

Kalinjar Publications

# Current Affairs 2014

for civil services **IAS/PCS**  
and all other examination

## Topics

National  
International  
India & the World  
Economy  
Science & Technology  
Sports  
Awards & Prizes  
In the News

Section wise  
**MCQs**

S N Jha



# Contents

<b>INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.....</b>	<b>61</b>
UN to Reduce its Staffs and cut Budget .....	61
Officials banned from smoking in public places in China .....	61
UK to be Europe's largest economy by 2030 .....	61
First Ministerial Level Talk held for BCIM Trade Corridor .....	62
EU granted GSP-Plus status to Pakistan .....	63
Michelle Bachelet won Chile Presidential Elections .....	63
Foreign companies can drill for Oil and Gas in Mexico .....	64
Relocation of US airbase in Japan approved .....	64
Red Sea-to-Dead Sea Water sharing Deal .....	64
Iran has installed 1000 Second Generation IR-2m centrifuges .....	65
Abdul Kader Mullah hanged for 1971 war crimes .....	65
First Country to Legalize Marijuana Trade .....	65
Yemen Parliament Banned use of US Drones .....	66
Defence spending to be increased by Japan .....	66
South Korea expanded its defence zone in disputed area with China .....	67
New sanctuary to be build to save World's rarest Javan Rhinos .....	68
All unfulfilled munitions by Syrian Government have been destroyed .....	68
China formally eased one-child policy and abolished labour Camps .....	69
8 economic zones to be set up in Sri Lanka .....	69
National referendum on new draft of Constitution in Egypt .....	69
Chinese Satellite System opened completely for Asian neighbours .....	70
WTO revises Bali draft .....	70
Muslim Brotherhood Declared a Terrorist Group .....	71
Marijuana recreational pot legalized in Colorado and Washington .....	71
China 's unmanned Lunar Probe- Chang'e-3 .....	71
Two year cross-party budget Bill Signed in US .....	72
Iran and P5+1 Group of Nations clinched Nuclear Deal .....	72
Geneva II Syria Peace Conference .....	72
Nepal Constituent Assembly elections .....	73
Shinawatra declared Emergency Law for Bangkok .....	73
US exempted India and China from Iranian Sanctions .....	73
Abdulla Yameen sworn in as the President of Maldives .....	74
China Set up Air Defence Zone over East China Sea .....	74
13th Council of Ministers Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association was held in Australia .....	74
Agreement to provide financial assistance to Egypt .....	75
Afghan-US Bilateral Security Agreement got nod .....	75



“Cyber Coalition 2013” launched .....	76
State of National Calamity declared in Philippines .....	76
Russia Successfully Launched Proton-M Rocket .....	76
Voting Rights of US and Israel over Palestine row suspended .....	77
Malta to Host Next Commonwealth Summit in 2015 .....	77
Pakistan Successfully Test Fired Hatf IX (Nasr) .....	78
Largest Nuclear Power Project in Pakistan Launched .....	78
UN Court ruled for Cambodia .....	78
NASA Launched MAVEN Mission to study Mars Atmosphere .....	79
Roadmap for destruction of Syria's Chemical Weapons adopted .....	79
Agreement for the Development of Dara-Suf to Yakawlang Highway .....	79
UN urged Myanmar to grant Rights to Rohingya Muslims .....	80
Egypt Panel approved New Draft Constitution .....	80
New Army Chief of Pakistan Appointed .....	81
Silvio Berlusconi expelled from Italian Parliament .....	81
Venezuela President got Special Powers .....	81
Dubai to host World Expo 2020 .....	82
Iran Unveiled New Biggest Drone .....	82
Russia passed Anti-Terror Bill .....	82
World's first Underwater Rail Link between two Continents .....	83
Iran and P5+1 Group Agreed to Hold Talks on Iran's Nuclear Programme .....	83
Ethiopia banned its Citizens from Travelling Abroad for Work .....	83
China Biggest Oil Importer in September 2013 .....	83
Australia to end its Military Mission in Afghanistan .....	84
Syria Joined UN Chemical Weapons Convention .....	84
UNSC Elected 5 New Non-Permanent Members .....	85
Minamata Convention on Mercury Adopted .....	85
Madagascar held its first Presidential Election after the 2009 Coup .....	86
MoUs for Nalanda University Project .....	86
Turkey Lifted a Ban on Women Wearing the Islamic Head Scarf .....	86
Islamic criminal law introduced by Brunei Sultan .....	87
UK's First Nuclear Plant .....	87
An Agreement to end the Political Crisis in Tunisia .....	87
UNGA Voted against US Embargo on Cuba .....	88
Brazil Announced to Produce Low-Cost Measles and Rubella Vaccine .....	88
Syria Submitted Chemical Arms Destruction Plan to OPCW .....	88
100 Billion US Dollars Fund by BRICS .....	89
Chinese Leader Bo Xilai Sentenced to Life .....	89
68th Session of the UN General Assembly held in New York .....	90
Beauty Pageants for Children below 16 Years Banned by The French Senate .....	90
Sarin Gas Used in Syria Attack .....	91
Third Term for Angela Merkel .....	91
G20 Summit 2013 took Place in St. Petersburg, Russia .....	91
U.S. Cleared Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's Flight .....	92
Hun Sen reelected as the Prime Minister of Cambodia .....	93
UNSC Voted to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weapons .....	93



Microsoft Joined Google in the Spying Lawsuit Filed in the Federal Court .....	93
Egypt Court Banned Muslim Brotherhood .....	94
USA and Russia agreed on the Process of dismantling Syria's Chemical Weapons .....	94
India Gave One Million Dollars Aid to UNRWA for Palestinian Refugees .....	95
Iraq Ratified Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) .....	95
50-Member Panel to amend the Constitution of Egypt .....	95
Sri Lanka heading in an Authoritarian Direction .....	95
Grameen Bank to be brought under Central Bank Jurisdiction .....	96
UNGA Signed a Declaration Against Sexual Violence .....	96
War Crime Convicts to be dropped from Voting List in Bangladesh .....	96
Ukraine Signed Natural Gas Production-Sharing Agreement with Exxon and Shell .....	97
Bank of Beijing Opened China's First Direct Bank .....	97
Russia and China held Joint Military Exercise .....	97
Tony Abbott Sworn in as Australia Prime Minister .....	98
MCQ .....	99



## International Issues

### UN to Reduce its Staffs and cut Budget

United Nations on 27 December 2013 ordered to cut staff and budget under the pressure from United States and other austerity-stricken industrialized powers. This is the first time, since 1945 United Nations has taken the decision to cut the staff and budget. The decision was taken because the governments of members suffer from financial crisis. After protracted negotiations, the 193-nation Assembly agreed to cut 221 staff or 2 percent at the UN headquarters and ordered a one-year pay freeze for the more than 10000 workers in New York. A two-year freeze on benefits allowance was also mentioned. The staff cut is part of the 2014-2015 UN budgets. The members of UN have also voted to cut its budget to 5.5 billion dollars for 2014-15, which is 50 million dollars below the final spending in past two years. United States provides about 22 percent of UN budget. Apart from US, other countries like France, Britain, Germany and Japan are among the top contributors in the budget of UN. The general budget does not include UN peacekeeping activities that cost more than 7.5 billion dollars a year or to operate several major UN agencies, such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme, which are funded by voluntary contributions.

### Officials banned from smoking in public places in China

According to the China's official Xinhua News Agency, Chinese Government on 30 December 2013 banned its officials from smoking in public places. Public places include schools, offices, and hospitals, sports venues, on Public transport or any

other places where smoking is banned or to smoke or offer cigarettes when performing official duties. Also, officials cannot use public funds to buy cigarettes, and within Communist Party or in government office tobacco products cannot be sold. The smoking ban must be displayed in meeting rooms, reception offices, passageways, cafeterias and rest rooms. The Officials have been asked to take the lead in implementing government ban on smoking in public places. China with a population of 1.35 billion has about 300 million smokers. China is the World's largest cigarette producer and consumer. Though China's health authorities already banned people from smoking in indoor public places in 2011, the rule is not seriously enforced or obeyed in the country. India also banned smoking in public places which covers offices, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, college campuses, bars and discos with effect from 2 October 2008. In Asia, India, Hong Kong and China have banned smoking in public places.

### UK to be Europe's largest economy by 2030

Centre for Economic and Business Research (CERB) study released in December 2013 has predicted that UK will overtake Germany as Europe's largest economy by 2030.

At present Germany is at the top spot in Europe. It cites the UK's population growth as an aid to economic acceleration. CERB has also predicted that strong growth by emerging economies like India, Russia and Brazil will make UK to slip down on the global ranking over the next two decades. It said that UK would be the second most successful western economy after US. Germany will slip in the position of the European

[WWW.IASEXAMPORAL.COM](http://WWW.IASEXAMPORAL.COM)

Click Here to Buy Current Affairs for IAS, State PCS, SSC, Bank & All Other Exams  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/order-form/current-affairs-books>



economy to UK in 2030 because of its faster population growth and its less dependence on other European economies. The report has echoed the recent confidence of other business groups such as the British Chambers of Commerce, BCC. The CERB released its annual World Economic League Table in which the future ranking of the economic is done depending upon the ups and downs of the global economies. CERB in its release has also said that China will take over the US economy in 2028 and India will be in the third place. CERB compiled the forecasts of growth, inflation and currency values in its league tables to the size of economies, which was measured in US dollars in 2013, 2018, 2023 and 2028. In its release CERB has said that its prediction should be treated as a caution because of the unpredictable fluctuations in currencies.

As per the released report, India will overtake Japan as the third biggest economy in next 15 years with Brazil as the fifth biggest economy. The anti-deflation strategy would lead to the weaken of Yen for the future and would affect the value of dollar of its national output. However, as far as Germany, the group said that should the euro break up, that Germany's outlook would be much better. As for France, the CEFR said it will be one of the worst performing of the Western economies, and will be overtaken by the UK by 2018. This is because of slow growth due to high taxation in addition to the general issues of eurozone economies.

#### First Ministerial Level Talk held for BCIM Trade Corridor

India, China, Bangladesh and Myanmar in the third week of December 2013 held the first ever official-level discussions on the ambitious corridor to link India and China with Bangladesh and Myanmar. The BCIM corridor faced a rapid boost for the first time after it was discussed with ministerial level talk. The four member countries namely, Bangladesh, India, China, and Myanmar proposed the establishment of the BCIM Forum for regional cooperation. Over the next six months, each country will come up with a joint study report proposing concrete projects and financing modalities, before the next meeting of the four

nations in June 2014. The next meeting would be hosted by Bangladesh. Presently, the four countries come up with an ambitious proposal that included developing multi-modal transport, such as road, rail, waterways and airways, joint power projects and telecommunication networks. As a first step, the four countries will identify realistic and achievable infrastructure projects to boost physical connectivity. The linking of all four countries by road has further strengthened the notion that this corridor would subsequently open up the whole of the northeastern region of India to Southeast Asia and China and turn it into a significant channel of trade.

#### About BCIM

The corridor would cover 1.65 million square kilometers encompassing an estimated 440 million people in the regions of Yunnan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, West Bengal, Bihar and states in Northern India. The establishment of a trade corridor by the Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation (BCIM) was an idea originally developed by Chinese scholars in Kunming at the end of the 1990s, and then it is called the Kunming Initiative. The Kunming Initiative evolved into the BCIM Forum for Regional Cooperation during its first meeting in 1999.

#### Benefits of the Trade Corridor

The economic advantages of the BCIM trade corridor are considerable, most notably

- Access to numerous markets in Southeast Asia,
- Improvement of transportation infrastructure and
- Creation of industrial zones

The construction of industrial zones will have a two fold benefit

- Firstly, it will lead to industrial transfer boosting industries such as processing, manufacturing and commerce logistics.
- Secondly, as labor costs rise in China, labor-intensive industries such as textile and agro-processing will eventually be shifted out of China. These industries will need to be transferred to new regions with lower labor costs.

## EU granted

### GSP-Plus status to Pakistan

The European Union on 12 December 2013 granted GSP-Plus status to Pakistan. This move will boost the textile and other industries of Pakistan as it has given exporters a duty free access to 27 European Countries. 406 members of the European Parliament supported the move of the Union at a session in Brussels.

Under this deal 75 Pakistani products would have duty-free access to European markets. The Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif government's top priority was to gain an access into the European market as part of its economic agenda. As this status will enable Pakistan to export products of 1 billion dollars to international markets and help the textile industry of the country to earn profits of more than 1 trillion rupees. Overall, the increase in the exports will also facilitate economic growth and generate millions of additional jobs.

As per the analysts, the trade concession to Pakistan from European Union will benefit the textile and clothing industry of the country and also enable its products to compete with the products of rivals like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, the two countries that have duty-free access to the bloc markets of European Union. At present the textile and clothing exports of Pakistan to the European Union constitutes of its total exports to the bloc of 9.5 billion dollars. The GSP-Plus status will provide duty free or preferential duty rate access for total 3500 products to Pakistan. Currently, the Pakistani textile exports to European Union an 11 percent duty. To get the status, Pakistan lobbied with several countries of the European Union. To get the deal done, it has held the death penalty.

### About GSP-Plus status of European Union

The European Union's GSP (Generalised Scheme of Preferences) allows developing country exporters to pay lower duties on their exports to the European Union. This gives them vital access to European Union markets and contributes to their economic growth. The reformed GSP, which will apply as from 2014, will further focus support on countries most in need. The EU has adopted a

reformed GSP law on 31 October 2012. In order to allow ample time for economic operators to adapt to the new scheme, the new preferences will be applied from 1 January 2014.

There are three main variants (arrangements) of the scheme

- The standard GSP scheme, which offers generous tariff reductions to developing countries. Practically, this means partial or entire removal of tariffs on two thirds of all product categories.
- The GSP+ enhanced preferences mean full removal of tariffs on essentially the same product categories as those covered by the general arrangement. These are granted to countries which ratify and implement international conventions relating to human and labour rights, environment and good governance
- Everything but Arms (EBA) scheme for least developed countries (LDCs), which grant duty-free quota-free access to all products, except for arms and ammunitions

### Michelle Bachelet won Chile Presidential Elections

Left-wing candidate Michelle Bachelet on 15 December 2013 elected as the Chile President for a second time by a wide margin. Michelle Bachelet got 62 percent votes against 38 percent votes for Evelyn Matthei, a former minister from the governing centre-right coalition. Michelle Bachelet, candidate for a centre-left coalition of parties known as Nueva Mayoria, she first served from 2006 to 2010, but under Chile's constitution she could not stand for a second consecutive term. The major contenders in the presidential election are Evelyn Matthei of conservative Alianza party and Franco Parisi, an independent candidate. Michelle Bachelet will succeed the present president Sebastián Piñera. The General elections were held in Chile on 17 November 2013 for the president post. The term of the president is for four years.

### About Michelle Bachelet

- Michelle Bachelet, candidate for a centre-left coalition of parties known as Nueva Mayoria:

61-year old Bachelet served as Chile's president between 2006 and 2010.

- She is the daughter of a high-ranking air force officer who died from the effects of torture while a prisoner of the military junta led by Gen Augusto Pinochet.
- Michelle Bachelet was herself tortured and spent some years in exile before being allowed to return and finish her medical studies. Bachelet held the post of health minister in Ricardo Lagos' government and was Chile's first female defence minister.
- She became Chile's first female president in 2006, and she had a stunning 84 per cent approval rating when she left office in 2010. In 2010, she was appointed the first director of the newly-created agency UN Women.

#### About Chile

Chile officially the Republic of Chile is a South American country occupying a long, narrow strip of land between the Andes mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Chile stretches over 4300 km (2670 miles) north to south, but only 350 km (217 miles) at its widest point east to west. It is bounded on the north by Peru and Bolivia, on its long eastern border by Argentina, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The capital of Chile is Santiago.

#### Foreign companies can drill for Oil and Gas in Mexico

Enrique Pena Nieto, the Mexican President on 20 December 2013 signed a controversial law that allows foreign companies to drill for oil. The law was signed for the first time since nationalization of the sector in 1938.

