

(August 2014)

www.sscportal.in

SSCPORTAL CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE (For SSC CGL, CHSL & Other Exams)

DRONES TO GUARD INDIA'S FORESTS AND WILDLIFE



TOPICS

- ◆ NATIONAL
- ◆ ECONOMY
- ◆ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- ◆ INTERNATIONAL
- ◆ SPORTS

◆ News from (1 August 2014 to 31 August 2014)

ONLINE COACHING FOR SSC EXAMS

at Just Rs. 100/Month

Register Now

<http://sscportal.in/community/courses>

**FREE
TRIAL** **7
DAY**



National News

e-rickshaws finally get the legal stamp

- The Delhi High Court advised the Delhi Government to organise camps for registration of e-rickshaws to protect the operators from further loss of earnings.
- However, it refused to lift the ban on them plying on the Capital's roads till the drivers have licences, registration certificates and insurance papers in their possession.
- Filing the draft guidelines to regulate the battery-operated rickshaws, the Centre sought two months to finalise and notify them and urged the Court to let the vehicles ply during the this period. But the Court declined.

Government issues alert for early detection of Ebola Virus

- Union Govt. told Parliament that advisories were issued to the State Disease Surveillance Units to be on alert for early detection and management of travel related Ebola virus cases reported from the community.
- In view of the reports of outbreak of the disease in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria in West Africa, Govt. recommended that non-essential travel to these countries be deferred till such time that the situation is brought under control.
- Though there is no vaccine or curative therapy for this disease, outbreaks can be contained through early detection and isolation of cases, contact tracing and monitoring, and following rigorous procedures for infection control.

Government to auction coal mines after obtaining necessary approvals

- The government will auction captive coal mines to companies engaged in production of steel, cement and sponge iron after obtaining necessary clearances and detailed exploration of the blocks.
- Notice Inviting application was issued on February 26, 2014, offering three coal blocks for mining to companies engaged in production of steel, cement and sponge iron.
- The Ministry of Coal had offered three blocks for auction for captive use for steel, cement and sponge iron companies — two in Jharkhand and one in West Bengal. The mines have total reserves of 500 million tonnes.
- Official auditor CAG had earlier said allotment of 57 mines to private firms without auction had resulted in a notional loss of Rs. 1.8 lakh crore to the exchequer.
- Last year, the government had allocated 17 coal mines to Central and State public sector units, including four to NTPC. It had planned to auction 54 coal blocks with total estimated reserves of about 18 billion tonnes.

New Education Policy on the anvil: Smriti

- Government is formulating a new Education Policy aimed at meeting the challenges posed by lack of quality, research and innovation in educational institutions.
- Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of 7th Schedule of the Constitution,

the responsibility of education lies primarily with the State Governments.

- However, all States will be advised to develop syllabi and Text Books keeping in view the New Education Policy, taking into consideration State specific concerns.

India's first moored observatory deployed in Arctic

- Country's first multi-sensor moored observatory IndARC was successfully deployed in Kongsfjorden Fjord of the Arctic roughly halfway between North Pole and Norway.
- This observatory, designed and developed by ESSO-NIOT and ESSO-NCAOR with ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, was deployed from the Norwegian Polar Institute's research vessel R.V. Lance.
- A team of scientists from the Earth System Science Organisation-National Institute of Ocean Technology (ESSO-NIOT) Chennai and ESSO-National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) termed the same as a milestone in India's scientific endeavours in the Arctic region.

PM hopes to link lives across open borders

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to open a new chapter in India-Nepal relations , while hoping to connect lives across our open borders seamlessly.
- Mr. Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to pay a bilateral visit to Kathmandu in 17 years. The visit is significant, given he will return to Kathmandu later this year for the SAARC Summit.
- In his statement, Mr. Modi outlined the areas he hoped to forge agreements on: "trade and investment, hydropower, agriculture, environment, tourism, education, culture and sports."
- The two sides are expected to announce a power trading agreement, which will lead to the signing of a 900-MW hydropower agreement during the visit

Modi offers \$1-bn package to Nepal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed India's commitment and assistance to Nepal's development and promising to take the two countries' relations to a new height.
- Mr. Modi referred to the Nepal-India relationship as "older than the Himalayas and the Ganga," even as he announced a \$1 billion Line of Credit for Nepal's infrastructure development. Mr. Modi also promised to help Nepal in the field of hydropower, infrastructure, space technology and agriculture.
- He assured that the work on Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project would begin in a year. After years of negotiations, work on this joint venture project has not begun. Nepal could prosper by selling electricity to India.
- The Indian Prime Minister assured Mr. Koirala that the ongoing peace process in Nepal was entirely a Nepali matter and should be concluded as per Nepal's requirements.
- In the presence of the two Prime Ministers, the officials signed three memorandum of understanding (MoU) – tourism development in Nepal, Goitre Control Programme in Nepal, and co-operation between the state-controlled television channels – Doordarshan and Nepal Television (NTV). They also exchanged terms of reference (ToR) on Pancheshwar Development Authority.

- Mr. Modi would offer prayers at the Pahusapati Temple on Monday before heading to the President's Office to meet President Dr Ram Baran Yadav.

Move to scrap Planning Commission raises Constitutional questions

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to scrap the Planning Commission has raised administrative and Constitutional questions that the Centre will have to address in the coming days.
- The first of these is what happens to the ongoing 12th Five Year Plan? "The 12th Plan is an ideologically-neutral, NDC-approved, growth policy document with inclusion and sustainability as its pillars and technically the Centre cannot on its own decide to junk it," a high-level source said.
- Second, since indications are that the role of making plan allocations to States for development spending will be transferred to the Finance Ministry, there are likely to be implications of this for India's federal system. Will the States, especially those governed by the Opposition parties, readily accept allocations from the Union Finance Ministry is the question, says Y.K. Alagh, who was Planning Minister in the Deve Gowda government.

Crowd-sourced ad for I&B Ministry

- The idea behind this exercise is to involve people in governance and bridge the divide between the rulers and the ruled.
- With this same end in view, the Human Resource Development Ministry has recently launched an internship programme where college and research students can work in various education departments and help in policy formulation.
- According to the Ministry, it got 1,000 entries of which 10 were shortlisted by a panel of field experts, artists and academics.
- This is the second time that a Ministry has crowd-sourced an advertisement for an occasion, the first instance was on World Day to Combat Desertification on the request of Environment and Forests Ministry

Google 'polluted Internet' with classified material: Survey of India

- Surveyor General of India Swarna Subba Rao has alleged that the Internet giant did not refrain from mentioning classified sites even after having been asked not to do so.
- The Survey of India, India's national survey and mapping organisation under the Department of Science and Technology, is the complainant in the case. After initial probe by the Delhi Police, the case was handed over to the CBI as the investigation involved a company which is based in the US.
- Google had not taken permission from SoI before organising a mapping competition in February-March 2013 in which they asked citizens to map their neighbourhoods, especially details related to hospitals and restaurants.
- As per the National Map Policy 2005, "the responsibility for producing, maintaining and disseminating the topographic map database of the whole country, which is the foundation of all spatial data, vests with the Survey of India".

- It was alleged that Google India had launched a nationwide contest and people might have passed on maps and other key details of strategic installations located in other cities and states to the U.S. company, the sources added.
- For SoI, it was clarified that the company never took any permission before undertaking the mapping exercise, and from national security point of view, civil and military Vital Areas, Vital Points (VPs) cannot be shown in the map/data published in public domain

Women's quota Bill lapses due to lack of consensus

- Dashing the hopes of women and all other sections who espoused the cause, the Women's Reservation Bill has lapsed. After being passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2010, the Bill, which provides for 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies, was sent to the Lok Sabha for approval, but did not see the light of the day for lack of political consensus and will.
- Article 107 (5) of the Constitution states: A Bill which is pending in the House of People or which having being passed by the House of the People is pending in the Council of States shall, subject to provisions of Article 108 (joint sitting of both the Houses), lapse on a dissolution of the House of People.
- The Bill was approved in the Rajya Sabha after unprecedented pandemonium leaving the Chairman with no option but to suspend seven members of the RJD and the Samajwadi Party who were adamant on stalling it at any cost.
- It would now be an uphill task for the NDA to take up the initiative particularly as it is woefully short of majority in the Rajya Sabha for passage of a controversial constitutional amendment Bill.

DGCA issues Ebola advisory for airlines

- DGCA will monitor whether airlines are keeping a record of all passengers who are returning to India after staying or transiting through four West African countries.
- With airlines forming the first line of defence against the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has become active in enforcing Government guidelines in this respect.
- In particular, the DGCA will monitor whether airlines are keeping a record of all passengers who are returning to India after staying or transiting through four West African countries and are passing on the information to Airport Health Officers. This will be tallied against Indian missions in these countries sending in advance details of passengers boarding from the affected countries.
- The DGCA has also supplied airlines with an announcement format that has to be included in in-flight announcements. The accent is on self reporting by passengers whose symptoms match with the onset of EVD.
- Passengers are also being provided with a form in which they have to fill their health details in case they have visited any of the four EVD hit countries over the past three weeks.
- For people heading out to West Africa, the advice is to avoid travel to the EVD affected countries if they are suffering from flue or taking medicines to combat an infectious disease. This is because in both cases there is a weakening of immunity making the person more susceptible to EVD. They will also be asked to avoid visiting hospitals treating EVD affected patients

Six-member National Judicial Commission to select judges for higher courts

- The Judicial Appointments Commission Bill, 2014 passed in the Lok Sabha provides for setting up of a six-member National Judicial Commission to select and recommend judges to the High Courts and Supreme Court.
- The Constitution (121st Amendment) Bill, 2014 and the 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill' seek to give constitutional status to the NJC, comprising the Chief Justice of India (Chairperson); two other senior-most judges of the Supreme Court; the Union Law Minister and two eminent persons to be nominated by the Prime Minister, the CJI and the Leader of Opposition of the Lok Sabha. One of the eminent persons shall be nominated from amongst the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities or women.
- The object of constituting the Commission is to enable participation of judiciary, executive and eminent persons and will ensure greater transparency, accountability and objectivity in the appointment of judges to higher judiciary.
- On the recommendations of the Commission, the President will appoint the High Court and Supreme Court judges. However, if for some reason, the President requests the Commission to reconsider certain recommendations and the recommendation is reiterated the President is bound to make the appointment.
- The Bill mandates the Commission to make regulations specifying the criteria of suitability with respect to the appointment of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court, the procedure and conditions for selection and procedure for transfer of judges from one High Court to another.

India ranked 5th amongst top 10 wind power producers: Report

- India ranked fifth amongst top ten wind power producers in the world by adding 1,700 MW capacity in 2013, a report said.
- "China was the leading wind power producer by adding 16,100 MW capacity in 2013, followed by USA, Germany and Spain," Renewables 2014 Global Status Report said.
- By the end of 2013, China, the US, Brazil, Canada and Germany remained the top countries for total installed renewable power capacity, the report said.
- According to the report, over the past few years the costs of electricity generation from onshore wind and particularly solar PV (photo-voltaic) have fallen sharply which has resulted in an increase in wind and solar power projects being built without public financial support.
- In terms of annual investment in the wind energy sector and production, China ranked number one followed by Germany, UK, India and Canada.
- Worldwide more than 35,000 MW wind power capacity was added taking the total number to 3,18,000 MW in 2013 to which India contributed 1,700 MW.

