Australian PM Tony Abbott and philanthropists Bill Gates, Richard Branson and Mo Ibrahim.
- WFF brought together the best experts in the field, data from the outside sources as well as their own analysis in order to compile the index which includes 162 countries of the world.

Definition of Slavery according to WFF

The WFF defines modern slavery as something which includes slavery itself along with other slavery-like practices such as forced marriage, debt bondage, forced labour and human trafficking. This also includes exploitation of children and the sale of children. Slavery, according to WFF, is the hidden crime, because of which it becomes difficult to monitor it.

Countries with the top rankings in Global Slavery Index 2013

- The countries that had the top rankings in the Global Slavery Index 2013 included Pakistan, Haiti and Mauritania.
- Apart from these countries, others in the top rankings included India, Nepal, Moldova, Benin, Ivory Coast, Gambia and Gabon.

- It is important to note that Moldova, which was once the part of Soviet Union, was the only European nation in the top 10 ranking of the Global Slavery Index 2013.
- The Global Slavery Index 2013 described Mauritania as a country which had deeply entrenched hereditary slavery and where the people in slavery were traded and given away as the gifts.
- Russia stood at the 49th position, China at 84th, United States at 134th, France at 139th and Britain remained low on 160.
- The total numbers of the most people in modern slavery were: India (13.95 million), followed by China (2.95 million) and Pakistan (2.1 million).
- The survey revealed that 72 percent of people in modern slavery lived in Asia.
- The Global Slavery Index 2013 revealed that by far the largest proportion of this problem is the exploitation of Indian citizens within India itself, particularly through debt bondage and bonded labour.
- The survey also revealed that the estimated 2.9 million people in modern slavery in China included forced labour of men, women and children in many parts of the economy, including domestic servitude and forced begging, the sexual exploitation of women and children, and forced marriage.
- The WFF explained that among the Top 10 nations, Moldova and Ivory Coast were working hard in order to address this issue. Also, the efforts in the top three- Mauritania, Haiti and Pakistan, were the token at best and non-existent at worst.



1. Consider the following Statements?

1. 'Indira Gandhi Centre for Substantial Development' is to be established in Somerville College, Oxford University which happens to be the former PM Indira Gandhi's

alma mater.'

2. 'The Oscar winning film director Charles Ferguson is making a CNN documentary on Sarah Palin currently.'

Which of the above statement/statements is/ are true?

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