The Mexican Congress passed the legislation on 13 December 2013 and was ratified by the majority of Mexican states. This legislation has changed three articles in the Constitution of the country. It allows foreign investment in oil, gas and electricity. To drill oil and gas, private companies have been allowed to sign contracts with state controlled Pemex. Pemex will get a share of the profits. The law was signed to attract investment to Mexico that will attract the investment needed

to boost the falling oil output of the country. The Mexican oil production has fallen from 3.4 million barrels per day in 2004 to the current rate of 2.5 million barrels per day.

#### Relocation of US airbase in Japan approved

Japan on 27 December 2013 approved the relocation of the US military airbase on its southern island of Okinawa. The relocation was accepted by the Governor of Okinawa, Hirokazu Nakaima. He agreed to landfill work to develop a new base in a less densely populated part of the island. A document was signed to give a green light to the Governor of the landfill. It has paved a way to the construction of the new base on the coast. The relocation of the airbase was accepted after the Prime Minister of Japan, Shino Abe pledged an annual injection of 300 billion yen (about 2.9 billion dollar) into the island's economic stimulate budget until 2021 fiscal.

The Governor's nod is a breakthrough to the 1996 agreement to shut down the Futenma airbase that is located in a densely populated urban area of the island. The agreement searched for a new site for placing the new US base. The US has around 26,000 troops on Okinawa under a long-standing security alliance with Japan.

#### Red Sea-to-Dead Sea Water sharing Deal

Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians 9 December 2013 signed a historic water-sharing initiative at the World Bank in Washington that could protect the Dead Sea from rising demand for water in the region. The agreement was signed by Israeli Energy Minister Silvan Shalom, Shaddad Attili, head of the Palestinian water authority, and Hazim el-Naser, head of the Jordanian water ministry.

According to the agreement- a pipeline will be built on the Jordanian side of the Aqaba Gulf to carry brine (sea water) from a desalination plant at the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, while providing drinking water to the region. The project is expected to cost 250m-400m Dollars.

#### The Dead Sea water Depleting Issue

The Dead Sea is dropping by as much as 1m (3.3ft) a year as the River Jordan is depleted for



use in irrigation. The Dead Sea is so rich in salt and other minerals that humans float naturally on the surface. The area around the sea has an established tourism and health industry because of the water's unique properties. But the Dead Sea is losing water rapidly, with some fearing the Dead Sea could dry up entirely by 2050. The scheme will pipe water from the Gulf of Aqaba off the Red Sea through a desalination plant in Jordan, sending brine to the southern-most edge of the Dead Sea. The sea water will be used to test the impact of Red Sea water being transported to the Dead Sea. It will involve the construction of a desalination plant in Jordan, projected to yield 80 million-100 million cu m of water annually. A water transfer deal will also see Israel supply water to Jordan and the Palestinian territories. The project also expected to yield hydroelectric power for use in the desalination process.

#### Iran has installed 1000 Second Generation IR-2m centrifuges

Iran installed a one thousand second generation IR-2m centrifuges at one of its nuclear enrichment sites. This was announced by Ali-Akbar Salehi, the Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on 29 December 2013. Salehi is also a Vice President of Iran. As per Salehi, at present Iran have 19000 centrifuges and is developing a new generation of centrifuges, which will need all kind of tests before being into operation.

As per the report of ISNA, UF6 gas has not been injected into the centrifuges in view of the ongoing talks of Iran with the six world powers on its nuclear issue. Earlier in November 2013, Iran and the six world powers together signed an interim deal under which Iran agreed to not operate its new centrifuges for next six months. But the deal doesn't stopped Iran from developing new centrifuges. Fereidoon Abbasi, the chief of AEOI in August 2013 announced that 18000 centrifuges were available with Iran of which 10000 were operating. Salehi also said that Tehran and Moscow are discussing on the construction of four nuclear power plants in Iran.

#### Abdul Kader Mullah hanged for 1971 war crimes

Islamist leader Abdul Kader Mullah of Bangladesh was executed on 12 December 2013. His execution was done at the Dhaka Central Jail at 22:01 local time. He was executed for genocides done during the Bangladesh's 1971 liberation war with Pakistan.

He was the first person convicted by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) and the first politician to be hanged for such crimes. He was the senior leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party. The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up in Bangladesh in 2010 to investigate on the abuses committed during the 1971 conflict. The prosecutors during his trial described him as the Butcher of Mirpur, the suburb of Dhaka where he has been alleged to carry out the crimes. He massacred unarmed civilians and killed intellectuals, who were supporting the independence from Pakistan. Apart from Abdul Kader Mullah, four other leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami have been convicted by the ICT and will face the death penalty. 42 years ago in 1971 Bangladesh broke away from Pakistan after a war after the military intervention by India, in which many were killed and about 10 million people migrated as refugees.

#### Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is a war crimes tribunal in Bangladesh, which was set up by the Government in 2009. The ICT was formed to investigate and prosecute the suspects for the genocide committed in 1971 by the Pakistan Army and their local collaborators, during the Bangladesh Liberation War. During the 2008 general election, the Awami League (AL) when won the election with more than two-thirds majority in Parliament set up the tribunal. The first indictment was issued in 2010.

#### First Country to Legalize Marijuana Trade

Uruguay on 10 December 2013 became the first country in the world to legalise marijuana for recreational use with the state taking control of the trade. In this regard Uruguay senators gave the approval for government-sponsored bill. According

to the new law-Registered Uruguayans over the age of 18 will be allowed to buy up to 40 grams of the drug a month. Tourists will be excluded. The government hopes it will help tackle drug cartels, but critics say it will expose more people to drugs. With introducing new law, Uruguay became the first country in the world to have a system regulating legal production, sale and consumption of the drug. Uruguay Marijuana Law;

- State controls the production, distribution, commerce and consumption of marijuana
- Consumers have to be over 18 and registered
- Marijuana to be sold at licensed pharmacies
- Sales are limited to 40g (1.4oz) per month
- Registered users can grow up to six plants at home
- Buyers and growers have to be over 18
- Tourists are excluded
- Advertising is forbidden
- Prices will be fixed by the government

#### Yemen Parliament Banned use of US Drones

The Yemen Parliament on 15 December 2013 banned the use of US drones in the country after dozens of civilians were killed by the unmanned aircraft. In this regard an anti-drone motion was passed by Yemen's parliament on 15 December 2013. The Parliament also stressed the importance of protecting innocent citizens from any airstrike as well as preserving Yemen's sovereignty. The decision by the Yemeni parliament to ban the use of US drones comes after one of the unmanned aircrafts mistakenly hit a wedding convey in Al - Bayda province, killing 17 Yemeni civilians and wounding about 21 others on 12 December 2013. It was the second airstrike mistake in a week after a US drone killed at least four people traveling on a road in the eastern province of Hadramout on 9 December 2013. The United States has stepped up drone strikes in Yemen as part of a campaign against Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The Yemen-based al-Qaida offshoot has carried out a series of attacks in Yemen targeting state institutions, the military and foreign missions in the country. However, the US drone strikes have mistakenly hit civilian targets several times in the

past two years. The Yemeni people staged several rallies this year to demand an end to the US drone strikes in the country.

#### Defence spending to be increased by Japan

Japan under the hawkish Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has decided on 17 December 2013 to increase its spending on defence by about 5% over a period of 5 years (2014 – 2019). This is the biggest increase in defence spending in 22 years, although much of the growth reflects higher import costs due to a weaker yen. Abe's government also decided to review Japan's ban on weapons exports. This means that Japan could revive struggling defence contractors like Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. The decision to increase defence spending to 24.6 trillion yen (239 billion dollar) was in response to China's ever increasing military budget. Besides, the decision has come at a time when the tensions between Japan and China have soared over the ownership of tiny islands in East China Sea. The tiny islands in Japan are known as Senkaku and in China as Diaoyu. The increase in defence spending would include an additional purchase of F-35 fighters, made by Lockheed Martin Corp, as well as two more Aegis warships, bringing the total to eight. Japan will also be buying the tilt-rotor Osprey surveillance aircraft, built by Boeing Co and Textron Inc's Bell Helicopter unit, and drones including Northrop Grumman Corp's Global Hawk.

Japan's defence plan included a five-year military buildup plan and a 10-year defence guideline. According to the plan, there is a need for stronger air and maritime surveillance capabilities. It also improved ability to defend far-flung islands through setting up a marine unit, buying unarmed surveillance drones and putting a unit of E-2C early-warning aircraft on Okinawa Islands in the south.

Japan's 10-year guidelines also mark a shift from its Cold War posture of defending against a Russian attack from the north, toward a potential conflict with China to the west and south.

The defence plan cuts Japan's tanks by 400 to 300 over 10 years, while adding some faster,

more maneuverable combat vehicles that could be flown in, say, to retake islands. The new policy outline also calls for Japan to beef up its ability to defend against ballistic missile attacks, such as from unpredictable neighbor North Korea.

#### An Analysis

The new defence plan of Japan is an update of the defence posture that was last reviewed in 2010 under the Yoshihiko Noda government. Until 2010, past governments had stretched the limits of a post-war Pacifist Constitution that renounced war and said Japan will never have an army or navy.

Pacifist Constitution of Japan put a limit on the participation of Japan in defence related matters. Under the current interpretation of Japan's pacifist constitution, Japan's armed forces are not permitted to fight on behalf of friends or allies unless the Japanese themselves come under direct attack. Prime Minister Shizo Abe wants to change this policy which constraints Japan from involving in collective self-defence. The change in the stance of Japan should be seen in the light of China's increasing military strength and assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region. This has led to increasing calls for Japan to participate in international peace and security operations. In the two decades through last year, Japan remained the sixth-biggest military spender, just behind Britain, with outlays rising 13 percent in constant 2011 dollar terms, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. By contrast, China's defence spending exploded more than five-fold, vaulting the country to second place from seventh.

Still, given China's annual double-digit increases in defence spending, Japan will have to rely heavily on cooperation with its close ally, the United States, and others in the region just to maintain the status quo. Indeed, Abe's national security strategy calls for Japan not only to upgrade its cooperation with the United States but strengthen ties with strategic partners including South Korea, Australia, Southeast Asian countries and India. Abe and leaders of Southeast Asian countries called at a Tokyo summit in the second week of December 2013 for freedom of the air and sea.

This was a veiled reference to China, which has territorial disputes with several countries in the Association of South East Asian Nations.

#### South Korea expanded its defence zone in disputed area with China

On 8 December 2013 South Korea expanded its defense zone in the East China Sea, also called Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). This is the first time South Korea took such a step in response to the decision taken by China to set a defense zone of its own in the disputed area of East China Sea on 23 November.

This has increased regional tensions; as now South Korea has expanded its defense zone beyond the southern edge of its present zone. On 23 November China took a unilateral decision to establish East China Sea Air Defence Identification Zone. It changed the status quo creating apprehensions of frictions and tensions among the littoral countries that include Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

The ADIZ when expanded will overlap with the areas of China's Defence Identification Zone. The 23 November decision had displeased South Korea as well as Japan because it included the disputed Diaoyu or Senkaku islands.

These are claimed by both Japan and China. Moreover the Chinese Defence Zone includes the submerged Leodo reef which is currently owned by South Korea. Both Japan and South Korea have contested the Chinese zone as China claimed that it had reported at least 12 aircrafts of Japan and the US.

#### Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ)

It is a defined area in international space either on water or land, within which aircrafts reaching the territorial space of the related nation are tracked and observed for national security. They go beyond a country's airspace so that a country can respond to foreign aircrafts and events like hijackings in time. The first Air Defence Zone was established by the US immediately after the Second World War. Now several countries have such zones including India.

### New sanctuary to be build to save World's rarest Javan Rhinos

Indonesian Government announced to build a new sanctuary to save World's rarest Javan rhinos. The new sanctuary will be carved out of the Ujung Kulon National Park. Ujung Kulon National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is situated on the western tip of Indonesia's main island of Java.

It will encompass 12,600 acres of lush rainforest, freshwater streams and mud holes in the park. In Indonesia Javan rhinos are locally termed as Abah Gede or the Great Father.

As per the latest report of the International Union For Conservation of Nature (IUCN), decline in the strength of rhino's had reached to the level of extinction.

There are thought to be only around 50 of the rhinos in existence. Poaching in particular represents a severe threat, with rhino horns used in traditional Asian medicine. It fetches higher prices in the black market despite a lack of scientific evidence showing horn has any medicinal value.

Recently, Asia has stepped up efforts to save the region's dwindling rhino populations. There was a conference held in October 2013 with representatives from several countries on the issue in the western Indonesian island of Sumatra. Countries including Indonesia, Nepal and India, pledged to take steps to increase their rhino populations by three percent annually.

### All unfilled munitions by Syrian Government have been destroyed

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on 6 November 2013 said that the unfilled (Category 3) munitions declared by the Syrian Government have been destroyed.

The international chemical weapons watchdog (OPCW) has completed the key stage towards destroying, the chemicals weapons of Syria. The OPCW has also verified the destruction of some chemical weapons production facilities, which has been rendered inoperable during the first phase of the mission.

These activities were conducted at the Homs

cluster of sites that had remained inaccessible for some time due to security reasons. The joint United Nations-OPCW team is aimed to remove toxic chemicals from Syria by the end of the year for destruction at sea and destroy the entire program by mid-2014.

### Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997. As of today the OPCW has 190 Member States, who are working together to achieve a world free from chemical weapons. They share the collective goal of preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare, thereby strengthening international security.

The Convention contains four key provisions

- Destroying all existing chemical weapons under international verification by the OPCW
- Monitoring chemical industry to prevent new weapons from re-emerging
- Providing assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical threats
- Fostering international cooperation to strengthen implementation of the Convention and promote the peaceful use of chemistry

### UN-OPCW

#### Relationship Agreement

The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW was concluded with the United Nations in 2000 and entered into force in 2001. This was the first such agreement.

The Relationship Agreement was approved by the OPCW Conference of the States Parties in decision on 17 May 2001 and by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution on 7 September 2001.

#### Non-Member Countries of OPCW

- Signatory Countries, which have not yet ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, are Israel and Myanmar.
- The countries that have neither signed nor acceded to the Chemical Weapons



Convention are Angola, Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan.

#### China formally eased one-child policy and abolished labour Camps

The top legislature of China on 28 December 2013 adopted a resolution that eases the one child policy of the country. The resolution was passed by the standing committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

The resolution has allowed the couples of China to have two children if either parent is an only child. Earlier, a couple generally had a second child only if both parents were only children. It also approved proposal that abolishes re-education through labour camps. The policy had an exception, which included the ethnic minorities and couples who both lacked siblings. The policy changes were announced following a meeting of top Communist Party officials in November 2013. These reforms came at the end of the six day meet of the congress after this was tested in parts of the country. To be put into effect, it just needed a approval by the legislature.

The one-child policy was introduced in 1979 in China. The decision was taken to curb the rapid population growth. The policy restricted the couples in urban areas to only one child, whereas in rural areas families were allowed to have two children only in case the first one was a girl. As per the policy about one-third of the total population of 1.3 billion citizens of China couldn't have a second child without incurring a fine. This led to a gender imbalance occurred in China because of the preference for a boy child. The policy has become increasingly unpopular and leaders fear the country's ageing population will both reduce the labour pool and exacerbate elderly care issues. By 2050, more than a quarter of the population will be over 65.

#### 8 economic zones to be set up in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Board of Investment on 5 December 2013 announced plans to start eight export processing and industrial zones across the country. These economic zones will begin

operations in 2014. As per the Investment Promotion Minister of Sri Lanka, Lakshman Yapa Abeywardana these zones will attract foreign investment and will provide economic development to the rural areas. The largest of the eight zones will be in Vavuniya in the North, which will revive the economic activities after the civil war. The three of the economic zones will be at Hambantota in the south. The Government of Sri Lanka has invested heavily to develop the region as a commercial and industrial hub.