Aircel launches 4G services in Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir

- Telecom operator Aircel on Monday launched 4G services in Tamil Nadu and Jammu & Kashmir, becoming the only private telecom operator to offer all the three existing technologies of 2G, 3G and 4G in these markets.
- Aircel holds 20 MHz of spectrum in the 2,300 MHz band, called broadband wireless access (BWA) spectrum, across eight circles — Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and North East and Jammu & Kashmir.
- This spectrum can be used for 4G services. Aircel is the second company in India, after Airtel, to launch 4G services using LTE technology.
- Aircel now is left with two service areas — West Bengal and North East — where it has to start services using BWA spectrum.
- As per rules, 2015 is the last year for all companies who won BWA spectrum to roll out services in at least 90 per cent of the service areas, failing which the Department of Telecom will have the right to withdraw the radio waves.
- The licensee will have to ensure that at least half the areas under rural telecom exchanges get the required street level coverage.
- Other holders of this spectrum include Reliance JioInfocomm, Tikona Digital and Augere, who are yet to start their services.

Arvind enters e-commerce space

- Textile and apparel retailer Arvind announced that its in-house start-up venture, Arvind Internet Ltd., will set up an e-commerce site, which will sell customised apparel under the brand Creyate.
- KulinLalbhai, Executive Director, Arvind, said that the company saw e-commerce as a key growth driver.
- The company aims at garnering revenues of over Rs.1,000crore in three years.
- Part of the road map for this are plans to launch stores in 15 cities across the country by the end of this year. At present, the retailer has stores in Bangalore, Delhi and Ahmedabad.

India confident of solution to food security issue at WTO

- India said both the issues of permanent protection for its minimum support prices for food grain procurement from farmers against dated caps of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and a Trade Facilitation deal were likely to be resolved with talks resuming in Geneva next month.
- India will remain firm on its stand that the setting up of a work programme for finding a permanent solution on the food grain stock pile issue should be the pre-requisite for approving the trade facilitation agreement (TFA).
- Despite the missed TFA protocol deadline, the officials clarified, the interim Peace Clause (PC) will continue to be in place.
- The PC provides protection against the WTO farm caps until a permanent solution is found.

Govt. to observe "SadbhavnaDiwas"

- The Union Government will continue with the 22-year-long tradition of observing the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as "SadbhavnaDiwas"

on August 20.

- The theme of "SadbhavanaDiwas", which is celebrated across the country every year, is to promote national integration and communal harmony and spread the message of goodwill towards everyone and eschewing violence.

World's first 'green' Hindu temple opened in UK

- A Hindu temple, claimed to be the world's first 'eco-temple' featuring solar panels and a rainwater harvesting system, has been opened in northwest London in the UK.
- The ornate 20 million pounds 'Shree SwaminarayanMandir' in Kingsbury combines traditional Indian architecture and carvings with 'green' technology.
- It also features solar panels on the roof and a rainwater harvesting system.
- The temple blends traditional Indian architecture, intricate carvings and masterful artistry with green technologies to create what is believed to be the world's first 'eco-temple' by design.

India blocks film on Indira Gandhi assassination

- India has blocked the release of a film on the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, saying it glorifies her killers and could trigger violent protests.
- The film certification board says that the movie glorified the two Sikh bodyguards who killed Gandhi to avenge her suppression of an insurgency that culminated in an army assault on Sikhism's holiest shrine.
- The film "Kaum De Heere," or Diamonds of the Community, was scheduled to be released.
- Certification board Chief Leela Samson says panel members saw the film and decided it could not be released as it poses a threat to public order.

Foreign funding: SC notice to Centre

- The Supreme Court refused to stay a Delhi High Court judgment directing initiation of action against political parties including the Congress party on receipt of funds from foreign companies for election campaign.
- Acting on a public interest writ petition, the Delhi high court had found prima facie violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act and said as the donations accepted by the political parties from Sterlite Industries and Sesa accrued from foreign sources within the meaning of law.

PM Modi's Digital India project: Government to ensure that every Indian has smartphone by 2019

- The Digital India project that aims to offer a one-stop shop for government services would use the mobile phone as the backbone of its delivery mechanism.
- The government hopes the Rs 1.13-lakh crore initiative that seeks to transform India into a connected economy to also attract investment in electronics manufacturing, create millions of jobs and support trade.

PMO now a strategic HR manager, to analyse officials'

skills to fill up top vacancies

- Over the past fortnight, two senior bureaucrats, recently empanelled as secretaries to the government of India, were surprised when they got a call from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- They were asked about their areas of interest and the departments they might be interested in handling as and when an opening comes up.

Coal block allocations since 1993 illegal: SC

- The Supreme Court pulled up the Centre on coal block allocations and declared all 218 allocations made from 1993 to 2011 illegal and arbitrary.
- A Bench of Chief Justice R.M. Lodha and Justices Madan B. Lokur and Kurian Joseph said the entire allocation of coal blocks as recommended by the Screening Committee from July 14, 1993, in 36 meetings and the allocation made through the government dispensation route suffered from the vice of arbitrariness and legal flaws.
- In February 2012, the court ordered the cancellation of spectrum allocations and directed fresh auction.
- The Bench said the consequences of declaring the allocations illegal would be considered on September 1 taking into account the investments made by companies for various projects and the procedure to be adopted for cancellation.

SC terms pleas against NJAC premature

- The Supreme Court has said it is "premature" to interrupt the ongoing legislative process and examine the constitutionality of the Constitution amendment and National Judicial Appointments Commission Bills before they were made law.
- The Court refused to entertain a bunch of public interest litigation pleas.

Right to travel abroad is no 'absolute right'

- The 'right to travel abroad' is a fundamental right, but it is "not an absolute one," and it is subject to certain limitations, the Madras High Court has said.
- Justice M. Venugopal made the observation in response to a contention by an accused, charge-sheeted by the CBI in a serious crime, that no one could be deprived of his or her right to travel abroad under Article 21 of the Constitution, except according to the procedure established by law.
- Dismissing the petition, Mr. Justice Venugopal said the right to go abroad was an individual's personal liberty. There was no order to impound the petitioner's passport.

DoPT to notify amendments to Lokpal search panel mandate

- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) may soon issue a notification regarding amendments to the mandate of the Lokpal Search Committee for recommendations of candidates for the appointment of the Lokpal.
- Following allegations of a flawed selection procedure, the government had earlier decided to amend the selection rules framed under the Lokpal Act.
- The amendments were to be carried out in consonance with the report of a three-member committee set up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Child rights panel vacancies remain unfilled

- Six important vacancies in the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) have been unfilled since the past ten months.
- The panel currently needs to fill posts for Member (Education), Member (Child Health, Care, Welfare or Child Development) Member (Juvenile Justice or Care of neglected or marginalised children or children with disabilities), Member (elimination of child labour or children in distress), Member (child psychology or sociology) and Member (laws relating to children).
- There are four other vacancies, including those of Deputy Superintendent of Police and inspector.

Set minimum qualification for MPs, MLAs: SC

- The time has come for Parliament to prescribe some minimum qualifications for arliamentarians/Legislators as prescribed in other fields, the Supreme Court observed.
- Justice MadanLokur, in his separate but concurring judgment on the PIL filed in 2005 seeking removal of tainted Ministers, recalled the words of the first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in the Constituent Assembly that he would have liked to have some qualifications laid down for Members of Legislatures.

Aadhaar not mandatory

- Opening a savings bank account just got easier and faster. With the launch of PradhanMantri Jan DhanYojana, customers can walk into a public or private sector bank with their Aadhaar card and open a zero-balance SB account instantly. But Aadhaar is not mandatory.
- A National Payment Corporation of India platform is being built to enable customers to access their accounts on mobile devices.

Tribunal stays CCI order on Adani Gas

- The Competition Appellate Tribunal has stayed Competition Commission of India's (CCI) Rs.25- crorepenalty and modification of the gas sale contract order against Adani Gas Ltd., the city gas distribution arm of Ahmedabad-based Adani Group.
- In July, the Fair trade watchdog had slapped a fine of Rs.25.67 crore on Adani Gas for violating competition norms by abusing its dominant market position.
- Adani Gas is a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, which is a part of the diversified Adani Group.
- The Commission's ruling had come on a case related to supply and distribution of natural gas by Adani Gas Ltd. in Faridabad.

International News

WTO imbroglio: India not for 1986-87 as base year

- India has offered fixing of the base year for food subsidies on the basis of average of last three years, as opposed to 1986-87 as proposed by WTO, as a way forward for an agreement at the WTO.
- India did a 'course correction' on the position taken at the Bali ministerial conference. Explaining the changed stance, the Govt. said India insisted on a 'single undertaking principle' to ensure simultaneous implementation of nine plus one issues which the Ministers had agreed at Bali.
- Govt said it is not alone in this matter, it said that India and other LDCs were willing to wait till September 2014, for every one to convince each other.

Iraqi militants seize country's largest dam

- Sunni militants from the Islamic State group seized Iraq's largest dam, placing them in control of enormous power and water resources and access to the river that runs through the heart of Baghdad.
- After a week of attempts, the radical Islamist gunmen successfully stormed the Mosul Dam and forced Kurdish forces to withdraw from the area.
- The Mosul Dam or Saddam Dam as it was once known is located north of Iraq's second—largest city Mosul, which fell to the militants on June 10. Fighting intensified in the region after the nearby towns of Zumar and Sinjar fell to the militants.
- The al—Qaeda—breakaway group has established its idea of an Islamic state in the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria, imposing its harsh interpretation of Islamic law. Iraqi government forces, Kurds and allied Sunni tribal militiamen have been struggling to dislodge the Islamic State militants and its Sunni allies with little apparent success.
- The seizing of dams and reservoirs gives the militants control over water and electricity that they could use to help build support in the territory they now rule by providing the scarce resources to residents. Or they could sell the resources as a lucrative source of revenue.

Israel, Hamas accept Egyptian ceasefire plan

- Israel and Hamas accepted an Egyptian ceasefire proposal meant to halt a bruising month-long war that has claimed nearly 2,000 lives, raising hopes that the bloodiest round of fighting between the bitter enemies could finally be coming to an end.
- The war broke out on July 8, 2014 when Israel launched an air offensive in response to weeks of heavy rocket fire out of Hamas-controlled Gaza. It expanded the operation on July 17 by sending in ground forces in what it described as a mission to destroy a network of tunnels used to stage attacks. Israel says the last of the tunnels has nearly been destroyed.
- Israel has demanded that Gaza become "demilitarised," requiring the unlikely cooperation of Hamas in giving up its significant arsenal.

Lights to go out across UK to mark World War One

centenary

- On August 4, the whole of Britain will be plunged in darkness for an hour in a Lights Out initiative to mark the centenary of the country's entry into World War 1.
- Several official and unofficial events that have been planned over the last year will mark the day. They reflect and reinforce a war memorial sentiment that appears as diverse as the forms that memorialisation are taking in this country.
- All these will in different ways examine the legacy and lessons emerging from World War 1 (1914-1918), which claimed the lives of 10 million soldiers and impacted the lives of countless others.
- Commonwealth British citizens have marshalled their own memories and histories of the war experience. The largest non-British component of the British fighting forces, and on which the imperial war machine heavily relied was from India. Nearly 1.5 million soldiers were drafted into the war effort. Of them 74,000 died..
- UNSC resolution adopted to combat ISIS fighters
- Responding to the growing terrorist threat in Iraq and Syria, the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on six men for recruiting or financing foreign fighters and threatened additional sanctions against those supporting terrorist groups.
- The U.N.'s most powerful body, in a resolution adopted unanimously, also demanded that the Islamic State extremist group and all al-Qaeda-linked groups end violence and disarm and disband immediately.
- The British-drafted resolution follows the recent offensive by the Islamic State group, which has taken control of a large swath of eastern Syria and northern and western Iraq, brutalising civilians and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee, as well as increasing terrorist activity by other al-Qaeda-linked groups including Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria.
- The six men now subject to a global travel ban and asset freeze include four who either recruited or helped finance al-Nusra — Abdelrahman Mouhamad Zafir al Dabidi al Jahani, Hajjaj Bin Fahd Al Ajmi, Said Arif and Abdul Mohsen Abdallah Ibrahim al Charekh.
- Another man, Hamid Hamad Hamid al-Ali, was blacklisted for helping finance both al-Nusra and the Islamic State group. Abou Mohamed al Adnani was blacklisted for financing and perpetrating acts supporting the Islamic State group.