#### National referendum on new draft of Constitution in Egypt

The Interim President of Egypt, Adly Mansour on 14 December 2013 announced 14-15 January 2014 as the date for national referendum on the new draft of the constitution. The 2012 Constitution, which was approved by the Islamist dominated Parliament, under the ousted President Mohamed Morsi will be replaced by the new draft Constitution. The Islamist drafted constitution in existence was approved by a referendum in December 2012, with 64 percent of the votes. Amr Moussa, the head of the constitution drafting panel said that the draft constitution is a balanced constitution that provides freedoms, rights and separation of powers. As the new Constitution of Egypt protects the freedom of belief, opinion and creation, which preserves intellectual property rights, and provides gender equality. It bans the political parties on religious lines and provides for equality of citizens. The amended draft was submitted to Mansour on 3 December 2013 by the drafting committee.

The draft of the new constitution was prepared by a 50 member panel. Under the transitional roadmap after the ouster of Mohamed Morsi, the former President of Egypt in July 2013, the amended Constitution needs to be approved by a national referendum. A successful referendum vote would be followed by elections. The constitutional drafting committee, during the amendment process decided to leave the decision on President Mansour that whether to hold presidential or parliamentary elections first.



### Chinese Satellite System opened completely for Asian neighbours

China on 27 December 2013 welcomed the Asian countries to use its home grown BeiDou Navigation System for navigation system for free. China is intended to widen the use of its home grown BeiDou Navigation System, which already has 16 satellites. China is keen to develop BeiDou satellite as an alternative to the American Global Positioning System (GPS) and Russian GLONASS. GPS has been active since the 1970s and has satellites in orbit. The satellites have been operating for more than two decades.

BeiDou launched the first of its current generation satellites only five years ago. GPS (Global Positioning System) comprises 30 satellites, while BeiDou already has over sixteen and is going to have another forty in orbit by the time the network is complete in 2020, at a cost of another 6 billion dollar. The greater the number of satellites, the easier it is for the system to calculate location, time and velocity of moving objects.

In this scenario, China offers the use of its satellite for free to its neighbouring countries on the lines of American GPS. The focus will be on countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and particularly in South and Southeast Asia, where the satellites has offered the highest accuracy. China is developing Stations in Pakistan to improve the service there. By January 2014, Thailand will become the first country in 2014 to build a satellite station based on BeiDou, with both countries signing a 319 million dollar deal. The successful deployment of BeiDou means the increasingly potent Chinese armed forces will have an accurate, independent navigation system. It has a vital technology for guiding the missiles, warships and attack aircraft that allow Beijing to claim great power status. The system, which was first launched in 2011 for use only by the government and military, has over the past year begun to be widely deployed for civilian uses domestically. Currently, 80 per cent of passenger buses and trucks in China are using the system. The Chinese State Council, or Cabinet, said in a September report that the domestic satellite navigation industry would be valued at 400

billion Yuan i.e. 4 lakh crore rupees by 2020. BeiDou is the only satellite navigation system that offers telecommunication services. That means that, apart from giving users location and time information, BeiDou can also send users' information to other people and communicate with users via text messages.

China launched the first satellite for the BeiDou system in 2000 and a preliminary version of the system has been used in traffic control, weather forecasting and disaster relief work on a trial basis, since 2003. More than 1000 BeiDou terminals were used after the 2008 Sichuan earthquake to provide information from the disaster area. The system was also used during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the 2010 Shanghai Expo to pinpoint traffic congestion and supervise venues. The global satellite navigation segment has become a crowded marketplace over the past decade, and looks to become even more so. Russia recently completed its constellation of Glonass satellites (though it has since lost one). Europe is unrolling its Galileo system, while other countries such as India and Japan plan to develop at least regional navigation networks.

### WTO revises Bali draft

The World Trade Organization on 6 December 2013 agreed to allow countries to provide subsidy on staple food crops without any threat of punitive action. The WTO has issued a revised draft of the Bali Package which addresses India's concerns on food security. The decision has taken during the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference Bali, Indonesia. After tough negotiations over the past four days in the face of India's unrelenting stand on the food security issue, the 159-member WTO reached a historic agreement that will boost global trade by one trillion dollars. The deal allows nations such as India to fix a Minimum Support Price for farm produce and to sell staple grains to the poor at subsidised rates. It also permits countries to store food grains to meet contingency requirements. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma, was represented the India at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference. The conference was held in Bali, Indonesia from 3 to 6 December 2013.



## GS (Paper - 1) & CSAT (Paper - 2) Comprehensive Manual

For IAS Preliminary Examinations

Medium: English

Pages: 2750

Cost: Rs. ~~2200~~ Rs. 2090/-

Delivery Charges: Free!

Payment Option: Cash on delivery or Online

For any clarification call us @ 011-45151781

Available on Flipkart.com  
&  
All Major Book Stores

### General Studies (Paper - 1) & CSAT (Paper - 2) Comprehensive Manual: IAS Preliminary Examination 2015, (Set of 2 Books)

#### BOOK DETAILS

**Medium:** English

**Price:** Rs. ~~2200~~ Rs. 2090/-

**Publisher:** Kalinjar Publications

**ISBN NO:** 9789351720485

#### TOPICS OF THE BOOK

##### CSAT General Studies Manual (Paper - 1)

1. Indian History
2. Indian Polity
3. Indian Economy
4. Geography
5. General Science
6. Environment
7. General Knowledge
8. MCQ For Practice

##### CSAT Comprehensive Manual (Paper - 2)

1. SOLVED PAPER - 2014
  2. SOLVED PAPER - 2013
  3. SOLVED PAPER - 2012
- COMPREHENSION & ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION
  - INTERPERSONAL & COMMUNICATION SKILLS & DECISION MAKING & PROBLEM SOLVING
  - GENERAL MENTAL ABILITY, LOGICAL REASONING & ANALYTICAL ABILITY
  - BASIC NUMERACY
  - DATA INTERPRETATION & DATA SUFFICIENCY
  - MCQ For Practice

**For Full Information about Books Click below Link:**

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/books/combo-csat-paper-1-2>

# ONLINE COACHING FOR IAS EXAMS



- ✓ 24x7 E-learning Access
- ✓ 100% Syllabus Covered
- ✓ at just 100 Rs.per month
- ✓ Discussion Forum, Chat
- ✓ Telephonic Support



**Register Now**

**FREE TRIAL 7 DAY**

**IAS EXAM PORTAL**  
www.iasexamportal.com

## Online Coaching for IAS PRE GS 2015

### What candidate will get:

#### 1. All the relevant and required materials of subjects mention in the GS syllabus like:

- 100% IAS Exam Syllabus Covered with MCQs.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.
- Indian and World Geography - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
- Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development -Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialisation
- General Science.
- Current Affairs.

#### 2. Home assignment: where Multiple Choice Questions of the learned chapters will be given for self evaluation.

#### 3. Important current affairs materials for civil services preliminary examination will be provided

#### 4. Online Tests will be conducted after the end of each subject.

#### 5. At the end of your course, five comprehensive test will be conducted to evaluate your performance.

**Click Here to Join IAS (Pre.) Online Coaching:**

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-pre/csat-paper-1>

### About World Trade Organization

WTO was established with the signing of the Marrakesh Agreement/ Marrakesh Declaration at Marrakesh, Morocco in 1994. WTO came up as a replacement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT was overseeing the rules of commerce since 1948. GATT covered trade in goods, whereas WTO deals with trade of inventions, designs and services too.

### Muslim Brotherhood Declared a Terrorist Group

Egypt's ruling Government declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group. The decision came on 25 December 2013. The decision came after government officials blamed the Brotherhood for a suicide bombing at a police headquarters in north of Cairo that killed 16 people. Egypt's leaders were in conflict with the movement since July 2013, when the military deposed Mohamed Morsi as a President. Mohammed Morsi was a former head of Muslim Brotherhood and Egypt's first democratically elected President. Government has vowed to treat anyone as a terrorist, who belongs to Muslim Brotherhood or even take part in its activities. 23 Muslim Brotherhood supporters were arrested on charges of belonging to a terrorist organization. A Cairo Court has already banned activities by the Muslim Brotherhood and has issued orders for dissolving it and frozen its assets.

### About Muslim Brotherhood

Founded in Egypt by Hassan al-Banna in March 1928, the group spread to other Muslim countries but has its largest, or one of its largest, organizations in Egypt. It is a Sunni Islamist religious, political and social movement.

The party won almost half the seats in the 2011–12 parliamentary elections, and its candidate, Mohamed Morsi won the June 2012 presidential election. 2012 election was country's first democratically held elections. After the military coup of the former President Mohamed Morsi, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Ireland, Adli Mansour sworn in as the interim President on 4 July 2013 to oversee early Presidential elections of the country.

### Marijuana recreational pot legalized in Colorado and Washington

The two states of United States, Colorado and Washington, became the first to legalize Marijuana recreational pot. The legalisation of Marijuana as a recreational pot in these two US States will become effective from 1 January 2014. Voters in Colorado and Washington approved recreational pot in 2012. Medical marijuana is legal and regulated in 19 United States and in most of them private consumption of cannabis is not classified as a crime. Outside the US, Uruguay also legalized the marijuana recreational pot in 2013. The market for medical marijuana was huge in 2013 and it is projected to grow in 2014 with recreational pot added in Colorado and Washington.

### About Marijuana

Marijuana is a plant containing a psychoactive chemical, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in its leaves, buds and flowers. Cannabis is also major type of psychoactive chemical, THC. Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug by American adults. Marijuana's effect is less harmful than those of most drugs like alcohol and tobacco. US marijuana policy is unique among American criminal laws in being enforced so widely and harshly.

### China 's unmanned Lunar Probe- Chang'e-3

China on 2 December 2013 successfully sent an unmanned lunar probe with a robotic rover to soft land on the Moon, and to explore moon's surface. The probe Chang'e-3 was launched into orbit aboard an enhanced Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. The mission was the 25th launch of the Long March-3B, which is the most powerful launch vehicle in the Long March fleet. Chang'e-3 comprises a lander and a Moon rover called "Yutu" (Jade Rabbit). The Chang'e-3 mission is the second phase of China's lunar program, which includes orbiting, landing and returning to Earth. It follows the success of the Chang'e-1 and Chang'e-2 missions in 2007 and 2010. The lunar probe will land on the Moon in mid-December 2013 according to the plan. So far, only the United States and the former Soviet Union have



soft-landed on the Moon. India's Chandrayaan-1, which was credited to have discovered water in the lunar surface made a hard landing on the Moon.

#### Two year cross-party budget Bill Signed in US

Barack Obama, the President of US on 27 December 2013 signed a two year bipartisan federal budget bill to avert the risk of shutdown of the Government in January 2014. He signed the Bill, while holidaying in Hawaii at the end of the year. This legislation was passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives earlier this month. The Bill was drafted by a cross-party budget committee, which was set up after 16-day government shutdown in October. The bipartisan Bill has been crafted by Congressman Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray. He also signed a defense spending bill that includes the ways of altering the way of the sexual assault in the military. The bill has made it easier to transfer the detainees out of Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. He has also signed six other Bills. With this signing 52nd National Defense Authorization Act has been converted into a law. The US Congress now has time till 15 January 2014 to pass the fiscal spending bill of 1.012 trillion dollar for 2014.

Top four Republicans in the Senate, who are in the minority in the upper chamber has voted to block the consideration of the budget Bill. The bill aims to shave up to 23 billion dollars from the nation's 642 billion dollars annual budget deficit. It also rolls back 63 billion dollars in military and domestic spending cuts automatically imposed in January when Democrats and Republicans failed to reach a budget compromise.

#### Iran and P5+1 Group of Nations clinched Nuclear Deal

Iran and P5+1 group of Nations reached a breakthrough deal on 24 November 2013 to curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for limited sanctions relief. An agreement to this effect was signed at UN Headquarters in Geneva on 24 November 2013 between the Chief negotiator for the six nations, Catherine Marie Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad Zarif. The

interim deal for six months is intended to give time and space to the international community to work towards a comprehensive agreement. After four days of negotiations, representatives of P5+1 group of nations - the US, the UK, Russia, China, France and Germany - reached an agreement with Iran. The deal is intended as the first step in a six-month process aimed at a permanent resolution to the decade-old global impasse over Iran's nuclear programme, and heading off the threat of a new war in West Asia. The Geneva deal also makes the way for releasing over 4 billion Dollars in Iranian oil sales revenue from frozen accounts, and suspends restrictions on the country's trade in gold, petrochemicals, and car and plane parts.

In return, Iran undertakes to restrict its nuclear activities. Over the next six months Iran has agreed to:

1. Stop enriching uranium above 5 per cent, reactor-grade, and dilute its stock of 20 per cent-enriched uranium or convert it to oxide, which makes it harder to enrich further.
2. Not to increase its stockpile of low-enrichment uranium.
3. Freeze its enrichment capacity by not installing any more centrifuges, leaving more than half of its existing 16000 centrifuges inoperable.
4. Not to fuel or to commission the heavy-water reactor it is building in Arak or build a reprocessing plant that could produce plutonium from the spent fuel.
5. Iran will give greater access to inspectors including daily access at the Natanz and Fordo nuclear sites.

In return, there will be no new nuclear-related sanctions for six months if Iran sticks by the accord.

#### Geneva II

#### Syria Peace Conference

Ban Ki Moon, the UN Secretary General on 25 November 2013 announced the Geneva-II peace conference is to be held on 22 January 2014. The international conference is aimed at a democratic political transition in Syria, which will bring the Government and the opposition to a negotiating table for the first time, since the conflict that started in March 2011. The decision was taken at a meet-



ing of the UN special envoy on Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mikhail Bogdanov and Gennady Gatilov along with the US under Secretary for political Affairs, Wendy Sherman in Geneva on 25 November 2013. The Geneva-II conference was termed as the mission of hope by Ban Ki Moon in which, the fighting has killed more than 100000 and driven almost nine million from their homes, left countless missing and detained and terrible violations of human rights. The goal of Geneva II would be to achieve a political solution to the conflict through a comprehensive agreement between the Government and the opposition for the full implementation of the Geneva communiqué, adopted after the first international meeting on the issue on 30 June 2012. The communiqué, which has been endorsed by the UN Security Council, lays out key steps in a process to end the violence. Among these, the establishment - based on mutual consent - of a transitional governing body with full executive powers, including over military and security entities.

#### Nepal Constituent Assembly elections

Nepali Congress (NC) emerged as single largest Party in the second Constituent Assembly elections which are held on 19 November 2013. The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) stood a close second position and the UCPN (Maoist) party is in a distant third position. Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held under two categories — first-past-the-post and proportional representation.

A total of 240 seats were allocated in the first category and 365 seats in the proportional representation category. The remaining 26 seats in the 601-member will be nominated by the Cabinet later. A total of 301 seats are needed for majority and to form a government. Nepali Congress Party wins 105 of the 240 directly elected seats followed by Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) with 91 and the United Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) with 26. The NC has also emerged a clear front-runner in both the electoral formats. It won 105 seats under the direct election of candidates and has so far bagged 26 per cent under the PR system. The CPN (UML) is a close

second with 91 seats and 25 per cent, respectively. The largest party in the last assembly- the UCPN (Maoist) is in a distant third position. The previous assembly - elected in 2008 after the abolition of the monarchy - was won by the former rebels. But the Constituent Assembly (CA) was bitterly divided and failed to write a new constitution.

#### Shinawatra declared Emergency Law for Bangkok

Thailand Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on 25 November 2013 declared a special emergency law for Bangkok after riot police and anti-government protesters scuffled in the capital city. The decision came after hundreds of anti-government protesters stormed into the finance ministry compound and later forced their way into the foreign ministry building.

Anti-government protesters want Prime Minister to step down amid claims that her government was remote-controlled by her older brother Thaksin Shinawatra, who was forced to quit as prime minister in 2006. He has since lived in exile to avoid jail on a corruption conviction. The current political crisis is the most serious confrontation in Thailand since the 2010 bloody protests in which over 90 people were killed.