Australian PM seeks Muslims' support for tougher terrorism laws

- Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott sought support from Muslim leaders for plans to overhaul terrorism laws, with a view to curbing so-called home-grown Islamist extremism.
- Muslims have expressed fears they will be unfairly targeted by the new measures, which will make it easier for authorities to track and prosecute Australian citizens who engage in or support terrorist activities abroad.
- Mr. Abbott said that when it came to fighting terrorism everyone in the country had to be on "Team Australia." "Everyone has got to put this country, its interests, its values and its people first," he said on Macquarie Radio.

Suicide tourism on rise in Switzerland

- People packing their bags to Switzerland not to rest in its serenity but to end their lives through assisted suicide has doubled in four years, reveals a study.
- There are six right-to-die organisations in Switzerland, of which four permit nationals from other countries to use their services.
- Citizens from Germany and Britain make up the bulk of the numbers, with neurological conditions such as paralysis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis accounting for almost half of the cases, the findings showed.
- Virtually all the deaths were caused by taking sodium pentobarbital. Four people inhaled helium in deaths that were widely publicised and described as "excruciating", researchers added.

IS committing crimes against humanity: U.N.

- The U.N. accused jihadists in Iraq of waging a campaign of "ethnic and religious cleansing," as Syria said it was ready to work with the global community against "terrorism."
- The accusation by U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay came as Kurdish peshmerga forces pushed back Islamic State (IS) jihadists in northern Iraq a day after the militants overran a key military airport in Syria.
- Ms. Pillay said in a statement the IS reign of terror in Iraq against non-Arab ethnic groups and non-Sunni Muslims alike involved targeted killings, forced conversions, and destruction of holy and cultural sites.

India And The World

BASIC ministerial meet on August 7, 8

- The two-day 18th BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Ministerial Meeting will get underway to discuss important issues relating to the current UNFCCC Climate Change negotiations specially on matters pertaining to the Adhoc Working Group on the Durban Platform.
- The 17th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in Hanzhou, China last October.
- The BASIC Ministerial meeting provides an opportunity to Environment Ministers to enhance coordination on important issues in climate change negotiations and to arrive at a common position on such issues. The BASIC Ministers have been meeting regularly since the Conference of Parties in Copenhagen.

'Developed nations must walk the talk on climate goals'

- The BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) group reiterated that developed countries should walk the talk on climate change goals, accept their historical responsibilities of polluting the planet and finance technology transfer to the developing world.
- BASIC proposed joint action on various issues including emission targets and other plans to be set out by next year.
- A joint statement issued here after the two-day 18th ministerial meeting said progress after the Warsaw climate talks was reviewed and the 2015 outcome to be adopted at the meeting in Paris should be comprehensive, balanced, equitable and fair in order to enhance the effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- India said all countries should ratify the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol quickly and there should be full operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund. Under the Durban Platform, the countries were expected to increase their ambitions on emission cuts but that is not happening, with some like Japan reducing their targets.

'India, Pakistan must negotiate FTAs'

- Co-chair of the India-Pakistan Joint Business Forum (IPJBF) said that the two neighbours should consider negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs). He also expressed the hope that Islamabad would soon grant the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India as the formalities on the matter had already been completed. Pakistan is yet to reciprocate India's grant of MFN status to it in 1996.
- The PIJBF has constituted 10 task forces including for agriculture, banking and finance, energy, visa facilitation, textiles, automobiles, engineering and IT that will recommend steps and policies that the two neighbours could take for increasing bilateral trade and investments.

Committed to working with Modi government, says Singapore PM

- Singapore Prime Minister Lee HsienLoong re-affirmed his commitment to working with newly elected leaders in India and Indonesia.
- “There are new leaders in Indonesia and India. How their countries fare will affect the entire region. I look forward to working with them,” said Mr. Lee referring to Indian Prime Minister NarendraModi and Indonesian President JokoWidodo in his annual National Rally speech.
- Highlighting Singapore’s concern about global uncertainties, Mr. Lee said: “The world is in flux. Conflicts far away could affect us.”

Japanese investment in smart cities high on Modi agenda

- During his visit to Japan, from August 31 to September 3, Prime Minister NarendraModi is hoping to seal several bilateral agreements.
- According to diplomatic sources, these will include infrastructural investment for the government’s “smart cities” initiative, with Japan proposing project development agreements on high-speed railways, more industrial corridors, and road-links and rail-links through the north-eastern States to ASEAN countries as well.
- The one aspect of the new government’s foreign policy that has moved from the past is the tougher language of discourse with leaders.

Great expectations from Modi’s Japan trip

- India has “great expectations” from Prime Minister NarendraModi’s five-day visit to Japa, his first bilateral trip outside the subcontinent.
- Underlining the importance of the East Asian region, Mr. Modi’s visit to Japan will be followed by a Vietnam trip by President Pranab Mukherjee in September.
- External Affairs Minister SushmaSwaraj just concluded a visit to Vietnam.
- Top business leaders, including MukeshAmbani, GautamAdani and Kumar Mangalam Birla, will travel separately to Japan in visits timed to coincide with high-level business interactions Mr. Modi will initiate with his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe.

India, Pakistan hold third flag meeting

- Officers of the Border Security Force and the Desert Rangers of Pakistan held their third flag meeting along the international border that has witnessed relentless ceasefire violations in the past month and a half.
- While the BSF complained about regular ceasefire violations, the Pakistani Rangers denied the charge and drew attention to the loss of life and property in BSF shelling.

ONLINE COACHING FOR SSC CGL 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

SSCPORTAL.IN
India's Largest Online Community for SSC CGL, Bank Exams

SSC CGL Exams Online Coaching (Starting at just Rs.100 per month) - English & Hindi Medium

⇒ Online Crash Course for SSC CGL Tier-1 Exam

<http://sscportal.in/community/courses/crash-course-for-cgl-tier-1>

⇒ एसएससी सीजीएल SSC CGL (Tier-1) हिन्दी माध्यम ऑनलाइन कोचिंग

<http://sscportal.in/community/courses/ssc-cgl-tier-1-hindi>

For More Information Click Given below link:

<http://sscportal.in/community/courses>

Business and Economy

Black economy now amounts to 75% of GDP

- Driven substantially by the higher education sector, real estate deals and mining income, India's black economy could now be nearly three-quarters the size of its reported Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- There were no "reliable" estimates of black money generated in India and held within and outside the country, the government commissioned the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) to estimate the black money in India and held overseas by Indians.
- The capitation fees collected by private colleges, on management quota seats in professional courses, last year was around Rs 5,953 crore.

Plan afoot to make telcos tighten verification norms

- The Government is planning to finalise and notify an upgraded penalty structure after its strategy of imposing fines on companies with unverified mobile phone subscribers paid marginal dividends.
- The Department of Telecom (DoT) has been invoking licence conditions to impose penalties on companies slow in verifying whether subscribers have complied with the formalities of providing their residential address and other details.
- The Department of Telecom has always drawn short when penalising private companies. Every year about two dozen telecom operators attract penalties for various offences but the actual money flowing to the Government Exchequer has hovered around the 15 to 20 per cent mark.
- According to DoT, these phone companies have been unable to account for the identity and residence proofs of over 4.5 crore SIM cards. Companies should have paid heed to the country's national security interests while competing with each other to enrol more customers.

DoT working on modalities of BSNL-MTNL merger

- In a bid to revive BSNL and MTNL, Department of Telecom is working on modalities to merge the two state-run telecom companies and also undertake organisational restructuring.
- Asked if there is a timeline for the merger, the source said there is no set timeframe but it might take one to two years.
- Minister of Communications and IT Ravishankar Prasad had also met the senior management of BSNL and MTNL recently to discuss the blueprint for reviving the loss-making PSU telecom companies.
- The total debt of the two firms has increased to Rs. 21,208 crore at the end of June 2014.

Labour issues can't be solved using police: HC

- "A labour problem cannot be solved using police force," said Justice P. Devadass of the Madras High Court, while releasing on conditional bail 167 workers arrested on the

Independence Day for staging a demonstration at the KancheepuramCollectorate.

- The judge said the arrested could not be treated as hardened criminals as they did not possess any lethal weapon.
- The police or public or public officials were not their enemies. They were airing their grievance against the management of a company.

L&T to bid for bullet train project

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is gearing up to bid for the government's ambitious bullet train project, its Executive Chairman A. M. Naik, said.
- He said that L&T had emerged as the lowest price bidder for the SardarVallabhbhai Patel's Statue of Unity project in Gujarat though the contract was yet to be awarded.
- The company is also expecting bigger opportunities from infrastructure projects, including metro rail.

Tata Value ties up with Snapdeal

- Online marketplace Snapdeal and Tata Value Homes, a subsidiary of Tata Housing with focus on affordable housing , announced partnership to enable users to buy houses online.
- As part of the partnership, about 1,000 homes across projects in cities such as Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Chennai will be put up for sale on Snapdeal. These houses are priced between Rs.18 lakh and Rs.70 lakh and range from 1 BHK to 3 BHK.
- Tata Value Homes will continue to sell through its own portal as well.
- Upon possession of the house, customers buying the house through Snapdeal will get Rs.10,000 a month for a year as an assured rent (whether they stay on premise or lease it out) as part of the deal.

Centre to unveil home loan scheme for transgenders

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) has proposed rolling out a loan assistance scheme that will for the first time help transgenders and economically weaker sections to secure home loans in urban areas.
- The Ministry has tweaked the existing Rajiv RinnYojna (RRY), which was launched as an instrument to aid the EWS (economically weaker sections) and LIG (lower income group) segments in urban areas, through enhanced credit flow and replaced it with a new scheme that will make it easier for the economically weaker sections and minority groups to own homes.
- The RRY launched by the UPA government with much fanfare failed to take off and funds earmarked for it lapsed.
- The Ministry has now not only given it a new name — HOMES (Home Owners Mortgage Equity Subvention Scheme) but has also made it more attractive by enhancing the loan amount and increasing the interest subsidy from 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent on loans granted to construct houses or extend the existing ones.

Insurance Bill may be cleared by year-end

- Union Finance Minister ArunJaitley has expressed hope that Parliament will pass the

Insurance Bill for raising the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit to 49 per cent by the end of this year, the first major economic reform proposed by the Narendra Modi Government.

- The UPA Government had originally proposed raising the FDI cap back in 2008 when it introduced the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill. However, opposition from political parties, including the BJP, did not allow the Bill to be taken up in the Rajya Sabha.
- The Modi Government introduced a fresh Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill in Parliament earlier this month. It proposes a rider that management control rests in the hands of an Indian promoter alongside the eased FDI cap.
- After the introduction of the Bill, the government moved 97 amendments because of which it could not be passed.

Monthly cap on LPG cylinders goes

- The Union Cabinet lifted the restriction of one LPG cylinder per month to a domestic consumer. While households will still get only 12 cylinders in a year at subsidised rates.
- The monthly cap has been lifted in view of complaints from consumers regarding the limited access to LPG imposed by the earlier restriction.
- Now consumers can avail themselves of their quota of 12 cylinders at any time of the year.

Govt to increase dearness allowance to 107 p.c

- The Government is likely to approve a hike in dearness allowance (DA) to 107 per cent from the existing 100 per cent, benefiting around 30 lakh Centre's employees and its 50 lakh pensioners including dependents.
- "The average rate of retail inflation for industrial workers from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 works out to be 7.25 per cent. Thus the Central government will hike dearness allowance for its employees by 7 per cent," an official said.
- He said the Finance Ministry will now put a Cabinet proposal for approval of 7 per cent DA hike from July 1 this year as the revised Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers data for June was released by Labour Ministry on Saturday.
- With increase in DA, the pensioners will also gain as the benefit provided to them as dearness relief will be hiked to 107 per cent of basic pay.
- The previous UPA government had increased DA to 100 per cent from 90 per cent with effect from January 1, 2014, on February 28 on the basis of agreed formula for revision of the allowance.