#### US exempted India and China from Iranian Sanctions

United States of America on 29 November 2013 exempted some countries, including India and China, from the tough Iranian sanctions for reducing their dependence on Iranian oil. Secretary of State, John Kerry announced in a statement in Washington that other countries which have significantly reduced the purchases of Iranian crude oil are the Republic of Korea, Turkey, and Taiwan and these have qualified for an exception to sanctions under the National Defence Authorisation Act. This move came after the decision made by US President Barack Obama that there is sufficient supply of non-Iranian oil for countries to continue to reduce import of oil from Iran. This is the fourth time that these countries have qualified for an NDAA exception as a result of their continued significant

reductions in the volume of crude oil purchases from Iran or their end to such purchases.

#### Abdulla Yameen sworn in as the President of Maldives

Abdulla Yameen has been sworn in as the 6th President of the Maldives on 17 November 2013. The Chief Justice of Maldives, Ahmad Faiz at a special session of the Parliament in Male administered the oath of office to Abdulla Yameen. Mohammad Jameel was sworn in as vice-President. Yameen (54) a candidate of Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) secured 51.39 percent of votes, whereas the opposition leader and the former President Mohamed Nasheed received 48.61. Election Commission of Maldives, declared the results of the election on 16 November 2013 in which it declared Yameen, the half-brother of former autocratic ruler Maumoon Abdul Gayoom as the President elect. Abdulla Yameen's sworn in has ended the two years of political turmoil that was threatened to isolate the country internationally. The Maldives was witnessing the political turmoil, since Nasheed resigned under pressure in February 2012 because of a controversial transfer of power.

#### China Set up Air Defence Zone over East China Sea

China on 23 November 2013 announced that it was set up an Air Defence Identification Zone over an area in the East China Sea. The Zone includes Senkaku islands that are controlled by Japan but claimed by China. In this regard, the Chinese Defense Ministry issued a map of an East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone including a chain of disputed islands. The zone came into effect from 10:00 local time from 23 November 2013. China also issued a set of rules for the zone, saying all aircraft must notify Chinese authorities and are subject to emergency military measures if they do not identify themselves or obey orders from Beijing. It stated it would identify, monitor, control and react to any air threats or unidentified flying objects coming from the sea.

#### China-Japan islands row

The islands, known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, that lie in the East China Sea are a

source of rising tension between China and Japan. The eight uninhabited islands with a total area of about 7 sq km are lie northeast of Taiwan, east of the Chinese mainland and southwest of Japan's southern-most prefecture, Okinawa. They matter because they are close to strategically important shipping lanes, offer rich fishing grounds and are thought to contain oil deposits. The islands are controlled by Japan.

#### 13th Council of Ministers Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association was held in Australia

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) held its 13th Council of Ministers meeting in Perth, Australia on 1 November 2013. On the occasion, India handed over the chair of the IORA to Australia. India chaired the IORA, since 2011. The Perth reviewed the process made by IORA since 2012 meeting in Gurgaon, India. The future directions and initiatives to advance were considered then for the interests of the IORA and its members. The thirteenth Council of Ministers' Meeting was visited by the member states Foreign Ministers namely Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

#### Perth Principles

- Reiterating that IORA is the apex pan-regional organisation for the Indian Ocean.
- Recalling the six priority areas of cooperation agreed at the eleventh COMM (Council of Ministers' Meeting) in Bengaluru, namely: Maritime Safety and Security; Trade and Investment Facilitation; Fisheries Management; Disaster Risk Management; Academic and Science and Technology Cooperation; and Tourism and Cultural Exchanges.
- Recalling Also our desire to promote the sustainable growth and balanced development of the Indian Ocean region and IORA Member States, and to create common ground for regional economic cooperation.

- Committed to promoting cooperation and collaboration between IORA and other Indian Ocean regional stakeholders including Dialogue Partner States and other regional and international forums.
- Reaffirming our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, to the Charter of IORA, and to the applicable principles of international law.
- Reaffirming Also our commitment to 'The Future We Want', as adopted at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and to the protection, restoration, health, productivity and resilience of the Indian Ocean and its resources.
- Recognising that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources and plays a vital role in maintaining peaceful cooperation and stability across the Indian Ocean.

#### About the IORA

The IOR-ARC was formally launched at the first Ministerial Meeting in Mauritius on 6 – 7 March 1997. This meeting adopted the IOR-ARC Charter, and determined a number of administrative and procedural matters. The apex body of the IOR-ARC is the Council of (Foreign) Ministers (COM). The meeting of the COM is preceded by the meetings of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG), Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF), Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI), and the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). The Coordinating Secretariat of IOR-ARC is located at Ebène, Mauritius. Apart from a Secretary-General, its present staff strength at the executive level includes two Directors and eight local staff. IORA was formerly known as IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation).

#### Members of IORA (IOR-ARC)

The Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), initially known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative, is an International/

Diplomatic Organization with 20 Member States namely Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Arab Emirates and Yemen. Whereas the China, Egypt, France, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States of America are Dialogue Partners of the IOR-ARC. The Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation (IOTO) and Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG) have been granted Observer Status.

#### Agreement to provide financial assistance to Egypt

European Union on 28 November 2013 signed an agreement to provide the financial assistance worth 122 million dollar ( 90 million) to Egypt to tide over the financial crisis. The funds under the assistance finance will be used to increase the children's access to education, social and reaching out to the most impoverished areas and improvements in unplanned housing. An agreement to this effect was signed between the EU foreign policy chief Catherine Marie Ashton and Deputy Prime Minister Ziad Bahaaeddin of Egypt at Brussels. Apart from this, the two sides have also discussed about the implementation of Egypt's political roadmap. This calls for an elected Parliament and president by summer.

#### Afghan-US Bilateral Security Agreement got nod

The Loya Jirga, Afghanistan's Grand Assembly of tribal elders and elite persons on 24 November 2013 gave its consent on the issue of signing the Afghan-US Bilateral Security Agreement that would pave the way for the continuation of some US troops in the country after 2014.

2500 member traditional Loya Jirga after three days of deliberations adopted a 31-point resolution approving the proposed agreement and called upon Afghan President to sign the document by the end of the 2013. However, Afghan President put forward conditions for signing the agreement with the United States. The United States wants the agreement to be signed before the end of the 2013,

but the Afghan President has been saying that it may be signed after the presidential elections in Afghanistan in April 2014. The US is to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan next year (2014).

#### About Loya Jirga

The Afghan constitution of 2003 constituted a Loya Jirga, made up of both houses of parliament and elected heads of regional administrations, with the power to amend the constitution, impeach the president and decide matters of national sovereignty.

#### "Cyber Coalition 2013" launched

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on 26 November 2013 launched a three-day cyber defence exercise "Cyber Coalition 2013" in Estonia. The defence exercises are based at the NATO's cyber defence centers in Estonia, Russia and will be held from 26 to 28 November 2013. The Cyber Defence Exercise is aimed at training technical personnel and their leadership as well as testing the capability of NATO and its partners to coordinate their efforts in foiling multiple simulated cyber attacks. The exercises involve participants from more than 30 countries across Europe, including five non-NATO nations: Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, and Switzerland. New Zealand and the European Union have observer status. According to NATO, around 300 cyber defense experts will take part in the operation from their home countries and partner nations while an additional 80 experts will work from the military training facility in the Estonian city of Tartu.

#### About NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, is an intergovernmental military alliance of 28 European and North American countries, ranging from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Canada to Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey. It was formed in 1949 as deterrence against the Soviet bloc armed forces in Eastern Europe.

#### State of National Calamity declared in Philippines

President of Philippines, Benigno Aquino on

11 November 2013 declared a state of national calamity to speed relief efforts for victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

Leyte and Samar are the much suffered provinces of the country as it suffered massive destruction and loss of life. About 10000 people were killed in Philippines. Tacloban is one of the worst affected cities, as more than thousands of people have been displaced after the high winds and floodwaters.

#### About the Typhoon Haiyan

Super Typhoon Haiyan is a category-5 super typhoon to hit Philippines on 8 November 2013 leaving behind many people dead. It also injured many people in the city of Tacloban on Leyte Island.

This was one of the most powerful typhoons to hit Philippines. It pushed winds up to 300 kilometers an hour. The typhoon forced millions of people to flee to safe places.

#### Russia Successfully Launched Proton-M Rocket

Russia on 12 November 2013 successfully launched the Proton-M rocket carrying a defense satellite, Raduga-1M from its Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. It is important to note that Russia restarted the launch of Proton rockets in September 2013 after a small gap in order to check why a Proton rocket launched on 2 July 2013 exploded while taking off. The Proton-M rocket is the most popular rocket of Russia for the commercial satellite launches.

#### About the Raduga-1M Defense Satellite

- Raduga-1M is primarily a defense satellite of the third generation.
- It is a part of the Stage Two Unified Satellite Telecommunications System.
- It is equipped with the multichannel transponder equipment, which enables it to establish reliable communications with mobile geo-service stations.

#### What is a Proton-M rocket?

Proton-M rocket is a Russian carrier rocket which is derived from Soviet-developed Proton. Proton is actually an expendable launch system which is used for commercial as well as Russian



Government space launches. Proton-M rocket is built by Khrunichev and launched from sites 81 and 200 at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The commercial launches of Proton-M rocket are marketed by International Launch Services (ILS). First Proton-M launch took place on 7 April 2001.

All the Protons are built at the Khrunichev plant in Moscow. These are then transported for the launch to Baikonur Cosmodrome from where they are raised into the vertical position for the purpose of launch.

#### Voting Rights of US and Israel over Palestine row suspended

UNESCO on 8 November 2013 suspended the voting rights of the United States (US) and Israel. The suspension happened as the two countries stopped paying the dues to the United Nations (UN's) cultural arm from two years in the protest over the grant of full membership to the Palestinians.

The funding to UNESCO started in October 2011 because of the laws of US, which prohibits it to pay the dues to any UN agencies giving recognition of the Palestinians demand for their own state. The fund from Israel was pulled out because it objected the one-sided attempts of Palestinians to be recognized of its statehood. The voting rights of the two nations were suspended as they both failed to provide a justification for non-payments of the dues within deadline.

#### UNESCO

In 1945, UNESCO was created in order to respond to the firm belief of nations, forged by two world wars in less than a generation that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace. Peace must be established on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity.

UNESCO strives to build networks among nations that enable this kind of solidarity, by:

- Mobilizing for education: so that every child, boy or girl, has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development.
- Building intercultural understanding:

through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity. UNESCO created the idea of World Heritage to protect sites of outstanding universal value.

- Pursuing scientific cooperation: such as early warning systems for tsunamis or trans-boundary water management agreements, to strengthen ties between nations and societies.
- Protecting freedom of expression: an essential condition for democracy, development and human dignity

#### Malta to Host Next Commonwealth Summit in 2015

Malta, a Southern European country was on 17 November 2013 unanimously chosen as the host of the next Commonwealth summit in 2015. The decision was made at the retreat session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Colombo, Sri Lanka after Mauritius withdrew as host of the 2015 Commonwealth summit as a result of its prime minister's boycott of the Colombo summit over Sri Lanka's human rights concerns.

This is second time for Malta to host the Commonwealth summit. Before this, Malta hosted a Commonwealth Summit in 2005.

#### About Malta

Malta is a southern European country in the Mediterranean Sea. The country covers just over 316 km<sup>2</sup> (122 sq mi), making it one of the world's smallest and most densely populated countries. The capital of Malta is Valletta which is also the smallest capital in the EU. Malta has two official languages: Maltese and English. Malta comprises an archipelago of six islands and islets in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, 93km south of Sicily and 290km from the coast of North Africa. Malta, Gozo and Comino are inhabited; the other islands are Cominotto, Filfla and St Paul's Island. Malta got independence from the United Kingdom in 1964 and became a republic in 1974 and joined the European Union in May 2004. Malta joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1964. Malta is a member of the Council of Europe, European Union, Organization for Security and Co-operation in



Europe, United Nations and World Trade Organization.

#### About CHOGM 2013

The 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 15-17 November 2013 on the theme Growth with Equity: Inclusive Development. The event concluded with the adoption of the independent declarations - on Youth, International Trade and Inclusive Development and the release of Summit Communiqué.

#### Pakistan Successfully Test Fired Hatf IX (Nasr)

Pakistan on 5 November 2013 successfully test-fired Hatf IX (Nasr) missile, a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 60 km. The test fire was conducted with successive launches of 4 x missiles (Salvo) from a state of the art multi tube launcher. Nasr, with a range of 60 Kilometer and in-flight maneuver capability is a quick response system, with shoot and scoot attributes. It contributes to the full spectrum deterrence against threats in view of evolving scenarios.

#### Facts related to Hatf IX (Nasr)

- Nasr is designed specifically to defeat Anti-Tactical Missile Defence Systems of all kinds.
- The test firing of short range surface-to-surface missile Hatf IX (Nasr) was a part of medium-range ballistic missiles [MRBM] and short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile [SRBMs].
- The missile has the capability to carry nuclear weapons.

#### Largest Nuclear Power Project in Pakistan Launched

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on 26 November 2013 launched the construction of the country's biggest Nuclear power project. The 2200-MegaWatt- Karachi Coastal Power Project, comprising the K-2 and K-3 nuclear plants, is being built at Paradise Beach, located 40 km from the Karachi. The nuclear power plant is to be built with

Chinese technical assistance on the Arabian Sea coast. Pakistan already has three operational nuclear plants generating a total of around 740 MW of power. The World Nuclear Association has estimated the cost of the new project at nearly 10 billion Dollars. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission engineers will work on the project with help from the China Atomic Energy Authority. As Pakistan is not party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty it is excluded from the international trade in nuclear materials and technology, and can rely only on its neighbour China for help.

#### UN Court ruled for Cambodia

The UN's International Court of Justice ruled on 11 November 2013 that the area around a flashpoint ancient temple on the Thai border belongs to Cambodia. The International Court of Justice interpreted a 1962 ruling saying that "Cambodia had sovereignty over the whole territory of the promontory of Preah Vihear temple".

In 2012, the ICJ ruled that both countries should withdraw forces from around the ancient Khmer temple, which is perched on a cliff top in Cambodia but is more easily accessed from the Thai side. Thailand does not dispute Cambodia's ownership of the temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site, but both sides laid claim to an adjacent 4.6-square-km piece of land. At least 28 people have been killed in outbreaks of violence since 2011 over the ownership of the patch of land next to the 900-year-old Preah Vihear temple.

#### About Preah Vihear Temple

The Preah Vihear Temple is a Khmer Hindu temple situated atop a 525-meter cliff in the Dāngrēk Mountains of Cambodia. The temple complex runs 800m along a north-south axis. It was built mainly during the 11th and 12th centuries during the reigns of the kings Suryavarman I (and Suryavarman II). Ownership of the temple by Cambodia has been under dispute from neighbouring Thailand. In 1962 the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that it belonged to Cambodia. The Preah Vihear temple was made a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008

## **GS Foundation Course (PT+ MAINS) for IAS Exam**

- ❖ Medium: English
- ❖ You will Get BOOKS, STUDY KITS, MAGAZINES, Mock Test Papers, Monthly Magazine, Gist of Important Newspapers, Free Access to Online Coaching at IASEXAMPORAL
- ❖ Available in Hard Copy

**:: Price ::**  
₹ 36000 (GS PT & Mains)  
₹ 33000 (Without Paper II of PT Exam)  
Instalment Option Available\*

**For Any Guidance Call our Expert at +91 7827687693**

## **G.S. FOUNDATION COURSE (PRELIMINARY+ MAINS)**

### **Dear Aspirants,**

The Indian Civil Services examination is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) every year.

The competitive examination comprises of three stages :

- Preliminary Examination – (Objective Test)
- Main Examination (Written )
- Interview Test

The examination schedule is announced during January - February.

The Preliminary held in May-June and the results are announced in July-August.

The Main examination held in October-November and the candidates those who qualify at this stage are invited to the interview in March-April next year.