Competition Commission of India puts Sun-Ranbaxy deal under public scrutiny

- The Competition Commission, which has put the multi-billion dollar Sun-Ranbaxy deal for public scrutiny, said the major issue is whether the combination would result in high market concentration of certain molecules.

Science and Technology

Drones to guard India's forests and wildlife

- Unmanned aerial vehicles or drones will soon fly over India's forests to monitor poaching, track wildlife and even count the population of tigers.
- Scientists at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) are coming up with a series of such drones which are being customised indigenously to suit different types of forest landscape.
- Under a joint collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and international environment body WWF, they are preparing a detailed project report for introducing drone monitoring in 10 wildlife-rich areas across the country.
- A drone can be put on autopilot mode and sent as far as 40-50 km deep into the forest where it can record images and videos and transmit them on a real-time basis. Its movement can also be controlled through a GPS-based system. Such drones were recently tested successfully in Panna Tiger Reserve and Kaziranga forest.
- Drones can also be used for night surveillance and tracking of many elusive and shy animals like the red panda and snow leopard, which are very rarely seen by the human eye in their natural wild habitat. Travelling at a speed of 40 km per hour, the drones can be used for around 40-50 minutes.

WHO says it's ethical to try untested Ebola medicines

- The World Health Organization (WHO) said it's ethical to use unproven Ebola drugs and vaccines in the outbreak in West Africa provided the right conditions are met.
- The U.N. agency issued the statement after holding a teleconference with experts to discuss the issue.
- The WHO said that people can ethically receive such treatments but sidestepped the questions of who should get the limited drugs and how that should be decided.
- In the biggest-ever outbreak of Ebola, two Americans have gotten an experimental Ebola treatment never tested in humans and two more treatments were reportedly on their way to treat two Liberia doctors. The developments have raised ethical questions about whether it's right to use untested treatments in people sickened by a disease that has no licensed treatment.

India to get decadal climate prediction model

- Along with this, the Geological Survey of India has been working on area-specific forecasting of landslides.
- India is on the verge of developing a new climate prediction model exhibiting climatic fluctuations on decadal timescales that have large societal implications, Shailesh Naik, Secretary to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has said.
- Addressing the media, Mr. Naik said scientists of various agencies led by the India Meteorological Department were on the final stage of establishing a model that could forecast the subtleties of climate with a fair degree of accuracy.

First indigenously built stealth corvette inducted

- Indigenously built stealth anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kamorta was commissioned into the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy at a grand ceremony.
- Commander ManojJha read the commissioning warrant in the presence of Defence Minister ArunJaitley, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R K Dhowan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral SatishSoni, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition Vice Admiral A Subedar and Chairman and Managing Director Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Rear Admiral (retd) AK Verma.
- Following the breaking of Commissioning Penant, National Flag and Navy Ensign were hoisted for the first time on the ship.

DGCA surprise checks reveal leading airlines violating safety procedures

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) put up a presentation on safety standards for airline representatives that revealed some glaring lack of safety procedures by leading carriers.

BMW launches updated version of X3

- German luxury carmaker BMW, launched the updated version of its sports utility vehicle X3.
- The new X3 is available only in diesel option, and is being locally produced at the company's Chennai plant.

Florida's newest university opens bookless library

- There are no dusty bookshelves or piles of textbooks in the library of Florida's newest university. Welcoming its first students this week, Florida Polytechnic University's new library houses not a single physical book.
- The 'bookless' library is not the first in America: Library Journal also cites a bookless public library in Bexar County, Texas, a school library in Minnesota and two NASA libraries.

Sports

India finish fifth with 64 medals

- The CWG incidents took some of the sheen off the impressive 64 medal haul — 15 gold, 30 silver and 19 bronze — that ensured a fifth place finish in the leaderboard for India after England, Australia, Canada and hosts Scotland.
- It was India's third best showing in the Commonwealth Games after the 100 plus bounty at home in Delhi four years back and the 69 medals they picked up at Manchester in 2002.

Kabaddi goes international with World Kabaddi League

- It's quintessentially Indian but Kabaddi is all set to make waves across three continents with the first-of-its-kind World Kabaddi League kickstarting in London .
- Featuring eight teams, including one from Pakistan, the tournament will be played for four months in USA, England, Canada, UAE and India.
- The venues for the league include eight international (London, Birmingham, Dubai, New York, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Vancouver, Toronto) and six Indian (New Delhi, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Bhatinda, Amritsar, Mohali) cities.
- The tournament will follow the double round robin format with a total of 94 matches — 90 league games and four playoffs — and has 144 international players on its roster.
- Every team will play the other seven thrice before the top four qualify for the play-offs. The final will be played in Mohali on December 14.

SaitNagjee Trophy to be revived

- The SaitNagjee Trophy all-India football tournament, once one of the most important events in India's football calendar and a huge hit in this football-crazy city, is being revived after a gap of 20 years.

World varsity meet from Sept. 1

- The eighth edition of the World University squash championship will be hosted by Squash Rackets Federation of India at the ISA courts, Chennai from September 1 to 7, in association with the Association of Indian Universities.

Awards & Prizes

Kapil to head Arjuna Awards selection committee

- Former India cricket captain Kapil Dev will head the Arjuna Awards selection committee for choosing this year's outstanding sportspersons of the country while former hockey skipper Ajitpal Singh is likely to be in charge of selecting the Dronacharya awardees.
- While Kapil, who bagged 434 wickets in 131 Tests in his 16-year-long career, got the Arjuna award in 1980, former Olympian Ajitpal was conferred the award in 1970, and awarded it in 1972.
- A source in the sports ministry said the government had issued a notification in writing to all persons concerned. The awards will be conferred on National Sports Day which is August 29.

National Sports Awards – 2014

National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which award is to be given.

Arjuna Award is given for consistently outstanding performance for four years preceding the year of award.

Dronacharya Award for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

Dhyan Chand Award for life time contribution to sports development.

Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will receive statuettes, citations and cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development. Recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar will be given Trophies.

The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on August 29, 2014.

Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was headed by Shri Kapil Dev.

Selection Committee for Dronacharya Awards was headed by Shri Ajitpal Singh.

Selection Committee for Dhyan Chand Awards was headed by Shri Ajit Mohan Sharan, Secretary (Sports).

Selection Committee for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar was headed by Shri Ajit Mohan Sharan, Secretary (Sports).

Based on the recommendations of the Committee and after due scrutiny, the Government has approved to confer awards upon the following sportspersons/ coaches/

organizations:

(i) Arjuna Awards 2014

S. No.	NAME OF THE SPORTSPERSON	DISCIPLINE
1	Mr. Abhishek Verma	Archery
2	Ms. Tintu Luka	Athletics
3	Mr. H.N. Girisha	Para-Athletics
4	Mr. V. Diju	Badminton
5	Ms. Geetu Anna Jose	Basketball
6	Mr. Jai Bhagwan	Boxing
7	Mr. R. Ashwin	Cricket
8	Mr. Anirban Lahiri	Golf
9	Ms. Mamta Pujari	Kabaddi
10	Mr. Saji Thomas	Rowing
11	Ms. Heena Sidhu	Shooting
12	Ms. Anaka Alankamony	Squash
13	Mr. Tom Joseph	Volleyball
14	Ms. Renu Bala Chanu	Weightlifting
15	Mr. Sunil Kumar Rana	Wrestling

(ii) Dronacharya Awards 2014

Sl. No.	Name	Discipline
1.	Shri Mahabir Prasad	Wrestling
2.	Shri N. Lingappa	Athletics – Lifetime
3.	Shri G. Manoharan	Boxing – Lifetime
4.	Shri Gurcharan Singh Gogi	Judo – Lifetime
5.	Shri Jose Jacob	Rowing – Lifetime

(iii) Dhyan Chand Awards 2014

Sl. No.	Name	Discipline
1.	Shri Gurmail Singh	Hockey
2.	Shri K.P. Thakkar	Swimming (Diving)
3.	Shri Zeeshan Ali	Tennis

(iv) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2014

Sl. No.	Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar, 2014
1.	Employment of sports persons and sports welfare measures	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)
2.	Community Sports - identification and nurturing of budding /young talent	Jindal Steel Works (JSW)

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 3. | Establishment and Management of sports academies of excellence | Guru Hanuman Akhara, Delhi |
| 4. | Other forms of sports activities not covered in the four categories mentioned in the schemes | Child Link Foundation of India (Magic Bus) |

(v) For Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2014, no sportsperson has been recommended

National sports awards presented

The awardees :

- Arjuna award: Abhishek Verma (archery), Tintu Luka (athletics), H.N. Girisha (para-athletics), V. Diju (badminton), Geethu Anna Jose (basketball), Jai Bhagwan (boxing), R. Ashwin (cricket), Anirban Lahiri (golf), Mamta Pujari (kabaddi), Saji Thomas (rowing), Heena Sidhu (shooting), Anaka Alankamony (squash), Tom Joseph (volleyball), Renubala Chanu (weightlifting), Sunil Kumar Rana (wrestling).
- Dronacharya award: Mahabir Prasad (wrestling); Lifetime achievement: N. Lingappa (athletics), G. Manoharan (boxing), Gurcharan Singh Gogi (judo), Jose Jacob (rowing).
- Dhyan Chand award: Gurmail Singh (hockey), K.P. Thakkar (swimming-diving), Zeeshan Ali (tennis).
- Tenzing Norgay Awards: Land adventure: Subedar Jagat Singh, Passang Tenzing Sherpa; Air adventure: MWO Surender Singh; Lifetime achievement: Wg. Cdr. (retd) Amit Chowdhury.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy: Punjabi University, Patiala.
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (employment of sports persons and sports welfare measures); Jindal Steel Works (community sports-identification and nurturing of budding/young talent); Guru Hanuman akhara (establishment and management of sports academies of excellence); Child Link Foundation of India-Magic Bus (other forms of sports activities not covered in the categories mentioned in the schemes).

Mudgal committee files report

- The Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee filed a report in the Supreme Court on its investigation into the roles of ICC president N. Srinivasan and 12 prominent players in the Indian Premier League (IPL) betting and spot-fixing scandal.
- However, the census data for 2011 show that only 144 million households, which means about 300 million individuals, have access to banking services, indicating that many have multiple accounts.

In The News(Person)

Arvind Gupta

- Former Indian Foreign Service officer Arvind Gupta was appointed as deputy National Security Adviser, a post which fell vacant following the resignation of Nehchal Sandhu.
- Mr. Gupta, a 1979 batch officer, will also be Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), an apex advisory body tasked with suggesting to the government on political, economic and strategic security concerns.

R K Singh

- Security of Parliament, which was targeted by terrorists 13 years back, is set to be strengthened further with a special committee being set up to suggest measures for it within a month.
- The committee will be headed by former Union Home Secretary R.K. Singh and will include former Rajasthan DGP Harish Chandra Meena and former Mumbai Police Commissioner Satyapal Singh.

Natwar Singh

- Unfazed by the attacks on him by the Congress leadership for his book which was sharply critical of Sonia Gandhi, Natwar Singh has decided to write a sequel "which will have many more disclosures"
- To be called 'My irregular diary', the sequel is expected to hit the market by next March, the former External Affairs Minister said in New Delhi .

Hari Gautam

- Finding the University Grants Commission (UGC) ill-equipped to address the challenges posed by the manifold increase in the number of universities — particularly private universities and deemed-to-be-universities — the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has set up a committee to restructure the apex regulatory body for higher education in the country.
- The four-member committee will be headed by former UGC chairman Hari Gautam and will have as its members C.M. Jariwala (former head and dean of law at Banaras Hindu University), Kapil Kapoor (former pro vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University) and the Joint Secretary in the Higher Education in the ministry as its members.