### **We will provide you:**

- BOOKS
- STUDY KITS
- MAGAZINES
- Mock Test Papers
- Monthly Magazine- Civil Services Mentor
- Gist of Important Newspapers
- Free Access to Online Coaching at IASEXAMPORAL
- Previous Year paper's with solution
- Previous Year question's trend analysis
- Free Login Access worth Rs 1999 for IAS PRE 2015
- Free Gist Subscription worth Rs 449
- Free Weekly Subscription worth rs 399
- TELEPHONIC/EMAIL GUIDANCE WITH COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

**For More Information Click Given below link:**

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-pre/general-studies-foundation-course>

# ONLINE COACHING FOR IAS EXAMS

UPSC PORTAL  
www.upscportal.com



- ✓ 24x7 E-learning Access
- ✓ 100% Syllabus Covered
- ✓ at just 100 Rs.per month
- ✓ Discussion Forum, Chat
- ✓ Telephonic Support



**Register Now**

**FREE TRIAL 7 DAY**

## Online Course for Civil Services Preliminary Examination

- ✓ Online Coaching for CSAT Paper - 1 (GS)  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-pre/csat-paper-1>
- ✓ Online Coaching for CSAT Paper - 2 (CSAT)  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-pre/csat-paper-2>
- ✓ सामान्य अध्ययन प्रारंभिक परीक्षा के लिए ऑनलाइन कोचिंग (पेपर - 1)  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-pre/csat-paper-1-hindi>
- ✓ सीसैट (CSAT) प्रारंभिक परीक्षा के लिए ऑनलाइन कोचिंग (पेपर - 2)  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-pre/csat-paper-2-hindi>

## Online Course for Civil Services Mains Examination

- ✓ General Studies Mains (NEW PATTERN - Paper 2,3,4,5)  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-mains-gs>
- ✓ Public Administration for Mains  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-mains-pub-ad>

## Online Course for One Day Examination

- ✓ Online Coaching for SSC CGL (Tier-1) Exam  
<http://sscportal.in/community/courses/ssc-cgl-tier-1>
- ✓ SSC हिंदी Online Coaching  
<http://sscportal.in/community/courses/ssc-cgl-tier-1-hindi>

For Full Information about Online Coaching Click below Link:

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses>

### NASA Launched MAVEN Mission to study Mars Atmosphere

The US space agency NASA on 18 November 2013 launched its MAVEN orbiter Mission to Mars planet. The orbiter mission was launched on an Atlas V rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 18:28 GMT.

The probe will have a 10-month cruise to the Red Planet- Mars. MAVEN is going to study Mars' atmosphere.

During the course of the long cruise, Maven will perform four trajectory corrections, with the first scheduled to occur on 3rd December 2013.

#### About MAVEN Mission

The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission is part of NASA's Mars Scout program. The mission will explore the Red Planet's upper atmosphere, ionosphere and interactions with the sun and solar wind.

The trip to Mars takes 10 months, and MAVEN will go into orbit around Mars in September 2014. MAVEN will be the NASA's first spacecraft mission dedicated to exploring the upper atmosphere of Mars.

Scientists will use MAVEN data to determine the role that loss of volatile from the Mars atmosphere to space has played through time, giving insight into the history of Mars' atmosphere and climate, liquid water, and planetary habitability. The entire MAVEN mission cost 671 million US Dollars.

### Roadmap for destruction of Syria's Chemical Weapons adopted

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the UN Chemical weapons watchdog on 15 November 2013 started its work on the final roadmap for the destruction of chemical arsenals of Syria. In the plan, Syrian chemical weapons will be transported for destruction outside its territory to ensure their destruction in the safest and soonest manner, and no later than 30 June 2014. The deadline of OPCW to agree on the destruction milestones of more than 1000 tonnes of dangerous chemicals in Syria expired on

15 November 2013. The plan was adopted during the meeting of its 41-member Executive Council in The Hague. The UN Security Council gave its mandate to the agency to destroy the weapons of mass destruction by mid-2014. As per the reports, OPCW will send the resource for packaging and handling the chemical materials to 12 chemical storage sites by December 2013, under a tentative plan. Subsequently, the chemicals would be taken to Syria's Latakia port from where they would be shipped out by 5 February 2013.

### About Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) that entered into force in 1997. As of today the OPCW has 190 Member States, who are working together to achieve a world free from chemical weapons. They share the collective goal of preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare, thereby strengthening international security.

### Agreement for the Development of Dara-Suf to Yakawlang Highway

The Government of Afghanistan on 10 November 2013 signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the development of road network in the country at a cost of 220 million US dollar. The agreement was signed between Afghan Finance Minister Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal and the ADB Country Director Joji Tokeshi in Kabul.

#### Major Highlights of the Agreement

- The agreement envisages reconstruction of 178 kilometer north-south corridor road joining northern Balkh province with the central Bamyan province of Afghanistan. This connectivity will play an important role in joining Afghanistan to the other regional countries.
- The agreement includes reconstruction of the 178km Dara-Suf to Yakawlang highway, preliminary survey of Gardan Diwal to Cheghcharan road and preliminary survey of Kabul's ring road.

- It is important to note that the northern and southern parts of Afghanistan are linked by the Asian Highway which passes through the Salang Pass situated at an altitude of nearly 12000 foot in the Hindukush Mountains. However, due to the snowfall during winters, the highway gets blocked leading to the obstacle in connecting northern and southern Afghanistan.
- The proposed north-south corridor will provide an alternative route between the two regions of the country.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) also facilitated execution of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) project, which is actually an opportunity for the regional cooperation at an unprecedented scale, linking the four countries economically.

It is worth noticing that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) had earlier decided to support Afghanistan and commit to the economic development after the year 2014.

#### UN urged Myanmar to grant Rights to Rohingya Muslims

The UN General Assembly's human rights committee on 19 November 2013 passed a resolution urging Myanmar to give the stateless Rohingya minority equal access to citizenship. The committee also asked Myanmar to crack down on violence against them and other Muslims in Myanmar.

The resolution also expressed "concern about remaining human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests and detentions of political activists and human rights defenders, forced displacement, land confiscations, rape and other forms of sexual violence and torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment." In the resolution, the 193-nation committee reiterated its serious concern about communal violence and other abuses of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State of Myanmar. The UN resolution, which will move to the full UN General Assembly, acknowledged "the scale of the reform effort undertaken" so far in Myanmar.

#### Background

Myanmar emerged from a half-century of military rule in 2011, but its transition to democracy has been marred by sectarian violence that has left more than 240 people dead and sent another 240000 fleeing their homes, most of them Rohingya Muslims. In 1982, Myanmar passed a citizenship law recognising eight races and 130 minority groups — but omitted the nation's 800000 Rohingya, among Myanmar's 60 million people. Many Myanmar Buddhists view the Rohingya as interlopers brought in by British colonialists from modern-day Bangladesh, but many Rohingya say they have lived in the country once known as Burma for hundreds of years.

#### Egypt Panel approved New Draft Constitution

An Egyptian constitutional panel on 1 December 2013 approved a new draft constitution for Egypt Government. 50-member constitution drafting panel headed by Amre Moussa approved draft-constitution, which contains 247 Articles. According to the country's officials, the referendum on the draft constitution is to be held in January 2014.

#### Key provision in the new draft Constitution

##### Presidential powers

- President to only serve two four-year terms.
- Candidates must be at least 40 years old.
- President appoints prime minister.
- President can dismiss the government with the approval of the majority of parliament.

##### Military Powers

- It gives more power to military, including an article that allows trial of civilians in martial courts.
- Military budget to be discussed by a national defence council.
- The defense minister must be appointed in agreement with the military.

##### Religion

- Islamic law, or sharia, the main source of legislation.
- Political parties may not be formed on the basis of religion.



### Freedom and rights

- Political parties cannot be formed on the basis of gender, race, sect or geography.
- Parties must not have military or paramilitary components.
- Citizens have the right to organise public meetings and demonstrations and all forms of peaceful protests.

### Background

1. Egypt is witnessing a political crisis since the resignation of the long-serving leader Hosni Mubarak in February 2011 (During the Arab spring).
2. The country is deeply divided between Islamist and secular groups, while the Egyptian military remains the country's chief decision-maker.
3. The first democratic elections held for Egypt in December 2011, and won by the Islamist-Muslim Brotherhood group. But Egypt's first democratically elected parliament was dissolved in June 2012.
4. The Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi won the presidential elections in June 2012.
5. In July 2013, Egyptian army ousted Morsi's government, suspended the constitution and dissolved the parliament and army appointed Mansour as the new interim president.
6. The interim authorities suspended the previous constitution written under Morsi's government and appointed new panel for new constitution in September 2013.

### New Army

#### Chief of Pakistan Appointed

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan appointed Lt Gen Raheel Sharif as the new Chief of Army Staff and Lt Gen Rashad Mahmood as the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. Lt Gen Raheel Sharif and Lt Gen Rashad Mahmood have been promoted to the rank of four-star general. The generals will take up the new posts from 27 November 2013, the day when the 61 year old Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani will retire from the post of Army Chief. Lt Gen Raheel is currently serving as

Inspector General, Training and Evaluation, whereas Lt Gen Mahmood is serving as Chief of General Staff. The names of the two commanders were recommended by Sharif after endorsement by the President Mamnoon Hussain. Both were promoted to the General rank from Lt. Generals by the President. The prior appointments of Lt General Sharif include Commander, Gujranwala XXX Corps, Commandant of Pakistan Military Academy Kakul and General Officer Commanding Lahore. Lt Gen Mahmood has served as the Corps Commander of Lahore as well as the military secretary to former President Rafiq Tarar. Mahmood belongs to the Baloch Regiment and had served under General Kayani as ISI deputy director general.

#### Silvio Berlusconi expelled from Italian Parliament

The Italian Senate on 27 November 2013 expelled ex- Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi from Parliament over his tax fraud conviction. The Senate declared Berlusconi ineligible for parliament after he was convicted of masterminding a complex system of illegally inflated invoices to cut the tax bill for his Mediaset television empire.

#### About Silvio Berlusconi

- He was born on 29 September 1936.
- Berlusconi, 77, is an entrepreneur, media tycoon and politician.
- In 1993, Berlusconi founded his own political party, Forza Italia - Go Italy - named after a chant used by Italian football fans.
- Berlusconi as Italian politician dominated for two decades and he served three times as Prime Minister (In between 1994-2011). He was the member of Italian senate.
- He was involved in many scandals during his political career, like charges of abuse of office and corruption.

#### Venezuela President got Special Powers

Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela on 19 November 2013 got the final approval to special powers by Venezuela National Assembly. Because of this approval, Maduro will be able to govern without consulting the congress for 12

years. The new powers assigned to the power will help him to tackle corruption and the economic crisis of the country. Presently, Venezuela is facing the shortages of food and other essential goods, power cuts and inflation about 54 percent. As the economic sabotage activity, the retailers of the country have been forced to slash the prices up to 60 percent. Strict controls over the sale of the foreign currency have been introduced by the government to control the growing black market of dollars.

#### Dubai to host World Expo 2020

Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) on 27 November 2013 voted in favour of Dubai to be the host city for the World Trade Fair or EXPO 2020. This was decided after the third and the final round of voting in Paris on 27 November 2013. Four cities including Dubai in UAE, Yekaterinbergh in Russia, Sao Paulo in Brazil and Izmir in Turkey were competing to host the prestigious event. The theme of Dubai for the EXPO 2020 is Connecting Minds, Creating the Future. A World Expo in Dubai in 2020 would be the first to be held in the MENASA (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) region, which takes place every five years. The yearlong event is considered a major event since the award of the EXPO brings home more number of visitors and adds to the trade, economy, tourism and hospitality sectors in the host city. The focus is on attracting 25 million people and through word of mouth may be 100 million over three to four years. This will give a boost to the local economy, trade, realty, tourism and retail sectors in the long run.

#### About World Expo

World Expos is a meeting point for the global community to share innovations and make progress on issues of international importance such as the global economy, sustainable development and improved quality of life for the world's population. The first world expo was held in London in 1851. This Expo will be held every five years in different cities across the world. The last world expo took place in 2010 at Shanghai, China and the next World Expo takes place in Milan, Italy, in

2015. The focus: "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

#### About Bureau International des Expositions

The Paris-based Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) is the international body responsible for overseeing the calendar, bidding, selection and organisation of World Expos. It has a total of 167 member countries.

#### Iran Unveiled

##### New Biggest Drone

Iran on 18 November 2013 unveiled a biggest missile-equipped drone with a range of 2000 km, which would enable it to cover much of the Middle East, including Israel. The drone named Fotros has an operational range of 2000 kilometres and can fly at an altitude of 25000 feet, with a flight time of 16 to 30 hours. The drone could carry out reconnaissance missions or launch air-to-surface missile strikes. In September 2013, Iran announced the mass production of the Shahed 129 drone, which it said has a range of 1700 kilometres, is capable of carrying eight missiles and can fly for 24 hours.

In the same month, Iran unveiled a reconnaissance drone named Yasseer, which was said to be capable of flying for eight hours with a range of 200 kilometres and at an altitude of 4500 meters. Yasseer was based on the US ScanEagle drone, a model of which Tehran claimed to have captured in December 2012 and reproduced since then. The Iranian army also recently claimed that it was producing a series of drones called Rad-85.

#### Russia passed Anti-Terror Bill

The lower house of Russian Parliament, Duma on 25 October 2013 approved a new legislation which makes punishment for terrorism more severe. The new legislation also requires terrorists' relatives to pay for the damages caused in attacks. The bill is expected to be approved in the upper house and be signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law. The bill further adds that training for terrorist activities is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. It also introduced a punishment of up to six years for those participating in a militant group on foreign

soils. Putin has taken a tough stance against the North Caucasus rebellion following two wars between the Russian army and Chechen separatists.

#### World's first Underwater Rail Link between two Continents

Turkey on 29 October 2013 opened world's first underwater rail link that connects Asia and Europe. The length of the rail link is 13 kilometers and is about 60 meters below the Bosphorus Strait. Named Marmaray tunnel is the first world's subway to connect two continents. The Tunnel is engineered to withstand the earthquakes. The railway tunnel beneath the Bosphorus Strait has been opened in Turkey and has created the link between the Asian with European shores of Istanbul. The rail link was inaugurated on the 90th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. This project of development of the undersea rail link was visualized in 1860 by an Ottoman Sultan. The work on the tunnel started in the year 2004 but the construction was delayed because of archeological excavation. Marmaray will carry the subway commuters in the biggest city of Europe and eventually serve high-speed and freight trains. The tunnel project of 2.8 billion dollar was financed by the Japan Bank for International Co-operation.

#### Iran and P5+1 Group Agreed to Hold Talks on Iran's Nuclear Programme

Iran and P5+1 (Group of six major world powers comprising the US, France, Britain, Russia, China and Germany) were agreed on 16 October 2013 first time to hold talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

The P5+1 group was held two days intense, substantive and forward looking talks with Iran over its controversial nuclear program on 15-16 October 2013 in Geneva. According to the agreed plan between Iran and P5+1 Group, Iran ensured to the P5+1 group that it will use nuclear programme for peaceful purpose.

According to the agreed plan all nuclear activities in Iran will supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign Minister while accepting the proposal of P5+1 group hoped that the results achieved over

two days of talks in Geneva will mark the beginning of a new phase in relations between Iran and the P5+1 countries. Iran and the P5+1 group were previously held talks in Almaty, Kazakhstan April 5-6 2012. The two sides had resumed negotiations in Almaty in February 2013 after a nine-month interval. Each side brought a proposal to the April talks, but failed to reach consensus on a way forward and no further meetings were scheduled. But Iran and P5+1 group were agreed first time to hold talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

#### About P5+1 Group

- The P5+1 Group, a group of six world countries (United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom, and France plus Germany).
- It was formed in 2006 to resolve the nuclear programme in Iran.

#### Ethiopia banned its

#### Citizens from Travelling Abroad for Work

Ethiopia's government on 24 October 2013 temporarily banned its citizens from travelling abroad to look for work. The government took this decision because many Ethiopians had lost their lives or undergone untold physical and psychological trauma due to illegal human trafficking. The Ethiopian government had taken various steps to limit the suffering of its citizens, including setting up a national council and a taskforce to educate them.

The scarcity of work opportunities contributes mainly fuelling emigration from Ethiopia, which has Africa's second largest population. According to the official figures, Youth unemployment was estimated at more than 50 percent. Many Ethiopians migrate to Saudi Arabia, travelling via Yemen by sea and entering the country illegally. Thousands of others go to Israel, South Africa and Europe. Most of the migrants end up being smuggled, trafficked or subjected to mental and physical torture.