Arvind Apte

- The BCCI condoled the death of former Test player Arvind Apte, who passed away after fighting a prolonged battle with prostrate cancer.
- Arvind passed away in Pune. He was 79 and is survived by a daughter.
- Arvind, born in Mumbai in 1934 and younger brother of another former India cricketer Madhav Apte, was a reserve opener during India's tour of England in 1959.
- An attacking opening batsman with a wide range of strokes, he played only one Test

match for India when he was selected for the third Test against England at Leeds following an injury to Nari Contractor.

- He scored just eight and seven in both the innings of the match, his first and last for the national team.
- Arvind continued to play first-class cricket till the early 70s and finished with an aggregate of 2782 runs (33.51, including six centuries.)

Rajni Razdan

- Rajni Razdan has been appointed the next Union Public Service Commission chairman. She will take the oath of office, replacing Professor D.P. Agrawal.
- Ms. Razdan, a 64-year-old former Indian Administrative Service officer from the Haryana cadre, has been a UPSC member since April 19, 2010.

Justice Markandey Katju

In a fresh controversy, Press Council of India Chairman Justice Markandey Katju blamed the former Chief Justice of India, K.G. Balakrishnan, for pushing the elevation of a former Karnataka High Court Chief Justice as a Supreme Court judge.

Justice Katju, who did not name the judge, in an apparent reference to the collegium's recommendation to elevate the former Karnataka High Court Chief Justice, P.D. Dinakaran, also found fault with another former CJI, S.H. Kapadia, for failing to prevent this despite being a member of the collegium.

B. S. Sidhu

Uttarakhand Director General of Police (DGP) B. S. Sidhu is involved in a legal battle over an alleged illegal purchase of forest land and the felling of 25 Sal trees on the land.

The case against Mr. Sidhu lies with the National Green Tribunal (NGT), where a hearing shall be held .

Smriti Irani

The controversy over Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani's educational qualifications has taken a new turn with her assertion that she also has a degree from the prestigious Yale University in the United States.

- Ms. Irani (38) made the remark at the India Today Woman Summit 2014 here when asked to clear the "mystery" over her educational qualification.

U.R. Anantha Murthy (1932-2014)

- U.R. Anantha Murthy, the doyen of Kannada Literature and one of the pioneers of Navya movement in Kannada language is no more.
- A steadfast thinker who withstood many an assault, physical, verbal and virtual, gave a new thrust to Kannada literature and cinema, to move towards the 21st Century.

Arvind Subramanian

- The Modi Government is likely to name Arvind Subramanian, the Dennis Weatherstone Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and senior fellow at the Centre for Global Development as its Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).

B.K.S. Iyengar

- Legendary yoga exponent B.K.S. Iyengar passed away at a private hospital . He was 95.
- Mr. Iyengar, who was admitted to the Prayag Hospital last week, breathed his last at 3.15 a.m., doctors attending on him said. He has been on dialysis since Sunday after renal failure. Mr. Iyengar, who abhorred hospitals and clinics, failed to respond to the treatment owing to heart problems brought on by advanced age.
- Despite two massive heart-attacks in 1996 and 1998, Mr. Iyengar, with his near-legendary regimen and discipline, kept up a punishing teaching schedule, touring Russia and China in recent years.

Ravi Shastri

- In a damage-control move, the BCCI has appointed former Test all-rounder Ravi Shastri Director of Cricket in the Indian team for the five-match ODI series against England, beginning August 25.
- The Board's dramatic action was a response to India's disastrous 3-1 Test series defeat against England.

IromSharmila

- A local court ordered the release of rights activist IromChanuSharmila, under detention for attempting to commit suicide by fasting for nearly 14 years demanding withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.
- Her agitation was a political demand through lawful means, the court said. Sessions Judge (Imphal east) A. Guneshwar Sharma said, "The petitioner may be released from custody if not required in any other case."

R.N. Ravi

- Prime Minister NarendraModi-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of former Intelligence Bureau Special Director R.N. Ravi as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee for a period of three years.
- The Joint Intelligence Committee functions under the National Security Council Secretariat.
- Mr. Ravi, a 1976-batch Indian Police Service officer from Kerala, has been appointed in the pay and rank of Secretary to the Government of India. He retired as IB Special Director in 2012.

Ramesh Chand Tayal

- The ACC has also cleared the proposal for appointment of senior IPS officer Ramesh Chand Tayal as Central Reserve Police Force Special Director-General.
- The 1980-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre officer is presently posted as Additional Director-General of the SashatraSeema Bal.

New Governors for 4 States

- President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Kalyan Singh, VajubhaiRudabhaiVala, Ch. VidyasagarRao and MridulaSinha Governors of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra

and Goa, respectively.

- Manipur Governor Vinod Kumar Duggal will continue to hold charge of Mizoram.

Atul Verma

- Atul Verma won India its first Olympic archery medal — a bronze — at the Youth Olympic Games at Nanjing.
- The gold went to Korean Lee Woo Seok, who got the better of D'Almeida 7-3 in the final.

RaghavLakhanpal

- The Meerut Commissioner in his report on last month's riots in Saharanpur has reportedly blamed the local BJP MP, RaghavLakhanpal, for fanning tensions, besides accusing district authorities of not controlling the rioting mob.
- The report of Meerut Commissioner Bhupendra Singh is almost identical to the findings of a Committee set up Chief Minister AkhileshYadav and headed by senior Minister Shivpal Singh Yadav that had come down heavily on the local MP and BJP workers for their role in the riots that left three dead and gutted hundreds of shops.

D.M. Spolia

- The Ministry of Home Affairs re-appointed D.M. Spolia as the Chief Secretary of Delhi to replace S.K. Srivastava who is currently holding the post.
- Mr. Spolia, a 1979 batch IAS officer, who was removed from the post by the AamAadmi Party government in January, will take over with immediate effect.
- He was working as Financial Commissioner of the Delhi Government since January.

BalrajPuri

- Veteran journalist Padma BhushanBalrajPuri passed away after prolonged illness at a Government Medical College here .
- Mr. Puri was conferred the Padma Bhushan for his contribution in the fields of Literature and Education in 2005 and also the Indira Gandhi award for national integration on October 31, 2009.
- He was an author and co-author of about 40 books and approximately 1,000 articles for various dailies in India and abroad.

Rona Fairhead

- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Trust, the body overseeing the world famous news corporation, is set to get its first female head.
- Rona Fairhead, 53, a high-flying executive who sits on the boards of a number of blue-chip companies, announced as the prospective new chairperson of the BBC Trust.
- SajidJavid, UK secretary of state for culture, is expected to officially announce Fairhead as government's preferred candidate to fill the slot, replacing Lord Patten, who stepped down in May on health grounds.



- ➔ Medium: English and Hindi
- ➔ 100% Syllabus Covered
- ➔ Previous Years Papers



For More Details Call Course Director : +91 8800734161, 011-45151781

Study Kits for Staff Selection Commission Exams

- ✓ Study Kit for SSC CGL EXAM (Tier-I)
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/cgl>
- ✓ Study Kit for SSC Combined Graduate Level Examination (Tier - II)
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/cgl-tier-2>
- ✓ Study Kit for Combined Higher Secondary Level (10+2) Examination
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/chsle>
- ✓ कर्मचारी चयन आयोग संयुक्त स्नातक स्तरीय परीक्षा (स्तर :-1) स्टडी किट
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/cgl/tier-1-hindi>
- ✓ Study Kit For SSC MTS Examination
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/mts>
- ✓ Study Kit For Prasar Bharti Examination
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/prasar-bharti-exam>
- ✓ Study Kit for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) Examination
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/capfs>
- ✓ Study Kit For Sub Inspector in Delhi Police & CAPFs, CISF (Paper-1)
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/si-delhi-police-capf>
- ✓ Study Kit of English Language & Comprehension For All SSC Exam
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/english-language-comprehension-for-all-ssc-exam>
- ✓ Study Kit For Postal Assistant Examination
<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit/postal-assistant>

For More Information Click Given below link:

<http://sscportal.in/community/study-kit>

Selected Editorials of Importance

The need to measure poverty

(The Hindu)

In June 2012, the government of India appointed a committee to take a new look at the methodology for measuring poverty. The committee submitted its report towards the end of June 2014. The purpose of this article is to briefly explain the approach taken by this committee.

Growth is not the sole objective of economic policy. It is necessary to ensure that the benefits of growth accrue to all sections of society. Eradication of poverty is thus an important objective. Human beings need a certain minimum consumption of food and non-food items to survive. However, the perception regarding what constitutes poverty varies over time and across countries. Nevertheless, there is a need for a measure of poverty. Only then will it be possible to evaluate how the economy is performing in terms of providing a certain minimum standard of living to all its citizens. The measurement of poverty, therefore, has important policy implications.

History of studies

In India, we have had a long history of studies on the measurement of poverty. There are, in fact, many approaches to it. Some analysts focus on deprivations in terms of health, education, sanitation or housing, but there are many problems associated with this approach including difficulties in aggregating deprivations on several scores derived from different sources. Perhaps the best approach is to look at it in terms of a certain minimum consumption expenditure per person or preferably per household. Any household failing to meet this level of consumption expenditure can be treated as a poor household. This minimum level of consumption expenditure can be derived, in turn, in terms of minimum expenditure on food and non-food items. Minimum food consumption is related to fulfilling certain nutritional standards. However, minimum non-food consumption is more problematic.

Based on the analysis presented in the report, the monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.972 in rural areas and Rs.1,407 in urban areas is treated as the poverty line at the all-India level. This implies a monthly consumption expenditure of Rs.4,860 in rural areas or Rs.7,035 in urban areas for a family of five at 2011-2012 prices. This level of private expenditure has to be seen in the context of public expenditure that is being incurred in areas like education, health and food security. The actual 'well-being' of the household will be higher than what is indicated by the poverty line. Based on the methodology outlined in the report, the poverty ratio at the all-India level for 2011-2012 is 29.5 per cent. Working backwards, this methodology gives the estimate for 2009-2010 at 38.2 per cent. This is in contrast to the 21.9 per cent as estimated by the Tendulkar Committee methodology for 2011-2012 and 29.8 per cent for 2009-2010.

Rural and urban poverty baskets

Are there conceptual problems associated with the new poverty line? Our group has gone back to the idea of separate poverty line baskets for rural and urban areas. This stands to reason. This is also consistent with the way we have derived the poverty line. Basically, there are three components in the poverty line: the food component, the norma-

tive level of expenditure for essential non-food items such as education, clothing, conveyance and house rent, and behaviourally determined expenditure for other non-food items. The group has been criticised for going back to calorie norms. The new poverty line is not limited only to calorie intake but also extends to fats and proteins. It is true that there is no direct correlation between calorie and nutrition. There are many other factors which contribute to nutrition. But taken in conjunction with other factors mentioned in the report, relating minimum food consumption to calorie, fat and protein requirements appears to be a reasonable approach. Without such norms, the minimum level may turn out to be arbitrary. The Tendulkar Committee itself did not abandon calorie norms. It took the urban poverty basket as given. It also claimed that the poverty line it recommended ultimately satisfied the norms of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. The introduction of norms for certain kinds of non-food expenditures by our group is an innovation. It is a simple recognition of the fact that these expenditures constituted a significant part of total consumption. In the absence of any other normative criteria, the median fractile class expenditures were treated as the norm. In fact, non-food consumption as a proportion of total consumption has been steadily rising. That is why the group decided to take a new look at the basket rather than updating the old basket for price changes.

The concept of poverty

Poverty is easy to perceive but difficult to be precise about. There is a need to distinguish the rural poverty line from the urban poverty line and then a need to work out State-specific poverty lines. While viewing the problem over time, the appropriate price index also becomes an issue. All of these have to be done in a consistent way. That is why though conceptually simple, measuring poverty is not that easy. The frequently used World Bank measure of poverty has no strong methodological roots. Instead of going for an absolute poverty line, one can also think in terms of relative poverty and define the poverty line in terms of median or average consumption expenditure. The group has done that and reported the results in one of the chapters.

The methodology adopted by the new group on poverty is based on sound principles. However, as the group has clearly indicated, this measure is not considered as an appropriate basis for determining entitlements under various programmes. Each programme that focusses on a particular kind of deprivation may have to choose that criterion which is most appropriate. But to obtain a general picture of progress in the country, a suitable measure on poverty is useful. Poverty is not the same as hunger. Hunger is far worse. Nor does the poverty line mean a comfortable standard of living. It represents the absolute minimum. Obviously, policies should work towards not only reducing the number of people below that line but also ensuring that people in general enjoy a much higher standard of living.

Numbers do indicate that the poverty ratio in India is coming down, even though it may remain at a high level. Policymakers must continue to follow the twofold strategy of letting the economy grow fast and attacking poverty directly through poverty alleviation programmes.

Fifth column: A new direction

(The Indian Express)

For decades, we have heard prime ministers lie to us about India's 'greatness' on Independence Day. This August 15, for the first time, we heard a prime minister remind us that although we are capable of being a great country, we are not there yet. We have a

long, long way to go. Narendra Modi reminded us of things we usually ignore or lie to ourselves about. We like to excuse our most obvious shortcomings on the hollow justification that as a 'poor country', we can hope for no better. In our hearts we know the truth, but have got used to pretending on occasions like Independence Day that our Bharat is truly 'mahaan'.

So it came as music to my jaded ears to hear the Prime Minister remind us of all the things we like to disregard. He reminded us of how shamefully we treat our women, of the sickening squalor of our cities and towns, of our inability to compete with other countries because of bad governance, and of our shameful failure to eliminate poverty. When he finished speaking, I found myself more moved than I have been by any other speech given from the ramparts of Red Fort. And I have heard many.

When I sat down to analyse why I was so moved, I realised it was because it was the first time ever that I have heard a prime minister tell Indians what they can and must do for India. The first time that a national leader has not told us that he will bestow upon us everything we need, and that all we have to do is sit back and receive.

As an implacable opponent of Nehruvian socialism, it pleased me to hear the sound of its death knell. And to hear that the ultimate bastion of central planning, the Planning Commission, was also seeing the end of its days.

Since there are many of you out there who believe that criticising anything Nehruvian is tantamount to treason, let me explain why I despise the economic ideas on which independent India was founded. I believe Nehruvian socialism created a mindset that continues to make the average Indian believe that the government must do everything for him. Nowhere is this mindset more evident than in rural India where people would rather rot in filth than lift a finger to improve their unsanitary surroundings. And, I believe it created in our officials the sense of being masters instead of servants. Kudos to Mr Modi for reminding them that the word service had become meaningless.

Last week in this column, I described Modi as the first Indian Prime Minister who was not a Nehruvian socialist. In his speech he confirmed that this was true. He made it clear that the India he hopes to help create will not be an India in which poverty is glorified. He wants an India in which poverty is destroyed. He appealed to SAARC countries to wage with us this war on poverty.

This is the exact opposite of the Nehruvian socialist ideal that is founded on the premise that there will always be poverty to 'alleviate'. If poverty disappears, then how can our benign rulers throw scraps at us from their high table in the form of cheap food grain, free schools, healthcare and subsidies galore? Of course the schools do not teach and public health services heal nobody, but they are free and for this we must thank our socialist rulers. In the name of the poor, we have kept poverty in very good health and ensured that most Indians live in the most unsanitary, unhygienic cities and villages in the world. After all, how can we waste time thinking about sanitation and civic duties when so many Indians live without enough to eat?

By calling himself the country's Pradhan Sewak, Modi sought to remind every elected representative of his primary duty: service. And, as someone who knows well that most of our elected representatives forget the people except at election time, I loved the way in which Modi has dragooned them into creating model villages in their constituencies in the next two years. They will now be forced to put their ill-deserved constituency development funds to good use.

Rarely has a prime minister's address on Independence Day indicated so clearly a

change of direction. It is a change towards an India in which ordinary people participate more fully in the business of development and nation building. If just this begins to happen on a larger and larger scale, then public servants who have benefited most from the kind of socialism we have practised since Independence will soon realise that they are servants, and not masters. For now, let's celebrate the scent of change that wafted down from the ramparts of Red Fort.

Protecting the whistle-blower

(Business Standard)

A public interest litigation being heard in the Supreme Court, involving the head of the country's premier investigation agency, has put the spotlight on protection to whistle-blowers.

The provisions of the Whistle Blower Protection Act, 2011, which provides a mechanism for receiving complaints on corruption, misuse of power or discretion by a public servant, aren't applicable to this case. The Act, notified in May this year, is yet to be effective, as its rules haven't been framed.

An overview of the laws governing whistle-blower protection under the Companies Act, 2013, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, and the Whistle Blower Protection Act, 2011, show the need for a comprehensive whistle-blower protection programme.

The Companies Act, 2013, doesn't spell out the safeguards and legal provisions to protect whistle-blowers. According to section 177 (10) of the Act, read with rule 7(4) of the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014, the vigil mechanism shall provide for adequate safeguards (protection) against victimisation of a person who uses such a mechanism. "The Act does not go into the details of what should such a mechanism lay down, leaving it to the company to come up with its own mechanism," says Lalit Kumar, partner at law firm J Sagar Associates.

The existence of a vigil mechanism has to be appropriately communicated within the organisation and disclosed on the company's website and the annual report of the board of directors.

The Companies Act, however, states a firm must ensure the name of the whistle-blower is kept confidential, adding there will be no prejudice such as termination of job or other unfavourable treatment against the whistle-blower. In exceptional cases, the company must provide the whistle-blower direct access to the chairperson of the audit committee, or the director nominated to play the role of the audit committee, as is the case.

The Securities & Exchange Board of India has made it mandatory for all listed companies to adopt a whistle-blower policy to protect employees in case they expose any wrongdoing by the management.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, is silent on protection to whistle-blowers. However, a whistle-blower will not be liable for conviction or penalty when a person makes a complaint in "good faith".

The Whistle Blower Protection Act, 2011, seeks to provide "adequate protection to those reporting corruption or wilful misuse of discretion which causes demonstrable loss to the government or commission of a criminal offence by a public servant". However, no action is taken on a disclosure if it does not indicate the identity of the complainant or public servant or if "the identity of the complainant or public servant is found to be incorrect". This isn't the case in places such as the US, the UK and Canada, which also take

cognisance of anonymous complaints.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

PROVISIONS

Companies Act, 2013

- According to section 177(9) read with Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014, it is mandatory for all listed companies that accept deposits from the public to establish a vigil mechanism for directors and employees to report genuine concerns in such manners as may be prescribed.
- According to section 177(10), the vigil mechanism under sub-section (9) shall provide for adequate safeguards against victimisation of persons, and make provision for direct access to the chairperson of the Audit Committee in appropriate or exceptional cases.
- It has further been provided that the details of establishment of such mechanism shall be disclosed by the company on its website, if any, and in the Board's annual report

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

- Lokpal Act does not mention whistle-blower protection
- According to the government, protection for whistle-blowers is being provided through a separate law

Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011

- The Act seeks to provide "adequate protection to persons reporting corruption or wilful misuse of discretion which causes demonstrable loss to the government or commission of a criminal offence by a public servant". The Act also seeks to ensure punishment for false or frivolous complaints
- According to the law, a person can make a public interest disclosure on corruption before a competent authority, which is at present, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
- The government, by notification, can appoint any other body also for receiving such complaints on corruption, the Act says

ACTION AGAINST FALSE OR FRIVOLOUS COMPLAINTS Companies Act, 2013

- In case of repeated frivolous complaints filed by a director or an employee, the Audit Committee, or the director nominated to play the role of Audit Committee, may take suitable action against the concerned, including reprimand

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

- Section 46 of the Lokpal Act states that whoever makes any false and frivolous or vexatious complaint under this Act shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or fine up to Rs 1 lakh
- Further, such person shall be liable to pay compensation to the public servant against whom he made the false complaint, in addition to bearing the legal expenses for contesting the case

Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011

- The Act, however, lays down punishment of up to two years in prison and a fine of up to Rs 30,000 for false or frivolous complaints
- Further, according to sub-section (6) of Section 4, no action shall be taken on a disclosure if it does not indicate the identity of the complainant or public servant or if "the identity of the complainant or public servant is found to be incorrect"

Jagvinder S Brar, partner (forensics), KPMG in India, says this is one of the weakest points in the Act. "In our experience, about half the whistle-blowers prefer to remain anonymous. While the Act mandates the "competent authority" will keep the complainant's identity confidential, it is unlikely all would-be whistle-blowers will trust this provision," he says.

The Act does not protect the complainant from prosecution if that individual was somehow associated to the illegal act. "Whistle-blowers are often insiders who may have played some role in the corrupt acts. These individuals are more likely to make voluntary disclosures when offered legal immunity, protection or leniency from prosecution, which the Act does not provide," says Brar.

Legal experts say it is important to codify in employment-related laws the provisions relating to protection of a whistle-blower against retaliatory action.

Also, there is no provision in the Act for providing guidance and counselling to whistle-blowers.

The Act provides for jail time and fine in cases of false, incorrect or misleading disclosures. "The parliamentary committee that had scrutinised the Bill had observed the quantum of punishment wouldn't only be a major deterrent for prospective whistle-blowers, but also increase the possibility of misuse of this provision," says Chakshu Roy, head (outreach), PRS Legislative Research.

This Act doesn't explicitly define victimisation and acts of victimisation of whistle-blowers.

Brar says though the Act might have the right intentions when it comes to curbing corruption and encouraging whistle-blowers, as of now, its execution is a concern.

Doing more on climate

(The Hindu)

Climate change talks are poised at a critical stage before the Conference of Parties meets in Paris in 2015 to finalise a new treaty, and India's alliances with developing countries assume significance at this point. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has been stressing on funds from the first world for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and also on scaling up targets in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and its quick ratification. In line with this, the recent BASIC (Brazil South Africa India China) ministerial meeting has once again called on the developed countries to walk the talk on funding and emission cuts, but going by past experience some advanced countries are not going to abide by this. Already Japan and Australia have scaled back their promises on emission cuts, and funds for technology transfer, adaptation and mitigation are nowhere in sight. The BASIC meet did not throw up any new thought or action plan and reiterated what the developing countries have tried to do for the last 20 years. As a pressure bloc, BASIC despite its cloak of togetherness seems a divided house, and it is perceived by some to be losing its significance in terms of climate talks. Differences in BASIC on various issues have prompted India to side more strongly with yet another group called the Like Minded

Developing Countries (LMDCs), which is expected to meet soon.

While countries such as the United States are not even signatories to the Kyoto Protocol, there is a real danger that more first world nations will renege on their historical responsibility to fund capacity-building and other critical measures in the developing countries vis-à-vis climate change. Now more than ever, there is a need for India to emphasise along with other countries the need for strong commitments on emission reduction and operationalising the GCF. India has already announced a voluntary mitigation goal of reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20-25 per cent over 2005 levels by 2020, but it also needs to review its commitments and, like the rest of the world, do more. The BASIC meet stressed that the 2015 outcome in Paris should be comprehensive, balanced, equitable and fair — but so far nothing has been fair in the climate negotiations. One of the BASIC countries, China, has emerged as a major emitter, and despite its emphasis on alternative energy and mitigation it still relies heavily on coal for energy. With little commitment to emission cuts or funding adaptation and technology transfer in the poorer countries, the world is moving towards a new climate treaty which seems fraught with contention already. In this light, India's role and alliances, and its emphasis on equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, could be a game-changer.