#### China Biggest Oil Importer in September 2013

China passed USA to become world's biggest oil importer in September 2013 as per the data released by US government in the first week of October 2013. It happened because of faster

economic growth and strong auto sales. The United States consumes far more oil per person than China does. It has a population about one-third the size of China's. China's economy is the world's second largest. China has encouraged development of wind and solar power and use of autos powered by batteries or natural gas. However, gasoline still remains the country's main vehicle fuel in coming decades. Until the late 1990s, China fulfilled its oil needs but the economic boom outstripped its production capacity. This compelled China to depend more heavily on imports, especially from Saudi Arabia and Iran.

#### Australia to end its Military Mission in Afghanistan

Australia on 29 October 2013 announced the winding down of its military mission in Afghanistan with the withdrawal of most of its troops by the end of 2014. Approximately, 1000 Australian troops are posted at the International Force base in Tarin Kot, the capital of southern Afghan province Uruzgan.

In 2001, the US-led war in Afghanistan started and 40 Australian soldiers killed and 260 were injured since that time. USA and other foreign combat troops from Afghanistan chalked out a plan to transfer security responsibilities to local forces by the end of 2014 and will go back to their countries.

As of early June 2013 there were about 100000 Nato troops serving in Afghanistan from 50 contributing nations. Australia is one among the leading nations who have contributed units of 550 or more.

#### Syria Joined UN Chemical Weapons Convention

Syria on 14 October 2013 officially joined the United Nations Chemical Weapons Convention, which outlaws production and use of chemical weapons. Syria is the 190th country to join the convention. Only six states have yet to sign the international treaty. The move comes as international inspectors are working to destroy the chemical weapon stockpile of the Assad regime in Syria.

The six UN States are not signed the CWC are

1. Israel
2. Myanmar
3. Angola
4. Egypt
5. North Korea
6. South Sudan

#### About Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is a multilateral treaty that bans chemical weapons and requires their destruction within a specified period of time.

The title of the treaty is Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

The convention opened for signature on 13 January 1993, and entered into force on 29 April 1997. The CWC aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction. The CWC is implemented by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is headquartered in The Hague. The OPCW receives states-parties' declarations detailing chemical weapons-related activities or materials and relevant industrial activities. After receiving declarations, the OPCW inspects and monitors states-parties' facilities and activities that are relevant to the convention, to ensure compliance.

#### About the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an independent, international body set up in 1997 to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- The organisation is presently involved in destroying Syria's stockpiles of chemical weapons - the first time the OPCW has worked in a war zone.



- It carries out inspections of destruction procedures, as well as evaluating members' own declarations, in order to verify that the convention is being adhered to.
- It is based in The Hague, Netherland and has 189 member states, covering around 98 percent of the world's population. These member nations have agreed to work together to create a world free from chemical weapons.
- The OPCW employs around 500 people and has a budget of 75m Euros (102m Dollars, 63m Pounds) in 2010.
- It is an autonomous organisation with a working relationship with the United Nations.
- Ahmet Uzumcu is the Present Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.
- OPCW on 11 October 2013 won the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2013 for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.

#### UNSC Elected 5 New Non-Permanent Members

Chad, Chile, Lithuania, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia elected to seats as non-permanent members by the United Nations Security Council in the 15-member Council on 17 October 2013. These members have been elected for two-year term which would start from January 2014. The New Council members will replace Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo. Non-permanent members Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea and Rwanda will remain on the Council until the end of 2014. India had served as a non-permanent member at the council in 2011-2012. There are six principal organisations of UN which maintains peace and security of the world. The Organisations are- General Assembly, the Security Council, The Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

#### Structure of Security Council

Article 23 of chapter V of United Nations Charter provides for the composition of United Nations Security Council. The council is composed

of 15 members. There are 5 permanent members of Security Council and 10 non –permanent members. Five permanent members are: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Ten non-permanent members are elected for 2 years term by General Assembly and these members can not be immediately re –elected.

#### Objective of the Security Council

The Objective of UNSC is to maintain peacekeeping operations, the establishments of international sanctions and the authorization of military action.

The powers of UNSC are exercised through United Nations Security Council resolutions.

All Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

#### Minamata Convention on Mercury Adopted

An international conference organized by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on 10 October 2013 adopted the Minamata Convention in Kumamoto, Japan. The convention was adopted by 140 countries across the world. The main objective of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. According to the convention each party shall not allow, by taking appropriate measures, the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products after the phaseout date of 2020. The Minamata Convention will take effect 90 days after ratification by 50 nations.

The Minamata Convention regulates the following areas

- Global mining and trade of mercury
- The manufacturing of products containing the Mercury
- The use of mercury in products and industrial processes
- Measures to be taken to reduce emissions

- from artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- Measures to be taken to reduce emissions from power plants and metals production facilities

Sources of emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere

- Coal-fired power plants
- Coal-fired industrial boilers
- Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- Waste incineration facilities
- Cement clinker product

Madagascar held its first Presidential Election after the 2009 Coup

Madagascar residents on 25 October 2013 voted for Presidential Election. This was the first Presidential Election in Madagascar after the 2009 Coup. If in case, any party fails to win about 50 percent of the votes, then they will have to compete in a runoff scheduled for 20 December 2013.

About 33 candidates are running in the election of Madagascar. About 60 percent of the eligible voters of Madagascar's capital Antananarivo, casted vote in the election.

About the Madagascar Coup

The crisis of Madagascar began on 26 January 2009, when the Antananarivo mayor Andry Rajoelina led a political opposition movement to oust the Marc Ravalomanana, President of the country. Andry Rajoelina was declared President of the Madagascar of the High Transitional Authority on 21 March 2009. After five days, Marc Ravalomanana transferred his power to the military council and he after transferring his power fled away to South Africa.

MoUs for Nalanda University Project

Government of India on 10 October 2013 signed agreements with seven countries, who pledged their commitment to the Nalanda University project in Bihar. The Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with Australia, Cambodia, Singapore, Brunei, New Zealand, Lao PDR and Myanmar in the sidelines of East Asia Summit in Brunei. These MoUs are important to

India's plans to establish Nalanda University in Bihar as an institution of international repute.

Turkey Lifted a Ban on Women Wearing the Islamic Head Scarf

Turkey on 8 October 2013 lifted a ban on women wearing the Islamic head scarf in state institutions. It is considered as a part of a package of reforms introduced by the government. The new rules, however will not apply to the judiciary or the military. The current government package is aimed at bolstering the rights of Turkey's Kurdish community. It included changes to the electoral system, the broadening of language rights and permission for villages to use their original Kurdish names. It also put an end to state primary school children reciting the oath of national allegiance at the start of each week, a deeply nationalistic vow. The Turkey government in 1925 had introduced a series of clothing reforms meant to discard off overt symbols of religious affiliation for civil servants.

About Nalanda University Project

- Nalanda University will be constructed at Rajgir, which is situated around 100 km away from Patna, Bihar. The construction of the University will take place on 446-acre plot, which is situated 12 km away from the ruins of ancient seat of learning.
- The idea to revive Nalanda University was first mooted in 2005 by then President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The University is being built near the ruins of the 5th century historic academic place by the same name in Bihar and those involved with this project include Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.
- There will be five representatives from the EAS on the Nalanda University governing board.
- China has already committed 1 million Dollars for the project, Singapore has pledged 5-6 million Dollars and Australia about 1 million Australian dollars and all these funds have been committed on voluntary basis.

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a forum for cooperation between various countries of this

# 'THE GIST' MAGAZINE

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION



Gist of THE HINDU  
Gist of Yojana Magazine  
Gist of Science Reporter  
Gist of Kurukshetra Magazine  
Gist of PIB



THE HINDU

YOJANA

Kurukshetra

Press Information Bureau



for Help Call: 011-45151781, 65023618

UPSC PORTAL  
www.upscportal.com

## THE GIST DETAILS:

- Ø Medium: English
- Ø Price: Rs. 600 Rs. 449
- Ø No. of Booklets: 12 (1 Year)
- Ø Publisher: IASEXAMPORAL.COM
- Ø File Type: PDF File Only (No Hard Copy)

## TOPICS OF THE GIST

- Ø Gist of The Hindu
- Ø Gist of Yojana
- Ø Gist of Kurukshetra
- Ø Gist of Press Information Bureau
- Ø Gist of Science Reporter

**For Full Information Click Here:**

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/order-form/the-gist-subscription>

# Weekly Current Affairs Update for IAS Exam

- ❖ You will be provided current affairs on various important topics on a weekly basis
- ❖ Important national and international news from various sources at a single platform for your convenience
- ❖ Various Categories (National, International, Economy, etc..)

**Inaugural Offer**  
₹ 1040 ₹ 299

**For Any Query Call our Moderator at: 011 - 45151781**

## WHY IS IT A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR THE STUDENTS?

- You will be provided current affairs on various important topics on a weekly basis.
- Important national and international news from various sources at a single platform for your convenience.
- Each and every topic will be given point wise , making it easier to grasp.
- Very handy when it comes to various competitive exams.....

## VARIOUS CATEGORIES:

- **Planning Commission**
- **Ministry of External Affairs**
- **National Portal of India**
- **National**
- **International**
- **Economy**
- **India And The World**
- **Sports**
- **In The News**
- **Science and Technology**
- **Burning Issues (Editorials From Different Newspapers)**

## WHAT YOU WILL GET:

- You will get (52 Issues) PDF Only no Hard Copy

**For Full Information Click Here:**

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/current-affairs/weekly-update>



## **Online Coaching for General Studies - I, II, III & IV (Combo)- IAS Mains**

- ❖ 100 % General Studies Syllabus Covered
- ❖ Expert Support and 'Ask Your Queries' Section
- ❖ Practice Tests to evaluate your performance
- ❖ Course Planning to ensure that you cover all the topics in time

**Inaugural Offer at  
₹ 8000 ₹ 3996**

**For Any Query call our Course Co-ordinator - +91-7827687693, 8800734161**

## **Online Coaching for IAS Mains General Studies I, II, III & IV (Combo)**

### **What you will Get (?)**

- General Studies (Paper – I, II, III & IV) Online 100 % Reading Material of the Syllabus (Which can be saved easily)
- Slides (For Giving Summary of Each Topics)
- Categorized Unit and Sub-Unit Wise Question Papers of General Studies
- [Current General Studies Magazine \(Indispensable Magazine for General Studies\)](#)
- [Daily Answer Writing Challenge for IAS Mains Contemporary Issues](#)
- It is full of tips on areas of emphasis, caution while reading and writing , how to write the answer (?) .
- Model Test Question Paper for General Studies - I, II, III and IV for Mains Exam 2015
- Online and Telephonic interaction with the course director, and continuous evaluation through a regular online writing session in every chapter and topic.

**For More Information Click below Link**

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/courses/ias-mains-gs-combo>

region with ASEAN and includes Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the US, in addition to the ten ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries. The 10 ASEAN nations are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

#### Islamic criminal law introduced by Brunei Sultan

The sultanate of Brunei announced that it will enforce a new Sharia law penal code. This code would apply only to Muslims, who make up about two-thirds of Brunei population of 420000. The new Sharia law penal code includes death by stoning for adulterers and the severing of limbs for theft.

Punishments could also include flogging for such crimes as consumption of alcohol or abortion. Brunei already adheres to a stronger form of Islamic law than neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia, banning the sale and consumption of alcohol. Sultan Hassanal Bolkihah, 67, who is one of the wealthiest men of the world said the shariah Penal Code should be regarded as a form of "special guidance" from God and would be "part of the great history" of the tiny, oil-rich monarchy on Borneo island. The citizens of Brunei have one of the highest standards of living in Asia, because of revenues generated from oil and gas, and they also enjoy free medical care and education.

#### About sharia law

It is the most protected divine law because, the majority of the rulings of Sharia law are based on the Quran and Sunnah, while a small fraction of its rulings are based on the Ulema (jurists) who used the methods of Ijman (consensus), Qiyas (analogical deduction), Ijtihad (research) and Urf (common practice) to derive Fatwa (legal opinions). Sharia law governs many Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, however this law is used as a supplement to national law but it can relate to all aspects of civil law, including property rights, contracts or public law.

#### UK's First Nuclear Plant

The Government of UK on 21 October 2013

announced that it decided to build the first nuclear plant of UK (called Hinkley Point C (HPC) power plant) in over two decades time along with a French energy firm EDF, and two Chinese companies.

The nuclear plant will be established at south-west England and it will be the first one in Western Europe ever since the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster in Japan. EDF along with two other Chinese partners- CGN and CNNC signed the deal in order to invest 16 billion Pounds in the nuclear plant-Hinkley Point C (HPC) power plant. This nuclear plant will meet approximately 7 percent of the energy needs of UK in the long term. It is important to note that while the Britain will establish its first nuclear plant, Germany, on the other hand, is set up for decommissioning all the nuclear power plants by the year 2022. Chatham House, the international body, in the meanwhile, revealed that the nuclear contribution to electricity across the world dropped down from 17 percent in 1990s to 10 percent at present. There is also an involvement of the Government subsidy, which means that the deal will have to get a nod from the European Commission.

#### An Agreement to end the Political Crisis in Tunisia

In Tunisia, rival political groups on 5 October 2013 arrived at an agreement to end the political crisis in the country. The ruling Islamist Ennahda led Government will step down to allow the formation of a Government of independents in three weeks. It will be followed by the adoption of a new constitution and of holding elections in the country.

Under the deal, an independent Prime Minister will be in place in Tunisia by the end of next week. He will have two weeks to form a new cabinet. The National Dialogue which began on 4 October 2013 will cover groups and parties across the political spectrum over the next four weeks. The new constitution will be adopted in this time and time table for elections will be decided. The political roadmap was prepared by four mediators led by Tunisia's powerful trade unions confederation, UGTT. The deal is expected to put

an end to the simmering tension among the rival groups in the country which was sparked off by the assassination of a secular opposition leader Mohamed Brahimi in July 2013.

#### UNGA Voted against US Embargo on Cuba

For the 22nd consecutive year at the United Nations, the United Nations General Assembly on 29 October 2013 adopted a resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba. One hundred and eighty-eight countries voted for the non-binding resolution and only the United States and Israel voted against the resolution. Three countries abstained (Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau). The US imposed the embargo on Cuba in 1960, shortly after Fidel Castro took power and seized US-owned assets on the island.

#### About the United Nations General Assembly

- It the deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.
- It has all 193 Members of the United Nations.
- It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.

#### Brazil Announced to Produce Low-Cost Measles and Rubella Vaccine

Brazil, in the last week of October 2013 announced its plans to produce the low-cost rubella and measles vaccine for the purpose of export to the developing countries. Brazilian Health Minister, Alexandre Padilha announced that by the year 2017, 30 million doses annually will be supplied primarily to African, Latin American and Asian nations. This will be done in partnership with foundation of Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

For this purpose, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, the top medical research facility of Brazil received a grant worth 1 million US Dollar from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The vaccine will be the most affordable one in the market and it will be first of all exported by Brazil. It is important to note that at present; only India produces the vaccines of these kinds.

#### About the new low-cost vaccine

- The new low-cost vaccine will be developed by the Bio-Manguinhos, which is a part of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), in Rio de Janeiro.
- The cost of this will be 0.54 US Dollar per dose.
- For the purpose of this new vaccine, new production plant will be set up at Rio de Janeiro.

It is worth noticing that Brazil at present, also exports vaccines for 75 countries but the vaccine for measles and rubella will be first of its kind produced exclusively for the purpose of export. Bio-Manguinhos, in the meanwhile, produces a combined vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella since the year 2003. However, the cost of this is very high for a lot of developing nations.

#### What is Measles?

- Measles is the infection which is caused by the virus that is usually acquired at the early childhood age.
- Measles is very contagious which spreads through sneezes and coughs.
- According to the World Health Organisation, measles kills 158000 people annually, most of which include children below the age of five years.