Darkness at noon

(The Asian Age)

Kashmir's history is dotted with natural calamities and man-made disasters. And over the centuries the people of Jammu and Kashmir have perfected the art of rising from the ashes. They have seen famines and epidemics, floods and earthquakes, blazes and mayhem, organised violence and massacres, forced and voluntary migrations, incarcerations and worse.

In my life, spread across half-a-century, I have seen fellow Kashmiris caught in the midst of many major crises. And once again they find themselves in a very difficult situation — the worst floods in 111 years, caused by five days of incessant rains and a series of cloudbursts, have thrown life out of gear in Srinagar as well as most other parts of the Valley and Jammu division

Just yesterday, my 18-year-old daughter Umme Kulthum was telling her grandmother, "Amma, I haven't seen such horrible conditions before." To which my mother, who turned 83 in June, replied, "Even I haven't witnessed such an awful situation in my whole life."

The flood of 1903 was grave. Breaking all earlier records, Jhelum was at its ferocious worst. In the following century, the otherwise calm river which drains the entire Kashmir Valley became a curse.

Memories of it came back on September 7 evening, when Jhelum was overflowing at many places. Strong currents had already caused as many as 16 breaches in the river embankment along a stretch of less than a kilometre in the east of Srinagar, inundating vast areas. Chenab, Tawi, Lidder and almost all other rivers across the state were also flowing above the danger mark.

The death toll had already crossed 160 and, after visiting some of the partially marooned areas and meeting affected people, I was about to file my copy. The survivors had their fingers crossed as there was no news from the south of the Valley, the worst hit till then.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had just returned to Delhi after undertaking an aerial

survey of flood-affected areas and holding meetings with officials in Srinagar and Jammu to assess the situation.

I was receiving frantic calls from friends and colleagues from Delhi, giving names and details of stranded family members and friends. And then suddenly I discovered that everything had gone quiet — my mobile phone, landline, Internet. Nothing was working. The special broadcast by Srinagar station of Radio Kashmir (AIR) was the only source of updates on the flood situation. By evening that too went off air as the overflowing waters of Jhelum flooded its premises, and it inundated Doordarshan's Srinagar station.

An official of the state's irrigation and flood control department assured me that the level of Jhelum will start receding by 6 pm. "Next three to four hours are crucial. After that it will start receding," he said. But the situation turned from bad to worse.

The river was flowing 12 feet above the danger mark of 17 feet at Ram Munshi Bagh, a kilometre from our workplace. The alley outside our office and the nearby Residency Road were already under more than three feet of water. People living in Raj Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Gogji Bagh and Wazir Bagh, along the southern shore of Jhelum, were being asked through mosque loudspeakers to leave. Soon the local police stations activated sirens to announce emergency. Many people, clutching copies of the Quran, did as they were told. Some did not take the warnings seriously.

Thick dark clouds had reduced visibility considerably. And with electricity lines having snapped the previous evening, people were using cellphone torches to walk through the muddy flood water. It was not any different from what is known locally as "mandnein sham" (darkness at noon).

During the next few days, almost every household in our locality and neighbourhood received one or two families from flooded areas. Relief camps were set up in Kashmir University campus, government schools, community centres, even under-construction hotels. Resident students of Kashmir University and the nearby National Institute of Technology were working round the clock as volunteers. A group of doctors also turned up to treat the sick. People were donating money, food, clothes, blankets, etc. Langars had been set up in different localities.

While walking down the four-km road from Lala Ded Memorial Centre near Nai Sadak to Bahuri Kadal in central Srinagar, I saw about 30 community kitchens serving people food and beverages.

I also saw JKLF's Yasin Malik and Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq actively involved in relief work. PDP's Altaf Bukhari had offered his house and nearby multistorey office complex as shelter to the flood-affected.

I was standing with flood sufferers on Budshah bridge on September 10, when an IAF helicopter dropped half a dozen food packets. People threw the packets in the Jhelum. They were angry over official apathy and the "biased" and "discriminatory" attitude of the armed forces.

While people didn't deny that the Army and the IAF were carrying out massive rescue and relief operations, when no one from the administration could be seen around, they questioned the wisdom behind categorising people in distress.

"Their first priority was to rescue their own men and other security forces... Tourists were taken out next and then came the turn of seasonal labourers and other non-locals, whereas common Kashmiris were left to the mercy of God," they complained. Likewise,

resources available with the state government machinery were utilised to rescue its functionaries and their families on priority basis.

Dr Farah Shaffi told me she had two patients operated upon under candlelight at Lala Ded Women's Hospital. "There was no water or food available for patients or attendants. The canteen, storerooms, pharmacy all were under water... Earlier, after several requests, DC Srinagar Farooq Shah briefly visited the hospital, but he left saying, 'Leave it all to God... everything will be alright'. Soon we had to evacuate patients to the upper floors of the hospital." Three days later even doctors abandoned the hospital, leaving patients to god's will.

The most difficult stage is over. As people piece their lives back together, nothing may be certain except one thing: Their faith in politicians, particularly those in power, has been shattered.

The poor parrot

(The Indian Express)

Satyananda Mishra, a bureaucrat who ascended the dizzy heights of the proverbial greasy pole to become secretary, department of personnel and training, and chief information commissioner, recently raised serious and important questions about the competence and accountability of the CBI ('This parrot can't be set free', IE, September 9). Prior to that, speaking at a Civil Service Day function last year, he mentioned the auctioning of senior positions in government to the highest bidder. Obviously, no one bothered to ask him what he had done to either advance the course of virtue in the CBI or help prevent the vice he was railing against. Of course, I suppose he was merely a helpless bureaucrat, duty bound to follow the diktats of the political executive, proper or otherwise.

With such conscientious bureaucrats at the helm of affairs, surely our much-delayed tryst with destiny is just around the corner. If only the pesky media, hysterical civil society, activist judiciary, corrupt politicians and bumbling cops could be kept at bay, the guardians of the Indian republic, the omniscient and omnicompetent IAS, would have delivered us to the promised land. Or better still, delivered the promised land to us.

There is no doubt that recent reports in the media centring around a visitors' diary supposedly maintained at the residence of the CBI director, along with a PIL filed in the Supreme Court, have caused a great deal of controversy and called the credibility of our premier investigating agency into question. Predictably, the powerful vested interests whom the agency has been called upon to investigate in recent times have begun a collective chorus: We told you so. Mishra appears to be their vanguard. He has taken this issue as a peg to resuscitate old arguments that were advanced to stifle police autonomy and professionalism, and presented them as sparkling new insights.

This is not an attempt to defend or attack the conduct of the CBI chief. The matter is before the Supreme Court and I am sure it will take all factors related to procedure and propriety into account before pronouncing its verdict. But to use this episode to make a case to curtail the persistent need for greater professional and administrative autonomy for the CBI is to throw out the baby with the bath water. It is a fiction and a fantasy that all right-thinking citizens must actively resist. An efficient, autonomous and transparent CBI is absolutely essential to fight the menace of corruption and restore public faith in the rule of law, a foundational principle of not just our Constitution but of any society with democratic aspirations.

The bias with which Mishra approaches the issue is apparent with the liberty he

takes with facts. He claims that no recruitment has been done at the DSP level “for more than two decades”. Funny, I remember training with direct DSPs of the CBI in 1997. For a former secretary, DoPT, to be unaware of simple facts such as these shows both ignorance and disdain of basic information related to the CBI. He then goes on to question the competence of IPS officers to supervise investigations involving complex financial crimes. One wonders what Mishra did as secretary, DoPT, to bridge this competence-deficit in the CBI. Given that, until recently, IPS officers were denied an equal opportunity to go for courses that would enhance their skills in areas relevant to them, Mishra’s observations are hypocritical, to say the least. On a lighter note, IPS officers in the CBI are as competent to investigate these crimes as IAS officers manning key policymaking positions are to commit them. Mishra’s comparison of the CBI with the Central police organisations, far from proving his point, demolishes it most convincingly. A director general rank officer cannot even buy new vehicles to replace old ones without clearance from the government. So what autonomy is Mishra talking about?

There is a subtle form of snobbery at play here. How can a mere police officer investigate the high and mighty of this land? How dare they? They should know their place. Fortunately, the people of India have begun to see through this charade. This is by no means an attempt to defend the CBI director. That issue is sub judice. However, improprieties alleged against an individual cannot be allowed to derail the much-needed process of reform that the CBI in particular and policing in general urgently require. The prescriptions offered by Mishra are far from a cure. They are worse than the disease.

The new stakeholders in U.K. foreign policy

(The Hindu)

Canon Andrew White, the thoroughly estimable “vicar” of Baghdad, has mooted a proposal that was almost archaic in its nobility. Interviewed by the BBC about the dwindling number of Christians in Iraq, he suggested that the British government should mount an airlift to bring 20,000 to 30,000 of them to safety in the U.K. Local churches, he said, would support them.

His remarks — which produced a certain bemusement on the part of the interviewer — followed a spate of accusations from senior Anglican clerics about what they see as the government’s neglect of Christians across the Middle East. The arguments were set out most forcefully by the bishop of Leeds in a letter to David Cameron, which had been written, he said, with the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In it, the bishop contrasted the “notable and admirable” focus by politicians and media on the plight of Iraq’s Yazidi minority with the “increasing silence about the plight of tens of thousands of Christians.”

“Despite appalling persecution,” he went on, “they seem to have fallen from consciousness, and I wonder why.” The Bishop of Manchester echoed his sentiments, saying: “There has been too much silence, for too long, from too high up.”

His observation is not wrong. Only four months ago the Prime Minister was saying that the U.K. “should be more confident about our status as a Christian country” — yet he and his Ministers have been conspicuously slow to acknowledge, let alone do anything about, the expulsions of Christians from many parts of the Middle East.

And there is one obvious reason. Less than a year away from a general election in which immigration is likely to loom large and Ukip threatens incursions into hitherto safe Tory territory, the last thing a Conservative-led government needs is the arrival of tens of

thousands of new asylum seekers, however valid their case for refuge might be.

This time last year, when the international outcry over Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons was at its height, the government offered no welcome for Syrian refugees, insisting that it was giving generously to provide camps in the region. A similarly hard line is evident now. Germany, France, the Scandinavian countries and even Australia are offering homes to new Iraqi refugees, but not Britain — even though our role in the Iraq war could be seen as leaving us with some moral responsibility.

There is, though, rather more in play here than raw numbers of potential asylum seekers. The prominence of the bishops, and their stress on the plight of displaced Christians, highlights something else: the competing pressures on U.K. foreign policy from the demographic changes taking place in Britain. It is not just migration that will be at issue in the next election, but the ability of this country — with or without Scotland — to function in the future with a single, agreed set of interests abroad.

Not only a Christian country

The conflicts afflicting what might be called the greater Middle East, but not just this region, pose the question with a particular clarity. The U.K. may be a Christian country, but it is not only a Christian country, and if persecuted Christians are privileged above other asylum seekers, how might this be interpreted by the growing non-Christian (especially Muslim) part of the population? What political or social effects might it have?

Consider also the latest fighting in Gaza. Whatever the complexion of the government, the U.K. has traditionally behaved as a staunch ally of Israel. This time, the government's sympathy for Israel's actions went too far for Sayeeda Warsi, a Foreign Office minister who is also a Muslim, who resigned from her post. Lady Warsi — for all the scurrilous attempts to belittle her since — represents a big electoral loss to the Conservatives, who still struggle to appeal to voters from ethnic minorities.

There is a view that many, especially young, British Muslims were alienated from mainstream politics by the invasion of Iraq in 2003. That is only partly true. What they saw as Europe's failure to protect Bosnian Muslims is where much of their disaffection began, along with an inherited identification with the Palestinian cause; it was confirmed by Iraq and is reconfirmed each time the U.K. indulges what they see as Israel's excesses. At the same time, of course, many British Jewish voices have called for politicians to support Israel.