#### What is Rubella?

- Rubella is also a kind of measles. Infact, it is called German measles.
- Rubella, just like measles, is also caused because of a virus and is infectious from one person to another through sneezing or coughing.
- A pregnant woman acquiring rubella during first three months of pregnancy increases the risk of baby having serious birth defects or even death.

#### Syria Submitted Chemical Arms Destruction Plan to OPCW

Syrian Government on 24 October 2013 submitted detailed plan to destroy its chemical arsenal to International chemical weapons

watchdog- OPCW. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is presently involved in destroying Syria's stockpiles of chemical weapons. Syria was required to submit the destruction plan under a US-Russian deal agreed in September 2013 that headed off military strikes on Syria. The agreement also gives Syria up to mid-2014 to destroy its chemical arsenal. President Bashar al-Assad's regime has already handed over an inventory of its chemical weapons and facilities, and international inspectors are on the process of destroying its weapons. OPCW also stated that, Syria's latest disclosures "provide the basis on which plans are devised for a systematic, total and verified destruction of declared chemical weapons and production facilities. The document from Syria includes a general plan of destruction for consideration by the OPCW Executive Council. The OPCW's Executive Council will use the Syrian declaration to decide by 15 November 2013 on "destruction milestones" for Syria's arsenal. Syria has also sent in a declaration of its chemical weapons activities and facilities, meeting its obligations as a new state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Syria on 14 October 2013 officially joined the United Nations Chemical Weapons Convention, which outlaws production and use of chemical weapons.

#### Back ground

Syria's submission of its plan is in line with the deadline set by the OPCW Executive Council in its decision of 27 September 2013 requiring a complete initial declaration by 27 October 2014. Such declarations provide the basis on which plans are devised for a systematic, total and verified destruction of declared chemical weapons and production facilities.

Under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention, new States Parties are also required to submit a declaration covering activities and facilities that are not prohibited under the Convention but can be subjected to routine verification measures as a confidence building measure and to establish the peaceful intent of commercial activities.

#### About the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an independent, international body set up in 1997 to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- It carries out inspections of destruction procedures, as well as evaluating members' own declarations, in order to verify that the convention is being adhered to.
- It is based in The Hague, Netherland and has 189 member states, covering around 98 percent of the world's population. These member nations have agreed to work together to create a world free from chemical weapons.

#### 100 Billion US Dollars Fund by BRICS

Leaders of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group of nations on 5 September 2013 announced to set up a 100 billion US dollar fund to steady currency markets destabilised by an expected pullback of US monetary stimulus. The announcement was made at the meeting of BRICS leaders. Brazil, India and Russia committed 18 billion dollars each while China announced 41 billion US dollars. South Africa announced 5 billion US dollars. BRICS had earlier planned to set up 240 billion US dollars fund. Earlier this year, BRICS nations had discussed the formation of a new development bank to fund infrastructure and development projects throughout the developing nations.

#### Chinese Leader Bo Xilai Sentenced to Life

Top China Communist Party leader Bo Xilai was on 22 September 2013 sentenced to life imprisonment by a Chinese court which upheld the charges of bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power against him. The Jinan Intermediate Court in east China's Shandong province, which conducted an unprecedented open trial in August 2013, convicted the former Politburo member and Chongqing city Communist Party chief on all the three charges. In its judgement, court sentenced



Bo Xilai to life in prison on the bribery charges, 15 years for embezzlement and seven years for abuse of power. The court also stripped Bo of all political rights and ordered the confiscation of his property. Bo Xilai, 64, was sacked as the head of the Chongqing city in 2013 and removed from the ruling party following allegations of bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power against him. He was accused of receiving 20 million Yuan (3.5 Million US Dollars) as bribes and owning a luxury villa in France. The hearing was regarded as the Communist China's most sensitive political trial after the 1981 'Gang of Four' trial involving Mao Zedong's widow Jing Qing.

#### About Bo Xilai

Bo Xilai is a former Chinese politician. He came to prominence through his tenures as the mayor of Dalian and then governor of Liaoning. From 2004 to November 2007, he served as Minister of Commerce. Between 2007 and 2012 he served as a member of the Central Politburo and secretary of the Communist Party's Chongqing branch.

#### 68th Session of the UN General Assembly held in New York

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) started on 17 September 2013 its 68th session at the UN Headquarters in New York, with setting a new development agenda beyond 2015 as its priority. President of the 68th session - UN ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda John Ashe opened the assembly with a speech that introduced the themes of the year and the issues to be focused on, including human rights, the rule of law and how to work towards and ensure stable and peaceful societies ensuring accessible institutions of justice and reducing violence.

The Assembly is set to the backdrop of the eight Millennium Development Goals (covering poverty, women's rights, the environment, child mortality, primary education, HIV/AIDS, development and maternal health) which were set in 2000 with the goal to achieve them by the end of 2015. President of the 68th session John Ashe called this year's Assembly pivotal as member states work in the face of the looming deadline.

The goals will be discussed in three high-level talks and three thematic debates in order for leaders to offer ideas on how to achieve them and define them post-2015. The General Assembly is the UN's largest committee in which all 193 member states have equal representation. UN General Assembly meets annually to address a set number of issues and current crisis of the world.

Theme of the session: The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage

#### Beauty Pageants for Children below 16 Years Banned by The French Senate

The French Senate (Upper House of the Parliament in France) on 18 September 2013 voted 197-146 overnight in order to approve the ban on beauty pageants for children below the age of 16 years. Also, the Legislation included imposing the fine as well as punishment in form of imprisonment.

This amendment was taken up on the basis of a report entitled Against Hyper-Sexualisation: A New Fight For Equality. The Senate suggested that anyone entering the child into the contest of this kind will have to face a fine of 30000 Euros as well as two years of imprisonment. The amendment is a part of the proposed broader bill on women's rights. The Bill will now go to the National Assembly, French Parliament's lower house, for another round of vote as well as debate.

The senators argued that the amendment in the Bill is aimed at protecting the children from being sexualised before their apt age, because of the use of provocative attire as well as loud make up. The report- Against Hyper-Sexualisation: A New Fight for Equality, on the whole, called for a complete end on the pageants of these kinds and also encouraged a ban on the adult-styled clothing for the children. The author of this report is former sports minister and current senator Chantal Jouanno. In case the Bill becomes a law, the pageants such as Mini-Miss in Paris will be banned completely. Michel Le Parmentier, the creator of Mini-Miss, which is held annually, protested that certain regulations instead of the complete ban would be more appropriate. Mini-Miss pageant is organised in France since the year 1989.

### Sarin Gas Used in Syria Attack

U.N. chemical investigators on 16 September 2013 confirmed the use of Sarin nerve agent in 21 August 2013 poison gas attack outside the Syrian capital Damascus. The investigation team headed by Ake Sellstrom of Sweden submitted its report to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The U.N. team was investigating only whether chemical weapons were used in a deadly assault on the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Ghouta. It was not charged with concluding who launched the attack. On the basis of the evidence obtained during the investigation of the Ghouta incident, the conclusion is that chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, also against civilians, including children, on a relatively large scale. In particular, the environmental, chemical and medical samples provided clear and convincing evidence that surface-to-surface rockets containing the nerve agent Sarin were used.

The report also stated the weather conditions on 21 August 2013 ensured that as many people as possible were injured or killed. Temperatures were falling between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m, which meant that air was moving downwards toward the ground. Chemical weapons use in such meteorological conditions maximizes their potential impact as the heavy gas can stay close to the ground and penetrate into lower levels of buildings and constructions where many people were seeking shelter. Earlier, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also announced that sarin had been used in the chemical attack on the Ghouta region. The United States stated 1400 people were killed, including more than 400 children. The United Nations Mission has now confirmed, unequivocally and objectively, that chemical weapons have been used in Syria.

#### About Sarin Gas

- Sarin is a man-made chemical warfare agent classified as a nerve agent. (chemical formula: C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>P)
- Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents. They are similar to certain kinds of

insecticides called organophosphate insecticides in terms of how they work and what kind of harmful effects they cause; however, nerve agents are much more potent than insecticides.

- Sarin originally was developed in 1938 in Germany as an insecticide.
- Sarin is a clear, colorless, and tasteless liquid that has no odor in its pure form. However, sarin can evaporate into a vapor (gas) and spread into the environment.
- Sarin is also known as GB.

### Third Term for Angela Merkel

Chancellor Angela Merkel won a third term by a landslide victory in German elections on 22 September 2013. Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Union bloc - the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) won 41.5 percent of vote, but finished just short of an absolute majority. The elections were held for the Bundstag, the German's parliament. The Bundestag (Federal Diet) is a constitutional and legislative body in Germany. In practice, the country is governed by a bicameral legislature, but not a bicameral parliament. The centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) won 25.7 percent of votes and the ecologist Greens won 8.4 percent votes. Final results gave the CDU/CSU 311 seats, the Social Democrats 192, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) 64 seats and the ecologist Greens 63 seats.

#### G20 Summit 2013

took Place in St. Petersburg, Russia

The G20 Leaders' Summit took place in St.Petersburg on 5-6 September 2013 presided by Russia. The G20 nations discussed ways to ensure economic growth and financial stability, create jobs and combat unemployment, stimulate investment and promote multilateral trade, international development and anti-corruption. The members of the Group of Twenty (G-20) are: Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, European Union, India, Indonesia, Italy, Canada, China, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, USA, Turkey, France, South Africa, Republic of Korea,

and Japan. The presidency of the G20 rotates annually among its members.

The G20 Leaders took notice of the final recommendations that the Business 20, Civil 20, Labour 20, Think 20 and Youth 20. To continue and expand dialogue, the G20 Leaders met with the representatives of business community and trade unions on the sidelines of the Summit.

A number of round table discussions were held in the Summit's International Media Centre (IMC), including: Experts' vision of the significance of the G20, G8 and BRICS for Russia; Issues of Development of the Global and Russian Economy on the G20 Agenda; G20 Initiatives to Reform the International Monetary System and Financial Regulation: Problems and Solutions; Fighting unemployment and creating jobs - a universal goal for the G20 countries; and The G20 Efforts on Fighting Protectionism and Trade Barriers. The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international cooperation on the most important issues of the global economic and financial agenda.

The objectives of the G20 refer to:

1. Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
2. Promoting financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises;
3. Modernizing international financial architecture.

The G20 brings together finance ministers and central bank governors from 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America plus the European Union, which is represented by the President of the European Council and by Head of the European Central Bank. The G20 was formally established in September 1999 when finance ministers and central bank governors of seven major industrial countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) met in Washington, D.C. in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 1997-1998, which revealed the vulnerability of the

international financial system in context of economic globalization and showed that key developing countries were insufficiently involved in discussions and decisions concerning global economic issues.

Finance ministers and central bank governors started to hold annual meetings after the inaugural meeting on December 15-16, 1999, in Berlin. The first meeting of the G20 Leaders took place in Washington, D.C., on November 14-15, 2008, where the Leaders agreed to an action plan to stabilize the global economy and prevent future crises.

At the Leaders' level, Mexico was the second episode, following the Republic of Korea, that an emerging country held the Presidency of the Group.

*G20 members represent almost:*

1. 90% of global GDP.
2. 80% of international global-trade.
3. 2/3 of the world's population lives in G20 member countries.
4. 84% of all fossil fuel emissions are produced by G20 countries.

At their first meeting in Washington, the G20 Leaders achieved general agreement amongst the G20 on how to cooperate in key areas so as to strengthen economic growth, deal with the financial crisis and agreed upon three key objectives:

- restoring global economic growth;
- strengthening the international financial system;
- reforming international financial institutions.

#### U.S. Cleared Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's Flight

The U.S. on 19 September 2013 approved a flight plan for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to fly over Puerto Rico on his way to China. A last-minute authorisation was issued late on 19 September 2013 for the request lodged a day earlier, rather than the three days' notice required. Earlier, Venezuela Government accused the U.S. Government of denying permission for Nicolas Maduro's jet to fly through its airspace.

#### Diplomatic Strains

The US also stated the approval was made

more complicated by the fact the Nicolas Maduro's flight was not on a state plane, which required further diplomatic clearance. Venezuela's relations with the US have been often been strained, both under Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez and since his own election in April 2013. Nicolas Maduro, who has had a rocky relationship with the U.S. since winning an election in April 2013 triggered by the death of President Hugo Chavez, also stated that US authorities had barred his plane from travelling over the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico, a US territory, on his way to China. In July 2013 Venezuela announced that it had ended steps towards restoring diplomatic ties with the US, after a top American diplomat referred to a crackdown on civil society in Venezuela. Washington had also angered Caracas by backing the Venezuelan opposition's demand for a full recount of 2013 April's presidential election which was narrowly won by Nicolas Maduro. The two countries last had ambassadors in each other's capitals in 2010.

#### Hun Sen reelected as the Prime Minister of Cambodia

The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen on 8 September 2013 was reelected to power after winning the Parliamentary Elections held on 28 July 2013. The National Election Committee (NEC) announced the results and declared Cambodian People's Party as the winners with 68 seats. The NEC also declared that the opposition party, Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) was successful in securing 55 seats. The Prime Minister Hun Sen (61) has ruled the country for 28 years. With this win his rule has extended for a period of another five years in the country. The ruling Cambodian People's Party got 48.79 percent of the votes and CNRP won 44.45 percent of votes. Other parties namely, Funcinpec Party and League of Democratic Party won 6.3 percent of votes (combined) with zero seats.

#### About Hun Sen

- His full honorary title is Samdech Akeak Moha Sena Padey Decho Hun Sen
- He was the leader of the Cambodian People's Party and Prime Minister of Cambodia, since

1979, the time Khmer Rouge was overthrown by the Vietnamese-backing

#### UNSC Voted to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weapons

The United Nations Security Council on 27 September 2013 approved unanimously a resolution with binding obligations on the Syrian government to eliminate its chemical weapons. The resolution was passed by a voice vote by all 15 members of UN Security Council that paved the way for dismantling the weapons of mass destruction in Syria. The UNSC resolution enshrines the plan approved by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, making it legally binding. The agreement allows the start of a mission to rid Syria's regime of its estimated 1000-tonne chemical arsenal by mid-2014, significantly accelerating a destruction timetable that often takes years to complete. The resolution makes it legally binding for Syria to comply with the US-Russia plan on elimination of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal. The resolution also asks the organisation for Prevention of Chemical Weapons Director General and the U.N. secretary-general to report non-compliance to the Security Council. If there is non-compliance, the Security Council by another resolution impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter which allows for sanctions and or use of military force. According to estimates Syria has more than 1000 tonnes of Sarin, Mustard and VX gases which have to be destroyed by Mid 2014.

#### Microsoft Joined Google in the Spying Lawsuit Filed in the Federal Court

Microsoft on 30 August 2013 declared that the battle to solve the secret US government requests for the Internet user data would be sorted out in the court of law. Microsoft as well as Google filed the suits in the federal court in the month of June 2013. The argument was the right to make public, the information about the user data requests which were made under the auspices of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Both Google as well as Microsoft agreed six different times for extending the deadline for the US Government in order to



react to the lawsuits, but it all ended without the conclusion. The US officials, in the meanwhile, on 29 August 2013 declared that they would start publishing the annual tallies of national security requests for the Internet user data. The argument in context with this was that apart from providing the number of requests, it was also important to disclose the context regarding which the information was being sought.

#### Egypt Court Banned Muslim Brotherhood

The Egypt Court on 23 September 2013 banned the Muslim Brotherhood from carrying out any activities in the country. The court also ordered the interim government to seize the Brotherhood's funds and form a panel to administer its frozen assets until any appeal has been heard. The administrative court gave the ruling after a lawsuit was filed by the leftist Tagammu Party to review the Islamist group's status as a non-governmental organisation. The 85-year-old Islamist movement was banned by Egypt's military rulers in 1954, but registered itself as an NGO in March 2013. The Brotherhood also has a legally registered political wing, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), which was set up in 2011 as a "non-theocratic" group after the uprising that forced President Hosni Mubarak from power.