The point is that a mixed society, in which ethnic and religious groups can have their say, is possible, and Britain has been more successful than many countries in bringing this about. But translating this into a coherent foreign policy is not so easy, as different groups, wielding different degrees of influence, want to shape it according to their own, at times mutually exclusive, interests.

Religious difference and foreign policy

This is not a uniquely British dilemma. The Turkish populations of Germany and Austria are a factor in the foreign policy decisions of those countries, and in the U.S., anti-Castro exiles who once dictated Cuba policy are being superseded by Latin Americans arguing for easier immigration. There are times too when diasporic quarrels — over Kashmir, for instance, or Sri Lanka — spill out on to British streets, in a less peaceable way than the now customary flag-waving opposite Downing Street. The extent to which religious difference — exemplified by the Christian-Muslim-Jewish divide — threatens to impinge on U.K. foreign policy, however, is new, and will only grow. It is no wonder Mr. Cameron

is wary of granting the bishops' request to save persecuted Christians before others, but his very hesitation speaks eloquently of changing times, at home as well as abroad. — © Guardian Newspapers Limited, 2014

That picture from Badaun

(The Indian Express)

The Badaun incident in May announced itself to us in the image of two teenaged girls hanging from a mango tree. From that moment, our perception of the incident has been filtered primarily through this image. To us, it spoke of rape, of members of a higher caste brutally asserting their dominance over women from a backward caste. As a global outcry against the killings broke out, the image became a symbol for sexual violence in India, a rural counterpart to the December 16 gangrape in Delhi.

Three months into the case, the CBI ruled out rape and refused to file a chargesheet against the three accused, who are now out on bail. The investigating agency is reportedly mulling over the possibility of approaching the Allahabad High Court for permission to interrogate the victims' family once more.

What really happened on the night of May 27-28? The truth behind the killings of the two sisters in the village of KatraSadatgunj in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, seems to be slipping deeper into a labyrinth of allegations, counter-allegations, investigations, reinvestigations, opinions, trends, statistics and facts that don't square. But then, as Guy Debord wrote in his seminal work, *The Society of the Spectacle*, "In a world that is really upside down, the true is a moment of the false." What, then, does that image say to us now?

As the case proceeds, new questions emerge and few are answered. For instance, how does one bridge the chasm between the initial post mortem report, which confirmed rape, and the forensic reports of August, ruling out rape? And who answers for the public shaming of the three accused brothers, who had to spend three months in prison, branded as ruthless rapists?

Moreover, the image had come to stand for a vicious caste politics that still thrives in the Hindi heartland. The three accused brothers are Yadavs, a caste higher than the Mauryas or Shakyas, the OBC to which the girls belonged. According to the initial story, two girls were raped and then hanged for all the village to see on the morning of May 28. Their bodies became a theatre on which a gruesome act of caste domination was played out.

Yet, in the village of KatraSadatganj, the socio-economic equations between the family of the accused and the victims' family seem to undercut certain assumptions. The 150 Yadav families form a minority in a village of 6,000 people. Known locally as the Ganga-kateves, or "those whose lands the Ganga has cut into", they are migrants who work on fields owned by others. Their own fields, in the districts of Farukhabad, Shahjahanpur and Badaun, have been inundated and eroded by the Ganga over the years.

On the other hand, the Mauryas, though an OBC, are a land-owning majority in the village. So the feudal narrative of land-holding upper castes violating women from the voiceless lower castes — an act of violence that is also an act of socio-economic domination — does not quite fit here. Instead, the inconsistencies found in the statements of the victims' kin throw up other disturbing possibilities.

What the continuing string of investigations might throw up is anybody's guess. The CBI has ruled out rape, but not murder, and reiterated that it gives no one a "clean chit". The suggestions of property dispute and honour killing lurk in the background,

adding to the many layers of the case. The final verdict seems a long way off and the facts of this case remain cloudy.

But what burns with its own searing truth is the image – two murdered cousins and the mute spectators surrounding them. The bodies of these girls were turned into a spectacle of terror, of powerlessness, of indignity and shame. They were used to drive home the fact that the female person is expendable currency, a commodity without a will, a body that can be used or abused to suit oneself or simply make a point.

Soft diplomacy won't solve vital issues

(The Asian Age)

The decades-old unresolved boundary issue has been the monkey on the back in India-China relations, and it is impossible to know whether we are any closer to fixing the problem than we were before the special representative-level dialogue commenced years ago between the two countries to sort out the matter.

During his just concluded state visit to India, Chinese President Xi Jinping said, of course, that the neighbours could seek through “friendly consultations” to demarcate the boundary — a problem “left over from history” — “at an early date”. It is hard to see what is new in this formulation, though.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Pranab Mukherjee — at his banquet for the visiting dignitary — have pushed the importance of settling the boundary issue if bilateral relations are to blossom to their potential, but the Chinese side has, as before, responded with smug homilies.

This government, of course, should lose no time in appointing a special representative for the boundary talks. But it could also politically gear itself for a give-and-take of territory to straighten out the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to the mutual satisfaction of both sides. This means a pow-wow with other parties so that our SR doesn't have to talk in thin air while negotiating with his Chinese counterpart.

The Chinese have long harboured the idea that Indian governments are not strong enough (that they fear an Opposition backlash) to do a territory swap — for instance, agreeing to formally give away Aksai Chin (now only notionally ours as it is part of PoK and has been gifted by Pakistan to the Chinese) for Arunachal Pradesh (which the Chinese have long claimed as southern Tibet). This particular formula has been part of the diplomatically hinted-at discussion over time. But, do other swap possibilities also exist?

Two other points need to be noted as far as the boundary goes. With its other neighbours China has sorted out demarcation difficulties “that were left over from history”. So, why should India be a separate category? Two, when a top Chinese leader comes visiting, the LAC gets active with Chinese troop incursions (this time even a civilian incursion).

President Xi has officially pledged \$4 billion a year for five years for infrastructure and manufacturing in India. This is not a huge sum. But we should go for it, although also make sure that India is not denied investments in China and its trade imbalance with the northern neighbour is righted.

Mr Modi was trying out “swing and dhokla diplomacy” with the Chinese leader without much purchase at this stage — a lesson for the BJP which used to make fun of former PM Manmohan Singh for not being “strong” enough in dealing with Beijing.

Constitutional duty underlined

(Courtesy: The Hindu)

The Supreme Court of India has a reputation for activism and has sometimes even been accused of judicial overreach. However, it needs to be said in defence of the Court that as a repository of public trust it has been wont to step in only in conditions of administrative apathy and legislative stasis to protect basic rights and constitutional values. It has in recent times delivered some significant verdicts to save the purity of the election process. It directed that the 'none-of-the-above' option be incorporated in the voting machine, and struck down a clause that saved sitting legislators from immediate disqualification upon conviction. When the question whether a person with a criminal background can be allowed to become a Minister was referred to a Constitution Bench, there could have been the expectation that the Court would expand the existing law to bar the appointment of those against whom serious charges have been framed. However, showing wise restraint, the Constitution Bench has declined to prescribe any fresh ground for disqualification for the appointment of Ministers. Instead, it has advised the Prime Minister, as well as the Chief Ministers, to live up to the trust that the Constitution reposes in them by refraining from advising the President, or the Governors, when it comes to appointing as Ministers those with the taint of criminality.

Even though doctrines such as implied prohibition and constitutional silence were put forward in support of a radical finding that the Prime Minister was impliedly barred from including in the Council of Ministers a person with a criminal record, the Court stopped short of doing so, correctly. Rather, it chose to invoke the principle of constitutional trust, constitutional expectation and the sanctity of the oath taken by the Prime Minister (or Chief Ministers), to counsel them against "choosing a person with criminal antecedents against whom charges have been framed for heinous or serious criminal offences or charges of corruption" as a Minister. In the ultimate analysis, the judgment may be no more than a learned dissertation on the subject. However, at a time when statistics of pending cases and charges against legislators are cited to assess the extent of criminality in politics, it is a timely reminder to the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers of their constitutional responsibility to preserve purity in public life. The Election Commission has already mooted some reforms to curb the criminalisation of politics, notably an amendment to make framing of charges in serious cases the basis for disqualification, instead of conviction, as it stands now. The message from the latest verdict is that these issues ought to be addressed through legislation rather than the judicial process.

Respite in Gaza

(Courtesy: The Indian Express)

The declaration of a long-term ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, after 50 days of off-again, on-again fighting, has brought immediate relief to both sides of the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian-brokered truce that began on Tuesday came after more than 2,200 lives were lost, mostly Palestinian. Notwithstanding the rhetoric spun by either side, the one undeniable fact is the war-weariness among both Gazan and Israeli civilians. This is the only reason for optimism about the latest truce. The deal will open some of Gaza's border crossings and ease restrictions as well as allow in aid and building material. Indirect talks on Israel's call for demilitarisation of the Strip, as well as Hamas's demands for a port and an airport in Gaza and the release of prisoners will commence a month later in Cairo.

This is the same deal offered through Egyptian mediation last month, which Hamas had rejected. Irrespective of its claims of “victory”, none of Hamas’s core demands has been granted, while the outfit’s top military leadership has been decimated. With 3,00,000 Gazans reportedly rendered homeless, Hamas had no option but to finally agree. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has braved strong criticism from rightwing members of his cabinet to accept the deal. Although there is reason for genuine scepticism about the ceasefire holding, Netanyahu’s angry colleagues — who preferred a “decisive” Hamas defeat — disregard the untenability of a military campaign whose use of overwhelming force and the resulting humanitarian crisis was diplomatically indefensible.

The responsibility for Gaza’s reconstruction rests on Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Given the governing disaster that Hamas has been, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Netanyahu must leverage this moment to begin a serious dialogue that puts Israelis and Palestinians firmly back on the road to a durable peace.

Jan DhanYojana leverages the achievements of the Unique Identity Project

(Courtesy: The Economic Times)

The first tangible sign of the *achchhey din* (good times) promised by PM Narendra Modi on the campaign trail is now here for all to see. With a big bang that bears the hallmark of successful political packaging that no intended beneficiary can miss, the new government has launched its financial inclusion project. The Jan DhanYojana leverages the achievements of the Unique Identity Project and the National Payments Corporation of India as well as the banking network’s own inclusion efforts of the past. The effort will also draw in the RBI mandated RuPay service that will complement, and compete with, what Visa and MasterCard do by way of facilitating payment transactions involving the card issuing bank, the merchant and the bank that supplies the card-swipe machine. This is a huge step forward.

At the same time, this does not, in any way, obviate the need for more and more diverse players in the banking sector. Because of the high priority attached to opening new accounts by the Prime Minister, the banks might enrol a host of new customers. But banks do not have the manpower or infrastructure to service them on a regular basis. Mobile technology and an army of banking correspondents who wield mobile interfaces between customers and banks are needed to achieve functional financial inclusion. There can be no let up, in other words, on the RBI’s plans to create a mobile technology-based supplement to brick-and-mortar banking.

The Congress will do well not to gripe over the government reaping the benefit of the good work done by its predecessor. That is how it should be. Its best bet is to deploy its volunteers to help people sign up for a bank account, procure Aadhaar IDs and spread financial literacy. Do not fuss over sour grapes.

General Awareness Magazine for SSC CGL Exam

- ❖ You will be provided current affairs on various important topics on a monthly 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.....

For Any Query Call our Moderator at: 011 - 45151781, +91 8800734161

Rs. 480 Rs. 399
(Inaugural Offer only for Limited Time)

General Awareness Magazine for SSC CGL Exam

Various Categories:

- 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 (12 Issues) PDF Only no Hard Copy

For More Information Click Given below link:

<http://sscportal.in/community/general-awareness-magazine>