On 2 September 2013, Egypt's State Commissioners Authority, a body that advises the government on legal issues, recommended the Brotherhood's dissolution after claims circulated of its links to armed militias. The authority's recommendations, which are non-binding, were made in accordance with an Egyptian law that prohibits non-government organisations and institutions from forming paramilitary groups. Egyptian authorities launched a crackdown against the group following the ouster of president Morsi, who hails from the group, by the military on July 3 after mass protests against him and the group.

#### About Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood movement is the country's oldest and largest Islamist organisation, meaning its ideology is based on the teachings of

the Koran. Founded by Hassan al-Banna in 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood - or al-Ikhwan al-Muslimun in Arabic - has influenced Islamist movements around the world with its model of political activism combined with Islamic charity work. The movement initially aimed simply to spread Islamic morals and good works, but soon became involved in politics, particularly the fight to rid Egypt of British colonial control and cleanse it of all Western influence.

#### USA and Russia agreed on the Process of dismantling Syria's Chemical Weapons

The United States and Russia on 14 September 2013 agreed on the process of dismantling Syria's chemical weapons arsenal. The break-through was announced after three day talks between the US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva. The USA and Russia have agreed that Syria's chemical weapons must be destroyed or removed by mid-2014. USA outlined a six-point framework under which Syria must hand over a full list of its stockpile within a week. If Syria fails to comply, the deal could be enforced by a UN resolution backed by the threat of sanctions or military force.

The USA-Russia deal sets a deadline of mid-2014 for dismantling of Syria's chemical weapons and an outline for compliance of requirements by Syria. It also has a clause stating that in case Syria falls short of its commitments, both Russia and the United States would jointly seek review at the United Nations Security Council.

USA stated that in case of non-compliance US and Russia might request a Security Council resolution under Chapter 7, which can authorize both military and non-military sanctions. The agreement did not include any automatic use of force if Damascus fails to comply. It added that violations by Syria would be referred to the UN Security Council for review which if approved, would take the required concrete measures.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the US-Russian deal on Syria's chemical weapons and hoped it will lead to efforts to end the appalling suffering of Syrians.

### India Gave One Million Dollars Aid to UNRWA for Palestinian Refugees

The Union Government of India on 4 September 2013 gave one million US dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for providing food and medicines to Palestinian refugees. The financial assistance to the UN agency was given as a part of India's annual contribution to it. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from the UN member-states.

#### About UNRWA

- After 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestinian refugees.
- UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 5 million registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to their plight.
- UNRWA is the main provider of basic services – education, health, relief and social services – to 5 million registered Palestine refugees in the Middle East.

### Iraq Ratified Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Iraq Government on 27 September 2013 ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at 68th session of UN General Assembly at New York, US. Iraq's ratification of the treaty raised the number of countries that have adhered fully to the treaty to 161. To enter into force, the CTBT must be signed and ratified by 44 specific states, only 36 of which have done so including France, Russia and Britain. The remaining eight are China, the United States, India, Pakistan and North Korea; Israel, widely believed to have atomic weapons; Iran, suspected of wanting them; and Egypt.

#### About Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

1. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as a resolution (A/RES/50/245) on

10 September 1996.

2. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans nuclear explosions by everyone, everywhere: on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground. So far 183 States have signed the Treaty of which 161 have now also ratified it.
3. The Treaty establishes a CTBT Organization (CTBTO), located in Vienna, Austria to ensure the implementation of its provisions, including those provisions for international verification measures

### 50-Member Panel to amend the Constitution of Egypt

Egyptian President Adly Mansour on 1 September 2013 approved a 50 member panel to amend the suspended 2012 Constitution. The panel is comprised of representatives from among the jurists, experts, academicians, armed forces, journalists, writers, labour unions, public figures, and the political parties among others. Islamists would be represented by the Al Nour party. The panel is tasked with carrying out amendments in the 2012 Constitution which was prepared by the Islamist regime under Mohamed Mursi. A group of 10 eminent legal experts has already identified areas for amendment and prepared the draft. The 50-member panel will give final shape to the Constitution within 60 days, keeping in mind the interests of various sections of Egyptian society.

### Sri Lanka heading in an Authoritarian Direction

Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who is on a seven-day fact finding Mission to Sri Lanka on 31 August 2013 stated that the country was heading in the authoritarian direction. Pillay in her conclusion revealed that although Sri Lanka has an opportunity to develop into a complete new vibrant state after the end of the civil war was displaying complete different signs of authoritarianism. During her visit to the nation she visited to Jaffana, Kilinochchi, Mullivaika and some districts of Trincomalee region. Pillay called on for a need of investigation into allegations of civilian casualties and summary execution. She also highlighted a need to the

question the disappearances and the extent of militarization. To prove her point about Sri Lanka heading towards authoritarianism, she presented the examples of impeachment of the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Sri Lanka that shook the independence of judiciary in the country and was controversial. She also pointed out the regular and increased attacks on religious minorities in the country.

#### Background

Sri Lanka's northern region was badly worn out because of 30 years of civil war between the military and the Tamil Tigers.

#### About the Sri Lankan Civil War

Sri Lankan Civil War was a civil war fought on the island of Sri Lanka. It started on 23 July 1983. The war was actually the movement of insurgency against the Government by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (the LTTE, also known as the Tamil Tigers). LTTE was a separatist militant organisation which fought for the creation of Tamil Eelam, the independent Tamil state. The civil war continued for almost 30 years and after years-long military campaign, the Tamil Tigers were defeated by the military of Sri Lanka in May 2009. The civil war in Sri Lanka caused hardships not just for the population, but also for the economy and environment of Sri Lanka. Around 80000 to 100000 people were killed during the war.

#### Grameen Bank to be brought under Central Bank Jurisdiction

Bangladesh Government on 22 September 2013 decided to bring Nobel Prize winning Grameen Bank under the central bank's jurisdiction to give the authorities more powers over the microcredit organisation. The decision is in line with the proposals of the government-sponsored Grameen Bank Commission, which recommended bringing the bank under the regulatory control of either the Bangladesh Bank or the Microcredit Regulatory Authority to better monitor its activities. The three-member commission was constituted in 2012 to review Grameen Bank's governing structure. The Grameen bank is being run by Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983 since its inception

in 1983 and it does not directly fall under the jurisdiction of the Banking Companies Act. The central bank of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Bank, on 28 February 2011 removed Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus as the Managing Director of Grameen Bank.

#### About Grameen Bank

Grameen Bank is an institution that provides microcredit (small loans to poor people possessing no collateral) to help its clients establish creditworthiness and financial self-sufficiency. In 2006 Dr. Muhammad Yunus and Grameen received the Nobel Prize for Peace.

#### UNGA Signed a Declaration Against Sexual Violence

The 68th session of General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2013 signed a declaration pledging new action to end sexual violence in conflict zones. The declaration was titled 'Time To Act'. Ministers from 113 countries signed the declaration in General Assembly of the United Nations held in New York. It also declared that it will adopt a new International Protocol in 2014 to help and ensure that evidence collected can stand up in the court. The declaration adopted in the background of recent increase in the number of rape cases and sexual violence against women.

#### About General Assembly of the United Nations

- It the deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.
- It has all 193 Members of the United Nations.
- It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.

#### War Crime Convicts to be dropped from Voting List in Bangladesh

The Bangladesh cabinet on 3 September 2013 approved a law under which names of war-crime convicts will be dropped from the national voting list. The cabinet has approved an amendment to the Electoral Roll Act under which war-criminals under the International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973 and the Bangladesh Collaborators Special Tribunal Act 1972 will be disfranchised with their names

dropped from the National Voters List. The amendment will be introduced in the forthcoming parliamentary session beginning 12 September 2013. Trial of war crimes have been going on and the two war crimes tribunals have so far convicted six war criminals.

The Bangladesh Home Ministry has also received a list of names of 47 collaborators of the Pakistani Army during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. The ICT awarded capital punishment for former Jamat Rokon Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Nayebe Amir of Jamat E Ismaili Delwar Hossain Sayeede, Jamat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Qamruzzaman for their crimes against humanity. Besides, former Jamat Amir Golam Azam awarded 90 years imprisonment while assistant secretary General Abul Qader Mollah got life term.

#### Ukraine Signed Natural Gas Production-Sharing Agreement with Exxon and Shell

Ukraine on 26 September 2013 announced that it entered into the natural gas production-sharing agreement with a consortium which was led by Exxon and Shell. This will help Ukraine towards energy diversification as well as reduced dependence on Russia. The consortium also included Petrom, the Romanian energy group as well as Ukraine's state-owned Nadra Ukrainy.

Nadra Ukrainy will be responsible for extraction of natural gas on the Skifski site near the Ukraine's Black Sea coast. The initial accord was signed by the Ukrainian Energy Minister Eduard Stavytsky and representatives of Exxon, Shell, and Petrom on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. The formal production-sharing agreement will be signed by October 2013 in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. Skifski is situated in the north-west part of the Black Sea, near Romania. It is expected that Skifski will provide 8-10 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually. The agreement will help Ukraine in diversification of its energy sources. The Shell and Exxon deal was a result of the recent moves by Ukraine to attract European Union as well as retract from Russia. It is

important to note that Russia threatened trade sanctions as well. Ukraine, in the meanwhile, may also sign the association agreement with the EU in November 2013.

#### Bank of Beijing Opened China's First Direct Bank

The Bank of Beijing on 18 September 2013 launched China's first direct bank in Beijing, Xi'an and Jinan. It started direct bank services with the cooperation of Netherlands-based ING Group. The Bank of Beijing will provide its services remotely via online banking and telephone banking. Meaning, it does not rely on entity outlets. It will also provide access via Automated teller Machines (ATMs) (often through interbank network alliances) mail and mobile. The new direct banks will basically provide services to retail clients, small and micro enterprises by providing financial products and services. Direct banking system was already successful in European markets and U.S. markets.

#### Primary features of Direct Banking

- Direct banking does not rely on entity outlets.
- It provides financial products and services through Internet, Telephones and Automated teller Machines (ATMs).
- Direct bank performs almost all kinds of services provided by traditional bank outlets.
- Direct banking also requires lower operation cost. So, it can offer higher rates of return for customers and enjoy greater competitiveness.

#### Russia and China held Joint Military Exercise

Russia and China held a joint anti-terrorism military exercise called *Peace Mission 2013* from 27 July 2013 to 15 August 2013.

The military exercise was held in both the Shenyang military area command of the PLA (Peoples Liberation Army) and the Chebarkulsky range. It was divided into three phases-troop deployment, battle planning and simulated combat. The Chinese troops deployed to Russia will be equipped with various models of armed vehicles, self-propelled guns, as well as fixed-wing and



rotating-wing aircraft. A total number of 1500 military personnel from both Russia and China will participate during the anti-terrorism exercise. The exercise aims to boost cooperation between China and Russia to maintain regional stability. Through this joint military exercise Russia and China are trying to expand their sphere of influence in Northeast Asia. It also shows signs of a deepening partnership between Russia and China.

#### Tony Abbott Sworn in as Australia Prime Minister

Tony Abbott was sworn in as Australia's new Prime Minister on 18 September 2013. Tony Abbott is the 28th Prime Minister of Australia. Tony Abbott, 55, took the oath at Government House in Canberra in front of Governor-General Quentin Bryce.

His Conservative Party defeated former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's centre-left Labor Party in 7 September 2013 elections. Tony Abbott has immediately ordered the scrapping of Australia's carbon tax and the halting of asylum-seeker boats after being sworn in as Prime Minister. The elections were held for The House of Representatives. The House of Representatives is one of the two Houses of Parliament of Australia. The other one is senate.

#### About Tony Abbott

- Tony Abbott was Born in England in 1957 to an Australian mother and an English-born father and he graduated in economics and law from Sydney University.
- Leader of Liberal Party and main opposition Liberal-National coalition.
- Rhodes Scholar, former student boxer and Catholic priest trainee.
- Held employment and health and ageing portfolios in John Howard Government from 2001 -2007.
- Tony Abbott was elected Member for Warringah at a by-election in March 1994. Prior to entering Parliament he was Executive Director of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy from 1993-94.
- From 1990-93 he was press secretary and political advisor to the Leader of the Opposition, Dr John Hewson. His previous career was in journalism, where he wrote as a feature writer for 'The Bulletin' and 'The Australian'.
- Tony Abbott became Leader of the Opposition on 1 December 2009.



## IAS EXAM PORTAL's Study Kits for Civil Services & Other Examinations

- ➔ Medium: English & Hindi
- ➔ 100% Syllabus Covered
- ➔ Available in Hard Copy

### Study Kit for Preliminary Examinations:

- ✓ IAS (Pre) GS Paper 1  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-pre/csat-paper-1>
- ✓ IAS (Pre) GS Paper 2  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-pre/csat-paper-2>
- ✓ आई. ए. एस. (सामान्य अध्ययन) प्रारंभिक परीक्षा 2014 पेपर -1  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-pre/csat-paper-1-hindi>
- ✓ आई. ए. एस. (सी-सेट) प्रारंभिक परीक्षा 2014 पेपर -2  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-pre/csat-paper-2-hindi>

### Study Kit for Mains Examinations:

- ✓ Contemporary Issues  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/contemporary-issues-ias-mains>
- ✓ Public Administration  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-mains-public-adminstration>
- ✓ Essay Writing  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/essay-mains>
- ✓ English Grammar & Comprehension  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-mains-english-compulsory>
- ✓ History  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-mains-history>
- ✓ Philosophy  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-mains-philosophy>
- ✓ Sociology  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/ias-mains-sociology>
- ✓ General Studies  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/gs-mains>

### Study Kit for UPSC Other Examinations:

- ✓ Armed Police Forces (CAPF)  
<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit/capf>

## **Study Kit for Other One Day Examinations:**

- ✓ **SSC Combined Graduate Level (Tier - I)**  
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/cgl>
- ✓ **सीजीएल (टियर-1) अध्ययन सामग्री**  
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/cgl/tier-1-hindi>
- ✓ **SSC Combined Graduate Level Examination (Tier - II)**  
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/cgl-tier-2>
- ✓ **SSC Combined Higher Secondary Level (10+2) Examination**  
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/chsle>
- ✓ **IBPS Specialist Officer Study Kit**  
<http://bankpoclerk.com/community/study-kit/ibps-specialist-officer>
- ✓ **IBPS Probationary Officer (PO) Study Kit**  
<http://bankpoclerk.com/community/study-kit/ibps-po>
- ✓ **IBPS Clerk Study Kit**  
<http://bankpoclerk.com/community/study-kit/ibps-clerk>

*For Full Information about Study Kits Click below Link:*

<http://iasexamportal.com/civilservices/study-kit>



**Current Affairs**  
For Civil Services, PCS & All Other Examinations

Medium: English  
Pages: 437  
Cost: **Rs. 350, Rs. 280**  
Payment Option: Online

Available on Flipkart.com  
&  
All Major Book Stores

For any clarification call us @ 011-45151781

## Current Affairs for IAS, Civil Services, SSC, IBPS & All Other Examinations

### BOOK DETAILS

Medium: English

Price: **Rs. 350, Rs. 280**

Pages: 437

Publisher: Kalinjar Publications

ISBN: 9789351720454

### TOPICS OF THE BOOK

- National Issues
- International Issues
- India & the World
- Economy
- Science and Technology
- Sports
- Awards & Prizes
- In the News
- MCQ's

**Click Here to Buy Current Affair in Hard Copy:**

- **Buy Form Flipkart:**

<http://www.flipkart.com/current-affairs-civil-services-examination-english-1st/p/itmftb7j9z7hkwu?affid=kalinjargm>

- **Buy Form Amazon:**

[http://www.amazon.in/Current-Affairs-Civil-Services-Examinations/dp/9351720454/ref=as\\_sl\\_pc\\_tf\\_til?tag=upscportal-21&linkCode=as1&creativeASIN=9351720454](http://www.amazon.in/Current-Affairs-Civil-Services-Examinations/dp/9351720454/ref=as_sl_pc_tf_til?tag=upscportal-21&linkCode=as1&creativeASIN=9351720454)

- **Buy Form Paytm:**

[https://paytm.com/shop/p/current-affairs-for-civil-services-examinations-9789351720454\\_20563](https://paytm.com/shop/p/current-affairs-for-civil-services-examinations-9789351720454_20563)